

National Journal  
of Churches of  
Christ in Australia

Vol. 95 • No. 18

17 October 1992

Registered by Australia Post  
Publication No. VAR 0761

# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

## Heavy Rain Delays Noah's Ark

—story page 3

Testimony

## God of Life and Death

—page 13

Church ABC

## Indone- sian Church

—page 18

Comment

## Dead Sea Scrolls

—page 19



Photo by Paul Scambler courtesy of the Launceston Examiner





Member  
publication of the  
Australasian  
Religious Press  
Association

National logo of  
Churches of Christ  
in Australia



"The Australian Christian" is published  
by the Board of Management of the  
Australian Christian, a Department of

the National Conference of  
Churches of Christ in Australia.

Keith Aird, Chairman (SA)

Don Burdett, Secretary (ACT)

Lindsay Mott, Treasurer (Vic)

John Batchler (Tas)

Jim Deutschmann (Qld)

Steve Downie (NSW)

Allen Smyth (WA)

Printing by New Litho Pty Ltd,

63 Sunbury Cres,

Surrey Hills 3127

Responsibility for electoral material is

accepted by Chris Ambrose,

3 Hamlyn St, Essendon 3040

This publication is indexed in the

Australasian Religion Index

ISSN 0004-8852

## Copyright Permission

Provided acknowledgement is made of  
the source, permission is granted to  
reproduce material in "The Australian  
Christian" (other than cartoons) without  
the need to gain approval

## Advertising Rates

Displayed: \$5 per column  
centimetre

Classifieds: \$12 for the first 25 words  
and 20c for each additional word

## International Journey

# Manic Mystery Bus Tour

*Kylie Birtwistle*

**T**he Mystery Bus tour departed the  
Launceston, Tas, church at 8 pm on  
25 September with a bus load of  
youth expecting their usual injection of  
pure adrenalin-packed excitement!

The bus company were used to footy  
teams turning up for pub crawls under the  
auspices of the local Bowls Club and thus  
the basic rules were: you can't do any-  
thing. With this firmly entrenched in their  
minds the young people of the Livewire  
youth group proceeded to be escorted  
around Myer by security, suffer interroga-  
tion at the hands of local law enforcers and  
wake the dead at the city cemetery. Not  
bad for a quiet  
night at youth  
group.

The youth  
group preferred  
to travel incog-  
nito and politely  
asked the bus

driver to turn the inside lights off as we  
were touring town.

The tour was around the world in one  
night and the first stop was Montezuma's  
Mexican restaurant where we were met by  
Speedy Gonzales, who handed out corn  
chips to anyone who wanted them, includ-  
ing all the cars waiting at the lights.

Next stop was an Italian restaurant. Don't  
ever say we skimp on quality food for our  
young people. Succulent lean pasta pieces  
and cold crunchy "bust-your-braces" spa-  
ghetti were the order of the day.

The next destination was Harrod's de-  
partment store in London (alias Myer in  
downtown Launceston). The lift seemed  
the ideal venue for the meeting to discuss  
our assault on the store. The sixth-floor toy  
department was the target. It was encour-  
aging to behold the keenness of our ma-  
ture, well-behaved youth taking such an  
interest in Thomas the Tank Engine, teddy  
bears and Terminator trivia. The floor staff  
were surprisingly not as enthusiastic about  
such unbridled excitement for their goods.  
However, after restoring the sixth floor to  
something near what it had previously  
resembled, we all entered the lift again,  
only to discover that a new person had  
joined our group. He was easy to identify  
as he had his name "Security" firmly  
emblazoned on his shirt. He asked if we  
were a youth group. Amazing guesswork

on his part, and he kindly offered to escort  
us from the store.

New York and the Statue of Liberty  
were our next stop and while feasting our  
eyes on this historical landmark we no-  
ticed a friendly blue and white van pull up.  
The local police seemed to be investigating  
a wall on the side of the road. We soon  
discovered their torches were lighting the  
face of our senior youth leader, who,  
dressed as Yasser Arafat, was busily try-  
ing to explain what on earth he was doing  
in a dark part of Launceston with a sinister  
looking cap gun. After escaping from the  
inquisition he proceeded to do what he

was supposed  
to—hijack the  
bus. We then  
stopped in town  
where we were  
attacked by an-  
other band of ter-  
rorists with ma-

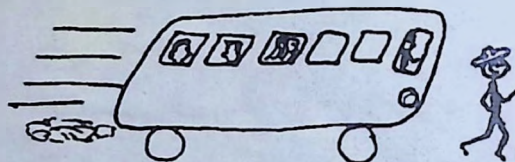
chine-gun-like water pistols who forced  
everyone to pay up the cost of the night.

With Ugly Kid Joe's "Everything About  
You" pounding on the stereo (a tribute to  
youth leaders if there ever was one) we  
headed out to the dead centre of town.  
(Sorry—I couldn't resist). We rolled up at  
the cemetery to be told the story of  
Tutankhamen. Yes, we were in Egypt. Ee-  
rie coughing (or should I say coffin) sounds  
were coming from a tomb close by. Screams  
revealed the mummy of Tutankhamen,  
who, feeling quite energetic, was dancing  
on his grave and tripping over his toilet  
paper, I mean bandages.

After our time with Tut we rocked on up  
to McDonald's, where we sent the staff  
into a Friday night bus drill. Big Macs were  
hastily thrown on the furnace in anticipa-  
tion of a big order. Unfortunately for them  
we only bought a cheap cheeseburger be-  
tween us all.

We have all these memorable moments  
enshrined forever on film. Of course the  
lens cap remained firmly encased on the  
best moments but there is some great au-  
dio! A word of warning before embarking  
on such ludicrous adventures. Make sure  
your youth leaders are respectable up-  
standing citizens who cannot be so easily  
mistaken for gun-toting PLO reps.

PS: Everyone had a totally awesome  
time.





## Flood Picture Delayed by Rain

### Noah stays in the ark

In the Bible, it was rain that caused the flood and sent Noah to sea in the Ark. So it's ironic that heavy rain has caused problems for 19-year-old artist Kailie Perkins, a Launceston College student who is painting a mural of Noah's landfall for the Church of Christ in Margaret St, Launceston, Tas.

She had hoped to have it finished by now, but rain has put paid to that plan.

Depicting the disembarkation of Noah, his wife and the animals after their exile on board the Ark during the flood, the mural tells a story that words would find it hard to capture.

It will take hundreds of hours to complete. Still in the early stages, it is painted in vivid colours that should appeal to

children, and will certainly brighten up the playground behind the church.

The play area of the youngest churchgoers is in constant use by members of the Girls' Brigade, the church's boys' clubs, and Sunday school participants.

The youth minister at the church, Darryl Tobler, said the big, bare cement wall that lines one side of the play area was perfect for a mural.

"We contacted Launceston College for a student who would be willing to do the mural, and a little while later Kailie showed interest," he said.

Although Kailie has no intention of making painting her career, she has a growing reputation in Launceston for her fine mural work.



• Kailie Perkins works on the Launceston mural

The church provided the paint and other materials and Kailie is doing the job for the love of it. "It's enjoyable," she said, "but it'd be better if the

sun was shining."

—Sharon Leslie  
(Story and photo used with permission of the Launceston Examiner)

## Berwick Winter Gig

### Striving for excellence

In her speech at the end of the Berwick Regional church, Vic, 1992 Winter Gig, guest artist Merinda Bowyer explained the feelings she still felt after years of performing in front of people—the nervousness and apprehension beforehand and the incomparable exhilaration during and after the performance.

The Winter Gig was the opportunity for performing arts students of varying ages and experience to perform after all those hours of seemingly endless practice at home.

Around 30 performers experienced the same feelings as Merinda as they sang, played or danced their way through the chilly winter afternoon of 23 August.

Although the idea of performing before a live audience is daunting, most participants in the Winter Gig found the experience both encouraging and satisfying.

Master of ceremonies Malcolm Gray led the audience through a program that was as entertaining as it was

diverse. The performances ranged from harp-playing to poetry recitals and even tap-dancing.

Interspersed in the program were the performances of guest artists, who were invited as a means of incentive and encouragement for the performers, as well as being an entertaining addition.

Merinda Bowyer and Grant Ward played a classical set on cello and piano, Debbie Male and Traci Edgar displayed their dramatic prowess, and Rudy van den Bovenkamp played numerous instruments at once as a one-man band.



• Rudy van den Bovenkamp, the one-man band

• Debbie Male and Traci Edgar

Performers were encouraged to perform in next year's Winter Gig, having a whole year to improve. Merinda urged them,

"Strive not for perfection, because you will always be let down. Instead strive for excellence."  
—Suzanne Male



## Belinda and the Mist

Ministry to children in SA



• COCKE and TIM Players at a kids club

The COCKE and TIM Players, COCKE Playhouse and Kidsmin Publications, which form Churches of Christ Kidsmin in SA, continue to grow at an impressive rate.

During the past year the COCKE and TIM Players have developed through the skills of our new drama directors, Thorin Cupit and Claudia Hillman, and conducted an intense ministry at church services, kids clubs, camps and functions at the playhouse.

The COCKE Playhouse, through the efforts of the Kidsmin Parents' Team, has been further developed as a fully operational playhouse with full theatrical lighting equipment. There is also a follow spot and portable lighting equipment for use at other venues. Plans are underway to provide a complete sound system and build a kitchen/canteen.

A bi-monthly newsletter, *Kidsmin News*, has been established to communicate our activities with children and their leaders and as a cross-talk for kids clubs and Sunday schools.

The songbooks and audio cassettes of *Kids Everywhere* and *More Kids Everywhere*, produced by Kidsmin Publications, continue to sell steadily in Christian bookshops throughout Australia and a marketing campaign is nearing completion to sell them to

all Australian independent schools.

The Kidsmin Team will be presenting "Belinda and the Mist" at the COCKE Playhouse, 50 Clifford St, Torrensville, on 30 and 31 October at 8 pm, and at 2 pm on 31 October. "Belinda and the Mist" is a modern musical drama written by Robyn Page, directed by Thorin Cupit and Claudia Hillman. The musical score was composed and directed by Paul Grant. The story revolves around a group of children and young people who have hiked deep into the mountains and who feel lost as a mist descends upon them. Belinda decides to continue on, ignoring guides' warnings and the concerns of other travellers. She is fearless because of her faith and belief that the Holy Spirit will guide her to safety through the danger. "Belinda and the Mist" offers delightful and exciting entertainment and an ideal outing for children and families.

Tickets are adults \$6, concession and children \$3 and family (two adults and two children) \$15. Tickets are now available from Jenny Thomson (phone (08) 352 4273) or Jean Feder (phone (08) 356 1565), by mail via PO Box 142, Findon 5023, or at the Playhouse door.

—Brian Busbridge

### L.P. & D. WARMBRUNN MEMORIAL LECTURESHIP

An invitation is extended to all church leaders and members to hear

**Dr T. Garrett Benjamin**

of the Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, deliver the 1992 Lectureship

### THE VICTORY IS IN THE VISION

Nunawading Church  
(182 Surrey Road, Blackburn)  
Friday, 23 October 1992—8 pm  
Supper to follow

DEPARTMENT OF MISSION, EDUCATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT, VICTORIA-TASMANIA

### Piano Tuner

**John Lawton**

All work guaranteed

Written report available  
on request

Phone (08) 263 3414  
any time

### SINGLES LINE...

Running on empty?...  
Experiencing marital disruption?...  
Feel like you're 'dancing with a porcupine'?...  
Picking up the pieces of your life?  
Overcoming issues related to:  
Singleness, separation, divorce, grief, unemployment, epilepsy, social isolation, communication, low self-esteem, spiritual dryness...  
Colin Murdoch—Christian counsellor,  
SINGLES LINE Counselling Services  
Phone (02) 631 3414  
"Enhancing, enabling, encouraging and enriching people's lives"

### CHURCHES OF CHRIST KIDSMIN IN S.A.

Incorporating C.O.C.K.E and T.I.M. Players

Present an exciting and  
New Musical Drama.



Written by ROBYN PAGE  
Musical Score & Director:  
**PAUL GRANT**

Directors:  
Thorin Cupit . Claudia Hillman

**COCKE PLAYHOUSE**  
50 CLIFFORD ST. TORRENSVILLE

FRIDAY OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup> 8 P.M.

SATURDAY OCT. 31<sup>ST</sup> 8 P.M.

Matinee SAT. OCT. 31<sup>ST</sup> 2 P.M.

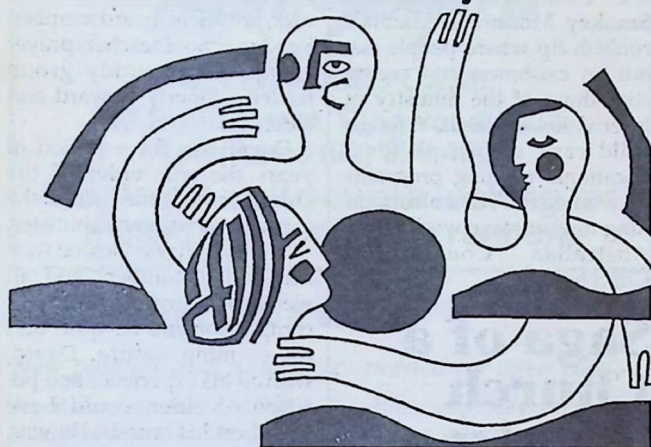
**BOOK NOW!** Mrs J. Feder 356 1565  
or Mrs Jenny Thomson 952 4273

or G.C.C. RESOURCE CASE : 263 MALBORNE ST. NORTH ACADEMY  
329 02 331

**ADULTS \$6 . CHILDREN/CONCESSION \$3 . FAMILY (2A+2C) \$15**



## School of Cross-cultural Ministry



### Making Australian churches more multicultural

As a part of the Continuing Education Program for ministers in the Uniting Church, 50 ministers attended a residential school in August to examine models of ethnic ministry in Australia and see what could be done to make Australian churches more multicultural.

In 1985 the Uniting Church in Australia stated, "The Uniting Church is a Multicultural Church." An Ethnic Affairs Officer, Sonija Yoo, a Korean, has been appointed, working out of Sydney. The Uniting Church has prepared a property policy for a multicultural church and a national consultation was held in 1990.

The Rev Marsha Foster Boyd, a black theologian from the USA, proved to be a dynamic communicator as she described racism, the painful experiences of grief at a time of transition and the nature of a society that needed to tell its story and listen to the story of the other when no-one seemed very interested.

Nada Miocevic, a teacher and counsellor from the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau in Footscray, Vic, used poetry, movement and clay for the participants to express their understanding of culture and people in transition.

Highlights of the school were the prayer times and the worship, where participants ex-

pressed themselves in their mother tongue and taught us something of their own culture—Korean, Tongan, Samoan, Sri Lankan, Indonesian and Fijian, joining with Aborigines and Anglo-Australians.

Rev Bubsy Aralumpalam, a Sri Lankan ministering at Dandenong, Vic, led Bible studies from the great themes of Exodus—leaving, exile and accepting.

Of what value is this to Churches of Christ? We need to spend more time on Biblical reflection on multiculturalism and the church.

We need to have models before us to give us examples of churches that have successfully welcomed ethnic groups into the life of the local congregation.

We need to understand the various approaches of separate development, assimilation and multiculturalism. Is our monocultural Australian church consistent with Biblical understanding? Why are the ethnic churches the fastest-growing churches? What is our attitude to the stewardship of resources of buildings and leadership when we are negotiating with ethnic groups who have nowhere to worship? Is our Overseas Mission work recognising the importance of our multicultural society?

—Barry Jenkins

## Hodos Launching

### The way to go

The East Keilor, Vic, church is holding a celebratory worship service on 25 October at 10.30 am to launch its new community care program "Hodos". The speaker at the service will be Trevor Giles, Executive Director of the Department of Community Care.

The name is based on the New Testament Greek word *hodos*, which means "the way to go".

Hodos is a combined project between the Vic-Tas Department of Community Care and the East Keilor church.

This program will enable the church to become a centre of care, offering both educational and recreational programs for a range of age groups. The programs will be run on Wednesdays in the church, at 59 Milleara Rd, East Keilor, from 9.30 am until 9.30 pm for casual drop-in visits and activities. Activities will include cards, carpet bowls, board games and craft activities. It will also be a place to just sit and chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

Various other activities and courses are also planned. On the first day there will be a program on "Pills and Older Persons" (10 am–12.30 pm) and in the evening there will be a self-defence for women course,

which will run for five weeks. Other courses planned between now and Christmas include "Feeling Safe at Home", "Emergency First Aid Issues", "Craft for Christmas", "Exploring Art" and "Learning To Dance". A day bus trip and other special days of entertainment and luncheons have also been planned.

Ron Schepis described the program in terms of education, recreation and community service activities and it is being supported by the local council.

The aim is to build bridges to the community for the church by helping meet perceived needs in the community.

Hodos is a holistic community approach that celebrates life in all its aspects. It offers help in time of need and celebration in time of plenty.

On the weekend that the Hodos program is being launched the church is holding a barbecue and bush dance on the Saturday night from 6 pm. Rick Cutler will also be entertaining during the evening with some of his special kind of magic. The cost for the evening is \$6 a single or \$13 a family. Details (of the bush dance etc.) from Ron Schepis on (03) 336 7129 or Letitia Sanford on (03) 336 4409.



• Philip Keilar busy making alterations to the East Keilor building in preparation for the Hodos program



## Meeting Needs

### *Stoop seminars in Melbourne*

Over 500 attended a series of seminars, led by David and Jan Stoop, at the Nunawading, Vic, church in September. This visit was arranged by Cheryl Johnson, Singles Ministry Coordinator, Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development. Dr Stoop is a clinical psychologist in private practice in California and is a director of a psychiatric treatment program at the Minirth-Meier Clinic West. Jan Stoop is completing a doctorate in clinical psychology. They are both graduates of Fuller Theological Seminary.

Their easy-going, friendly manner, their warm appreciation of people and their understanding of human personality ensured that the seminars were challenging and helpful. The professional insights that David brought to the material presented enabled difficult issues to be dealt with, such as family relationships and the need for forgiveness, expressing healthy anger, resolving past hurts, the impact of personality differences on communication in marriage and positive living for singles.

Many attenders came from the local area and expressed the need that is widespread in society today to deal with brokenness. This series helped to meet that need.

Following their Melbourne visit, David and Jan Stoop conducted a similar series at the Northside Community Church, Sydney, organised by Jay Bacik.

## Ted Keating to Manila

### *International need*

Ted Keating, senior minister of the Nunawading, Vic, church, has been invited by



• Ted Keating

International Needs to minister 2-12 November in Manila, in the Philippines.

International Needs is a Christian organisation working with national leaders in 30 countries, sharing in evangelism, church planting and projects of social and spiritual concern, linking churches and individuals in Western countries with those in the Asian, African and Eastern European areas.

Readers will remember Rev Paul and Josuena Mortiz, International Needs Directors from the Philippines, who shared in many of our churches last year as they studied at Kingsley College, Melbourne. Ted Keating will be going to Manila to assist Paul Mortiz in ministry there.

Ted will be teaching at the International Needs Annual Pastors and Elders Conference. A brief article in *The Australian Christian* (19 September page 14) states: "15 years ago there were 5,000 evangelical churches in the Philippines. Today there are over 25,000. Sadly, however, there are not enough trained pastors to staff all these churches—nor the new ones that are planted every month. So the Philippine church has set a goal of training 18,000 lay ministers by the year 2000—one pastor for each municipal district in the country." Ted will be teaching and equipping some of those national pastors for ministry to the Filipino people.

During his stay he will also be speaking at an evangelistic

rally, church services and other meetings. He will be seeing something of the problems of the Philippines, visiting Smokey Mountain, Manila's rubbish tip where people eke out an existence, and seeing something of the ministry of International Needs through child care, church planting, vocational training programs for women etc. Ted is also planning to visit some work of the Australian Council of Churches.

## Saga of a Church Builder

### *David Preston*

David Preston has announced his resignation as an elder of the Traralgon, Vic, church, in preparation for retiring with his wife Jenny to Eagle Point later this year. David has a distinguished history of association, not only with the Traralgon church, but also its sponsor church, Morwell.

As a young man, David, with his parents, moved to the Latrobe Valley and commenced worshipping with the Morwell church. David and his father at one stage were both involved in construction of the Morwell church. David also undertook leadership roles as a Sunday school teacher and as a youth club leader. It was at the Morwell church that David met Jenny.

David and Jenny were living in Traralgon when David completed his apprenticeship with APM. It was in their home in September 1961 that the first communion service of the Traralgon church took place. Shortly after this, with much endeavour by David, Jenny and David's parents, the Traralgon church acquired its own property and building. The building is now 27 years old.

During those years David undertook many roles and functions, in which he displayed consistently his faith in God and that the individual's salvation lay in accepting Jesus

Christ as personal saviour.

A list of the official roles David has fulfilled include boys club leader, secretary, treasurer, president, board member, Sunday school teacher, prayer group leader, study group leader, property steward and elder.

David was for a period of years the sole elder of the church at a time when the church was without a minister.

The church was blessed with increasing members and all were impressed with David's compassion and his quiet and unassuming nature. David, with all his experience and position of elder, could have rested on his laurels. He was, however, still a keen student of the Bible and actively pursued his desire to know and understand God better by joining a Navigators group commenced at the church.

Recently David has been joined by other elders and he played a crucial role in assisting them fulfil their shepherd-ing role. David's Christian commitment extends to his current workplace at APM, where weekly after work he joins with other Christian employees to share in prayer and praise for God.

• These words were part of a tribute paid to David and Jenny Preston at the recent annual meeting of the Traralgon church.

### FRANKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST



**GREENWAYS  
RETIREMENT VILLAGE**  
330-356 FRANKSTON-  
DANDENONG ROAD,  
SEAFORD 3198  
1 & 2 BR Villas  
Motel Type Lodge Suites  
PHONE (03) 786 8679  
Waiting List Now Open



LMCT  
6549

## Ken Geyer

**SELECT USED CARS**

**49 Bond Street, Ringwood 3134  
Telephone (03) 879 4004**

**Contact Ken if you are looking for  
a used car or need to rent one**

## No Confidence

### *New policies and procedures needed for aged care*

Aged Care Australia, at its annual meeting on 21-22 September, passed a no-confidence motion in the Australian government's handling of aged care.

Aged Care Australia represents almost every church and charitable organisation involved in the care of older persons in nursing homes and aged care hostels in Australia.

Aged Care Australia said that it—

- no longer has confidence in the government's implementation of the Aged Care Reform Strategy flowing from the Nursing Home and Hostels review in 1986;
- refutes the notion that the government has effectively consulted with and listened to the association in the past in implementing the stages of reform;
- is committed to the production of alternative policies and procedures for aged-care delivery in Australia.

These concerns have increased with the introduction of more and more bureaucratic requirements and the continued transfer of funds from the care of older people to government administration. Time formerly devoted to the delivery of care is increasingly having to be used to meet excessive paperwork and organisations providing care believe that the quality of care being given to residents is now declining.

Unfair practices by the government in the application of the subjective assessment and

validation process accuse staff and organisations of dishonesty and makes good management impossible due to the uncertainty that the process introduces.

It is not possible to manage effectively when tens of thousands of dollars can be withdrawn from an organisation by targeting borderline assessments that are redetermined, not on the care of the resident, but on whether there is sufficient documentation.

The Australian government is presiding over an aged-care system that is now stretched to the limits, increasingly pressured through funding cuts and drowning in paperwork. Highly skilled long-term workers are leaving because they are interesting in providing care, not in doing paperwork, and because they want to be able to spend time with residents, not always being rushed through a series of basic clinical tasks. —Donald Stewart

(Executive Director, CofC in Qld Social Service Dept)

## Much-needed Facilities

### *Chelsea building extensions dedication*



### • Trying out the new kitchen at Chelsea

9 August was an exciting day at Chelsea, Vic. It brought five years of planning and fund raising to fruition when the newly completed building extensions were dedicated.

Past President, Max Carter, with his wife Stella, came and preached a challenging message in the service presided over by Howard Barnden, who came back from Echuca for the occasion.

Brian Fielder, for his great voluntary work of planning and painting, and Arthur Scott, for his quality building, were thanked, and presentations made.

Ron Scott, the Board Chairman, welcomed the many other visitors and members and friends and then introduced Allan Emmet from the Properties Corporation, which as-

sisted with a loan. Then the treasurer Joy Fielder gave a summary of the finances and highlighted the very generous financial support of the congregation. Through a continuing talent drive and many donations only \$12,000 was borrowed out of a \$60,000 budget.

Harold Taylor organised the whole day well and we were treated to a sumptuous lunch provided by the ladies trying out the new kitchen. This was followed by a musical program. The service and dedication was recorded by Lindsay Smith and made available to those unable to attend. The much-needed added facilities adjacent to both the hall and the chapel provide a good venue for both church and community activities.

—Ian Whitelock

## Visa Approval Awaited

Right now approval is awaited in Bonn for Nguyen Trung, an experienced pastor, to come from Germany to Melbourne's Western Suburbs to plant a Vietnamese church. Pray that the application will be approved. Gifts are urgently needed for family travel expenses and ministry support upon arrival.

**Department of Mission, Education  
and Development  
77 Capel Street, West Melbourne 3003**



## Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to  
200 words

### Inner City Needs

To the Editor,

This is an open letter to your readers, especially those who may be considering relocating.

Looking for a place to live and serve God? Tired of travelling for hours everyday? Why not join the crowds moving into Richmond, Melbourne, Vic, or places like it?

There are many professional people moving in. We need Christians here to reach out to them. People on a similar wavelength. They won't easily come to the church that they see as irrelevant. We need people who will live out their faith here, people who will reach out in friendship.

At the other end of the socioeconomic scale there are many unemployed and other disadvantaged groups. They need to have Christians living in their midst too.

You won't find many big houses with large gardens. No room for the swimming pool, the second car (you won't need it) or the children's swings. You will find more time on your hands—time now wasted travelling. Great shops and an endless diversity of people and cultures. Better still—opportunities for ministry both in the community and the local church.

The inner city suburbs need committed Christians. How about moving further in instead of further out?

—Marjan Beer  
(Co-pastor, Richmond, Vic)

### Commercial TV Standards

To the Editor,

A few days ago my wife read some extracts from the new draft codes for commercial TV to half a dozen adults who had gathered for lunch. Their jaws dropped into their coffee.

**DIAL FOR  
NEW HOPE  
(03) 11610**

Take "G" programs for starters. Parents used to think (until Channel 10 offered "Studs" for a few months) that they could leave their children to watch a "G" program, confident that it would contain only good clean fun, no sexual innuendo, no violent or offensive themes.

But the new TV code drafters think that all sorts of things—suicide themes, rape and incest themes, explicit violence, nudity and coarse language may be shown in G-rated TV programs as long as they are "necessary to the story line" and are handled with "particular care"!

We only learned of the existence of these draft codes, produced by the Federation of Australian Commercial Television Stations (FACTS), two weeks ago. By the time we phoned FACTS and received the codes they posted out, we had precisely one day to prepare and post back our comments! With some reluctance, FACTS granted us a one-week extension of time. There was no way we can consult with a wide range of people and prepare a complete response in seven days.

Many people are unaware that new laws governing broadcasting standards come into effect this month. The Australian Broadcasting Tribunal will be replaced by an Australian Broadcasting Authority. Program standards will be replaced by codes developed by the TV industry after consultation with the public and the Authority.

Presumably the TV stations now believe they have consulted the public. Presumably they will want to persuade the Broadcasting Authority to accept their codes.

I hope that Australian parents who are concerned about the potential influence of television on their children, for good or ill, will contact their federal senators and MPs immediately to ask them just what is going on.

—David Phillips  
(Chairman  
Festival of Light, SA)

## Open Day

### El Kanah's "Mountain Manor"

The Christian public of Victoria are invited to an open day on

**Sunday, 15 November 1992**

2.00 pm Open for Inspection  
3.00 pm Public Meeting  
3.30 pm Afternoon Tea

The future of El Kanah's guest house at Marysville is uncertain, following the appointment of an official manager in August 1992 (for a period of 12 months). The official manager (Mr Kimberly Smith, FCA) has invited Christians of Victoria to indicate their support for continuing the guest house operations and the unique ministry it facilitates.

Mr Smith will chair a brief public meeting during which options for the future guest house ministry and management will be advanced. Closure is one option which is likely to be opposed during the meeting.

For further information contact:  
Mrs Enid Maea  
Guest House Manager  
(059) 63 3229

Directions to El Kanah:  
Maroondah Highway  
1 km from township on  
the road to Buxton

## Letters from Tertius

### Forgiveness

To the Editor,

Our friends May and Harry (not their real names!) decided to end their marriage and to do it in what they called a civilised way. That was until their respective lawyers "uncivilised" the whole process by insisting on unrealistic demands from both sides, and by dragging out "dirty washing" as recriminations continued.

It left May hurt and bitter and Harry unconcerned as he took up life again with what May resentfully calls his "floosy". Although we are friends of both of them still, we think that May got a raw deal. But even more than that we are worried by what her anger and bitterness and resentment are doing to her. The once effervescent life of the party has become a sad-faced, woebegone, aging shadow of her former self, with only one topic of conversation: "Poor May!" So she is driving away some of the very people who could mean so much to her.

"I will never forgive him," she keeps saying. My wife, who has always been close to her, has tried to show her what this attitude is doing to her. "I don't care," she says, "I just can't forgive him and I never will."

There's no point in reminding her of the Lord's Prayer or suggesting a Christian way of handling her problem. She has given away the one thing that could really help her at a time like this, her faith.

I used to have some questions about what Jesus said to Peter about forgiving until "seventy times seven". I've often wondered if Jesus really meant unlimited forgiveness, or whether there was an easier hidden agenda behind his words. But I can see the truth of it now. I'd sooner forgive a million times that put myself through the hell that May is going through.

—Tertius



*Moving into a new era with*

# GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR EQUIPPING FOR SERVICE

*12 MODULES (4 or 5 days teaching)  
will be offered at Carlingford during 1993*

- \* Some of Australia's top communicators and teachers
- \* Courses that deal with issues for the church's ministry today and tomorrow

- ~ Biblical Studies
- ~ Communication of the Faith
- ~ Pastoral Ministry
- ~ Christian Education

*(See booklet enclosed with this issue of the "Christian" for details)*

Courses can be undertaken at Degree (BTh), Diploma, Certificate or Non Credit level

Meals and accommodation provided if required—\$25 per day

For further information contact—

Keith Farmer

Churches of Christ NSW Theological College  
PO Box 140, Carlingford, NSW 2118 (02) 630 7533



## Media Review

### Videos

#### Page Two National

The Adelaide-based group Ambassador Television has launched a monthly national video magazine aimed at Christians from all sectors of the church. The video magazine, *Page Two National*, started out as an in-house project to inform and encourage members of the *Paradise Assemblies of God* in Adelaide.

The program is designed to be similar in format to a current affairs TV program. Each month it will have a regular feature like "700 Club" and "Think About It", plus an Australian cover story about a person or ministry. Recent stories have covered a Christian farmer enduring the drought, a special on abortion and John Smith's "God Squad". The program includes musical clips and political and social comment as well as comedy. The on-air presenters include Paul and Debbie Fleming, Paul Newsham, Danny Guglielmucci and singer Winston Kay.

Keith Skillicorn viewed the video sent to *The Australian Christian* for review. He comments: "The copy under review focussed mainly on Jack Sonneman's campaign against pornography as evidenced in supermarkets and service stations. It was well presented and gave a very positive challenge to Christians to take action. Some of the other shorter segments I felt were of slightly lesser quality though reasonably acceptable."

*Page Two National* is available via subscription each month on VHS. The cost is \$9.75 per month with a special deal for those who return their videos for the following month's program.

Details from *Page Two National*, c/o 2/2A Daws Rd, Ascot Park 5043, or phone toll free (008) 80 2446.

### Books

#### Life on the Road

The Gospel Basis for a Messianic Lifestyle  
by Athol Gill (Lancer)

Many were shocked by the sudden death of Athol Gill earlier this year. His lectures in the New Testament at Whitley College (Baptist) and with the Evangelical Theological Association that links Whitley College with CCTC were appreciated by many students.

This book is an examination of the Gospels that attempts to give an understanding of Jesus—who he is, what he taught and the implications for those of us who have been called to be his followers. The book provides a picture of Jesus that is real and living yet challenges us to live an authentic life of discipleship.

Athol Gill in his introduction describes this book as a chance to read once again the road maps to the message of Jesus without being captured by the culture within which we live. —CRA

#### Madeleine Barot

by Madeleine Barot and Andre Jacques (WCC Publications)

Madeleine Barot's life was changed dramatically by the outbreak of the Second World War. The university-educated daughter of French Protestants, with degrees in history and already a wide experience of the international ecumenical scene from her student days, she was working as archivist at the French School in Rome when Italy entered the war in May 1940. Shortly after returning to France, she became General Secretary of a new organisation called CIMADE (Comite inter-mouvements aupres

des evacues), the French ecumenical committee to aid displaced people.

The "evacuees" interned under French Government law in large concentration camps were at first Spanish refugees from the civil war in that country, then German refugees from Nazi Germany, not only Jews, but anyone who opposed the Nazi regime, and finally Jews transported to France by the German government. By October 1940 there were around 40,000 internees living in appalling conditions of squalor in these camps.

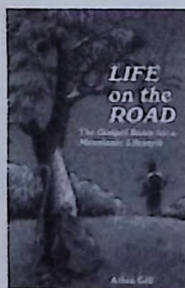
CIMADE had been formed by a Committee of various French Protestant youth movements—including Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, the YMCA, YWCA and the Student Christian Movement. During this period of suffering it was inconceivable that the youth movements remain preoccupied with themselves, rather they would seek to serve the most unfortunate and witness to the love of Christ among them.

What follows is not a biography, nor a history of the international organisations with which Madeleine Barot was associated, but an account of Madeleine's memories, at the age of 83, of the challenges confronting Christians and the churches from the early thirties through to the present day. It is a record of solidarity with the victims and the marginalised we meet along our way, and in whom Christ is present; it is a story of men and women who organised themselves to work for social justice.

At 83, dispensing simple and elegant hospitality in her Paris flat, Madeleine Barot continues to work for the equality of men and women in church, family and society and is a leading member of ACAT (Christian Action for the Abolition of Torture) and movements concerned about racism and anti-Semitism. She is an incisive thinker, always gracious even in old age when vision and movement are difficult, pastoral, deeply spiritual and with her Christian faith rooted in a life of Bible study and prayer.

Only 88 pages in length, *Madeleine Barot* is a must for anyone concerned about the relationship between Christian faith and social justice.

—Lucy Griffiths





## BLACK STUMP

*Australian young people making a difference*

Three good causes a world apart will benefit from the generosity of Australian young people.

The 6,000 attendees at **Beyond the Black Stump** youth festival held over the October long weekend in NSW will contribute towards the rehabilitation of young apartheid victims in South Africa, the re-forestation of Ethiopia and the needs of young people in Melbourne facing homelessness and alienation.

Beyond the Black Stump is held annually over the long weekend in October, and features top Christian bands and music.

This year Tommy Emmanuel, Spy vs Spy, Danger UXB, and Hugh Wilson and the Blue Phoenix provided entertainment and a message from the main stage.

\$20,000 was raised on the Monday during the course of a worship session. The benefi-

aries are **TEAR Australia**, **Force Ten** and **Youth For Christ** (Melbourne).

**TEAR Australia** will apply the funds to the **Sawubona! Youth Trust**, a Christian organisation involved in innovative and effective rehabilitation among young victims of apartheid in South Africa.

**Force Ten** is also involved in Africa and the funds raised will help reforestation and agricultural rehabilitation in Ethiopia.

Melbourne **Youth For Christ** will use the funds to provide counselling services among young people who are finding difficulties in relationships with the objective of preventing homelessness.

This, the seventh **Beyond the Black Stump** festival, featured a varied program of teaching, music and the arts. 21 missionary organisations challenged young people to "make a difference" at the missionary expo held concurrently.

## Free Bibles

*Queenslanders take advantage of give-away*

"I've just begun to give up alcohol and I've been trying to become a Christian. Please send me a free Bible and bless it. I'm looking forward to learning the way of the Christian faith."

So wrote one of the thousands of Queenslanders who have responded to the **Christian Television Association Queensland's** free Bible give-away offer.

Each day, at least a dozen letters are received by **CTAQ** from people asking for Bibles—meaning hundreds of people each month are receiving the life-changing Word of God.

Executive Director of **CTAQ**, **Greg Gardiner**, said he was surprised at Queenslanders'

response to the Bible promotion advertisements.

"We ran a similar promotion last year, but this year the response has trebled, indicating a lot of Queenslanders are searching for meaning in their lives, in the midst of a lot of economic and social unrest."

He said the advertisement, run on all of the commercial networks, refers to the Bible as being vital to each person, because it is their "Book of Life".

"As Christians, we often send Bibles overseas, but forget there are equally great needs here in Australia."

The Bible promotional spots are being supported by the Bible Society.

## Vanuatu Choir

*Annerley thrilled by visit*



### • The Sarabetu Church Choir

On 4 October, the **Annerley, Qld**, church was privileged to have the **Sarabetu (Vanuatu) Church Choir**. After introduction by our minister, **Richard Pearce**, the service was taken over by the choir and pastors **Bill Buli** and **Wilson Bebe**.

The choir, numbering 36, was supported by its own keyboard, three electric guitars and a drum set.

Among the items given was a deeply moving rendition of "All that thrills my soul is Jesus", presented in different variations.

Their music was so full of meaning and joy that those present experienced a time of deep blessing.

**Bill Buli** conducted the communion service and **Wilson Bebe** brought the message. Further fellowship with the choir was enjoyed over lunch in the hall.

The choir has financed their own way to Brisbane, and **David Eagling** was co-ordinating their visit, which included the **Queensland Conference**.

### Fremantle Church of Christ Centenary Booklet

68-page history with photographs and reminiscences

On sale at anniversary dinner, 30 October, or by mail from Secretary

3 Locke Crescent

East Fremantle 6158

Phone (09) 339 1286

Cost \$8 or two for \$15  
\$10 posted

### VIC-TAS DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY CARE ANNUAL FETE FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Christian Guest Home and Emmaus  
139 Atherton Road, Ookleigh

Saturday, 7 November 1992  
9.30 am to 1.30 pm

Morning teas and lunches available,  
Paintings, Cakes, Plants, Jams, Pickles, Sweets, Toys, Lucky Dip,  
Face Painting for Children, Helium Balloons, Fairy Floss,  
Potatoes in Jackets, Gifts for Sale

Proceeds to assist Christian Guest Home Building Program



# Happenings

Around 3,000 are believed to have made decisions for Christ through the largest of the mission campaigns staged at the Olympic Games. This is far more than expected by organisers of the 3-week Youth With A Mission outreach, which drew nearly 2,500 participants from over 70 countries.

The Bishop of South Sydney, John Reid, has been elected Chairman of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelism, in succession to Dr Leighton Ford, who has held the post for the past 16 years. Bishop Reid has been Vice Chairman of LCWE for 5 years and Chairman of its Theological Working Group for the past 7 years.

"The Current State of Disciples Mission and Ministry" is the focus of the second churchwide satellite televent among the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the USA on 1 November. The program format will consist of a panel discussion led by General Minister and President C. William Nichols and Moderator Marilyn Moffett.

The 4th World Congress on Sports Ministry will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, 31 October-7 November. 12 SLM people from Australia will be attending with Dr Mark Tronson being one of the speakers.

Triple Seven Communications in Melbourne is holding a special night of prayer on 23 October (8 pm to midnight) at the Blackburn Baptist Church (cnr Springfield and Middleborough Roads, Blackburn North). They have recently purchased transmission equipment from the ABC on tender, are preparing for a test broadcast in March 1993 and applying to the Federal Government for a "Special Interest" FM Radio Licence next year. Over 200 volunteers are needed for the next test broadcast. Application forms and other related material are available from PO Box 117, Glen

Waverley 3150. Phone (03) 560 1700.

More than 80% of couples attending Pre-Marriage Education Programs reported learning new skills in their relationship according to a national research study. Skills identified included listening, sharing feelings, clarifying issues, dealing with anger and conflict and improved communication. The study involved 1,700 people marrying for the first time who attended the programs throughout Australia between January and March this year. 42% of couples reported that their ideas about marriage had changed as a result of the program. 5% reported that they had either cancelled or postponed their wedding after attending a program because it highlighted their incompatibility for marriage.

In Melbourne the Churches of Christ Cycling Club is holding an all-day ride on 3 November (Melbourne Cup Day). The starting point will be the Fitzroy Gardens at 10 am. Contact Gordon Smith on (03) 802 3249 for details.

In the Roman Catholics' social justice statement recently released "Common Wealth for the Common Good" the following wealth pie is quoted: the most wealthy 1% of adults hold about 25% of private wealth, the top 5% hold about 50% and the top 10% hold more than 60%.

In 1991-92 Australia's farmers' incomes fell to the lowest level recorded. The number of rural properties up for sale rose by over 33% last year, while prices tumbled. 50-70% of our farmers are technically bankrupt. In 1980-90 Australia's total rural debt increased from \$3.7 billion to \$11.7 billion.

The United Church of Canada at its 34th General Council installed Stan MacKay as moderator, the

church's top elected position. MacKay, a Cree Indian, is the first Native person to be elected moderator of the UCC.

Anglican parishes in Auckland and Wanganui, New Zealand, have been hit over the past few weeks by a series of fires. St Lukes in Wanganui has now twice fallen victim to vandals and firebugs, while St Thomas in Kohimarama has suffered a string of vandal attacks. St Peters in Gonville has had its hall burned down. Another suspicious fire destroyed the 97 year-old Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hastings at the beginning of September.

At the Olympic Games the United Bible Societies, the International Bible Society and Scripture Gift Mission combined efforts to produce and distribute nearly 60 tonnes of Scriptures, of which 30,000 were New Testaments in 12 different languages. Many were special souvenir editions presented to the competitors, coaches, officials and judges. A 32-page booklet containing Scriptures with a sporting theme and testimonies of Christian athletes, called "Winning for Life", was in great demand. 500,000 copies in 13 languages were printed for the Olympics and the Paralympics. The 60 evangelical churches in Barcelona, total membership 11,000, were involved in door-to-door visitation, covering over 90% of the city (600,000 homes).

Nearly two-thirds of American adults say that television has a negative effect on the family. More believe that TV is a bad influence on children. Many believe that the quality of television programming has gone downhill in the last year and more than half say that they are more frequently offended by the TV programs now than a year ago. 71% of Americans say that objectionable programming content influences them to watch less television. These findings

are from the Family Channel's latest annual Gallop survey.

A statement on Christian-Jewish dialogue, which condemns Christian evangelism of Jews, was adopted in late August by the central committee of the World Council of Churches. The WCC document condemns "anti-Semitism in all forms" and encourages churches to oppose the "emerging anti-Semitism" of Eastern Europe and to work with the Jews to safeguard religious liberty in all societies. The statement affirms that the Jewish covenant with God continues, and declares that religious "proselytism is incompatible with the Christian faith" and that "claims of faith" should not be "used as weapons against anyone".

A New Zealand Army major injured by an exploding landmine in July while on United Nations peace-keeping duties in Croatia says Christians should pray that the political leaders involved will see sense. Major John Bryant, who suffered serious foot injuries in the mine blast, says prayer is the main thing Christians can do toward resolving the Yugoslavian conflict.

Three cyclists, raising awareness and \$100,000 for Lifeline, completed their journey from Perth to Sydney on 6 September. Having only five punctures the whole trip, Colin Clayton, Ian Robinson and David McGregor rode 4,653 km in five weeks. Stuart Storrar of Wesley Mission commented that there had been many efforts to raise funds for Lifeline, but this was the first time anyone had ridden across Australia. Plans are already underway for another event next year, including people riding exercise bikes.

The number of Christians in Korea has doubled in just 6 years from 6.1 million to more than 12.5 million. These statistics appear in

the 1992 Yearbook of the Korean Christian Church. At the close of 1985, the yearbook reports, Christians numbered 6,098,639 in 25,050 churches. By the end of 1991 these figures had jumped to 12,571,062 believers in 37,190 churches. Over the last 35 years, the Korean church has split into numerous denominations. The representatives of 38 Korean Presbyterian denominations, at the initiative of the Hap Dong denomination, met on 29 August to explore rapprochement.

The Argentine Bible Society has negotiated with four bus lines to print Bible verses on the back of bus tickets, thus reaching 2 million every day with a verse of Scripture. Different Bible verses will be used for each of the different bus lines.

The Central Gaol in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Africa, is seeing hundreds of prisoners become Christians as they read the Bible. When a person is committed to gaol he is first confined to his cell and not allowed out. The chaplain makes sure he receives a New Testament or Bible. By the time they are free to leave their cells for exercise periods and to mix with other prisoners, many have become Christians. At least 500 have accepted Christ in this way.

On 21 September unidentified gunmen barged into the announcer's booth of DXAS Zamboanga (a Far East Broadcasting Company regional radio studio in the Philippines) and killed the broadcaster, a guest listener and the technician on duty. The broadcaster, Pastor Greg Hapalla, host of the popular "Pamahon-pahon sin Mahapon", was a non-FEBC broadcaster connected with the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church. Angry Muslims had threatened to kill him if he did not stop preaching Jesus over his radio program.



## Testimony

# God of Life and Death

Celia Jelbart

**"I** have some bad news. I'm sorry, lass. The baby is no longer with us."

This was how our obstetrician informed us that our unborn baby was dead. How privileged we were to be able to turn to God in our shock, grief, numbness...

The news came as a shock, at a routine forty-week checkup. The pregnancy had gone well and we had felt movement the night before, thinking that the quietness on the way to the obstetrician was the start of labour.

Looking back I am amazed that we accepted the news so calmly. Andrew and I embraced each other and immediately turned to God in prayer. (Although many people say that it is often easiest to turn to God through prayer in times of trouble, I am "interested", "intrigued" by the fact that we did so publicly, in front of the obstetrician, and so quickly before discussing how we felt. The obstetrician discreetly left the room.

Fortunately we were able to immediately continue on to the hospital for the commencement of an induced labour. We phoned our family and also our church prayer chain, to ask for a safe labour. We felt God's presence with us, and the prayerful support of many people.

At the end of a thankfully short and uncomplicated labour Charles was born, at least his body was. Both Andrew and I had had very little contact with death. We were glad to have met Charles' beautiful body but it was so evident to us that he was no longer there.

During the small hours of the morning after Charles' death/birth Andrew spent several hours quietly talking and pouring out emotions to Roger Risson, our minister in 1991, and to God. The amazing thing that he discovered during that time was that God was capable, and in fact did feel, greater remorse than we could over Charles' death.

Why should we despair when our loving God under-



• Andrew and Celia Jelbart with their son David at his dedication service conducted by the interim minister at Werribee, Graeme Batley, on 19 July

stands suffering so much more than we can?

On the evening of the day following the birth we met with Roger to discuss having a thanksgiving service, a thanksgiving for Charles' life. God used the service as a witness, both to his own people and also to those who did not know him as it caused them to reflect on the meaning of life.

God was very much in control, not us. He was using Charles' life and death for his Kingdom. We pray that he will continue to do so.

So, what did we learn? We learnt that our son's life was a gift from God for the time that he was with us. Where is he now? In Heaven. Charles had been dedicated to God and God's service each day as I prayed over my expanding abdomen.

We also learnt how many people cared. We were flooded with cards containing expressions of care, love and concern. From many people we received caring, quiet, listening support. I think we both found that people sitting and listening to us,

and accepting how we were feeling without spouting platitudes, helped us the most. As well, we appreciated the empathic support of those people who told us that they did not know what to say. Hugs can say more than words.

No medical reason was found for Charles' death. From a spiritual viewpoint we realised we would never, in this life, gain an answer to the question "Why?" We trusted in our history with God, knowing him as loving, and aware that his love was acting in our lives, even if we could not under-

stand the reasons for our loss.

We learnt that each life, each child, is a special gift from God, to be accepted as such, and accepted for as long as the gift is with us.

We were blessed by becoming pregnant again within three months. Then I found it hard to trust God. I could not assume that a living child would be the result. Yet I showed my trust by being able to tell God that I found it hard to trust him. God worked through a series of Bible studies to get me to rest in him no matter what. His lesson was to allow him to be God, to trust him to allow in our lives what is best for us. That could include an outcome from the pregnancy that we definitely would not want, but if it served his Kingdom—so be it.

God has blessed us with a lovely second son, born 25 May this year, less than a year after Charles' death and birth. Each day of David's life we accept as a gift from God. We pray for many years of life with him, but acknowledge that the length of our lives is in God's hands. We know that had Charles lived, David would almost certainly not have been conceived.

Somehow in God's wonderful way of life and love, he has taken our firstborn son to be with him, and helped to keep our minds more firmly directed towards him. He has also given us another son, whose life he must have a reason for, and whom we love dearly and dedicate to him. We pray that David will meet Jesus as his Saviour, and become a faithful servant of God.

## Visiting Canberra?

### Stay with a Church Family

A number of Canberra church families offer accommodation in their homes at basic bed and breakfast rates to help raise funds for "Home Mission" extensions in the ACT

If you would like to enjoy friendly "one of the family" hospitality in Canberra write for particulars to:

Lyn Swift  
34 Yiman Street,  
Waramanga 2611  
Phone (062) 88 2050

Barbara Kennedy  
6 Sharp Place,  
Melba 2615  
Phone (062) 58 1360

Advance bookings appreciated



## Growing Spiritually

**O**ne night recently I found myself unable to sleep because of influences in the life of the church over which I personally seemed to have little control. Then I remembered it is God's church, not mine, and I had no right to tell him how to run it. So I settled down to some reminiscing in my mind as to what the church has meant to me over a span of 70 years membership.

In my early discipleship I soon learned the simple lesson of trusting in the Lord, although I know I often reneged on that one. As we grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ our Sav-

# Reminiscences on the Church

*L.W. Marshman*

our we learn that if we worry we do not trust and if we trust we do not worry. And here I was worrying.

Then it came to me that my Christian experience within the church has been a most uplifting spiritual one, and when I realise that that is what it was meant to be, it makes me aim to make it the

experience too of all those with whom I have relationships.

Many times in life the ministry and fellowship of the church becomes for us a haven from the distractions of society, from the seeming let-downs and indeed our failures. Most of us, I guess, have had dreams, some realised, some temporarily

postponed and some no doubt some beyond realisation. But even to have dreams means we are constantly living in expectation, and there is nothing wrong with that provided we continually remember that whatever our concerns we can still live in expectation of the day when all things in this world will be subject to the Lordship of Christ.

Back to my reminiscences. I lived again the glorious times I have spent in Christ's church—the friendly handshakes of brethren and sisters of like mind, the spiritual uplift of services tuned to the Spirit of God and the remembrance of Calvary around the Lord's table led by brethren who reminded me and others that it was for sinners like me that Christ died. I have a lot to be thankful for. So I said, "Thank you God," and went off to sleep.

• *L.W. Marshman is a long-time elder, a retired lay minister and now a member of the Victor Harbor, SA, church.*



**GRACEVALE offers a Christian, residential community comprising five two bedroom units and one three bedroom unit available for purchase on separate titles. Close to shops and transport.**

**GREENSBOROUGH**  
For more information ring Church office (03) 435 8797

## You now have a choice when it comes to insurance

### ANSVAR

FOR NON-DRINKERS ONLY

VIC (03) 650 9711  
QLD (07) 221 8449  
WA (09) 321 6291

**Car, home, church and commercial insurance**

ANSVAR AUSTRALIA INSURANCE LIMITED ACN 007 216 506

### AWARE

INSURANCE FOR CHURCH PEOPLE



Rev Dr Gordon Moyes, AM  
Superintendent of Wesley Mission, Sydney

NSW (02) 683 4166  
SA (08) 232 1272  
TAS (03) 650 9711

### BICHENO, TASMANIA Seaview Camp

Units for hire  
Powered sites  
Group camping  
Tennis court  
An area of great scenic attraction

**Manager:**

**Phone (003) 75 1247**

Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development

### Church of Christ Northcote

**89th Anniversary  
25 October 1992**

10.30 am Preacher: G. Warren (Conf. Pres.)  
12.15 pm Lunch  
2.15 pm Guest: Fay Christensen (Missionary on Furlough)  
Soloist: Beryl Killmier

Contact Pat Gluyas  
(03) 470 4846



# No Food, No Crops ... No people!

As the world focuses on the crisis in Somalia, the need of the people in Southern Sudan continues. They too are without food, without crops and in some cases, without clothes ... but you can do something positive to help. **Just \$3 will buy a person a meal a day for a month!**

Buy a single ticket, sell a book of 10, or your group could sell a complete book pack (of 3). Any way you choose, your money will buy meal tickets for people in need of food in Africa.

Complete your details below, and send for AFfRICA meal tickets today!



## AFfRICA

AID FOR FAMINE RELIEF IN CRISIS AFRICA

Name .....

Address .....

..... P/Code .....

Amount \$ .....

Date .....

Signed ..... For SIMAID Treasurer

AFfRICA is a joint project between SIMAID (Sudan Interior Mission Aid Fund) and Ormond Church of Christ. Donations \$2.00 and over are tax deductible.

Enquiries to: Ormond Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 248  
Carnegie Vic 3163



**FEED  
A STARVED  
PERSON A  
MEAL A DAY  
FOR A MONTH  
FOR ONLY \$3.00**

**SIMAID**

5 Court Street  
P.O. Box 206  
Box Hill 3128

NAME .....

GROUP .....

ADDRESS .....

..... P/CODE ..... PH .....

☐ I enclose \$ ..... for ..... Meal Ticket/s (specify number).

☐ I require ..... Meal Books (specify number).

## SIMAID



Mail to:  
Ormond Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 248, Carnegie Vic. 3163  
Tel: (03) 578 2627 or (02) 524 4487

AFfRICA (Aid For Famine Relief in Crisis Africa) is a joint project between the Ormond Church of Christ, and SIMAID, 5 Court Street, Box Hill 3128. All donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.



## Classifieds

### IN MEMORIAM

**LAUNDRER** Mal, in glory now along with Graham. Our never-ending love—from Mum, Dad, Joy and your many friends of old.

### BOARD WANTED

**CHRISTIAN GIRL** studying music at the University of Melbourne requires board for 1993. Use of piano essential. Phone Dominique (03) 349 9651.

### SHARED ACCOMMODATION

**NORTHCOTE** Person to share two-bedroom house, Northcote, \$70 per week plus expenses. Bond required. Non-smoker. Close to transport and shops. Phone Wendy (03) 481 4365 and leave message.

### WANTED

**VITAL BOOKS** The following titles are required to complete a set of all books published by Vital Publications—*Come Bless the Lord* (Volume 1 1979); *Group Life—The Way Ahead* by Helen Chapman; *Growing in the 80s*; *Within the Veil* (3-volume set—second and third series both sought). If anyone is willing to part with a copy of any of these books contact Chris Ambrose on (03) 379 1219.

### MASTER PLUMBER

**P.L. & P.H. JOHNSON** for all your plumbing, tiling and gasfitting needs. Free quotes. (08) 276 7420. Lic. No. 36745.

### ELECTRICIAN

**ALL ELECTRICAL SERVICES** including industrial, commercial and domestic. Installation, maintenance

and repairs. Safety switches, smoke detectors, lighting and security systems. All work guaranteed. Free quotes. 24-hour service to all suburbs. Call Phil Clayden on 018 368 801 or (03) 315 2684. REC 4460.

### BUILDERS

**PHILIP KEILAR** Fully qualified carpenter & joiner. Carports, deckings and pergolas, home maintenance and repairs, home alterations, staircase, handrail specialist. For free quotes please ring (03) 729 6415 or (03) 761 4190.

**IAN & L.A. McDONALD** Carpenters and builders. Renovations, new houses, units or alterations. All jobs large and small. For free quotes please ring (03) 557 1257. 41 Somers St, Bentleigh.

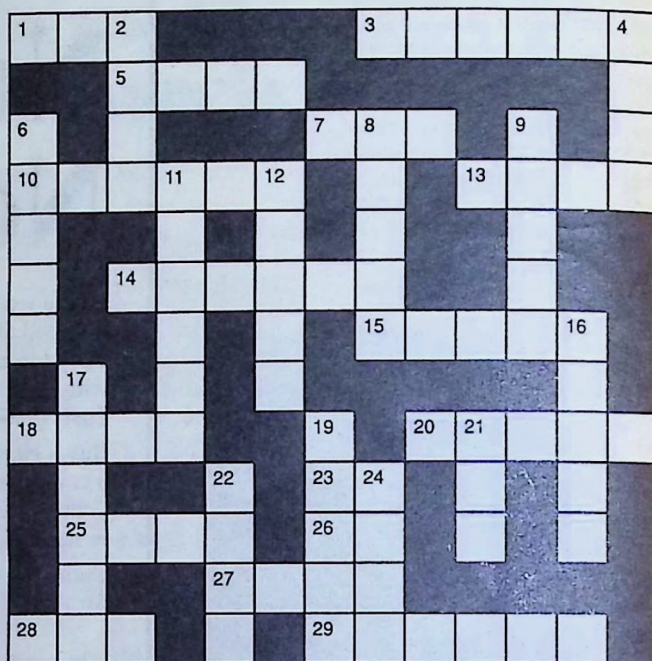
### HOLIDAYS

**GRAMPIANS SUNRISE HOLIDAY UNITS** Modern FSC 2-BR units at Pomonal. Superb views, peaceful farm setting. Bertram family resident owners. Phone (053) 566300. **HOUSEBOAT** "White Heron" 8-berth. Moored at Blanchetown, SA. Phone (08) 365 1153 or (085) 40 5100 or write 7 Gameau Rd, Paradise 5075.

**POINT LONSDALE** Holiday house. Excellent position, close to front and back beaches. 3 bedrooms. Modernised. \$200 p.w., \$250 school holidays (not Christmas-January). C.R. Brough (03) 808 2815.

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

## Crossword



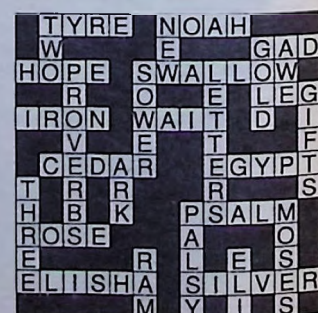
### Across

- Grandson of Guni (1 Chronicles 5:15)
- Christian hope (Hebrews 6:19)
- Part of the description of the Promised Land
- Good king (1 Kings 15)
- Clan of the tribe of Benjamin (Numbers 26:38)
- Jesus used his — to heal the man with leprosy (Mark 1:41)
- A — will become pregnant (Matthew 1:23)
- Traumatic event of Jewish history
- KJV word used to describe listening
- A bird that didn't come back (Genesis 8)
- Personal pronoun
- After six days of creation God —ed
- A name for God
- First murderer
- The prophets were in — of God
- Hymns of Israel

### Down

- Ancestor of Uthai (1 Chronicles 9:4)
- A bruised — he will not break (Isaiah 42:3)
- A place of weeping (Jeremiah 31:15)
- Moses' face was said to — when he came down from talking with God
- His wife was beautiful and intelligent, but he was mean (1 Samuel 25)
- It — on the just and the unjust (Matthew 5:5)
- Simon the Sorcerer performed this (Acts 8)
- Who sowed weeds among the wheat? (Matthew 13:25)
- Language of the Old Testament
- The shepherd knows them (John 10)
- To whom has the — of the Lord been revealed? (John 12:38)
- It appeared in the East
- Fish

### September Solution



## FOR A NEW HOLDEN SEE MURRAY ECKERT

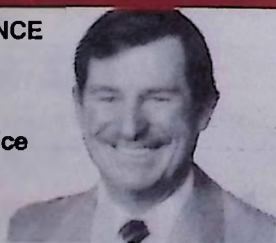
**OVER 21 YEARS EXPERIENCE** as a master sales consultant.

**Competitive Prices** in a Competitive market. **Guaranteeing Integrity, Service and Sound Advice.**

Member of Blackwood Church of Christ.

**CALL IN OR PHONE MURRAY ON (08) 272 1600 FOR YOUR NEW OR QUALITY USED CAR**

**Claridge Holden**  
363 Unley Road, Malvern  
Phone (08) 272 1600 A.H (08) 278 4515

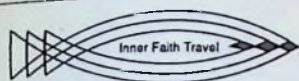


**ON YOUR OWN, YOU'RE NOT ALONE**

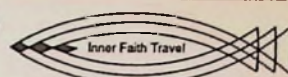
Christian Singles Fellowship offers friendship through correspondence with other born-again Christian singles and single-again people

Write enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:  
CSF, PO Box 411, Mayfield 2304





**INNER FAITH TRAVEL PTY LTD**  
Our Christian Travel Agency



**TOLL FREE 008 074 426**

Old National Office PO Box 377, Ashmore 4214 Phone (075) 97 2577 Toll Free 008 074 426 Fax (075) 97 1577  
Victoria Office 356 Boundary Road, Dingley 3172 Phone (03) 551 7732 Toll Free 008 299 539 Fax (03) 551 7506  
SA Office PO Box 777, Glenside 5065 Phone (08) 364 3877 Toll Free 008 182 195 Fax (08) 364 3846

ACN 010 648 316 Lic No 261



## Curkpatrick

# Risking the Kingdom of God

**I**t never occurs consciously—but keeps surfacing in pastoral contexts—that is, the propensity for Christians to slide into assuming we somehow earn grace, to retrospectively “pay our way” through cautious prudence or never putting a foot wrong. The parable known as “The Unjust Steward” forestalls this propensity. It is about a man who faces the possibility of losing his job for bad management. He doesn’t want to do manual work or beg for a living, so he cunningly legitimises large reductions in the debts owed to his employer. This, he anticipates, will ensure “friends” and a viable future once he loses his job. He gambles his entire future on this one action. The parable has distinct overtones of dishonesty. The niggling question is this—how can an apparently dishonest man commend any quality for Christian discipleship? Why does a parable demonstrating decision and risk create ambiguity for the listener with its example of roguish deceit? Like so many of Jesus’ parables, this parable works to create dissonance—a burlesque rather than re-assurance of “normal” expectations and behaviour.

The central focus of the parable is not the steward’s roguish behaviour, but his decisiveness and willingness to risk. He is not paralysed by the future but does something to change it. It is his shrewd decisiveness and willingness to risk in the face of crisis that wins the approval of his astonished employer. Less ambiguous, more pious examples could have been used to demonstrate these qualities than a dishonest

rogue.\* But the implications for us that a rogue is used in the parable as an example of decision and risk is that our spiritual wholeness doesn’t ultimately depend on cautious moralistic prudence—never putting a foot wrong—but on nothing other than a willingness to risk a decisive response to the Kingdom’s presence, which impinges as crisis in our lives.

The parable of the unjust steward is commending a willingness to risk—and not be paralysed by fear—for the life of the Kingdom belongs to those who risk. In fact, life without risk is not living but only existing. Life without risk is life without love, joy, wholeness and hope. Love is risk—the risk of vulnerability, even rejection. Joy is risk—the risk that others won’t share our expressions or reasons for joy. Wholeness is a risk—the risk of changing and growing within ourselves. Hope is risk—the risk that having invested our lives in a particular hope, we may be disappointed. Never risking, and the fear of putting a foot wrong, does not belong to the world of the Kingdom. Faith, decision and creative risk, not cautious prudence, is the name of the game in the Kingdom. It is in the realm of risk and possible failure we experience God and the grace of God.

In a letter of advice to friend and reformer Philip Melancthon, Luther advised him to “sin boldly” in the face of a difficult decision. What did he mean? If one is going to make a mistake—and we all will—at least make a courageous one; we might learn something from it. Is this a version of “sin that grace may increase?” Not at all.

The Kingdom of God solicits from us a lifestyle of risk—the risks of loving our enemy, turning the other cheek, forgiving the unforgivable, going the third kilometre, giving when it seems madness to do so, living in solidarity with the vulnerable, losing our life to find it. It is only in the context of grace, not the theological nemesis of “grace by virtue”, that we can afford to risk such an “unnerving” lifestyle. This parable is a metaphor of such risk in the face of crisis—the crisis of God impinging on our lives with the imperative to embrace decisively a radically different perception of life from our truncated grasp of reality.

The parable suspends conventional perceptions of cautious prudence by showing us shrewd decisiveness and the willingness to risk—not in a highly esteemed example of virtuous prudence, but in a dishonest rogue. And indeed, impulsive response to the Kingdom of God is always an enigma, perhaps even “immoral” to normal human values and behaviour, as indeed the parable itself is an enigma

of motivation and appropriate behaviour.† Thankfully the parable forestalls any perception that grace can be earned—either prospectively or retrospectively—by never making a mistake, never putting a foot wrong. It also forestalls anxiety that God will “exact a pound of flesh” if we sometimes get it wrong in Christian discipleship. Decisive, risk-taking response to the Kingdom’s presence—a response which has no intrinsic redemptive value—as in the parable, is the only appropriate response to living in the grace of the Kingdom.

—Stephen Curkpatrick

\*I am aware of Derrett’s thesis that the “unjust” steward is in fact taking off the unjust interest incorporated into the total accounts owing. This would make his actions “just”, but not for altruistic reasons. He is “unjust” in as much as he participates in his employer’s injustice until it was convenient for him to change practice. Therefore within Derrett’s thesis he is still a rogue.

†Luke suggests no less than three subsequent interpretations to the parable.



**SWANSTON STREET  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Melbourne  
(cnr Swanston &  
Little Lonsdale Streets)

### Sunday

9.00 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Worship & Communion  
Services  
Gospel Celebration

7.00 p.m.

### Wednesday

1.15–1.45 p.m.

Lunchtime Service

For further enquiries, please ring (03) 663 3884



## A Church ABC

**M**elbourne's Indonesian Church of Christ started a decade ago when a few families met in the home of Handra Ismkandar. Within a few years the fellowship had grown and they began meeting in a hall at the Chadstone Uniting Church. Later Handra was joined by

Indonesia were invited to help with revival and to challenge the membership in their spirituality.

The church now has 110 attending the Sunday service, meeting in the Malvern Church of Christ, on the corner of Dandenong and Alma Roads, at 10.45 am. Eighty to ninety

task. The warmth of the fellowship and the charismatic worship attracts young Indonesians from all over Melbourne, who come from many different denominational backgrounds, and who are encouraged to return to their own church when they go back to Indonesia.

The young people are well

invited to minister to the church while he was studying. Harry completes his studies at Ridley at the end of the year and is returning to Indonesia.

Agus Budiman studied mechanical engineering in Germany, where he met his Indonesian wife Lilian, a doctor. After their marriage Agus be-



## Focus on the Indonesian Praise Centre

other leaders, including Agus Budiman, who had a vision to minister to the large number of Indonesian students in Melbourne. Two evangelists from

per cent of the membership are Indonesian students, ranging in age from 14 to 25, in fact there are only half a dozen families in the church. The services are in Indonesian, but other speakers are invited once a month who preach in English. The name, Indonesian Praise Centre, reflects the worship style of the church and its aim—to attract young people.

There are six youth leaders in the youth team ministry.

The church is very much aimed at Indonesian students studying overseas. There are 500 Indonesian students in Melbourne and it is the church's vision to reach out to them and witness to them. This means that more youth leaders will have to be equipped for this

catered for at weekends. On Fridays there is a time of praise and worship, practising for the Sunday service. Music is a very important part of the worship, and those with talent are encouraged to contribute the use of their gifts. On Saturday there is youth Bible study and the members enjoy dinner together. On Sundays there is the service.

The leadership team of the Indonesian Praise Centre includes Hariono Margono, Agus Budiman, Minjaya Tani and Johni Hanafi.

Hari Margono is the senior minister. Before coming to Australia Hari was a minister in Indonesia for ten years, and was a lecturer at SAM Bible College. He later obtained a scholarship to study at Ridley College in Melbourne and was in-

came a Christian, but on return to Indonesia he lost his job because he preached the gospel. He had a desire to return to Europe to serve students, many of whom he knew were very lonely, but his wife persuaded him to go to Australia, and after much prayer he received permission to settle in this country in less than a year, in 1987. He and Jando Jaya (who has since gone to Sydney) helped in the leadership of the church in Melbourne. Agus and Lilian have two children, one born in Indonesia and one in Australia, but both Aussies.

Earlier this year the Indonesian church affiliated with the Vic-Tas Conference of Churches of Christ. The church is expanding and consideration is being given to increasing the ministry team.

### L. C. F. Higgins

#### Chartered Accountant

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

- Accountancy Services
- Business Management
- Financial Planning
- Taxation Returns

The  
Churches of Christ  
Theological College  
*invites you to the annual*  
**GRADUATION & ORDINATION  
SERVICES**

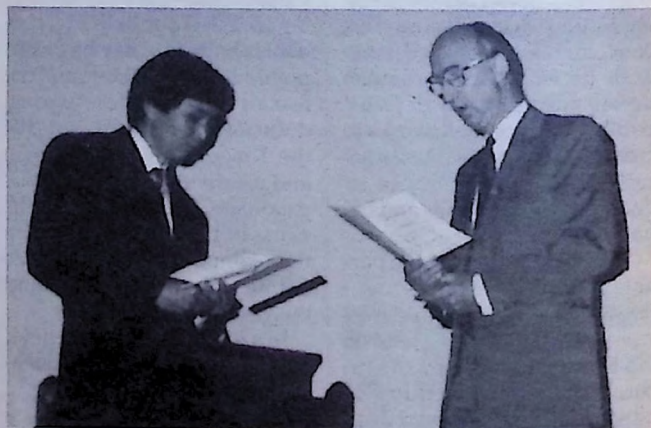
*to be held at 7.30 pm on  
Friday, 13 November 1992*

**BLACKMAN HALL**  
Hawthorn Institute of Education  
442 Auburn Road, Hawthorn

*Come and share the excitement  
of this happy occasion*

There are two carparks, which are entered  
off Woodburn Road

An offering to help defray  
expenses will be taken



Agus Budiman (left) at his induction service, attended by 200, on 6 September. The sermon was preached by Don Smith (right) of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development, and Ian Allsop, National and Vic-Tas Conference Secretary, formally inducted Agus to the ministry



# Dead Sea Scrolls, Theologians and Journalists

Greg Elsdon

Considerable commotion has recently been generated in the Australian media centred on some rather esoteric and unverifiable claims about the Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS).

The DSS were first discovered in 1947 by a Bedouin shepherd boy while looking for a stray goat in the wilderness around a place called Qumran, near the north-west corner of the Dead Sea. The widely held consensus of those who have made a careful study of these ancient documents is that they represent the writings of a Jewish sect that had broken away from the Temple-dominated community in Jerusalem during the centuries before the birth of Jesus. Their writings are very critical of mainline institutional Judaism and testify to the efforts of the so-called "Qumran communities" to be the authentic expression of Judaism.

Some of the scrolls discovered in the 1940s contain texts of certain Old Testament books, which are older by a thousand years than any previously known. Little wonder scholars, both Jewish and Christian, have been prepared to give their lives to the preservation, translation and interpretation of these ancient documents. The scrolls have yielded invaluable information and insights for the study of the world of the Christian Scriptures. Why then all the fuss?

*The Age* (Melbourne) recently ran an article by Oliver Gillie from *The Independent* (London) claiming, amongst other things, that a recently published fragment from the DSS proves that Jesus may not have been the first and unique Son of God! Gillie naively suggests that the basis of the Christian confession of Jesus as the Son of God could be undermined by the discovery that other people had been referred to by the same title as Jesus. What utter nonsense! The term "Son of God" had been used by the Israelites for centuries to refer to their kings (Psalm 2, 2 Kings 7), to their nation as a whole (Exodus 4:22ff, Hosea 11:1, Isaiah 63:16)

and to other individuals (Hosea 1:10). There is also considerable evidence in Jewish literature outside the Old Testament to indicate that this term was commonly used to refer to people and groups of people sharing a particular relationship with God. So why all the fuss about finding such a reference in the DSS?

Implicit in the article is the suggestion that church authorities have been guilty of suppressing this information lest it undermine the faith (not to mention the financial support) of the Christian church. More nonsense! As Brendan Byrne pointed out in his reply published by *The Age* the very next day this text has been published and has been the subject of very wide discussion for two decades!

Barbara Thiering is the name that springs to mind when most Australians hear the words "Dead Sea Scrolls". It is important to be aware that Thiering's proposals for both the dating and interpretation of the DSS are considered by the vast majority of "Scroll Scholars" to be at best "highly improbable". As for her application of the Peshar method (or her interpretation of the Peshar method) of interpretation to the Gospels of the New Testament—well, where

do we start? Her methodology is idiosyncratic and her proposals both fanciful and irresponsible. It may justifiably be compared with attempting to interpret a legal document by employing the interpretive tools appropriate for deciphering of a cryptic crossword.

The media is quick to seize "controversial snippets" of her work and sensationalise them. An announcement that a "theologian" believes an ancient document identifies John the Baptist as "The Teacher of Righteousness" and Jesus as "The Evil Priest" is always going to grab attention. Let's not forget that the overwhelming majority of "Scroll Scholars" categorically reject Thiering's proposals. But even if she is correct in her claim that Jesus is referred to in the DSS as "The Evil Priest" she is not telling us anything that need disturb our faith in Jesus as Lord and Son of God. People have been calling Jesus names ever since he first started to proclaim the Kingdom of God. So what if the DSS refer to Jesus as The Evil Priest? Why get upset? This is nothing new. What about Matthew 9:34 where Jesus is called "the ruler of the demons"? Or Matthew 10:25 and 12:22-32 where Jesus is referred to a "Beelzebub, the prince of demons"?

Barry McMurtrie reminded us recently ("AC" 5 September) that we should not be over-

awed by theologians. And he is right. But neither should we be ignorant of or unnecessarily suspicious of the research and study of biblical scholars and theologians who serve the church in its quest to discover what it means to be, with integrity, a community of people faithful to the Lordship and message of Jesus Christ.

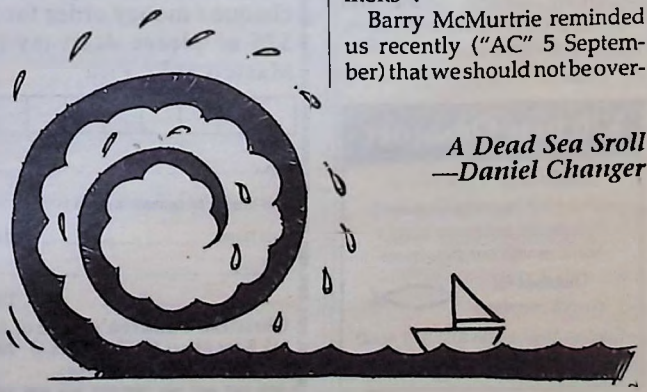
Let me add one further note of caution: "Beware of the journalists who go about in sheep's clothing seeking whom they may devour." Unfortunately the media is motivated all too often by the basic desire to increase ratings of sales. Misquoting experts, peddling misinformation and conjuring up conspiracy theories are proven methods of selling papers and "upping the ratings".

Much of the hullabaloo is the result of some idiosyncratic interpretations of esoteric academia being cross-bred with irresponsible and opportunistic journalism. God save us from such further interbreeding!

We must never lose sight of the fact that being Christian is about trusting in Jesus as God's unique self-revelation. Our faith is not based on what experts have said about God or Jesus down through the ages (not even on the opinion of the experts we happen to agree with!) Our faith is in what God says to us in the story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Christian faith is not primarily about doctrines and theologues—it's about a way of life.

Perhaps the last word should go to a theologian (a German one at that!) Gunther Bornkamm writes: "Certainly faith cannot and should not be dependent on the change and uncertainty of historical research. To expect this of it would be presumptuous and foolish. But no-one should despise the help of historical research to illuminate the truth with which each of us should be concerned."

• Greg Elsdon is lecturer in New Testament Studies and Principal-Elect of CCTC, Mulgrave, Vic.



A Dead Sea Scroll  
—Daniel Changer



## Obituaries

**Obituaries are limited to 100 words**

**Collings, Norman John**  
(27.9.92) The church at Northcote, Vic, sustained a severe loss when Norm, aged 90, passed away. Baptised when 12, Norm remained a very faithful and highly respected member throughout his spiritual pilgrimage. Never one to seek office, he served unobtrusively, and even when unable to attend through declining health maintained his stewardship of God's gifts very conscientiously. A.B. Withers assisted in the service at the Northcote church. To Norm's wife, Glad, and their son, Ron, our loving sympathy is extended.

—F.B. Alcorn

**Miller, Eva**  
(10.9.92) Eva French was born at Sydney and grew up in St Peters, Sydney. On 19 March 1927 she married Hugh Miller and was baptised at Erskinvill, NSW, church a little later. Hugh and Eva had five children, Betty, Merril, Colin, Harvey and Laurence, and they adopted three more, Robert, Denis and Judy. They had 28 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. From the beginning of their marriage, which lasted for 64 years until Hugh's death last year, they served Christ and his church faithfully at Erskinvill, Oakleigh (24 years), Tootgarook and Boronia. Eva was always a loyal

supporter of CWF and extremely generous to those with genuine need. Until her sudden death she demonstrated a strong faith, deep interest in and love for her family and church and a keen wit with a cheerful smile. The Boronia chapel was well filled as people came to give thanks for a long and lovely life in a service shared by Gordon Stirling and Keith Milne. —KRM

**Oliver, Jack**  
Born at home at Dutchembegarra, Vic, in 1909, Jack Oliver lived and farmed in that district for 75 years before retiring to Horsham. He married Ivy Scown from Mundulla, SA, in 1935. They shared 58 years together. Baptised in 1923, Jack Oliver was a faithful member of the Polkemmet and Horsham churches throughout his life. He is remembered with respect for his honesty, integrity, strength of character, personal friendliness, humility, faith and consistent example. A large congregation attended the service on 29 September. Sympathy from the church at Horsham to wife, Ivy, daughters Glenda (Minney), Joan (Hanks), Alison (Jarred) and brother, Walter.

—H. Clark

**Sherriff, Maurice**  
Born at Kaniva, Vic, in 1920, Maurice moved to Horsham in 1935, married Jean Abernethy in 1944, worked as salesman and shop manager in Warracknabeal and Horsham till 1982. He accepted Christ personally when a teenager at Kaniva. A regular church attender, his services included lay preaching, Sunday school teaching, reading, board member. He covered Horsham four times with letter box drops of Christian leaflets. Maurice was a humble Christian gentleman remembered for his sincere, personal faith. The words, "Heaven Is Home" were written in large letters at the back of his study Bible. Sympathy to wife, Jean, sons John and Peter, daughters, Janene, Leone and Debbie, brother, Cliffe and sisters, June and Gwen.

—H. Clark

**YOU can  
STOP  
another  
Somalia**



**Self Help projects are providing solutions. Your help through CCF child sponsorship can save other African people from suffering the same terrible fate as the Somalis.**

*For just 80 cents a day, you can sponsor a child in an African project.*

**CCF Projects are underway already...** We are helping both Somali refugees and other drought-ravaged communities in Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and Zambia.

**CCF Projects offer long term solutions...** Your sponsorship provides the basic essentials such as food, clean water, shelter and education and, just as importantly, is the basis of sustainable development.

**You learn first-hand how your contribution is working through letters from your child and field reports.**

CCF is the only major, independent sponsorship agency which guarantees in writing that at least 80 cents in every dollar directly benefits your child and his or her community.

*Founded in 1938, CCF is one of the world's oldest and largest child care organisations, supporting more than 650,000 children in developing countries, regardless of race, sex or religious beliefs. For more information call 008 023 600.*

**Yes**, please rush me the photo and sponsorship kit of a (please circle) boy / girl ... living in Kenya / Uganda / Zambia / Ethiopia. I understand that this *tax deductible* sponsorship is only 80 cents a day (\$25/month). CCF also guarantees that my personal details will be kept confidential. Enclosed is my cheque / money order for my first sponsorship gift of \$25 *or* please debit my (please circle) Bankcard / Mastercard / Visa


[illegible]

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

I am unable to sponsor a child now but I want to give \$\_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ LastName \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Christian Children's Fund of Australia** 

159 Kent Street SYDNEY N.S.W. 2000  
Fax 02 351 3318 AC/SO 9/92

ACTN 002 005 761

## Ink'n'Image

Small Offset Printing  
Laser Typesetting  
Specialising in small jobs  
Newsletters Leaflets  
**Doug & Marg Goddard**  
3 Tennyson Street  
Mitcham 3132  
Phone and Fax:  
**(03) 874 8101**

## STRACK REMOVALS

Removals—Storage—  
Packing—Pianos  
All Suburbs—Country—  
Interstate

**David Strack**  
(Proprietor)

Office and Store  
45 McIntosh Street  
Airport West 3042  
Telephone (03) 370 3737

(03) 330 2211  
Fax (03) 330 3039  
AH (054) 27 0472

**"Service since 1907"**

## Kitchen Designer

Winner of all major awards  
HIA & HGF Housing Guarantee  
Free design and quote in your  
home or visit our showroom



Contact Stephen on (03) 879 4660  
or 018 36 8899 (car phone)



## Personal

### Baptisms

• Rebecca Phillips, Wynnum, Qld  
• Natasha Wright, Mark Hetherington, Dave Standish, Nicole Beard, Janelle Scott, Ryan Verge, Troy Vawser, Warwick, WA • David Barker, Greg & Debbie Crick, Launceston, Tas • Jeanne Milne, Karen Wass,

Shaun Faehrmann, Damien Murray, Pauline Tymco, Alice Hamilton, Kathryn Cornish, Justin Cornish, Neil Patterson, Bordertown, SA • Cassie Parry, Danielle Kirwood, Manifold Heights, Vic • James Owusu, Joan Noordennen, Barbara Jeffries, Hugh Widdison, Bruce Heid, Horsham, Vic

### POSITION VACANT DIRECTOR OF CARE (HOSTEL SUPERVISOR)

Churches of Christ  
FASSIFERN RETIREMENT VILLAGE  
Stark Avenue, Boonah  
Queensland 4310

Applications are invited for the above position

#### Responsibilities

- Management of care in 40-place hostel in Boonah
- Management of care in 10-place hostel in Kalbar
- Oversight of care needs of independent living unit residents

#### Qualifications

Suitably qualified to supervise care in an aged care hostel  
Experience in aged care an advantage

#### Conditions

Relevant award conditions apply  
Award for Accommodation & Care Services  
Employees in Homes for Aged Persons

The person we are seeking will need to be enthusiastic and innovative and work as part of a team to achieve quality care in our new hostel environment.

The new hostel houses (4 x 10 bed at Boonah and 1 x 10 bed at Kalbar) provide a splendid opportunity for the right person to achieve a high level of quality care and job satisfaction.  
Please contact the Administrator of Fassifern Retirement Village for a copy of our employment application form.

Applications close with—

The Administrator  
Fassifern Retirement Village  
PO Box 96, Boonah 4310  
on 30 October 1992

The successful applicant will be expected to commence duties no later than 1 December 1992.

### Church of Christ Blackwood Youth Minister

Part Time

Expressions of interest are invited for a half-time (0.5) Youth Minister appointment.

The Blackwood approach is to love people into relationship with Jesus Christ and to be Christ in the community.

Our vision for youth ministry has a particular focus on the support and development of key youth leaders and on relevant meaningful worship for young people.

The appointment is for one year in the first instance. It is envisaged the role will be a facilitative one with opportunity to work alongside and encourage young leaders and to develop future directions for youth ministry.

Expressions of interest should address the ways your talents, experience and giftedness will enable you to encompass and extend this vision for young people in Blackwood.

Please address your written expressions of interest by Friday, 30 October, to

Chairman of Elders  
Church of Christ  
Blackwood  
PO Box 476  
Blackwood  
South Australia 5051

Initial telephone enquiries to Mrs Lorraine Lewis on (08) 278 8666.

### Marriages

• Janice Robinson to Jeff Hales, Nunawading, Vic • Juliette Johnson to Stephen Elliott, Thornleigh, NSW • Nicole Phillips to Raymond Law-Davis, Susan Pyne to Dennis Rout, Warwick, WA • Cheryl Gardiner to Robert Glenister, Horsham, Vic

Aberneithie, Warwick, WA • Owen John Bloore, Chatswood, NSW • Norman Collings, Northcote, Vic • Reg Thomas, Bordertown, SA • Maurice Sherriff, Henry John (Jack) Oliver, Horsham Vic

### Changes

Clapp—Bruce and Ruth: 10 Castleward Place, Mandurah, WA 6210.

Serendipity: Doncaster Church of Christ, 680 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, Vic 3108. Phone (03) 840 1587.

### Deaths

• Mrs Ivy Hancox, Wynnum, Qld  
• Yvonne Illingworth, Sam



### CHURCH OF CHRIST, GLEN WAVERLEY

is seeking to add to its ministry team  
with the appointment of a full-time

### PASTORAL MINISTER

Such a person should have several years pastoral experience (or the equivalent). Applicants ideally will have specialist skills in the following areas:

- \* To conduct Christian counselling and therapy.
- \* To organise public seminars on living skills and crisis management.
- \* To train selected members of the congregation for particular pastoral responsibilities.
- \* To formulate and implement structures that facilitate pastoral care and support.

Expressions of interest should be addressed to:

The Elders, Church of Christ, 46 Montclair Avenue  
Glen Waverley, Victoria 3150.

Applications close on 30 November 1992.

### Administrative Secretary (Part Time)

The Church of Christ at Frankston wishes to appoint an administrative secretary as an assistant to the ministers.

The successful applicant will need to be proficient in general office and organisational skills, including the use of a computer.

Such a person will have a talent to function systematically and efficiently with a strong drive to complete tasks in a correct and well-presented manner.

This person will enjoy relating to a wide variety of people and a capacity to keep confidences would need to be highly developed.

Due to the nature of the appointment, a strong Christian commitment is required.

The position will commence at 30 hours per week with a view to it becoming a full-time position at a later date.

Applications in writing together with a CV to:

The Minister  
Church of Christ, Frankston  
130 Cranbourne Road, Frankston, Vic 3199



# Church News

## NSW

**WYOMING** (Jim Newton) Church excited about proposed new work to be established at Ourimbah. Details slotting into place & we can see the Lord's hand in project ... Team of Maori singers delighted recently with program of Christian songs & testimonies. Raised funds towards Veterans Christian Outreach Australia, set up by Clarie Ormsby. VCOA will present Bibles to Vietnam War veterans & families of those who lost their lives in that war.

**THORNLEIGH** (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley) Power Healing rally presented by Thornleigh 12 Sept, which 350 attended ... All home groups combined for Family & Relationship Issues seminar with Dr Cliff Powell guest speaker ... Transformation/Healing seminar underway 22 Sept-27 Oct. Being conducted by Susan Larkins ... Morning Sunday program now back at chapel for the time being, commencing at 9.30.

**TWEED HEADS** (Richard Oakes) Board voted to return morning services to chapel ... Several Tweed ladies shared women's retreat at Burleigh Heads ... New PA system installed ... \$5,000 given for mission support ... Trivia night organised by Joan Thompson for GNO raised \$1,250 for orphan support in Philippines & church projects ... Richard & Janet on holidays. Student Russell Austerberry & local men taking services ... Negotiations to call youth minister.

**CHATSWOOD** (Ian Alves, Rosalie Rofe) Combined picnic held for small groups, which involve about 50 ... Regular prayer breakfasts ... "Spiritual Warfare" seminar conducted by Ian & Jeannine Alves, September, resulting from their Harvest Evangelism Conference visit to Argentina ... Chinese Evangelical Free Church celebrates its fifth anniversary at our building, where its congregation has increased to over 300 ... Personal ministry & counselling now provided after each Sunday service.

**MAITLAND** (R.N. Hawkins) Meryl Horton, Ambassadors for Christ, presented "Fate of Two Women" at special ladies evening. Max Horton & Meryl shared their speaking, illusions & music with our nursing home, hostel & Friendship Group. Excellent ... Opening of hostel extensions 2 October. 10 more beds ... "Adventure Bound" presented great Sunday evening program. Works with schools, remand centres, church youth on outdoor activities & gospel. Part of Salt Ash church.

## Tas

**LAUNCESTON** (R. Foster, C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) Three baptisms at 7 pm on 27 Sept ... Lynette Leach (DMED) held afternoon worship seminar on 4 Oct & spoke at evening youth service ... \$345 raised by Asian tea for gospel outreach fund.

**HUON** (S. Warwick, K. Rochester, A. Wierenga) Kathy Rochester directed & conducted Hobart production of "Jerusalem Passion" in September & teaching in TAFE theological program ... Huonville successful monthly evening youth services. Another training day for youth leaders coming up. Five new deacons installed ... Geeveston held very successful family camp at Bichenor & church picnic enjoyed ... Dover looking forward to supporting Scripture Union Family Mission in January in Dover.

**CAVESIDE** (John & Colleen Harrison) Positive & encouraging AGM held. John & Colleen to continue part-time ministry further two years ... Caveside combined with other churches for annual "Blessing of the Plough" service ... Ladies enjoyed Fellowship Day, 8 Sept, with visit from Launceston, Devonport & Ulverstone ... Church appreciated practical leadership & worship seminar conducted by Lynette Leach (DMED) 3 October. Lynette preached 4 Oct ... Family prayer focus being encouraged ... Four new members.

## Qld

**WYNNUM** (Charles Cole) Outreach into community through Open Door program of social activities, bus trips & devotions. Crafty Corner meets needs of hand skills development through craft work. Both groups attracting visitors ... CWF studying "Women of the Bible". Guest speakers highlighting role of women helping Third World women ... Annual September Fair successful despite rain ... M. Pieper, Christian Mission to Blind, speaker ... Services attracting fair attendances.

**MAROOCHYDORE** (Geoff Risson) 10th church anniversary celebrated. Guest speaker Darryl Thorpe. Miming talents of Tammy Copley for Sunday School ... Vanuatu choir visiting Sunshine Coast early October to present concert prior to State Conference ... Use of church bus by Palm Island primary schoolers recently high spot for the children, also enjoyed by our two drivers who showed them attractions of the Sunshine Coast & Brisbane.

## SA

**HENLEY BEACH** (Brian Hill) Brian Hill is now a part-time industrial chaplain & will be taking up this work full time next year ... Ron McLean has accepted the position of interim minister for 1993, ably assisted by his wife Phyl ... Henley Beach, Brooklyn Park & Flinders Park voted in agreement to working closer together & the future possibility of forming a regional church.

**BORDERTOWN** (S. Pillay) Church rejoices in nine recent baptisms ... Excellent weekend with New Connections from Magill ... "Hey, Hey, It's Saturday" social evening with Trev Winter & Chuck Knee very successful ... Sonny & Wendy & family returning to South Africa for six weeks ... Arther & Lilia Milne visiting newly married daughter in Japan.

## Vic

**ASHBURTON** (Iris Lawson) Board re-elected annual meeting & Ken Barton appointed elder. Iris Lawson's term extended to end 1995 ... Bible School recommenced August with team of three teachers teaching one session each month & family service fourth Sunday ... Edith & Ken Barton attended World Convention. On return together conducted morning worship service with "Echoes of World Convention". Edith spoke to CWF on World CWF breakfast at Long Beach.

**CHELSEA** (Ian Whitelock) Two groups completed Bible study series on "Young Church in Action" ... Farewelled Chadwicks moving to Canberra ... Completed new kitchen & toilet extensions. Dedicated by Max Carter. Generous financial response ... CWF President, Glenys Reaby, visited ... Conducting STEP parenting course ... Serendipity study & prayer group meeting Wednesday mornings ... Fishing Fellowship visited the Tambo.

**SPRINGVALE** (John Carmichael) John Carmichael now full-time ... Combined service 13 Sept with Rowville when two Rowville young men baptised ... Mission target 91-92 of \$8,150 achieved. Faith promises for 92-93 of \$8,355 to date ... Bike ride (exercise bikes) & fun night raised over \$800 for Bible Society Aboriginal literacy work. 40 riders clocked up 375 km ... Jeff Hales married Janice Robinson at Nunawading.

**PORT FAIRY** (Roy Hope) Church enjoyed ministry of Phil Short, SIM, on Missions, Outreach & Sunday School anniversary 9-13 Sept ... One commitment & several rededications after barbecue & youth rally ... A number of children attending Sunday School regularly after being introduced from the playgroup ... Reports to AGM showed steady progress & Roy Hope's term has been extended a further 12 months.

### Christian Fellowship Association

Annual Meeting of Subscribers & Agents

Tuesday, 24 November 1992

at the

Churches of Christ Theological College

40-60 Jacksons Road, Mulgrave, Vic

From 6.30 pm for dinner at 7 pm

concluding at 9 pm

Speaker: Peter Wing Tang

Specialist Counsellor of Perpetrators of Family Violence

Minister at the Burwood Church of Christ

Cost: \$10 per person

RSVP essential by Tuesday, 17 November

Phone Julia or Janet—(03) 326 8977

## Les Lawlor says...

I stand behind every Lawlor Pest Control job personally—all types of buildings—anywhere. Everything unconditionally guaranteed! Weeds—birds on roofs—Argentine and all other ants—"white ants"—borers—carpet pests—lawn pests, in fact, any pest that grows, walks or flies.

### LAWLORS PTY. LTD.

THE PEST CONTROL PEOPLE

6-10 Henley St., Torrensville

Phone (08) 43 9636





## Church News

**SURREY HILLS** (David Brooker, Julie Adam) Winter preaching series "I Believe" on major faith areas ... Five groups meeting weekly for prayer, study & worship ... Joyce Clutterbuck, church treasurer, home after five weeks in hospital ... Young people in 40 Hour Famine raised \$1,200 & serve 600 meals once a month Salvation Army's food program ... CWF raised \$1,000 for Kensington Christian Network & wrapped 600 gifts for hospital distribution.

**PRESTON** (T. Armstrong) The Boomerang Kids Club is "booming" with 64 children registered. There will be a presentation of Bibles to some of these children at the morning service on 18 October. It has been wonderful how folk have given so generously to get this club off the ground ... Heather & Geoff Crossman have been welcomed into fellowship by transfer.

**ORMOND** (G. Stibbe, S. Bainbridge) Workshops held to help job searchers & communicating with ethnic neighbours ... Betty Cann relinquished secretaryship after six years dedicated service. Rohan Williams appointed ... Church sponsoring project "Simaid" for starving in East Africa ... Prayer-a-thon held, members participating in half-hour sessions ... "Getting to Know Luncheon" held for contacts & members to meet deacons/deaconess ... Young adults conducted evening service ... \$905 raised 40 Hour Famine.

**NORTHCOTE** (F.B. Alcorn) Norm Collings, our oldest & longest active member, died after a period of ill health ... Community survey is being conducted by Colin Carbis (elder) ... Choir practice for church anniversary & Carols in the Plaza has commenced ... Church represented at Inter-Church Council meeting in the Croxton Uniting Church for One World Sunday. Rev John Boddicom speaker.

**MANIFOLD HEIGHTS** (G. Illingworth, R. Wright) Numbers am & pm increasing ... Baptism of Cassie Parry & Danielle Kirwood ... Men's Fellowship held three events; now attracting interest ... David Lavars & crew presented a message via puppets & drama ... 3MP radio announcer & pastor Rob Buckingham led an evening service with musicians, singers & a message on how God has & can work in his & our lives.

**TRARALGON** (R. Harrison) Vacant manse completely renovated & used as outreach centre for church & community programs ... Aged care, University of Third Age (retirees), craft, playgroup, youth drop-in, Sunday School, meetings all being run from the new Endeav-

our House ... Rob Harrison & Karen Marton commencing Endeavour Counselling Service in the house to provide professional counselling to meet community needs ... "Servanthood" focus for 1993.

### WA

**WARWICK** (G. Carslake, B. Eagles, R. Mason) Graham & Freda have returned from their ministry exchange at Crestview, Indianapolis, & World Convention ... The \$270,000 offices & meeting areas are completed ... Sports ministry with Shaun Kelly proved effective.

18 basketball & five netball teams were fielded, with five winning grand finals. Three volleyball teams are playing mid-week. 400 attended sports presentation night ... Youth minister, Rob Mason, concludes his ministry end of 1992.

**KALGOORLIE** (Larry Gibb) Visit of Warwick Marsh, Steve Grace & Endless Praise much appreciated ... Interchurch Men's Fellowship proving to be popular & meeting a need ... Women's Ministry held fourth annual camp. Theme "Discover Your Hidden Gold" ... Children's ministry picnic at Kanowna ... Two new prayer meetings com-

menced on Saturday & Sunday mornings ... New Junior Youth group & a youth study group formed.

**CARNARVON** (D. Bone) Visiting speakers were Paul Fricker (WA Bible College) & Clive Heaysman (missionary to Comoro Islands) ... Casserole tea & time of sharing was enjoyed to welcome Bible Society "Bikes for Bibles" group ... Local church groups are looking into possibility of establishing a Christian-parent-controlled school in Carnarvon. Director of that group, Jack Mecheilson, addressed the meeting.

## COCOA

is involved in development  
in countries overseas.  
Be a caring partner!



**Send your cheque to Churches of Christ  
Overseas Aid, PO Box 320, Unley 5061.**

*(Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.)*

Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Amount for COCOA \$ .....



## Comment

# God Is Calling— Are We Listening?

Marjan Beer

I've got a lot of questions about the call of God. More questions than answers. God calls ministers, missionaries and other "full-time" workers to their specific tasks. Everyone accepts that. Does he also call people to become butchers, accountants, hairdressers or doctors? Is he interested in what we do with such large slabs of our time? If God only calls "full-time" workers we then have two very different groups of people! My aim, here, is not to elevate "full-time" workers to some higher class of Christian. Rather, to suggest that God calls each person to their life's work, to their career path, and that we need to take more seriously God's thoughts. If we are serious about "the priesthood of all believers" then we need to see that we are all "full-time" workers in God's Kingdom, whether we are behind the pulpit or a shop counter—or on the unemployment queue. (Does God call people to periods of unemployment? Christians certainly aren't exempt. No easy answers to that!)

God calls ministers, missionaries and other "full-time" workers to specific locations. He gives them an address. Everyone accepts that. Does he call Christians to live specifically in Doncaster or Kensington, Carlingford or Toongabbie? If he doesn't then again we have two distinct groups. Those God calls and those free to make up their own minds. How do we decide where we should live? Purely on economic grounds? What the facilities are like? Does God come into it at all? Do we ask our-

selves, "Where can we best serve God?" or "Where is the greatest need for a Christian presence?" Christians don't seem to choose to live in the poorer or inner-city suburbs. Doesn't God call people other than "full-time" workers to places like that?

We haven't always had the freedom to live where we wanted to live. When Rodney was in the RAAF he could put in a preference for a particular base or a request for a specific type of work experience. These would be considered but the needs of the RAAF always had priority over the desires of its individual members. Since we believe God to be sovereign we accepted our postings and tried to serve him in each location. Now I sometimes wonder how we would go about choosing where to live if we were free agents.

Actually, none of us are free agents. We are servants of the Living God. So all of us are called by God. How specific is that calling in regard to our work and the location of our family home? There is no clear-cut answer to that nor a step-by-step formula for finding God's will. There are only lives committed to giving God first place in all things. Why do you do the work you do and live where you live?

Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths.

• Marjan Beer is the co-pastor at the Richmond, Vic, church.

## The Last Word

Some wonder what the will of God is for their lives, and they often overlook the specific directive to give thanks in everything. Our hearts should be full of praise to God, who has provided salvation and all that we need to live victoriously.

—Theodore H. Epp

Who won the fight between the dog and the porcupine?

The porcupine won on points.

\*\*\*\*\*

Why did the bees go on strike?

For more honey and shorter flowers.

\*\*\*\*\*

What's green and goes "Boing-boing-boing"?

Spring cabbage.

\*\*\*\*\*

What do you get if you cross a cocoa bean with a Canadian deer?

A chocolate moose.

\*\*\*\*\*

When were the dark ages?

During the days of the knights.

\*\*\*\*\*

"I'm homesick! I'm homesick!"

"But you're at home!"

"I know and I'm sick of it!"

\*\*\*\*\*

At a supermarket a customer crowded ahead of another. "I hope you don't mind," said the customer, carrying a can. "All I wanted was this cat food."

"Not at all," replied the other coolly. "You look hungry."

\*\*\*\*\*

Doctor: "I can do nothing for your illness. It is hereditary."

Patient: "Then send the bill to my parents."

\*\*\*\*\*



## SUBSCRIPTION FORM

PO Box 101, North Essendon 3041

Name .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

Amount Enclosed: \$ ..... Church .....

☐ Renewal ☐ New Subscription

Donation: \$ .....

☐ \$25 Full Year ☐ \$5 Rest of Year

☐ \$4 Rest of year if recommended by a current subscriber

Subscriber: .....

Payment can be made by Bankcard, Visa or MasterCard

Please charge my—

☐ Bankcard ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Card number

.....

Expiry date .....

Signature .....

IF GOD DIDN'T WANT ADULTS TO SKIP SUNDAY SCHOOL, HOW COME HE CREATED COFFEE SHOPS THAT OPEN ON SUNDAY MORNING?

