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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN



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Vol. 95

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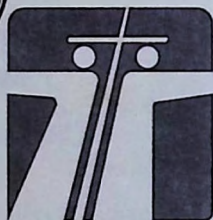
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Guest Editorial

I'm Offended Too!

Chris Hutton

Earlier this year a certain word appeared in the pages of *The Australian Christian* that evoked quite a passionate response. While that word may have been offensive to some, especially in bold type, I personally would have been more offended if people had failed to read the late Bryan Mee's excellent article.

It was interesting to see that there was still some passion around, but as I thought about it and prayed about it, there came to mind a number of things that I was much more offended by, things which seem to be taken, in many cases, as an accepted fact of church life.

Here are just a few things that offend me:

- The power politics that is so often played out in our churches, especially by the long-term power-brokers, who cling to their understanding of how their church should be run. This is often to the detriment of ministers and other members who have had a passion for the lost in their communities but have had to finally give up and go somewhere that God would be allowed to use them.

- Distortion of the truth that discredits effective ministers and ministries who have dared to be open to God's Spirit and have been prepared to pay the price of growing their churches. What a price some of these people have had to pay under attack from fellow Christians!

- Destructive criticism of ministers of growing churches who have dared to lead from the front. It's time we looked at principles instead of attacking the person, and see how these principles might apply to the dying local churches many of these critics come from.

- Fear of change. Why is it that so many people believe God is no longer capable of doing a new thing? These are changing times and even though the basics of the Gospel message will never change, the means of communication will. We must be prepared to accept that the church of the turn of the century will be vastly different from the church of 1992. If it's not, it won't exist.

- Most worship services. They are generally designed for the members of an exclusive club who still desire to sing and do those things that appeal to the members, while all around there are people dying to understand the things of God, but cannot because of the boring, irrelevant language that is used. It's time to free up our worship and allow the Holy Spirit to

be involved, rather than inhibiting a person's freedom to express their love for God.

- The lack of resources for and, at times, suppression of our young people. I praise God for the exceptions and for the privilege I have had to work with young people over the last ten years. They have taught me so much about holiness, prayer, faithfulness and living an effective Christian life. Yet many of them have had their effectiveness quashed by the so-called mature in the faith who have failed to recognise that young people are gifted members of today's church.

- The lack of role models amongst senior Christians for today's young people. Most of my inspiration, as I have mentioned, has come from those in their teens, twenties and thirties. Where are the 40s plus who are going to inspire, encourage, challenge, exhort and excite our churches into being what they should be? There are some, and fortunately many of them are in ministry and in leadership and their churches are showing the fruit. Without disciplers with the courage to model the Christian life we will lose many young people to the alternative models they will find.

- Perhaps most of all I am offended by the many times I have offended my Holy God by failing to do and say the things I should have and for doing those things I should not have done. May I offend him less in the future by being prepared to respond more to his call on my life.

As I come to the end of what has been a rewarding ministry in a state which has encouraged and fostered youth ministry and therefore the work which I have been involved in, I still look back with some frustration with many of the things I have seen and heard. However, Churches of Christ have an exciting future. We are so well poised to meet the needs of our communities in a relevant way. Will we respond?

I hope to be less offended in the future, not because the "AC" leaves out all future naughty words, but because we have all examined why we are part of the church and are prepared to be a holy nation, ready to do God's will and fulfil his mission in this secular country that needs a relevant church to save its people.

• Chris Hutton for the past seven years has been the Field Director for Youth for the NSW Dept CD & E.

Belmore Developments

International night

Belmore, NSW, church has been very active recently.

After almost four years of negotiation, David and Hyo Kim and their daughters are back in Australia to assist in the Korean work the church is involved with.

The church recently held an international night. Entertainment was from a variety of acts from around the world, including songs in Hindi, English, Korean and Bengali. The evening meal also had an international flavour.

Boronia Back in Business

Church moves back "home"



• Andrew Henley, Joyce and John Masterton and Jack and Betty Dow at the Boronia reopening

Sunday, 19 July, was an exciting day in the life of the Boronia, Vic, church. Seventeen months and one week after a fire damaged the premises, the new complex was opened and all clubs and auxiliaries moved back "home". The restored chapel was full to overflowing for a service led by Keith Milne with Andrew Henley preaching.

John Masterton and Jack Dow were presented with gifts of appreciation for months of skilled and dedicated leadership during the project. Allan Emmett brought a greeting from conference and was also thanked for his valuable assistance.

Following the service John, as Chairman of the Building Committee, cut the ribbon, allowing the hundreds present to inspect the new assembly area, modern and well-equipped kitchen, large hall

and smaller carpeted halls for use by the 20 church-based groups meeting weekly or monthly, the new entrance to the facilities, and a very well-equipped resource/printing room and secretary's office. At night another hundred plus returned for a time of celebration in the hall and all through the week groups were busy showing representatives of community groups and interested people through the complex.

Boronia in its 71st year is experiencing a "baby boom" as the result of many new couples moving in, and over 100 members have been involved in study/evaluation groups based on Kennon Callahan's *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church* to enable them to make the most effective use of all the new facilities, opportunities and gifted people God is giving them.

—Keith Milne



• International night at Belmore

The Kid's Club is flourishing and recently held a weekend camp, which all the parents visited on the Sunday.

The Belmore church is also encouraging the Earlwood church by providing ministry. —E. Bowser

Positive Impact

Boys' Brigade reunion at Cowandilla

Over 140 former Boys' Brigaders and their families attended a recent reunion at the Cowandilla, SA, church. For 35 years the 13th Company Boys' Brigade served the church, from 1951 until its closure in 1986 due to the changing social patterns of the community.

News of the reunion was greeted with enthusiasm by many of the "old boys", and many past acquaintances were renewed on the night. They expressed the positive impact that Boys' Brigade had had on their lives. The experience of camping and expedition served

to bind those in Boys' Brigade together.

A feature of the company was the drum and bugle band that allowed the boys to display their musical talents.

Greetings were received from past chaplains of the company: Trevor Robinson (the first "padre") and Don Smith. Two former chaplains at the reunion were Keith Horne and Ron Saunders. The present State Chaplain to Boys' Brigade, Daryll Telfer, brought a message of encouragement to the past Boys' Brigaders and their families.

—Russell Mountford



• Daryll Telfer, Keith Horne and Ron Saunders at the Cowandilla Boys' Brigade reunion

Allan Male East

Allan Male, a member of the Pine Rivers, Qld, church, and well known to many of our readers, has been transferred to the Royal Brisbane Hospital. He has had a number of operations and remains very seriously ill. It is anticipated it will be a long route to recovery. Prayers for Allan are requested from throughout Australia.

Party

On the 40th anniversary of Emmaus, the Churches of Christ hostel in Murrumbidgee, Vic, Sunday, 26 July, relatives and friends of residents were invited to a party. There were approximately 300 people present.

There was smorgasbord-style buffet of hot and cold food, which was enjoyed by all. Afterwards all were entertained by two clowns and a magician. A great day to remember, and appreciation to Sister Burke and staff.

—Emmaus Residents Committee

Springing into Action

The Mitcham, Vic, church is committed to try to bring about change in the way pornography is allowed into Australia. In July letters were sent to every Church of Christ in Australia, asking them to motivate their congregations to "spring into action this spring" and write to the prime minister on 1 September, giving reasons why pornography must stop.

A sample letter to give guidelines, a poster and an article "Porn and Sex Crime" from the *Numawading Gazette* were also included.

Mitcham is asking for legislation to be passed banning the production, sale or hire of pornographic videos within the ACT, with its mail-order system to other states. For further information phone (03) 874 2718.

Gippsland

As there are only about three members left, the East Gippsland, Vic, church has discontinued meetings. However Russ Pearce remains the contact for any enquiries regarding Churches of Christ in the area. He can be contacted by phone on (051) 56 6445, by writing to RMB 7394, Bairnsdale 3875, or visited at Camp Banksia.

Church Planting

A significant number of Churches of Christ ministers involved in church planting projects are expected to attend a forthcoming Church Resource Ministries National Church Planting Conference to be held in Melbourne, 8-9 September. This is an interchurch event in which Churches of Christ are participating. Over 150 are expected and leaders interested in church planting are also encouraged to attend. Following the conference the Australian Board of Church Development and Education will sponsor a review for the Churches of Christ participants to discuss practical implications. Board and state departments staff will also hold a special conference with the guest leader, Bob Logan, to consider wider national and state implications.

Further information is available from state departments, the Australian Board of Church Development and Education, or the conference planners at Church Resource Ministries on (03) 802 7563.

Banquet for the College

A "Banquet for the College" was held in the Glenelg church hall on Saturday, 27 June. The event was arranged by the state CCTC committee to launch the E.L. Williams Memorial Lec-

tureship in Christian Thought and History.

Groups from Glenelg, Blackwood, Modbury, Colonel Light Gardens and Brighton churches prepared and served the dinner. David Thompson (Albert Park), Maureen Clark (Colonel Light Gardens) and Will Philp (Salisbury East) entertained with music. Richard Lawton interviewed the five students present and Roger Brown introduced the guest speakers.

Col Smith spoke about his student days at COB with E.L. Williams commencing his era as principal. Dr Keith Bowes (current principal) portrayed the outstanding leadership and pastoral qualities that "the Chief" brought to the college and wider Christian community. A taped message from "EL" was played to the gathering and Greg Elsdon, college lecturer, outlined the way the proposed lectureship would enhance the college program.

Keith Bowes then challenged all present to give generously to the lectureship appeal in appreciation of the ministry of E.L. Williams.

The proceeds of the evening, \$1,500, were given to boost the appeal. —Roger Brown

Brisbane North

On 26 July the Albion and Kedron, Qld, churches formally confirmed the amalgamation of the two churches and accepted the name North Brisbane Church of Christ.

Special care is being taken

with the arrangements for the inaugural service, to be held on Sunday, 6 September. This, and the next three services will be held at the lecture theatre of the Kedron QUT, while the church buildings are refurbished, Albion for Sunday worship and Kedron for weekday activities.

A weekend of celebrations is planned with Jay Bacik, former Albion member, as guest speaker. A seminar will be held on the Saturday afternoon, followed by a dinner/social.

The Albion church commenced in 1911 in what was then an outer suburban area. By 1929 suburbia had moved out further and a daughter church was established at Kedron. In 1990 Kedron took the initiative of proposing that the two churches amalgamate and a task force was formed.

Two churches have ceased to be, two churches with strong histories of service. A new church has come into being. It begins its life with the eldership from the two churches, an interim joint board, and a new set of guidelines developed from the bylaws and constitution of the separate churches. Like a young couple at their wedding they look back with regret at the old, familiar, well-loved things left behind but also look forward with excitement to what God has for the future, confident that with the combining of strengths they can become a creative, innovative, possibility-thinking young church for the new century.

Albion invites people associated with the church to its last service, on 30 August at 9.30 am. —Madge Bird



BRISBANE NORTH CHURCH OF CHRIST
Amalgamation of Albion and Kedron congregations

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Great Modern Preachers

Ron Ham and Gordon Powell at East Keilor



• Ron Schepis, East Keilor minister, with Ron Ham

The East Keilor, Vic, church is holding a series of services this year titled "Great Modern Preachers". The services are a chance for worshippers to hear accomplished speakers of vision and faith from many denominations. The series is also part of the church's mission to the community.

The first in the series was held on 31 May when Rev Ron Ham, minister of the Collins Street, Melbourne, Baptist Church was the preacher.

The second in the series was held on 2 August. The preacher at this service was Rev Dr Gordon Powell, AM.

Now 82, retired and living in Doncaster, Melbourne, Dr Powell has a world-wide ministry noted for his preaching, broadcasting and writing.

As a broadcaster Dr Powell was heard every week for over 30 years until 1984 on 21 radio stations throughout Australia. He has had 14 books published. His latest, *Famous Birthdays*, was used by newspapers.

Details of future services in the series (Alf White, 20 September, and Gordon Moyes, 11 October, are available from Ron Schepis on (03) 336 2484 or (03)336 7129.



• Gordon Powell

WA Ministry Training Centre

Churches of Christ books wanted

At the last council meeting of Churches of Christ in Western Australia, approval was given to establish a ministry training centre, to enable the Department of Ministry and Training to give oversight and direction to those who have chosen to complete some or all of their training for ministry at theological and Bible colleges in Perth.

The intention is not to create another Churches of Christ theological college, but to facilitate the provision of some Churches of Christ content and context.

It is anticipated that faculty members from the three colleges in the eastern states; as well as ministers, will be invited from time to time to provide the Churches of Christ content and training in practical ministry skills. Supervised field work and internships will be provided.

Therefore books are needed—Churches of Christ

books—books that address the history and witness of Churches of Christ.

Retired ministers or their families thinning out their libraries might like to consider that a place is waiting for them in one of the theological libraries in Perth.

The books will be gratefully received for the Department of Ministry and Training by John Clapp at 10 Bournemouth Cres, Wembley Downs 6019 (Phone (09) 245 2593). If the books are too expensive to post, they can be sent to state conference offices, which will enable dispatch to Perth at the next National Council meeting. A faceplate will acknowledge the source of the donation, if desired, and the donors can be assured that their books will have a lasting and worthwhile life ensuring that the convictions of Churches of Christ are passed on to succeeding generations of ministers.

—John Clapp

Preservation of Marriage Registers

Appeal for information

Following my article regarding the preservation of church records ("AC" 7 September 1991), I am pleased to advise that a joint project between myself and the Genealogical Society of Victoria is nearing completion. To date I have photocopied 170 Victorian marriage registers. These are currently being computer indexed on a voluntary basis by a GSV member for preservation and reference.

The registers date back to the 1880s or earlier. Many are in poor condition, some badly burnt and others almost illegible. Areas covered are varied, while a number of the churches no longer exist. I note, in amazement, the hundreds of mar-

riages performed by A.W. Bryant at 430 Bourke Street, Melbourne, in the period 1883-1896, and would be interested to hear from anyone with information on this man or the property in Bourke Street.

I am anxious to finalise this project very soon, but at the same time I hope to make it as comprehensive as possible. With this in mind I may be able to include other marriage registers (especially early ones) if churches notify me promptly. Alternatively contact the Victorian Historian, Ken Barton, on (03) 889 5856.

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People

Moving on

Ministry conclusion at Ormond

Glen Stibbe has concluded his ministry at the Ormond, Vic, church. Glen is married to Betty and has two children, Ian and Michelle. Glen commenced theological studies at Kenmore Christian College, Qld, and graduated in November 1973. He was student minister at his home church of Warwick, Qld, and also had student ministries at Crown Street, Toowoomba, Qld (now Rangeville), and at Arana Hills, Qld. After graduation Glen became the first full-time minister at Arana Hills. He ministered there for a period of six years. He came to Ormond in February 1980. The following is a brief interview by an Ormond member.



• Glen and Betty Stibbe with Florence Chin

I remember at the beginning of your ministry at Ormond you said you believed in a mutual ministry. Has this worked out as you envisaged?

Yes, and has been maintained. There has been good co-operation from the whole congregation throughout the 12½ years.

What expectations did you have as you came to Ormond?

I came to an alive church and I expected that the congregation would grow. Goals were set, but it did not come to pass in the way that I expected. The strong witness and very active involvement in the community have been maintained but Ormond suffered the problems of inner-city churches, where people move away and it is difficult to add new people. But we have maintained a strong base of very committed workers and significant projects such as Bethany Close have come to pass.

What have been some of the high points in your ministry?

Ormond celebrated its 60th

anniversary in 1985 and it was tremendous to recognise how Ormond's influence has gone to other churches. The building of a foyer onto the church was an achievement, giving a warm and welcoming entrance and proving to be a friendly meeting place. The real highlight is my involvement with people, sharing the deep experience of life in their joys and sorrows, of being able to minister and fulfil God's plans for my life.

Why are you leaving the ministry at Ormond?

I believe it is the Lord's leading. I am not leaving under any strain, or being forced out, but I am leaving the way open for someone with different personality and abilities to lead the church into the future.

What do you see as the future for Ormond?

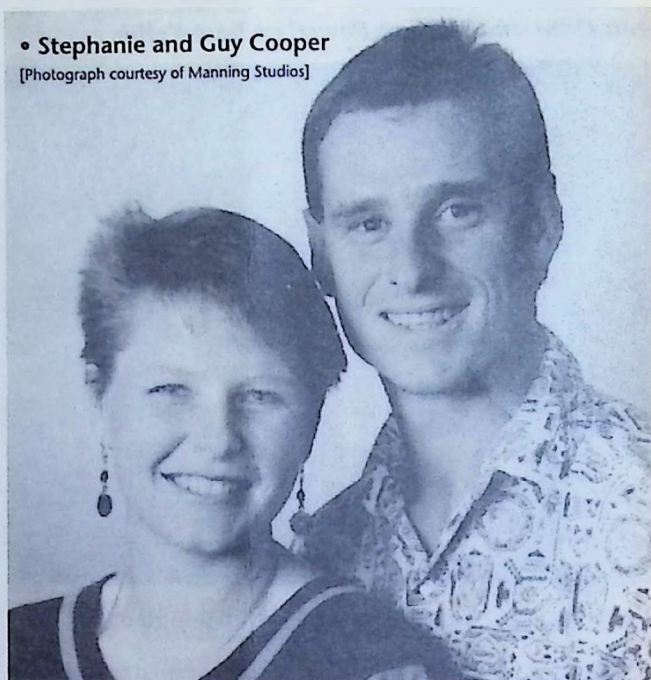
Through the vision and faith of people, the stage is set for very significant growth and achievements. At the recent annual meeting new projects were taken on board with far-

Guy Cooper

New appointment at Manning Valley

• Stephanie and Guy Cooper

[Photograph courtesy of Manning Studios]



The Manning Valley, NSW, church recently appointed Guy Cooper to the position of associate pastor, with particular responsibilities in youth ministry. Guy joins the ministry team of pastors, Barry Rice and Ross Norling, and full-time elder, Peter Playford.

Guy and his wife, Stephanie, and daughter, Danika, have settled quickly into the life of the Manning Valley church. The first youth service for this year, with Guy as speaker and items from the youth band and youth drama group, attracted a congregation of over 200.

Opportunities have already opened for Guy to be involved

at Chatham High, Taree High, and the Christian Community School in chaplaincy and ISCF roles.

An exciting new model for youth ministry, which will involve many additional people and open up new areas of ministry with young people, is currently being considered by those involved in youth work.

As a means of introduction to Guy, an informal youth camp was held at Knorrit Flat, and this was well attended by the current youth groups.

The church has been encouraged to see a number of new young people attending services since Guy's appointment.

reaching implications. I have been most appreciative of associate ministers who have contributed to the setting of the stage. At present we have a very committed group of young adults who are looking to see the church grow. I am excited about the possibilities that God has for Ormond.

What are your future plans?

I do not have any specific plans but trust the Lord to lead

us to some other ministry. It is with a touch of sadness that we leave Ormond—such a host of memories crowd in: of baptisms, of additions to the membership, dedication of children brought to the Lord by their parents, sad memories of the passing on of people we loved dearly. I am deeply thankful for the privilege of sharing my life with those at Ormond in the service of Christ.

Coffs Harbour Building

New worship centre brings new zeal

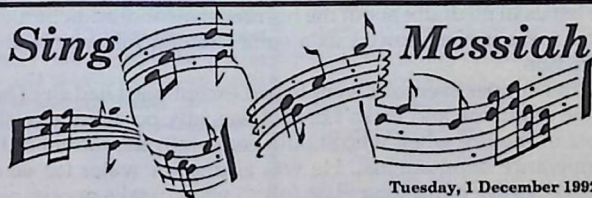


•Coffs Harbour's new worship centre

The Coffs Harbour, NSW, church held its first services at its new building at 30 Loaders Lane on 2 August. The day was one of much rejoicing and celebration after all the prayer and hard work of the previous months. The new worship centre holds about 250, and includes two offices, a cry room, a storeroom, a large prayer room/Sunday school room, a creche area and a very large (6 m x 4.5 m) kitchen. The kitchen will be used every Sunday night after the evening service for "Jonah's" coffee shop. This will provide a large variety of hot food and drinks at low prices to enable members and their friends to enjoy a meal after the service in a relaxed Christian environment. There will be taped and occasional live background music, as well as table tennis and video entertainment for the children. The building was nine months in

the planning stage and took seven months to construct. The total expenses are expected to be about \$140,000. A large amount of volunteer labour helped to keep the cost down.

When the project started, 16 months ago, the church had only 35 members and about \$32,000 in the bank, so it was a great step of faith to attempt something on such a grand scale. As the project progressed the church has seen the Lord stretch the finances and add to the numbers (they now have 78 in membership, with many other believers in fellowship). The greatest result of the building project has not been the construction of a building, but the growth of the faith of the members. And far from sitting back and resting now that the building is completed, the church is fired up with a new-found zeal to reach the city of Coffs Harbour for Jesus.



Tuesday, 1 December 1992

Churches of Christ Theological College, Jacksons Road, Mulgrave, Vic
Bookings open at the college on Monday, 14 September at 9 am
Telephone (03) 790 1000 to reserve your seat at a cost of \$10. Tickets will be mailed on receipt of your cheque. The chance to sing selections of Messiah is not to be missed but you can be sure that we will be sold out quickly.
The music is under the direction of Julian Quirit and with the help of other talented people will be a great experience.

Christmas Gifts

Help for missions



Churches in the Waverley, Vic, area are conducting a Christmas Missions Fair on Saturday and Sunday, 29-30 August, from 10 am to 4 pm each day.

Why a Christmas fair in August? The idea is to give people an alternative way of honouring a relative or friend at Christmas. Instead of giving them a gift, the gift goes to a chosen mission project and the relation or friend receives an in-

scribed Christmas card setting out the mission that has benefited and the name of the person providing the gift. Last year the fair raised \$10,000.

The Chadstone Church of Christ is participating in the fair and their choice of mission is the Kensington Christian Network. The fair is held in the Holy Family Church Hall Stephensons Road, Mt Waverley.

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Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to
200 words

Me-Songs

To the Editor,

I reply to Tertius ("AC" 4 July).

The current *Churches of Christ Hymn Book* in its first section "Creation, Praise, Providence" contains 17 "Me-Songs" out of a total of 76. In the section "Help, Comfort, Guidance" the number is 24 of 45. Why was there no outcry when this book was first released in 1974?

Perhaps some of the titles will explain why. "Great Is Thy Faithfulness", "I'll Praise My Maker", "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty", "This Is My Father's World", "The Lord's My Shepherd", "Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah" and "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" are just a few.

The truth is that "Me-Songs" have been much-loved for private devotions and well-used in public worship for a long time. The outcry against them has only come with the rise in popularity of the newer worship songs as distinct from hymns in worship.

Let's focus the debate on the real issues—the rhythm, length and the number of different words per song!

—Paul Potter
(Belconnen, ACT)

Total Abstinence

To the Editor,

Thank you for publishing Ken Stothard's comment "Defending the Faith" ("AC" 18 July). I have always had the highest regard for Alf White and still do. Yet I could not help but be impressed by Ken's scholarly exposition of the implications of the traditional total abstinence position that is

foisted on many in our churches as an integral expression of their faith.

The sooner the church recognises the non-biblical basis of the TA position the better. By all means let people choose TA as a calling for their lives, but never let it become a matter of legalism.

If adults are modelling responsible drinking to their children, they will learn to be responsible drinkers too.

But, more importantly, let us cultivate a healthy respect for each other, those for whom TA is a calling they feel appropriate for their lives, and those for whom drinking responsibly is appropriate for their lives.

—John Clapp
(Wembley Downs, WA)

Women's Ministry

To the Editor,

Congratulations to the South Australian Women's Ministry Committee for recognising that we live in a very different world these days and for voting themselves out of existence.

I am impressed with the factors they have identified that caused them to radically rethink the way they should perform their ministry. The step they have taken is the first step towards claiming the next generation for the work of the Lord.

I would want to affirm with Shirley Burger ("AC" 18 July) that the work of women's groups in the past has been positive, dynamic and entirely appropriate to the circumstances in which they operated. But today's society is different and our work, among both women and men, has to be appropriate to today's society.

When I came to minister here at Wembley Downs there was no separate women's group. People said to me that they preferred to do things together.

The Women's Auxiliary Conference in this state hasn't been able to elect a president for the last two or three years. Perhaps they, too, need to do some thinking along the lines of the SA Women's Ministry Committee.

—John Clapp
(Wembley Downs, WA)

Gender

To the Editor,

I wish, firstly, to thank Maureen Stepanoff for her letter entitled "Manhood" ("AC" 18 July) and, secondly, to acknowledge *The Australian Christian* for its affirmative (and affirming) action in publishing such a liberating and positive discourse.

As a member of a Church of Christ congregation during my teenage years, I was often alienated and marginalised by the exclusionist rhetoric of patriarchal Christianity. Surely as Christians our agenda must be glorifying God and loving humanity. Critics of feminism do not seem to grasp that feminism is simply about human rights—social justice, if you like. If we love God, we love people—all people. It's that simple. Patriarchal language and constructions of our faith alienate and endanger women. Gender does not determine the way we are Christians—faith does. Those traditionalists who

defend a patriarchal Christianity which excludes and marginalises women must ask themselves what their goals are. Women seeking Christlikeness need not threaten Christianity but, rather, enhance it.

—Kathryn Hegarty
(Brunswick West, Vic)

"Manhood"

To the Editor,

If Don Herbert ("AC" 20 June) and others in the churches are confused over their role today, what of the outside world of agnostics and atheists? What of the picture Christianity paints for them?

Don is deceived when he writes, "Refusing to accept the responsibilities of his manhood [Adam] stepped back and allowed his wife to become spokesperson and assume his manly role. Instead of protecting and guiding Eve..."

But, Don, the creation account (Genesis 1:27, 28) gives equal standing to Eve and Adam. Nowhere does it say that

Letters from Tertius

"Temperate in All Things"

To the Editor,

We're just back from a holiday in the country with my wife's people. What hospitality they turn on! They not only had our crowd, but the wife's sister and children as well. And when the itinerant temperance deputationist turned up they found a room and a bed for him too.

That's how I came to be at a temperance meeting. Dear old dad-in-law said, "Look son, it doesn't look as though the poor chap is going to have much of a crowd, what say we all go along and support him!" Well what else could we do?

The deputationist put on a good show...scientific and all that. He left us in no doubt about the horrors of alcohol addiction. For good measure he showed us a spine-chilling film about drug addiction.

After supper everyone went to bed except me. I had slept half of the afternoon and wasn't tired. I was idly poking the mallee roots in the fire when who should come into the room but the temperance deputationist. He was asking for water (as you'd expect). I gave him a long glass full. "I want to take my sleeping pills," he said. Half joking I said, "Aren't you afraid of becoming addicted to them?"

He took me seriously. "Of course not," he said, "I've been taking them every night for the last ten years and I haven't found them addictive yet!"

—Tertius

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Letters to the Editor

Adam had any authority over Eve. Thus the blame for the "fall" was squarely placed on Eve's shoulders! Hear Paul (1 Timothy 2:11-14). When the Scriptures speak of the "fall of man" or "the sin of man", it clearly means mankind in our English language translations. For whatever reason Adam followed Eve into disobedience, be it chivalry (if Eve is to die God can kill me too) or whether he also wanted to "become wise", it is a fact that the daughters of Eve have been branded "temptresses".

The questions church members want definitively answered are: What difference did the cross make? Has Jesus fully expiated the sin of all believers, or are the daughters of disobedient Eve still held culpable so that, despite the cross, the sons of Adam have jurisdiction over them? The unconverted world also awaits answers.

While Christians dodge this issue the world uses its power to oppress and keep women in subjection to men, claiming the church justifies its use of standover tactics towards them.

—Gladys Butler
(Bruce Rock, WA)

About Assumptions

To the Editor,

Peter Dixon's letter to the editor ("AC", 1 August) dismisses Peter Mendhan's welcome contribution on the status of women in the church (4 July) as an assumption by offering one of his own, namely that "equality is a 20th century Western value". This is simply inaccurate. The 18th century French Revolution was waged under the banner of liberty, fraternity and equality, having been influenced by the British philosopher, John Locke, whose writings also influenced the founding fathers of Churches of Christ.

The church has always taught that all are equal in the eyes of God (but often failed to practise it). The 16th century reformers, in particular John Knox and the great scholar of Greek, Erasmus, stressed the essential equality of all believers, and particularly opposed

the division of the church into clergy and laity—points also stressed by the Restoration Movement in the concept of the priesthood of all believers (not just males). While secular societies in New Testament times granted equality to all free-born males and excluded foreigners, women, children and slaves, the early church deliberately extended its fellowship to all those excluded by secular society. The 8th century BC prophets condemned their society for lack of equal and fair treatment of citizens, and ancient Israel invoked social and economic equality through the proclamation of the Jubilee Year processes.

Also, let us remember that 20th century equality is about equality of treatment and opportunity, not merely status.

—Bruce McIntosh
(Upper Yarra Valley, Vic)

Manhood

To the Editor,

I would like to respond to Maureen Stepanoff's letter re "Manhood" ("AC" 18 July). When I read "manhood" in relation to Christian experience I infer that to include women too! It's no big deal to me. I also believe that men are answerable to God for the leadership of their families; and the death of that leadership is part of today's agony. A true biblical leadership is that of a servant looking always to the highest for those in its care.

Every day I thank God for my husband, who takes so seriously his responsibilities to "guide, guard and govern" both our family and within the church as a wider family. Our teenagers have seen both Dad and Mum continually yielding themselves to God for his best in their lives. There's true peace and contentment as we enrich one another's lives with our particular gifts and share vulnerability in our areas of weakness. Both our young people are walking with the Lord and participating in areas of ministry.

We recommend Dr Larry Crabb's *Men and Women: Enjoying the Difference* for helpful

insights on this topic.

—Shirley Birch
(Carnarvon, WA)

Significant Churches

To the Editor

Marjan Beer (Letters, "AC" 1 August) rightly raises questions about my use of the phrase "significant churches". With the pressure of many deadlines, and having rejected two other adjectives as inadequate, I used "significant" without realising that some would conclude that I think there are insignificant churches.

What I was seeking to express was that some churches that normally call experienced ministers chose to invite a graduating student from CCTC, although experienced ministers were available. This suggests that they consider the graduating student as having the gifts/skills to lead them as they face significant opportunities and challenges. My comment was not related to the size of any congregation.

The CCTC Handbook (page 4) states clearly our position about size: "Dynamic churches come in all sizes, small, medium and large, and for them mission, not maintenance, is basic."

—Keith Bowes
(Principal, CCTC,
Mulgrave, Vic)

Focus on Dubbo

To the Editor,

I am very impressed with the way the work at Dubbo has grown. However I feel there was an omission.

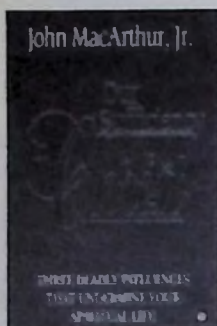
Ian and Margaret Cambridge and family were the ones who commenced the work at Dubbo and they gave all they could to get that work going. I can speak because I stayed with them and saw the preparation for the Sunday School and morning worship services and, believe me, the midnight oil was well and truly used. At the time they were meeting in the Orana Public School.

I was one who travelled with Graeme Sonsee from Orange to help in the foundation work.

—Alf Bourne
(Carlingford, NSW)

Media Review

Books



Our Sufficiency in Christ

by Dr John MacArthur (Word Publishing) \$16.95

John MacArthur Jr is a well-known American Bible teacher and pastor at Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California.

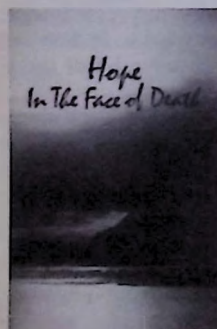
MacArthur's main thrust is that there are three deadly influences that are setting the church adrift from its sufficiency in Christ today. These influences are: psychology, pragmatism and mysticism.

Psychology MacArthur views as "neognosticism". This new knowledge, or special knowledge, cannot meet man's deepest needs. Much of what is said to be Christian counselling today, in MacArthur's view, is no so thing. Pragmatism is a market-driven influence, "an attempt to achieve spiritual objectives by human methodology rather than supernatural power". Evangelical burlesque has replaced worship. Mysticism is "irrational, and anti-intellectual ... the antithesis of Christian theology [that] has infiltrated the church". The chapter on spiritual warfare, "Who's after Whom?", is a rejoinder to an "unhealthy obsession with Satan and demonic powers" expressed in the novels of Frank Peretti and by such people as C. Peter Wagner.

MacArthur does not write off every source of extrabiblical help. He believes that there are beneficial insights to be gained from the observations of sociologists and psychologists, secular management experts and church growth experts. These are: "Useful, perhaps. Necessary, no. If they are necessary, they are in Scripture."

My questions to John MacArthur would be these: 1. Can "the world" have a prophetic voice to the church? It seems to me that many times the church has been slow to act on matters of justice. It has been outside forces (sometimes, but not always influenced by Christians) that have drawn Christians back to biblical truth, e.g. freeing slaves and Aboriginal rights. Surely God can call us back to biblical truth through the church growth movement or any other avenue that he designs? 2. Is not his own "school", the Masters College and Seminary, a school of special knowledge? Is not this an example of the neo-gnosticism he so strongly condemns?

—Ian Phillips



Hope in the Face of Death

(World Bible League) \$1.50

Death is the deepest crisis than any person will ever have to face, a time when a great deal of support is needed. This booklet (44 pages) seeks to provide some of that support.

It is written in a poetry/prose-type format, mostly in short pithy statements. This makes it very readable for those in a situation facing death, who may be in much pain and discomfort and therefore find whole pages full of print daunting.

Covering a range of topics from "Anger, Why me?" and "Prayer" to "Accepting God's Answer", the booklet would not only be helpful for a person who is actually facing death, but also for family and friends seeking to come to terms with their loved one's impending death.

With the aid of appropriate verses of Scripture, the book seeks to help a person face questions and emotions and to go out and meet death, rather than be overcome by it.

Available from the Bible League, PO Box 464, Penrith 2752 (Phone (02) 673 3055) for \$1.50 each or \$1.25 for 10 or more copies and \$1 each for purchases of over 100. Postage is charged on the basis of \$2.50 for orders under \$25, \$5.50 for orders under \$50 and \$7.50 for orders over \$50 value. This booklet is a part of the Friendship series and all titles can count towards the discount on volume prices.

—Rod Feldhahn



Speaking of God

by Campbell Johnson (Westminster/John Knox) \$18.95

Why do many ministers and lay people find it nearly impossible to speak about God to others? Johnson, Professor of Evangelism and Church Growth at Columbia Theological Seminary, grapples realistically with this question and provides a valuable way through. The sub-title is "Evangelism as Initial Spiritual Guidance".

Johnson acknowledges that confrontational methods of evangelism (like Evangelism Explosion) have biblical warrant, but develops another biblical way, that of listening and the use (for instance) of the person's memories of experiences of God. By connecting with their feelings, thoughts and imagination, as well as sharing appropriate understandings of the gospel, it is possible to assist others to reconsider their view of life in ways that result in conversion.

There is excellent analysis of the various stances taken by the "unchurched". Yes, it is USA orientated, but a great deal is applicable here because it is speaking of an approach and not "methods". There are many realistic examples, most of which could have occurred in Australia.

Highly recommended for all who believe in evangelism but find the confrontational approach too difficult. You may find that you've developed the approach in other contexts but haven't realised that it can work in evangelism too.

—Keith Bowes



Letters to the Editor

Israel in Prophecy

To the Editor,

Re Gladys Butler's letter ("AC" 1 August), I respect her conviction concerning modern Israel and Old Testament prophecy, but only time will tell if she is right. I respect her belief in the double fulfilment of prophecy and again, time will tell. Likewise only time will tell if there is any connection between the foundation of the State of Israel 44 years ago and the imminent return of our Lord. However Christians do not need to seek signs of the coming. By grace they are ready all the time.

Gladys refers to God's covenant with Israel, but covenants are two sided. God keeps his side of the bargain if we keep ours (Genesis 17:1,2, Hebrews 8:13). The Jews failed to keep the terms of the Old Covenant (Romans 10:21), hence the New Covenant between God and those of every nation who respond to his grace through faith (Hebrews 8:6-10).

Paul wrote that his "desire for Israel is that they should be saved" (Romans 10:1), but in his writing and preaching he made it clear that the way of salvation for Jews was not through their nationhood, but by grace through faith, like every one else (Romans 11:5,6). Whether the Jews will ultimately respond to the gospel as Paul hoped is yet to be seen.

—Gordon Stirling
(Boronia, Vic)

Second Coming of Christ

To the Editor,

Regrettably E.C. Hinrichsen, Bart Manning and a few other exponents of prophecy were a rare breed and well might Gladys Butler mourn their passing. What ought to be said is that our colleges, unlike Moody Bible Institute, have lacked firm doctrinal teaching on this subject. From observation many graduates believe Israel and the church are the same, and have endorsed a-millennialism. In turn such belief has soft-pedalled the urgency of the gospel.

When I interviewed Karl Barth at Basle, Switzerland,

with Bossey students, he had this to say about eschatology. In part I pass on to those who do not preach on prophecy Barth's comments:

"There is no Christianity without the eschatological understanding of time. We always live in 'the last days'. The knocking on the door is always imminent. But this is not to say which day—we are not to know which day, so each day is a tension of waiting for the Lord.

"The whole NT and Book of Revelation should be especially helpful in our understanding 'the signs of the times'. Herein we are given the eschatological view not only of this time but of all times. The Lord is near!

"The second coming has taken place in Christ's resurrection. Resurrection is the first act prior to the second coming, and the promise of it. We are in the waiting, in the interim period. Like a chess game we are in the end play when the victor is already certain of his coming mate move. Or like the clock which has stopped moving, but the pendulum is still swinging..."

Barth asked the question, "Why is not eschatology emphasised in other lands?"

—Arnold C. Caldicott
(Blackwood, SA)

Which Road Shall I Take?

To the Editor

Come on, Dennis Nutt, you can do better than that! In your guest editorial ("AC", 1 August) you challenged us to take the "soaring" path rather than the "boring". But, like Alice, you left us standing at the crossroads, uncertain as to which road we should take. Could you perhaps give us some specific leads in response to your rather rhetorical question, "I wonder where we are going as a movement?"

You offer no direction or stimulating ideas. As you are a senior lecturer at one of our colleges specialising in church history and Biblical studies, I am sure I would not be the only one who would be delighted if you could at least share something of your vision for the fu-

ture of our movement.

For example, should we be re-examining and perhaps catching again the vision that Christ had for the unity of the church as rediscovered and so eloquently enunciated by the early leaders of our movement? Or are we to continue as a somewhat isolationist group fearful within our conservatism? What are the possibilities as this century draws to a close?

Such questions are of supreme importance at this point in our history. I look forward to the editor urging you to write a second guest editorial so you can share some of the vision you must have for the future of our movement.

—Charles Kimber
(Centenary, Qld)

A Few Words

To the Editor,

Please may I say a few words regarding some of the letters and articles. As is the norm with those governing our country, some writers seem to be having a war with words. Some letters need to be replied to so as to focus the theme on the truth. Does the Holy Spirit lead

the mind or the mind try to lead the Holy Spirit? It's like the old parody, some say this, and some say that, what say you? Not only some letters, but also some articles are offensive. A short time ago one writer sought to assure us that alcoholic drink was not to be denied the Christian. He forgot we are urged to be examples to others and refrain as even Christians could have alcoholic tendencies. Then a recent article on "Growing Spiritually" is just too much for me to comprehend, or do I have to wait to see if it was bait for a flow of letters as to what useful purpose it was written and included in the paper we once loved to receive? Like the commodities we buy, *The Australian Christian* is losing (has lost) its value, not in cost, but in its content. We do of course appreciate that which is good and edifying which it contains too.

"Rise up oh men of God, have done with lesser things."

Thanks to Tertius for his timely comment on the use of words not used in times past.

—Pattie G. Legg
(Horsham)

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Happenings

Canadian Eskimos will soon have a revised, modern translation of the New Testament in Inuktitut (the Eastern Arctic dialect) thanks to the Canadian Bible Society. 4 national translators have spent 13 years working on the project.

Most ordinary Christians in the pews are prepared to be in debt and don't believe that debt is wrong, according to a major survey just published in England by "Credit Action". The survey showed that "70% did not believe that debt (through credit cards or store cards) was wrong; 51% admitted they would give more to their church if they handled their money with greater self-control and 42% knew of someone in their church in serious financial trouble".

A government campaign to force tribal Christians in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh to recon-vert to Hinduism is due to be resumed in early August, according to church sources in Delhi. The "Operation Homecoming" campaign was initially launched by the state's ruling Hindu political party, the Bhartiya Janta Party, shortly after coming to power in Madhya Pradesh in June 1991.

Two Malaysian theology teachers were apprehended by Vietnamese authorities and fined \$500 each in mid-May, following a police raid on a Ho Chi Minh City house church seminar involving the 2 foreign Bible teachers. They were in the process of training 15 Sunday school teachers in a private house when 5 policemen raided the premises and broke up the meeting.

Paraguay has adopted a new national constitution abolishing Roman Catholicism as the official religion of the state.

"Crossfire" is a group of 5 Christians who formed in 1990 to use their common ground of music to

evangelise. One of the members of the group is Shaun White, who has been writing regular reviews and articles for "The Australian Christian" this year. The band is based in Melbourne and they play 75% original material in a style similar to "Noiseworks". The other 25% of their material is made up of secular and Christian covers that are chosen for their positive message. They appeared at the Bayswater Roller Skating Rink on 8 August and will be playing at the Manifold Heights, Geelong, Baptist Church on 13 September at 7 pm. For bookings and information contact Scott White on (03) 749 3037 (AH).

The General Director of the Leprosy Mission, Bill Edgar, died suddenly on 20 July at his home in Chesham, England. Bill Edgar's father was a former secretary for Australia for the mission. Bill was appointed to the Australian executive committee of the Leprosy Mission in 1963 and in 1977 became the national director. After some time as the communications director for the Leprosy Mission International Bill became the first non-British resident to become the general director of the mission in its 113-year history in 1987.

According to Baptist World Alliance figures, Baptists started 7,033 new churches in 1990. Of these, 5,454 were in the US, 384 in Africa, 706 in Asia, 76 in Latin America and the Caribbean and 149 in South America.

Last year 45,630 Australian couples divorced, an increase of 3,000 or almost 7% on 1990. Of the divorces granted half were applied for by women, 36% by men and the rest were joint applications.

Michael Cassidy, founder of African Enterprise and the author of two major books on South Africa, has issued a "Macedonian call" to 45 evangelists

from all over Africa to make up a team to preach reconciliation in violent townships, to meet political leaders and appear on television in a move to bring peace to that troubled country. He has asked Australians to pray for South Africa, particularly on 23 August.

Hunter District Christian Endeavour Union (formerly Newcastle District CE Union) will celebrate its centenary in 1993. A weekend of activities, including a reunion dinner and celebration rally, is planned for 27-28 March. A centenary book will also be printed and a display of memorabilia arranged. If you wish to learn of the activities contact the Centenary Co-ordinator, M. Brown, 34 Lexington Pde, Adamstown Heights 2289, phone (049) 43 3131 or District President, G.H. Johnson on (049) 43 7499 (BH) or (049) 58 1059 (AH).

The Victorian Overseas Mission Committee is planning three special events in the coming months. The first, on 19 September at 7.30 pm, is a Youth Special, which will feature "Island Breeze". This is being held at the Malvern church, cnr Alma and Dandenong Roads. The committee is also holding a day of prayer on 24 September (Show Day) 9 am-5 pm at the Burwood church (280 Highbury Rd, Burwood). Their annual rally is on 18 October at 2.45 pm at the Lygon St chapel. This will feature Pastor Wilson Bebi and Pastor Hosea Bani from Vanuatu. Details and further information from either Barry Jenkins on (03) 870 7520 or Dorothy Geyer on (03) 853 8558.

Missionaries returning home on a long-term basis, and those on furlough, often find themselves out of tune with the Australia they used to know. A "Re-entry Weekend" will offer help in coping with this problem. It is being held 4 and 5 September at the Wycliffe Bible Translators Centre at Kangaroo Ground in Victo-

ria. The cost for the weekend is \$24 per adult with lower costs for children. The speakers will be Dr David and Margaret Price from the Bible College of Victoria, with Ros Gooden speaking on relationship enrichment. As part of the re-entry program, an extended marriage enrichment weekend for missionary couples will be conducted by John and Margaret Haartsen on 23-25 October, again at Kangaroo Ground. For details of either program contact Colin Sutherland on (03) 899 1166 or Bronwyn Madder on (03) 379 9400.

GAA-Satellite-FM, Australia's first national Christian radio broadcaster, was launched recently. Through the Australia-wide Radio Network System subscribers are connected 24 hours a day, seven days a week to top quality Christian radio. Details from PO Box 230, Brunswick West 3055. Phone (03) 350 5385.

New Zealand's "Challenge Weekly" reports that George Bush and Bill Clinton have something in common—they are both church-going Christians. Mr Clinton is a member of the Little Rock Immanuel Baptist Church, where he regularly sings in the choir. And Russian President Boris Yeltsin has rejoined the Russian Orthodox Church. He was baptised as an infant but declared himself an atheist and joined the Communist Party in later years. He says he has now become a believing Christian.

"Sowing the Seed", a 20-minute video celebrating the 175th anniversary of the Bible Society in Australia has won a gold award at the 25th World-Fest International Festival in Houston, Texas. The video was produced by South Australia's "See It. Believe It." TV studio.

"Frontier Services", the out-back arm of the Uniting Church, is celebrating its 80th anniversary in August and September. Formerly known as the Australian In-

land Mission, the organisation was established in 1912, mainly due to the inspiration of the Rev. John Flynn, whose determination led to the introduction of the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the pedal radio network. He also established the Patrol Padres, who today carry out a mobile ministry to people isolated by distance.

The Christian Broadcasting Association in Sydney is assisting middle-aged executives who have been retrenched. Station 2CBA-FM has a daily program called "Skilled Jobs" in which people are promoted who have skills and experience. The program has had some encouraging results in the two years it has been operating.

The fire brigade rushed to attend one of Steve Grace's concerts in a country town on his tour of Vic and NSW. It seems people who had not seen a light show and smoke-filled stage had reported the place was on fire. The production manager spent the rest of the evening trying to explain fog machines to firemen. Fortunately they didn't shut the show down as 22 young people committed their lives to Christ that night.

In Bahasa Malaysia, the national language of Malaysia, the word for God is "Allah". This word is used by Muslims, Christians and other religious groups. Now laws have been passed that will restrict the word "Allah" and other religious terms to the Islamic faith. The laws have placed the Christian community in a quandary. They say they really have no option but to continue to use the terms, which are part of their everyday language. So far no-one has been charged.

With a sudden coup in Sierra Leone, a number of missionaries fled the country, including doctors providing essential services. People in the country were "bewildered" by this behaviour.

A Full Life

Ailene Quick

I was enjoying the beautiful weather and views as I sat on the front deck of the houseboat my husband Harry and I had rented for our recent holiday on the Myall Lakes. I was praising God, in my meditation, for the blessing of this time of rest and for him making it all possible. My mind began to wander, as our minds are prone to do, and I thought how God had changed our lives.

It didn't seem so long ago that we had decided to return to Australia after just over 11 good years in England and the continent. These had been modestly successful for Harry in business and for me in opera. Not so long ago perhaps, but a lifetime away. I was then a singer from a Christian family who had let my Christian life become "nominal," married to a dedicated businessman who did not know the Lord at all. Suddenly it all changed. Our wondrous God grasped Harry's hand in a very firm grip and he re-grasped mine.

Soon we both became more and more involved with church life and then our Lord led us to consider Harry giving up his business and going to theological college. Harry is now in his

sixth year of ministry and I have begun my year as State President of the Christian Women's Fellowship.

I don't know that either of us made a conscious decision to try our best to allow God's Spirit to guide us where he will. It seemed to just happen and we feel very blessed that it has.

There have been times when we have wondered if the Lord couldn't have had an "acceptable alternative" for us, and perhaps too many times we still try to resist his guidance. But he generally "gets his way" and things turn out for the best.

Yes, life has certainly changed since those operative and business days and we praise God that it has. We seemed to have a full life then, but really it was only busy. Now we have a full life.

• Ailene Quick is the NSW president of CWF. Husband Harry is minister at Auburn, NSW.

Bigger Than the Olympics

WA State Youth Games

Approximately 540 young people from all over WA headed south over the June long weekend for the annual State Youth Games sponsored by Youth Vision WA. The competitors enjoyed three days of near-perfect weather and spirited interchurch competition. 27 churches took part in what has grown to be the largest gathering of its type in Australia. Although official advertising reads "Churches of Christ State Youth Games" we were pleased to welcome along Baptist churches from Bunbury (the host city), Eaton and Albany.

The opening ceremony on the Saturday morning saw the traditional parade of youth group banners followed by last year's winners, South Perth, reading the Games oath. A spot of mass aerobics and the games were opened.

Chess, water polo and theatre quest were new additions to the traditional sporting options of football, netball, mixed

netball, softball, volleyball, squash, tennis, table tennis, badminton and surfing. The popular triathlon brought the games to a great climax on the Sunday.

The Bunbury church was packed to capacity to hear John Bond's challenging messages at both evangelistic services. As the teams gathered together for Monday's finals there was weariness, but very spirited support and encouragement erupted as the top teams fought for the "Prestigious Trophy" and the triathletes entered the stadium in true Olympic fashion.

Bunbury/Eaton Baptist were the victors this year, followed just 3 points behind by Whitfords Church of Christ. Travellers journeyed home weary and bruised but ever so grateful to God for the ability to run, jump and swim, while celebrating together a shared love for Jesus.

—Lyn Devlin

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Oh, Timothy...

An Epistle to Timothy

From another John,
To Timothy, a colleague,

Paul, our friend and leader, has asked me to reply to your recent letter as follows:

In the first place, he reminds you that this correspondence began back in 1973 when the so-called elders at Ephesus complained to Paul of your immaturity, "lack of sound scholarship" and "mixed blood". (I refer to Colin Morris: *Epistles to the Apostle*: Tarsus—please forward, pages 128–129.) He remembers the plea of your "sister Elizabeth": "It's really about Timothy, that shy, gentle creature I'm writing to you. What a charming young man; and so devoted and loyal to you! He quotes you constantly in his lovely sermons."

Paul thanks you for your letter which prompted him to read again that marvellous confession by Colin Morris: "It would have been arrogance to fabricate letters purporting to come from Paul whereas any half-wit could have written to him and some probably did." (page 10)

Paul says he will try and answer your questions in a future letter but for the moment urges you to hold fast to our confession of faith:

"Hold to the true words that I taught you, as the example for you to follow, and stay in the faith and love that are ours in union with Christ Jesus. Keep the good things that have been entrusted to you, through the power of the Holy Spirit, who lives in us." 2 Timothy 1:13–14.

Grace and peace,

—John Somerville

(Wembley Downs, WA)

PS: *Epistle to the Apostle* by Colin Morris is published by Hodder & Stoughton.

Faith in Honest Doubt

The way of "faith in honest doubt" may be a wonderful approach to existence but somehow I doubt its relevance in helping hurting people.

Last Sunday I gave a specific invitation to whoever was suffering pain in the head and the face. Healing was given to a woman who responded with exactly that complaint.

Another time I met a stranger walking towards the chapel and a name came to mind. It was his. This man, racked with internal struggles and suspicious of pastors, was taken by surprise. A fruitful and healing relationship began.

A man, about to be married, asked for a prayer of blessing. He was happy, carefree and at ease, but the Lord impressed me with a sense of impending danger and the need to ask specifically for protection. Later, driving to his wedding, there was an accident. His vehicle was written off but he escaped with a bruise and subsequently made it to the wedding on time.

Rather than looking for "faith in honest doubt" let's celebrate the knowledge that is revealed in fellowship with the Holy Spirit. The way of doubt as not being inimical to faith may apply to an erudite few but some can't afford the luxury of application. 1 Corinthians 2 9–10.

May the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

—Ross Bourdon
(Ascot Vale, Vic)

Growing Spiritually?

I am most concerned about the article entitled "Growing Spiritually" on the last page of the "Christian" (1 August). It is headed "An Epistle to Paul" and signed Timothy.

What is the purpose of publishing such a negative, unbelieving and worldly letter? It would undermine any spiritual growth a reader might have. If the writer (who does not give his name) intends to use such an article to give teaching in answer to the doubts raised, he should have said so, or included the scriptural answers to such doubts.

People are hungry for good spiritual teaching, yet here doubts are raised about Paul's apostleship, the second coming, miracles of Christ, the virgin birth and the resurrection.

The whole article depicts a complete ignorance of the scripture and is a waste of valuable

space in a Christian magazine.

Paul wrote to Timothy to instruct him in the ministry. Timothy by then would have been a strong Christian, having been nurtured in the faith by his mother and grandmother, and Paul himself. He would have been familiar, probably, with the teaching in Paul's earlier epistles, of which 1 Corinthians 15:3–8 gives the gospel in a nutshell.

—Nancy Evans
(Southport, Qld)

Epistle to Paul

To Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus

From Timothy, your son in the faith

Greetings from my family and from your brothers and sisters in the church. We look forward to the day when we shall see you again.

I am writing to you as I heard from a group of women at our church at Ascot Vale that you had received a letter supposedly from me. I wanted to reassure you that I am not plagued with doubts and questions about our Lord Jesus and I don't know who would have written that letter or why. I will never forget that time you laid hands on me and prayed for the Holy Spirit to fill me with his power and his strength. You know how I struggled with my fear and lack of confidence and boldness in sharing the good news. I don't rely on myself now but on God's mighty spirit working within me, and what a difference that has made.

The church here is not without its problems, but you will be pleased to know it is growing in strength and maturity. We are relying on the Spirit for guidance and knowledge in all our affairs and spending much time in prayer for each other and for you.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

—Timothy

(Carolyn Hammond, on behalf of the Wednesday morning Bible Study Group, Ascot Vale, Vic)

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Voting with His Friends!

A.E. White

When I read Ken Stothard's response ("AC" 18 July) to my "White Papers" ("AC" 21 March), the first thing I did was to go to the nearest mirror to see which part of my split personality was in charge!

Was it Alfred Jekyll, who sought to discourage folk from drinking the most dangerous beverage on the planet?

Or was it Alfred Hyde, who attacks the faith, who uses tired old arguments and whose main argument is manifestly false, who speaks with a forked tongue, who charges his fellow-Christians of voting with the devil, who is guilty of double-think, who calls down the fire of judgment from heaven upon those who disagree with him, whose wowserism is an attack on the glorious gospel of grace and freedom in Christ and who skulks in the camp of the Judaisers?

The second thing I did was to hide Ken's article from Beverley. She is reasonably comfortable with Alfred Jekyll, but I don't think she would be all that crazy about Alfred Hyde!

I don't know where Ken got that bit of my accusing conference delegates of voting with the devil. I certainly didn't say it. The "enemy" in my article obviously referred to those who promoted the sale and use of alcohol.

Ken's main complaint seems to be that I was advocating compulsory total abstinence. That's not in my article, either. Compulsory total abstinence is no different from prohibition. I said, "Prohibition is not being advocated. Example is!" Here is a part of my article: "Not every person who drinks alcohol is a drunkard or is alcohol obsessed. Some of my best friends drink alcohol and I accept (without condescension) their lifestyle, as they accept mine. They have freedom to make their choices and they have the right to defend those choices. I have the same freedom."

It is a matter of freedom. We are all free to make choices. Some of the choices that were

once thought to be user-friendly have now been clearly demonstrated to be unfriendly. For example, sunbaking and smoking. We are also free to drink alcohol and others are free to warn of the dangers and recommend avoidance of the beverage."

Ken seems to have a problem with agendas, mine, and also that of the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15). He says that if total abstinence is required, it would have been discussed by the church leaders at that Council. My "White Papers" agenda is criticised because it deals only with alcohol and leaves out "the demon sex, TV, films, cars, guns, knives". If I have the incredible effrontery of mentioning the Council of Jerusalem and my humble effort in the same paragraph, it is because Ken brought them together, and because they are both single issue agendas. The council was dealing with a watershed decision as to how the gospel was to be presented to the Gentiles; while my article was dealing with one motion presented to conference, and its subject was alcohol. I was tackling a problem that governments, churches, social workers and law enforcement agencies view as our greatest social menace. Although my concern was based on the Christian principle of loving God and loving my neighbour, I did not seek support from Bible texts. I was talking to my bit of the world about that world's troubles with alcohol. I never thought that by wielding my puny sword (for sword read pen) I would provoke Ken to unleash all the scriptural weapons from Genesis to Colossians!

My one reference to scripture was to Paul's Letter to Timothy, for I am tired of the way that one small casual word

from Paul is so often presented as that great apostle's endorsement of alcohol. I also suggested that Paul would have supported a group of Aboriginal women at Alice Springs, where they were protesting against the way in which alcohol was ravaging their society. It is, I admit, a bit risky to say what Paul would or would not do, but Ken has no trouble in asserting that Paul would undermine his authority as an apostle if he promoted total abstinence!

We are both guessing, but in my mind's eye I could not see Paul standing aside from the tragedy of the Aboriginal women and reminding them that "beverage alcohol is a gift of God's creation which may be accepted and enjoyed with thanksgiving".

I am accused of being illogical. Maybe, but how does this bit from Ken strike you? "To exercise one's Christian freedom to consume alcoholic beverages in a youth club, a Sunday School or on the mission field would be recklessly irresponsible, but to fail to do so in, say, the senior common room at the University of Melbourne might well be tantamount to a denial of the faith." *! This seems to mean that no matter how strong a conviction you have about alcohol, you would be destroying your faith if you failed to have a drink with the boys and girls!

But, there is more! After all the huffing and puffing, Ken has an additional note. This is it: "I would urge all readers to consider total abstinence as a personal option. No one can make up your mind for you."

Well! Do I detect the voice of Ken Jekyll? After all this foolishness and personal abuse, Ken seems to be on my side! For the life of me I can't see

much difference between the quote from Ken and the quote from me! And he is a total abstainer! He has committed himself to "a lifestyle embracing voluntary abstinence from alcohol", as the Conference motion asked. Ken took some time but at last he is voting with his friends!

Being in a generous mood I now provide Ken with another problem. Heroin!

Heroin is nasty. Not so nasty as alcohol, but nasty nevertheless. It doesn't do anything like the damage alcohol does to society but I believe that the church should share with those in the community who discourage its use.

And I produce the tired old argument that what is destructive of life is bad and we should avoid it. If a motion came before conference recommending that its members commit themselves to a lifestyle embracing voluntary abstinence from heroin, I would still be game enough to say that those who voted against it would be voting with the enemy (the dealers and the pushers). And I wonder if some would argue that "the substance heroin is a gift of God's creation which may be accepted and enjoyed with thanksgiving"! All of the matters raised by Ken in respect to alcohol would apply to heroin.

Some may argue that alcohol and heroin are different. They are not, not in this context. Heroin was first produced in 1874. It is manufactured, but so is alcohol. Alcohol is a legal beverage; heroin was a legal substance at least until 1915. Being a latecomer and not mentioned in scripture we can treat it for what it is, a matter of great social importance, but we cannot, of course, avoid treating it as a matter for Christian concern and conscience.

I don't mind dragging Paul into it. I believe that if there were a protest by the shattered parents of young broken heroin victims, Paul, if he were around, would stand with them.

I would even leave off skulking in the camp of the Judaisers and join him!

Classifieds

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PINCHES Nina. Passed away peacefully 7 August. Our very dear friend. Glad Cooksley and family.

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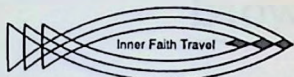
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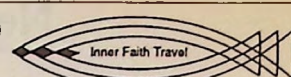
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Curkpatrick

When retelling the parable of the mustard seed we have always assumed that the parable is about small things becoming great, the smallness of the mustard seed contrasted with the greatness of the tree. However the mustard seed doesn't become a great shrub or tree. It is a small, pungent, wild shrub just over a metre high and barely capable of holding bird's nests, but most capable of overrunning crops like a weed. The parable according to several eminent scholars* is in fact most subversive. It subverts the idea that the Kingdom will become a great tree like the cedars of Lebanon—which Ezekiel likens to the mighty Kingdom of Pharaoh, "a high tree which will be brought low", while Israel "a low tree will be made high", no doubt as the greatest and most powerful of all kingdoms. The parable is a satire on the traditional longing for a mighty kingdom. But God's Kingdom, in this parable, is not a great tree, but ironically, a pungent weed-like shrub.

So why does Jesus create a metaphor depicting the Kingdom as a mere weed-like shrub? Retrospectively we could say

Parable of the Mustard Weed

that the Kingdom of God was never meant to be expressed as it was in European Christendom during the middle ages, yoked inseparably to the state, the instrument of empire-builders. Nor was it meant to become the tool of colonialism, taming antipodean worlds, at times unwittingly for the most shockingly blatant political and economic reasons. Nor is the Kingdom to be identified today with any power, state or political regime, whatever its moral or theological rhetoric, constitutional or mythic aspirations. In terms of empire building, the Kingdom of God is nothing more than a mere shrub. It is not Ezekiel's poetic image of a magnificent cedar, later the traditional image of the kingdom of the righteous, triumphant over the unrighteous, a kingdom of the remnant—tall, proud, invulnerable. For Jesus, the Kingdom of God is a pungent, weed-like shrub.

Readers of this parable have always assumed that the small-

ness of the seed is to be contrasted with the greatness of the tree. No such contrast can be made. The metaphor Jesus has evoked is dissonant, and creates tension between traditional expectations of the Kingdom and the presence of the Kingdom in his ministry. The parable creates a metaphor of dissonance or tension, not similitude, by combining three incongruous ideas—Kingdom, mustard seed and great tree. This combination creates an ambiguous, even subversive image of the Kingdom. It undercuts the idea that the Kingdom of God is to be identified with the powerful kingdoms of this world—as it satirically undercuts the allusions of being a great tree by identifying the Kingdom with a seed that will never become a great tree but, ironically, only a small pungent shrub.

This mere shrub has none of the attraction or rhetoric of greatness intrinsic to powerful kingdoms. It is a Kingdom of the weak, helpless, defenceless, forgotten—those whom Matthew Fox calls the "little ones" of our world. It is not an image

of lofty transcendence. Rather, the compassionate Kingdom of servanthood and grace that is immanent in our world is a despised image, despised because it is like a prolific weed that keeps on spreading. It is despised for its pungent, unconventional taste in values. But despite the unattractiveness of the "mustard weed" it has therapeutic properties. The titles attributed to parables occur out of their predominant usage by the church. Perhaps the "parable of the mustard seed" should be more correctly titled, the "Parable of the Mustard Weed".

—Stephen Curkpatrick

* John Crossan, Robert Funk, PHEME Perkins, John Donahue, Bernard Scott, Frederick Danker, J.D. Kingsbury.

A Glossary for Tertius

subversive—tendency to undercut and upset

satire—to use ridicule to expose a fallacy

irony—saying one thing but literally meaning the opposite

metaphor—non-literal figure of speech

antipodean—the other side of the world

dissonant—jarring, discordant

incongruous—ill-fitting, out of keeping with, or absurd

transcendent—existing apart from the world, beyond our grasp

immanent—opposite to transcendent
(These words are all found in *The Oxford School Dictionary*, which I had as a kid—SC)

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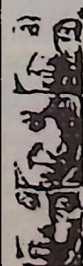
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A full-time program will allow training for pastoral ministry to be completed in three years as each year has 11 months of training involvement rather than the traditional 8-9 months.

In 1993 ministry centres for supervision will be located at Carlingford, Wollongong and Marrickville.

A significant proportion of the instruction input will be in modular form (four days intensive classes) at Carlingford. During semesters lectures will be presented at Carlingford and Wollongong on one day per week.

The new model will give the opportunity for those who are employed part time to embark on a program of training that will lead to a BTh/Diploma of Ministry or Diploma of Ministry or a certificate qualification.

The Institute for Contemporary Church Leadership at Wollongong and the College at Carlingford will jointly offer ministry training.

The college will continue to work within the Sydney College of Divinity and therefore offer accredited degree level training for those desiring it. The academic rigour of the training will be preserved.

Austudy is available under the set government guidelines for those who are training at degree level.

The college is excited about the new model because it will take the resources of training to a wider group of people and

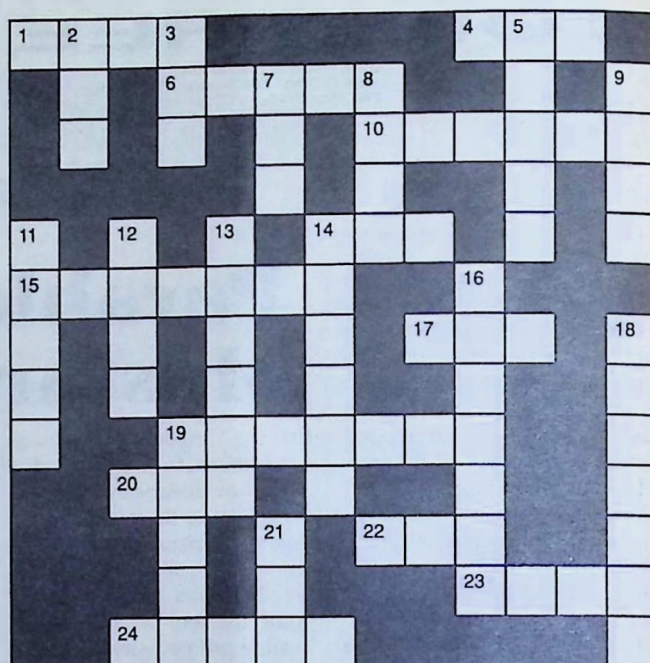
will allow significantly more flexibility in the way people undertake training, including the locations of training (the ministry centres).

It is the intention of the college board to add one or two ministry centres per year after 1993.

These will be chosen in conjunction with vital churches and will reflect a variety of ministry models, sizes of churches, socioeconomic contexts of churches and geographic locations (including rural settings).

Carlingford supports strongly the models of training currently offered by the Churches of Christ Theological College at Mulgrave, Vic, and Kenmore Christian College in Queensland and would encourage anyone who is challenged to train for ministry to contact someone at the college of choice.

If you would like further information contact: Dr Keith Farmer, Principal, Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College, 216 Pennant Hills Rd, Carlingford 2118. Phone (02) 630 533.



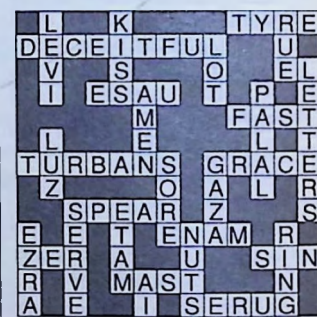
Across

1. Prophetess
4. Hadad's home (Genesis 36:31-39)
6. Strange receptacle for animals (Acts 10:9-13)
10. Worker mentioned in Bible
14. "Drenched by the ---" (Daniel 4:25)
15. Descendant of Canaan (Genesis 10:16)
17. Keep busy like Dorcas
19. "We have ----- no-one" (2 Corinthians 7:2)
20. The rich young man went away in this condition
22. Metal mentioned in Numbers 31:22
23. Deities
24. Jerusalem is likened to one (Isaiah 61:10)

Down

2. Born
3. Zealous king (2 Chronicles 15)
5. Tempting fruit?
7. High priest's servant's painful loss (Matthew 26:51)
8. Jesus is the --- vine
9. What the seed does
11. Brother of Moses
12. Son of Lot
13. Unclean animal (Leviticus 11:29-30)
14. Mary Magdalene had had seven
16. Event where Jesus performed first miracle
18. Received by Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Hebrews 11:8-9)
19. Became wine
21. Tribe of Israel

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A Church ABC

Fitzroy, Vic, is an inner-city area immediately to the north east of the Melbourne central business district. Its population contains two quite distinct groupings: young professional people and low-income housing estate residents. There are those with al-

ternate lifestyles, migrants and people in real need. It is a mission field for the Christian church, meeting the needs of many cultures.

The North Fitzroy Church of Christ is situated on the corner of Brunswick and Reid Streets, just north of the old Fitzroy Football Ground. A decade ago the church sold its chapel and moved all its activities into its very large red-brick hall, built in 1916 when there were over 500 in the Sunday School.

A visitor to a service at North Fitzroy does not find the usual rows of pews and the view of the back of a person's head. Instead worshippers sit at tables and are offered cakes and coffee. Conversation flows freely, and it is the responsibility of those at the table to follow up newcomers.

The hall has been divided by an 8-foot-high partition into worship and recreational areas. Billiard and table tennis tables can be seen and coffee-making facilities.

The service begins about 10.10 am and there are talented musicians in the church who provide instrumental accompaniment—but generally from their tables. Worship comes from the congregation.

There are many young families at North Fitzroy. Recently there was a dedication service for eight babies, and the average of worshippers is about 28, but the congregation of about 80 includes all ages, including long-time members such as Vic Foster. Vic, with his brother Perce, who died earlier this year, is among those who were the backbone of the church

through its lean years. The music of the service is varied too, and is co-ordinated by Liz Newton, a gifted musician.

The minister at North Fitzroy is John Harmer. John grew up in rural Warracknabeal, Vic, and was a motor mechanic for 10 years before receiving a call to ministry. After training at the College of the Bible, he went to North Fitzroy, and is now in his 13th year there. He and his wife, Colleen, have five daughters, the two eldest married.

When the chapel was sold ten years ago a large (five kitchens, nine bedrooms) house was brought as a retreat home. Over the years its role has changed and it is now used as a staff house. Part serves as the manse and others living there include a counsellor, the church's administrator, Doug Long, and the evangelist, student Larry Norman (with a name like that he should go far), originally from Portland Baptist church.

The front part of the church building houses until the end of this year Tabor College, a nondenominational training institution, which has outgrown the space available.

An important part of the ministry at North Fitzroy is the Friday night outreach. The work starts at 2 pm when half a dozen meet for prayer. By 4 pm people are busy preparing an evening meal of potatoes, peas and Noons pies. For \$1 church members can have dinner at

the word of God to people in need where they are. Friday night is a time of outreach to children and there is also a time of worship.

There is a tremendous feeling of well-being at the church. While still not satisfied with where they are, the members

consider they have been effective.

The church is growing and there is a real unity between the members, from various backgrounds. The emphasis at North Fitzroy is on everyone being involved in the work of God in this very interesting inner-city area.



Focus on Fitzroy North

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Personal

Baptisms

•Mark Pritchard, Wayne Sobey, David Smith, Philip Crouch, Carole Taylor, York St, Ballarat, Vic •Matthew Hinchcliffe, Kerry Elkner, Jonathan Andrews, Knoxfield, Vic •Teysha Moses, Aimee Robey, Bowral, NSW •Patricia Pearce, Talitha Pearce, Strathmore, Vic •Andrew Wright, Glen Waverley, Vic •Ruth Sims, Gattol, Qld •Peter Moritz, Brendon Moritz, Scott Howison, Merrilyn Turner, Paul Nash, Joan Dasey, Sandra Killeen, Mildura, Vic •Allison Barwick, Josephine Perkins, Marcus Excell, Steven Cripps, Hobart City, Tas •Shelley Duncan, Jeff Archer, Rebecca Wright, Warragul, Vic •Chris Kitchener, Echuca, Vic •Phylis Ross, Nailsworth, SA

Marriages

•Mary Redman to David Gillham, Mornington, Vic •Naomi Deaman to Wally Neale, Nowra, NSW •Debbie Luffrum to Darren Clarke, Springvale, Vic •Debra Booth to Morris Keane, Gisborne, Vic •Monica Koster to Glenn Thomas, Bowral, NSW •Julie Reaby to Brad Gould, Glen Waverley, Vic •Janine Diggle to Ray Alabaster, Christine Carey to Arthur McWilliams, Mildura, Vic •Maria Neville to Rick Mead, Thornleigh, NSW •Fiona Treadwell to Jarrod Whitecross, Lisa Magill to Graham Anstee, Tweed Heads, NSW

Deaths

•Tom Cragg, Dolly Layton, Knoxfield, Vic •Vicki Fraser, Horsham, Vic •Gladys McMillan, Mildura, Vic •Kath Forster, Tootgarook, Vic •Ronald Hearn, Taree, NSW •Baden Jackel, Wedderburn, Vic •Andrew Knights, Northcote, Vic •Nina Pinches, Len Barklem, Preston, Vic •Gwen Lewis, Cath Aumann, Bentleigh, Vic •George Francis, York, WA

Changes

Henley Beach: Secretary—R.J. Dodd, 12 Ozone Avenue, Semaphore Park, SA 5019. Phone (08) 242 1850.

Preston: Manse. Phone (03) 478 5335.

South Eastern Suburban Regional Church, Vic: Caulfield morning service 11 am.

Sunbury: Manse. Phone (03) 740 9145.

Vic-Tas Aborigines Mission Dept: H.T. Taylor now chairman, M.J. Anderson now Secretary/Treasurer.

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Burnham, Frank

(14.7.92) Born Maidenhead, England 4.2.12. Master painter and decorator. Married Pris 1938, served in Air Force during war. In 1950 he and Pris with sons Peter and Paul (now both in ministry) moved to Australia. Soon became active members at Dawson Street, Ballarat. For 23 years foreman painter at Ballarat Base Hospital. Served church as Sunday school teacher, deacon, member of popular "Gospelaire". 1982 moved to Boronia where they lived with daughter Cherry and John Bird. Frank used musical talents on double bass, and recently returned to paintbrush on new complex. Frank's last illness was sudden and distressing.

—Keith Milne

Forster, Kathleen Maud

Born 24.8.17 in North Melbourne. Married Jim Tipping at South Melbourne church, where heavily involved in church life—Kath was Sunday school teacher, CWF president, Good Companions leader and CFA agent. Contributed to church with her gift in crafts. Kath and Jim had two children, Evelyn and James. Moved to Tootgarook and actively involved there. Jim passed away and six years later Kath married Keith Forster. Served God in prayer meetings, temperance work and op shop. Thanks to Tootgarook church and Ted Keating.

—Evelyn Wanstall

Fraser, Vicki

Hundreds attended funeral for 19½-year-old Vicki Fraser, Horsham. Had cystic fibrosis from birth. Attended Laharum, Haven and Horsham schools, worked as shop assistant in family businesses. At church played tennis, participated in youth activities, sang, played organ, helped prepare activity bags for children. Loved tapestry, animals. Quiet, positive, matter-of-fact approach to life, commonsense, friendliness and faith in Jesus. Illness drew community attention to need to support CF families, research. Money-raising efforts organised by local JCC. Sympathy offered to parents, Jenny and Norm, brother Tony, grandparents, Norm and Margaret Fulton, and many relatives and friends.

Henderson, Ern

(2.7.92) Cheltenham church shocked by death of Ern Henderson from fast-growing and incurable brain tumour diagnosed only last

Obituaries

May. Ern made outstanding contribution to church, to conference through the Properties Corporation, with the ANZ Bank and to his much-loved family—a wonderful father to Karen, Narelle and Richard and deeply devoted companion to wife Gwen. Gerald Rose spoke of indebtedness to Ern and deep admiration for his practical wisdom, commitment to spiritual development and concern for the well-being of the ministry team. He will be greatly missed but faith and discipleship has left all with an inspiring example.

Kennett, Jack

4.8.92 Jack was born at Tailm Bend 23.10.14, the younger of two brothers. He followed his father as a farmer at Lillimur, Vic. At 16 he accepted Christ as his saviour and was baptised at Kaniva. At 18 he preached his first sermon and continued as a lay preacher until his death. Jack and his first wife Corrie had three sons and one daughter. Corrie died in the mid-60s and Jack married Aileen Smith of Bairnsdale, moving there in 1969. Jack preached at Lillimur, Kaniva, Echuca, Castlemaine, Collingwood and East Gippsland churches. A thanksgiving service was held at Bairnsdale Uniting church.

—R. Pearce

Lovell, Charles Thomas

Eldest son of Cecil and Elizabeth Lovell. When Coburg church began Lovells transferred there from Moreland. Later at Preston he met wife May Rogers. In their eighties Charles' wife contracted Alzheimers disease. He went with her into a retirement village. A car accident put both into hospital, where after weeks of intensive care, Charles died. The chaplain of the village spoke of Charles' loving patience, helpfulness to others and knowledge of the scriptures. We commend his wife May, his son Graeme and daughter Dorothy and families, and his surviving sisters Winifred, Clara, Muriel and Dorothy to the love of God.

—ABW

Martin, Alan

(17.7.92) Born 1912 at Wantirna, Alan was always a practical man. After schooling he worked in a garage, prior to his RAAF days. Marrying Beulah in 1946, he soon began an orchard. Alan loved working with his hands. He could fix "anything", and do anything. He was noted for the tractor and truck that he built. Always dependable, Alan loved his Lord Jesus, demonstrating this naturally in many practical

ways. He was friend to all, devoted to his wife, children, and grandchildren. Though now sadly missed, he awaits their reunion, where, with their Lord, they will meet to part no more.

—LCH

Martin, Edward (Ned)

Born 27 May 1909, at Bayswater, third child of Charles and Fanny Martin, pioneer family who moved into district in 1900. Educated at Wantirna South Primary School, followed this with a building apprenticeship and was involved in building number of early public buildings in district. Baptised as a young man, Ned continued his association with Bayswater right to the end of his life. A devoted family man, and always pleased to see his children and grandchildren involved in church activities. From one who knew him well was quoted Bunyan's words: "And the trumpets sounded for him on the other side."

—LCH

Parker, Eric

Much-loved member of Maylands, SA, previously associated with Norwood, Colonel Light Gardens, Naracoorte and Whyalla (founding member). Married to Marjorie 58 years, having previously been widowed, and father of five sons. Working life in family business of Parker Brothers bakeries, later Tip Top. A-grade bowler until a few months before his death at 92. Active in several lodges. Had a long interest in Antarctica, and flew over that continent. Will be greatly missed by the Maylands family, where he was a faithful worshipper and elder. Funeral conducted by Richard Lawton, assisted by Col Smith, eulogy by son Graham.

—Richard Lawton

Smedley, Harold William

1.7.92 Harold William Smedley died aged 89 years. Grew up Ivanhoe, worshipped North Fitzroy. Orchardist on father's orchard Doncaster. Married May and went into grocery trade at Coburg and attended Coburg church. Harold had strong Christian faith, expressed through kindness, humility, patience and helpfulness. Loved gardening. From mid-1950s lived at Box Hill and was deacon, Sunday school teacher and ardent Christian Men's Fellowship supporter at Box Hill church. With May lived latter part of his life at Oakleigh Christian Guest Home and attended Oakleigh church up till two months before he died. Sympathy expressed to children Keith and Lorraine.

—Jack Edwards

Vic

MORNINGTON (Ian Cartmel) Planning for Consecration Sunday mid-August proceeding well ... Successful sponsorship by older people in the church family of our Sunday youth groups ... Christian Religious Education at local primary school supported by "Happy Faces" sponsor program ... Joyful celebration of marriage of Mary Redman to David Gillham.

YORK ST, BALLARAT (Jim Cunningham, Mike Janssen)

"New Melodies" (a Russian musical group) performed at York St as part of their Australian tour ... Jenny & Jonathon Flack shared musical ministry with Sunday School & church services ... "Bell Ringers" performed to over 300 at concert held at York St ... "Reaching Out" message series beginning at evening services ... Church member Helen Watson travelling to Uganda to assist missionaries in publishing childrens literature.

KANIVA (M. Goldup) 110 attended community musicale evening

given by Richard & Shirley Pearce ... Our minister has been on study leave ... Visit by Jeff May, OMB ... Following latest working bee CWF have dispatched large box of bandages for Leprosy Mission & more gifts for hospital visitation ... Morning cuppa after Sunday morning service provides opportunity for folk to chat & meet newcomers.

MONTROSE (Robyn Walsh, David Akesson) Farewelled Galbraith family as they left to minister at Belmont in July ... Missionary Awareness weekend with Jeff May, including

"Richman-Poorman Dinner" for youth groups, very beneficial ... Four members travelling to World Convention ... John & Jane Houston (Camp Hill, Qld) accepted invitation to minister from February 1993 ... Fellowship study groups increased to 14 after successful leadership training sessions.

HAMPTON ST (Peter Pitts) Peter & Barbara Pitts & Daniel back from holiday in America ... Young people raised over \$400 for 40 Hour Famine ... Weekly Friendship Centre opened. 19 enjoyed light lunch on first day ... Ruby McDowell moved to UCA unit in Hawthorn ... Liz Benjaminsen making good recovery after surgery ... Pearl Dunn honoured with life membership of Highett Senior Citizens for devoted service.

SPRINGVALE (John Carmichael) Marie Seybold dedicated four children followed by church family luncheon ... Rowan Forster, ABC, guest speaker July youth service, 95 present ... Recent guest artists "Melbourne Ecumenical Chapel Singers" & "Adonai" ... Raynor Messenger's membership transferred from Oakleigh Baptist ... Number of folk attending Vietnamese language classes ... Young people from YFC Crib House attending evening services ... Missionary Focus Weekend 7-9 August with Stewart Dinnen (WEC).

KNOXFIELD (Rod Brown, Craig Allan, Brian Tunks) Dinner to raise funds for hall rebuilding raised over \$3,000 ... Rebuilding will start after Knox Council approves plans & finance organised. Congregation enthusiastic ... Youth services very successful & led to baptisms ... Craig Allan leads Monday cell groups, where issues of social concern discussed ... Bruce & Sandra Anderson leading similar groups for adults while Rod Brown leading series of Bible studies.

GISBORNE (Ray Smith) "Psalmody" course on praise & worship

Position Vacant Conference General Secretary Churches of Christ in Queensland

The Conference Executive Council are seeking to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of John Godby.

We are looking for a person with competence in:

- (1) Financial Management
- (2) Conference General Secretary/Corporate Secretary
- (3) Public Relations/Promotions

The person we are seeking will become an integral part of Conference Executive Secretariat/Council preparing agendas, handling correspondence and distributing information.

This person will need to work closely with the following Conference Department and Committees:

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Centenary Development Foundation and Property Board/
ICA promoting their work and managing their financial investments

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PO Box 508
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Victoria, Australia
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Fax: (03) 347 8052

Closing date of applications: 16 October 1992

Church News

taught by Brent & Kate Adams ... "Missions Awareness" dinner catered by Richmond Vietnamese Congregation, raised \$1000 for Vietnamese ministry ... Computer seminar introduced pastoral care program, prepared by Russell Barker ... Brad Coombe & John Frearson in Sweden undergoing pilot orientation training for Compass ... Anthony McAllister & Simon Gray volunteers with Mobile Mission Maintenance July on WEC project in Launceston.

SHEPPARTON (Robert Hough) Robert & Sylvia Hough's induction service 19 July ... After a much-appreciated ministry Pat & Betty Kavanagh farewelled at an evening combined with welcome to Robert, Sylvia, Naomi, Jenny & Robyn Hough ... Sunday School practicing for musical "It's Cool in the Furnace" ... A variety of new instruments expanding music ministry ... Church supporting Community Meals program for homeless youth. **MOUNT CLEAR (Dale White)** Winter conference program with input from Paul Cameron was very successful ... 185 at Winter Conference Cabaret evening including about 50 guests or visitors ... Congregation voted unanimously to renew minister's term until January 1998 ... Church blessed by visit of South African Revival Team early in August.

MILDURA (David Ratten, Neale Meredith, Doug Clark) Graham Agnew, Marion, guest speaker at Sunraysia Conference, "A Faith That Bites" ... 7 baptisms in recent weeks ... Second morning service (9 am) commenced 2 July ... New manse nearing completion ... AGM elected three new deacons & new treasurer Ray Alabaster ... Lisa and Denis Homfray dedicated baby Sophie ... 8 Youth Bible Studies commenced involving approx. 40 young people.

ASCOT VALE (Ross Bourdon) Youth group commenced under the leadership of Markus and Becky Freiverts ... Baby girl born to Paulin family. We now have 42 children under 12 ... Gamblers Victorious commencing in September led by two in congregation ... Prayer meetings each Monday morning and Saturday evening interceding for church Bible study groups growing spiritually ... Many answers to prayer for healing in morning services.

BELMONT (Neil Galbraith) Cliff Warmbrum & Graham Chapman speakers at morning services during interval between ministries of Bob Clymer & Neil Galbraith ... Galbraith family welcomed into fellowship at morning service 19 July, when Alf White preached on

"The Call of God". Neil inducted into ministry at special induction service afternoon of 19 July. House gatherings being arranged to allow members to meet with Jan & Neil.

BOORT-PYRAMID HILL (Tom Frazer) Successful "Thank God for the Bible" services at both churches. Over 160 members' Bibles on display ... Winter "Sunday at Four" series well received. Minister, shire president, local doctor, Stella Carter speakers ... Over 60 Pyramid Hill YP attended recent roller skating night at Boort ... Explorers, Adventurers & Catch-It clubs all in good shape ... Minister officiated at funeral of Baden Jackel at Wedderburn.

NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn) Minister & wife on holidays in SA. G. Crossman preacher at morning services during their absence ... AGM held 2 August after morning service & lunch ... Farewell to Shirley Donnison, with the church since Sunday school days, now living at Ocean Grove ... Andrew Knights died suddenly after a period of ill-health caused by a stroke ... CWF had speaker from Arthritis Foundation.

PRESTON (T. Armstrong) The Boomerang Kids Club has commenced each Friday evening ... Marj & Vic Lehmann have celebrated their golden wedding anniversary ... 90th anniversary, 18 October, will be different—see ad next issue ... Church saddened at the deaths of Nina Pinches & Len Barklem.

ECHUCA (A. Symes) Ministry & visiting to the Cummeragunja Community Christian Centre at Barmah ... Home worship very active ... Young church members very good serving at the Lord's Table ... Members have been shown plans and cost of repairs and alterations to the chapel ... Council has finished roadworks at the front of the chapel.

BENTLEIGH (A. McMillan, Carl Lee) Enjoying fellowship with student Carl Lee, wife Karen and baby Rebecca ... Church represented at various departmental functions ... Saddened by deaths of Gwen Lewis and Cath Aumann ... Much sickness among members ... CWF commenced monthly outreach activity, "Sing and Chat", using large-print songbooks.

LA TROBE TERRACE (C.J. MacKenzie) Youth group enjoyed tea at pie and cake shop at Ocean Grove, with Colin Grieve apprentice cook ... Snow trip to Mt Bulla & Lake Stirling great experience for over 30 young people & families. Recently family services have featured "Sheba", the graduate dog, and stamp collections ... CWF contributed to "Cottage by the Sea" ...

Nicole & Simon home after interesting trip to Sweden, Paris & London.

SA

HAMPSTEAD GARDENS (Keith Ridge) Graham Lawrie guest at church anniversary ... Friendship Centre's community meeting on Aged Care, with representatives from C of C Retirement Services attracted 45 ... Speakers at "Winter Series at Five" services Keith Horne, Keith Skillicom, Jim Longbottom (CCTC) ... 18 enrolled in course dealing with separation and loss, majority not church members ... Bus trip planned to visit "country cousins" at Owen.

FLINDERS PARK (Neville Moore) Church has just farewelled eight delegates to the World Convention ... The Church welcomes Neville Moore as its interim minister, as they wait on the Lord for his guidance for the 1993 ministry ... On its 66th anniversary, 10 am, Sunday, 13 September 1992, the church invites anyone who was married at Flinders Park in the preceding years to share its celebration.

NAILSWORTH (Daryll Telfer) Day Fellowship coffee morning raised \$320 for missionary work ... Guest speaker 73rd church anniversary services David Althorpe from Hawthorn ... In July film "Love Note" was screened. Richard & Shirley Pearce (Sovereign Singers) conducted concert ... Day Fellowship provided musical program and afternoon tea at Park Rose Retirement Village ... Friedel Stegan from Kwasizabantu Mission speaker at evening service in August.

NSW

NOWRA (Clinton Wardle) Church growing ... Nurture groups studying "Starting Out" ... Four commitments in one month ... Graham Jones led seminar on marriage communication ... Billy Graham "Hope" film series over four Sunday evenings were well attended ... Two men returning from Middle East in August on HMAS *Darwin* ... Seven made commitments in recent evening service ... People fighting against "Sex" show. Many advertisers removed ads.

GILGANDRA (P. Anderson) Hazel Skuice held meeting at manse & talked of work in India & showed slides. Also answered many questions ... Sunday afternoon seminar for leaders & helpers very helpful ... Enjoyable outing to Max & Nina's farm recently ... Residents of Cooe Lodge enjoyed visit of Sunday School scholars to monthly service.

EPPING (David Moyes, Lester Sutton) Successful seminar with Wes Beavis. Over 50 attended. New changes have commenced to enhance the quality of services ... New people every week ... Holiday Bible Club was a great success with 70% not attending the church. Some are now attending Kid's Club & Sunday School ... Crowded anniversary service with Kel Richards from 2GB as guest speaker ... Youth work is growing strongly.

BOWRAL (Garry Towle) Monthly ladies' luncheons most successful. Great time of fellowship. Speakers so far have been Pam McDonough, Alice Chambers & Beverley Griffiths ... Visiting church service speakers have included Dr Louis Romney, Underground Evangelism, & Ross Wakeley, Dept of Church Development & Education ... Church hosted Girls' Brigade parade for Term 2 ... Minister has been reappointed for further 3 years ... Deacon Richard Kenderdine farewelled.

THORNLEIGH (Franklin Elliott, Stuart Wesley) Some of our younger people attended the Junior DCE High Camp during the school holidays ... Also during the school holidays Five Day Clubs were held in two homes for primary-school-age children, which went off quite well ... Over the first weekend in August about 50 young people attended the Soncity Retreat at Elanora Heights. It was a fantastic weekend.

TWEED HEADS (Richard Oakes) August & Maelene Benn, Vanuatu visited with Eaglings ... Home groups combined for family dinner, heard Wally Kulakoff, HCJB, Ecuador, on work in CIS ... CWF Trash'n'Treasure raised over \$2000 for missions & local church project ... Greg Thompson visiting speaker in Richard's absence ... Drop-in Friendship group continues to meet need ... Richard giving series of messages on fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

TAREE (Peter Wallis) Church has been heavily involved in the John Smith Crusade (God Squad) and meetings have been crowded out ... Church was saddened at passing of Ronald Walter Hearn on 22 July. Funeral service was conducted by Barry Rice in Taree church. Ron will be sadly missed. His faith was staunch and positive. Deepest sympathy to his wife, Grace, and the family.

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Church News

Qld

GATTON (Barry Benz) Barry Benz involved in chaplaincy program University of Queensland, Gatton College ... Diane Turner organised well-loved hymns service with orchestra, soloists & narrator ... Church complex painted externally—senior men looking after building maintenance. New hall blinds & chairs purchased with CWF help ... Church held combined Gatton churches services inspirational time of across-denominational fellowship ... Church looking forward to 38th anniversary celebrations August.

RANGEVILLE (TOOWOOMBA) Series of messages on 2 Peter by Graham Fincham (Garden City Church). Other speakers Ian Schneider, Ken Matthews, David Rogerson, Peter Retchford ... David Hall leads Bible Study Tuesday nights. Presently studying Luke ... Ruby Anniversary 31 October & 1 November. Guest speaker Adrian Risson, theme "Coming Home". Further particulars Aussie Lack (076) 35 9933 ... CWF Devonshire morning tea 12 August, Dalby Rally 26 August.

PINE RIVERS (Neale Proellocks, Ian Todd) Number of new families recently welcomed into fellowship ... Weatheralls leave on 2 September for Vanuatu ... Looking forward to Family Camp weekend of 11 September at Camp Cal ... Recent message themes on Self-esteem and the book of Mark ... Hope to commence church extensions soon ... Church in much prayer due to the serious illness of our beloved brother A.C. Male.

WA

CARNARVON (Don Bone) CWF has planned an outreach program for housebound mothers—"Time Out for Women" ... Special effort being made to raise funds for a 12-seater bus for use in church activities ... Three deacons elected unanimously: Bert Holtham, David Foong and Darren Law Davis ... CWCI Safari team held luncheon in church hall. 48 ladies attended the evening dinner and meeting.

EASTERN HILLS (Maurie Ashworth) Church concert in June successful, well attended ... Bryan Stott & Mike Cuthbert attained certificates in Foundations for Youth Ministry course ... Two officers commissioned at Girl's Brigade church parade 2 August ... Youth groups led evening service 9 August ... Mid-week study program on "friendship evangelism" underway ... Prayer needed for more teachers

to cover religious education in schools ... Family centre alterations near completion.

Tas

DEVONPORT (B. Butler) Recent speakers Peter & Michelle Franklin (United Mission, Nepal), Chris Miles (MHR), Greg Foot (Tas. Conf. Pres.), Bill Beaton (church secretary) ... Church celebrated ruby anniversary on present site with concert organised by Youth Groups on Saturday night & dramatised presentation of last 40 years by Sunday School on Sunday ... Future minis-

ter & wife, Ron & Lyn Chapman, present at Refocusing Ministry Model Workshop 2.

HOBART CITY (J. Weston, G. Hush) 130 at sportsmen's dinner with Tassie Devils, local NBL team, guests. 400 at service following. Gordon Barr, music & arts director, also Devils chaplain, organiser ... Special guests Wes. Beavis & Alforce Hammond, led a music & arts seminar & performed at "Zac's Nightspot" on Saturday ... Youth held two successful fundraising carwashes ... Church encouraged by sharing in four

baptisms and dedications of Hmong children.

LAUNCESTON (R. Foster, C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) Big meetings for church's 108th anniversary 9 August, when Cec Neville, Hobart, was special speaker. Singing group from Howrah also guests. Cec interviewed at evening service on his chaplaincy work. Greg Crick (Targa Tasmania) gave testimony, & two decisions made ... Members handwriting book of James for Bible Society project ... 36 attended CWF luncheon at home of Gwen Byard for fellowship funds.

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Mission Minded

Caring for Missionaries on Furlough

(Part 2)

Here are a few things to think about:

- Don't put missionaries on a pedestal as being super spiritual or as having sacrificed much to do their work. They are only too well aware of their own shortcomings and failures and so find the pedestal difficult to cope with. Most missionaries do not regard their service in terms of sacrifice—usually they have gained a lot in terms of relationships, insights, spiritual growth and trusting God, and have enjoyed it.

- Missionaries are human and subject to the same feelings as everyone else so accept their human-ness. Sometimes what they do is governed by their new value system and the fact that they have learned to trust God in everything to be their provider.

- Let missionaries do things like washing dishes if they are staying with you. Let them talk and bear with their longwindedness if necessary. They may not talk as fast or as often as they used to and possibly they have taken on more of the overseas culture than you had thought. Also remember they have probably been using another language that is very different from English.

- Don't expect missionaries to pull out stories for purely entertainment purposes—the things they talk about often sound funny, but remember they involve the missionaries' friends.

- Forget the "real live missionary" approach—it rankles after a while and gives the impression that people are looking for some kind of oddity. Being a missionary

doesn't turn a person into a rare species. The best compliment I received on furlough was, "You're human!" It was nice to know I'd topped!

- Don't ask embarrassing questions or pursue a point that is obviously causing distress or is difficult to answer without casting a slur on someone or on a mission policy.

Missionaries on furlough need to be loved and encouraged. They need to be shown tolerance, so be patient. I guess I always found it great when someone took time to find out where I was at and how I ticked over because they were concerned for me as a person and a sister in Christ.

Furloughs are times for refreshment in all ways. Some missionaries find deputation stressful, others enjoy it.

Recognition of this and remembering that everyone is different goes a long way to helping missionaries on furlough to enjoy this time. Don't expect them to be superhuman in meeting the demands made on them for speaking and interacting with people.

Lastly, a book to be read by anyone involved in caring for missionaries on furlough or returned missionaries: *Honourably Wounded* by Marjory Foyle of the Overseas Missionary Fellowship.

—Rosalie Rofe

This is one of a series of articles compiled by the Overseas Mission Board on how churches can become more mission minded.

The Last Word

Problems are only opportunities in work clothes. —Henry J. Kaiser

"Nice to see you coming to church again," the minister said to one of the congregation. "Is it because of my sermons?"

"Not yours," came the reply, "my wife's."

A police officer noticed a car driver who passed was knitting. The officer chased after the car, drew alongside and said, "Pull over." "No," came the reply, "Socks."

"You have just heard the story of Jonah and the whale," said the teacher. "Can you tell me what this story teaches?"

"Yes," replied one student, "it teaches that you can't keep a good man down."

"Doctor, I think I am a bridge."

Doctor: "What's come over you?"

"Three cars, two trucks and a petrol tanker."

The prospective employee filled out a job application and handed it to the boss.

"I see your birthday is on 27 August," said the boss, "What year?"

"Every year," came the reply.

Music teacher: "Today the school band will play Mozart."

Voice from the back of the class: "I bet Mozart loses."

Student: "I've sure got dumb teachers."

Parent: "What do you mean?"

Student: "They just keep asking questions. We have to give the answers."

A: "I bet your boss was furious when you told her you would be leaving work next week."

B: "She certainly was. She thought it was this week."



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