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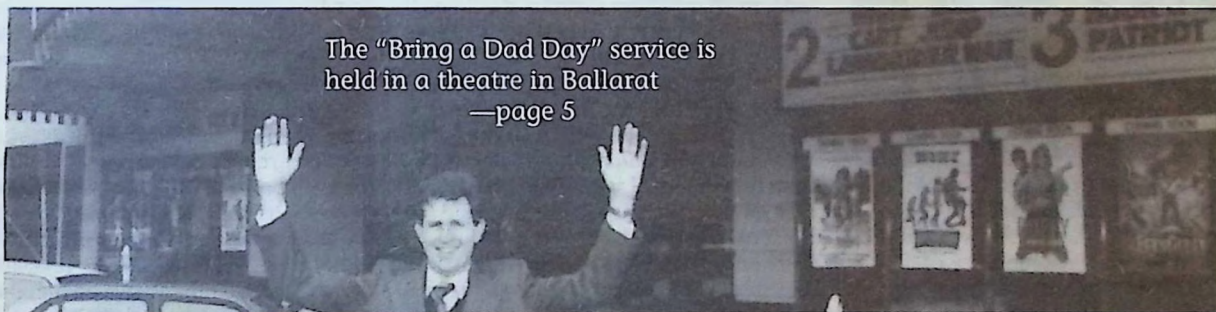
7 November 1992

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

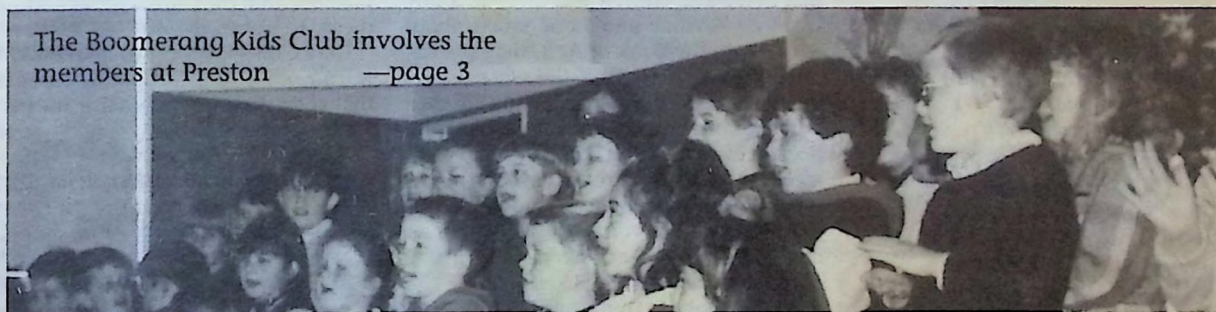
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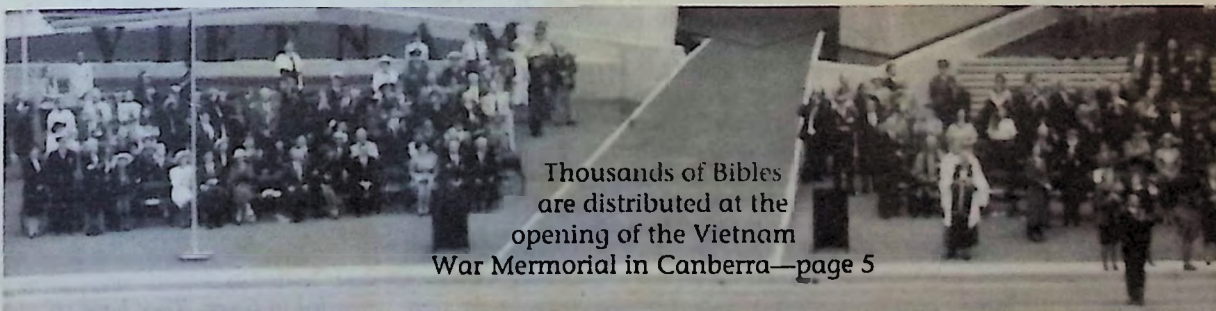
The "Jerusalem
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are distributed at the
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Guest Editorial

Repentance

C.G. (Gordon) Henderson

Looking back to the 1950s I remember our student ministers and ministers proudly claimed our approach to the church and Scripture as something like this: "No Creed but Christ," and "Where the Bible speaks, we speak and where it is silent we are silent." We claimed: "We are Christians only and not the only Christians!" And so we could go on. But I doubt if such statements hold a great deal of weight in our present thinking and understanding of Scripture. One section of Scripture can be very forceful on a certain doctrine and quite silent in another section. A proper balance of scriptural teaching is vital.

So much of a church depends on the teaching of the ministers and elders. Thus it becomes very important for the preachers and teachers of a church to know what and why they believe a certain theology. It is obvious that churches as a whole wouldn't agree on delicate issues. This is a pity but has to be accepted. Each of our Churches of Christ are largely self-governing.

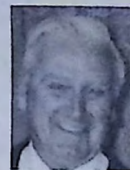
I wonder how much importance we put upon repentance? I venture to say we put a lot of emphasis upon it—probably as much as we would baptism. But do we really know what repentance is all about? Most of us have never drifted into the sins of the prodigal. No, we grew up in a Christian home and church and came to know Jesus as Saviour and Lord when about aged 12. In the Book of Acts, the Epistles, Revelation and most of the Gospels, repentance certainly gets a good "thumping". But did you know the beloved John doesn't even mention the word! Does that mean we should throw the doctrine of repentance out the manse window? While John seemingly avoids the word he certainly brings out the outcome of the fruits of repentance.

Unfortunately I think we tend to gain an idea that repentance can only come after we have committed some socially recognised variety of sins. Not surprising is the fact that when some guy is converted out of drug, sex, immorality or whatever, we shall be glad to have him behind our pulpits and in mass meetings telling us all what God, through Christ, has done for him. For sure the message of repentance needs to strike deep into his very heart and like Acts 2:38 states, he had best smarten himself up, repent and be baptised fairly quickly to show he accepts the forgiveness of God through Jesus.

But praise God that many of us have not wasted the youth of our life in riotous living. The meaning of repentance can be misunderstood. There is really no need for sinners who repent to roll around in ashes or cry their hearts out until they feel forgiven. True, many may well feel they need to, but for others repentance is an experience to be rejoicing about. There is relief and joy when someone points or directs us to a certain street or road that will end up with us arriving there. So is the case with repentance.

Repentance does not always carry a thought of a bewailing person crying, "What must I do to be saved?" No! Repentance in the New Testament means "to change for the better". For sure, repentance relates to one's sin and that the person is turning from it and turning to God. For some, of course, such an action will bring about some sort of public reaction: when a recognised villain becomes a new creation in Christ. But for some young person, not even in their teens, the whole event will go largely unnoticed by the world. Nevertheless, that repentance is just as important, for such persons have turned their hearts and feet in the direction of the One who is the Way while they have so much of their life to give to him. There is rejoicing in heaven amongst the angels on the conversion of both harsh and tender sinners. The praise within the church of such sinners is meant to be equal.

May God's Holy Spirit help the church to call our young people to repentance, that they may know what it means and what it doesn't mean!



• Gordon Henderson was born in the heart of the Great Depression, the fifth son of seven children. At the age of 14 he was hospitalised and bedridden for 12 months with rheumatic fever. This was probably the beginning of his conversion to the Lord. He made "a deal" with the Lord and asked for a restoration to good health and promised to do something for him. At age 22 he was converted. At age 24 Gordon entered the Churches of Christ College at Glen Iris. His ministries have been at Wedderburn, Portland and Boort-Pyramid Hill, helping Swan Hill (all Vic). He has been ministering at Nubeena, Tas, for over nine years and has been invited to continue until 1996. He is married to Gwen. They have six children and nine grandchildren.

The Boomerang Kids

Excitement at Preston

The Preston, Vic, church laid some claim to fame 90 years ago as the "church that was built in one day". This occurred when a large group from within the church and local community worked from dawn to dusk to erect a finished building, which was used for worship the next day. There are still people (one of whom attends occasionally) who remember being on site as children to witness this exciting example of community involvement.

Preston has experienced the good times and the bad times. They've seen their young people marry and relocate in the outer suburbs leaving behind a diminishing, older group who have sought to maintain faith and witness in a community often apathetic to the work of the church.

Endeavouring to reach out to the community, an Open Door Centre was established by Jack Manallack assisted by a group of willing workers. This activity was well supported and a number of those who attended have come into fellowship with the congregation.

The congregation also provided the leadership and facilities to enable the establishment of Preston Neighbourhood House located in the adjoining manse and using the facilities of the church. As part of their many and varied activities they conduct playgroups for chil-

dren. Because the neighbourhood house is independent of the church there has sometimes been difficulty in establishing links between its programs and the church activities.

For the past three years, Tony and Lynette Armstrong have been ministering part-time to the church while completing their studies at CCTC. They have shown a positive, practical and enthusiastic approach to ministry, which has seen a regrowth in the congregation through church planning and most recently the development of the Boomerang Kids Club.

Worship services, while retaining their traditional structure, have been enlivened with new music and a three-piece band and song leader every second or third week.

Tony has also initiated meetings of the congregation with the Greek Evangelical Church, which uses the church building on a Sunday afternoon. This has taken the form of bilingual services and an Easter commemoration centred on an Agape meal on Maundy Thursday.

While the church had intended to hold a 90th anniversary with the usual invitation lists, PSA and the like, the board decided instead to use the occasion on 18 October to focus on the future. To this end they invited the participants in the Boomerang Kids club and their



• The Boomerang Kids at Preston

Jerusalem Passion a Hit in Hobart

Inspiration in music



• "Jerusalem Passion" in Hobart

"Jerusalem Passion", an inspirational Australian oratorio written by Murray Wylie, has been used by God to make a significant impact in Hobart during its performances in September at the University Theatre.

Involving a cast of 200, from a wide range of denominations, the production was directed and conducted by Churches of Christ minister, Kathy Rochester, from the Huon Uniting and Community Churches.

In addition to the massed choir, vocal soloists, narrations, full orchestra and pipe organ, played by Stuart Rochester, the Hobart production included the addition of creative movement by a group from the Christian Dance Fellowship of Australia.

Denise Bradley, from the

Hobart church, was one of the vocal soloists.

The impact of these performances was felt by both the participants and the audiences, in times of emotional intensity, musical and artistic experience and spiritual challenge. Every performance was sold out. Some were challenged to become Christians, some were given new hope, some are still contemplating the implications of its call for Christian unity.

A personal link with the Melbourne group who performed this work was made through Jeff and Morag Thorne from the Glen Waverley church, who flew to Hobart so that they could join the Hobart choir for this production.

Any profits will be forwarded to World Vision's Somalia appeal.

parents to a special service where 25 children were presented with Bibles they had earned through their participation in the program.

The children, led by Danielle Wood and accompanied by the church band, presented a number of the songs they had learned at their Friday evening club. Over 130 attended and most said they would return

for the next special service to be held on 22 November where the Gospel is to be presented by a rap dancer.

The amazing thing about the Boomerang Kids Club, which continues to grow each week, is that with a couple of exceptions it relies heavily on the work and involvement of grandmas and grandpas in supervising and catering.

Initiation

Anglican bishop questions baptism of children

The Bishop of Bathurst, Bishop Bruce Wilson, has committed his diocese to a major rethink of initiation practices. Earlier this year, he sent all parish councils and vestries a short paper on the subject and has asked each to respond. He took the opportunity at his synod in early September to spell out how he sees the major issues involved.

Bishop Wilson said, "Along with almost all of the worldwide church, we Anglicans practice infant baptism. Theologically, there are two sides to an infant baptism. On the human side, there must be faith. Infant baptism is believer's baptism—we act on the faith of those who bring the child, whether it's parents—one or both—godparents or grandparents.

"On God's side, baptism is a work of grace in the child, a reception (even as a baby) into God's church and a flowing of the Holy Spirit into the new life."

Bishop Wilson went on to state that he was "sick and tired of adults telling [him] they do not make their children go to school scripture or confirmation classes because they want them to make up their own minds on religion".

"What nonsense!" said the Bishop. "How can you make your mind up about something about which you are an ignorant?"

—Church Scene

Wynnum Memories

A church begins

Back in the 1920s I lived at Wynnum, Qld, with my family. Leaving school at 14, I got a position as a shop assistant at a large store, H.A. Irvine & Sons. One day, a new office girl started. She said to me, on a friendly basis, "Do you go to church?" I said I went now and again, not regularly, to the Methodist. She said, "My name is Lily Hinrichsen, and my parents and my two sisters, Vera and Annie, have recently come to Wynnum to retire." She told me they were from Tarome in the country. At some stage of conversation she also said that her brother, Ernest, was coming to the district with a tent mission, and would I come along.

Well, that huge tent did arrive, plus wooden seats, curtains, a baptismal tank and a song leader, Les Brooker. There were many pamphlets issued to letter boxes and the opening night arrived.

My girlfriends got their mums to come, as my mum did, and we never missed a night. I got Dad to come on the odd night, but could not get him interested—he had been brought up as a strict Lutheran. There were baptisms every night. How I remember my baptism in that oval tank, in that huge tent. Our mothers, and some brothers and sisters were also baptised. What lovely memories!

The mission went for some weeks. The crowd got larger every night, and I just can't remember how many converts

there were. Some folk came in cars, from Ann St and other sister churches every night, to boost the meetings.

By now, a block of land was purchased and the chapel was built in a day. Mr Sage, a builder, did great work, as well as other tradesmen. I will never forget that Saturday—the sun was setting, and there were still things to do for the Sunday service. A.J. Fisher was a busy man in that Wynnum mission, coming and going.

I said to him, "It will soon be dark. What about some lanterns?"

He said, "We have none here, only torches."

I said, "My father is in the Manly Bakehouse making dough for the Sunday baking, they have lanterns there."

So Mr Fisher drove me down in his small Austin car, and we fetched the lanterns back for the men to finish what was needed. During the next few days, the incidentals were completed. Jack Machin, a Baptist, owned the Manly Bakehouse.

During those years, Jack Machin began a friendship with Lily Hinrichsen, and he came into the Wynnum Church of Christ. They married, had four or five daughters and lived in Victoria. Vera went out with my brother, on occasions, until my parents moved to Graceville. She later married a Berlin, I believe.

Going back to the Wynnum church, some folk would come down to the Sunday services. One was a Percy Green from

the Bundamba church, and we will have been married 62 years next March. We were married in the Graceville Methodist Chapel. Over the years, we have attended Ann St, Rocklea (now no more), Bundamba, East Ipswich, Kenmore and now, 14 years at Centenary church.

I think I can say I am the last surviving member of the original Wynnum church members.

—Estelle Green (nee Sperling)

Wynnum Today

Currently the Wynnum church has an average attendance of 45 in the morning and 25 in the evening with 43 communicants. Charles Cole is undertaking a part-time ministry and works with a team of three elders in pastoral care and six members who are assisting with preaching.

The church has a full range of auxiliaries with a Bible school of 19 scholars, a youth group of seven that meets fortnightly and which attends monthly rallies organised by the Uniting Church of Queensland. The Women's Fellowship is active and holds an annual September Fair as its major fund-raising effort. Two outreach groups operate monthly. The Open Door has an average attendance of 39 while Crafty Corner (which features a different craft each month) has an attendance range of 10–18.

The church also co-operates with 10 other churches in supporting chaplains in two local state high schools.

Christian Fellowship Association

Annual Meeting of Subscribers & Agents

Tuesday, 24 November 1992

at the

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40–60 Jacksons Road, Mulgrave, Vic

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concluding at 9 pm

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Bibles for Viet Vets

Vietnam veterans gather in Canberra

3 October was a day to remember in the national capital. Over 30,000 Vietnam War veterans gathered to commemorate the opening of the memorial monument in Anzac Parade. The veterans marched before a crowd of tens of thousands.

The anguish of past years was written on the faces of the veterans, but this was a day when understanding and acceptance was warmly expressed by the large crowd. The welcome was greatly appreciated by the men and women who, for many years, have sensed great rejection by the Australian community.

As you looked at the marchers, you noticed that many were carrying a small white book with red on the cover. The books were Bibles, especially printed for the occasion, and distributed by a group of Christian veterans.

The red on the cover was a red rose symbolising the re-

membrance of sacrifice.

Well over 3,000 Bibles were distributed in two hours by a team of committed people headed up by Clarence and Janet Ormsby and Bob Millard of the Vietnam Veterans Christian Outreach. (They are members of the Wyoming Church of Christ in Gosford, NSW.)

The speed of Kwikasair Express Freight and the great cooperation of drivers Brendan Prout and "Apples" ensured that all Bibles were at the marshalling point 15 minutes before the first veterans marched. As marchers filed out of Reid Park and moved to Anzac Parade they were offered the commemorative Bible. They received the copies with much gratitude, and this was particularly true of the next of kin of the 504 Australians who died in Vietnam.

The Bible tent at the park proved to be a popular spot, as many veterans dropped by for



• The opening of the Vietnam memorial

Bring a Dad Day

Fathers at service in theatre



• Stephen Templeton outside the theatre complex

The Dawson St, Ballarat, Vic, church held a wonderful Father's Day service (6 September at 10 am) in the Ballarat Regent Multiplex Theatre. Many helped to make the "Bring a Dad Day" service work.

The tone of the service was set by the choir, which harmoniously opened the service. Communion was held in a relaxed manner that made all feel

welcome. Dawson Street's minister, Stephen Templeton, delivered a contemporary, inspirational message.

320 attended the service, including several city dignitaries (the wife of the Mayor, Kate Coghlan, and members of parliament, Frank Sheehan and Michael Ronaldson and his family). The offering of \$1,194 was given to the Somalia appeal. —E. McGibbony

a chat, and so many indicated that they were now Christians and wanted to contribute to the Bible project. There were a number who came up and told how they are now ministers of the Gospel.

On 4 October it rained all day but that didn't stop the outdoor "Blast from the Past" concert. Nor did it stop the Bible team from setting up a table under cover, to again offer the Scriptures to the veterans.

The team who worked so hard on the project were overcome with thanksgiving to God for all that they witnessed over the weekend.

The ministry to Vietnam veterans continues and if you would like to contact the outreach or obtain further information you should write to Clarence Ormsby, PO Box 231, Gosford 2250. Phone (043) 28 4325 (AH) or (043) 23 3327 (BH).

—Peter Nelson

ABCDE Meets

Diverse agenda for national evangelism and education



• Robert Logan

The annual meeting of the Australian Board of Church Development and Education was held in Melbourne, 10-11 September, with a diverse agenda.

The meeting was preceded by involvement in a Church Planting Conference 8-9 September under the sponsorship of Church Resource Ministries Australia with Robert Logan of the United States as the guest speaker. There were 200 participants from a range of denominations with 21 Churches of Christ representatives. Staff members of state departments of church development were also involved in a national strategy planning event and a special Churches of Christ consultation with Robert Logan. The conferences proved to be stimulating and inspirational for our participants. Churches of Christ representatives met after the conference to review implications for our future work. Church planting initiatives across our Australian network are running at high levels.

Progress

Progress on the 1991 National Church Life Survey was noted. Local church data is currently available. In 1993 the board expects to look in detail at the state and national data that will become available. This year, the board joined with the Wollongong, NSW, church in a national training initiative for

all leaders. The event was held in Wollongong 17-19 October.

In the area of board publications and resources, some 20 items are currently available. An additional six items became available this year with a range of new items due over a six-month period. These include four new studies plus training materials, general books and spiritual life development resources.

Long-term Planning

The current program flows from national conferences on education and evangelism held in 1987 and 1988. A Youth Summit was held in 1991. These recommendations are being progressively dealt with at local, state and national levels.

Financial support from churches has proved to be difficult in 1991-92 with a 43% decline in giving. Income from trusts declined over 50%. Churches throughout Australia are encouraged to make a contribution to national initiatives in the evangelism and education areas. Gifts should be sent to 77 Capel Street, West Melbourne 3003.

Reports from state staff indicated that in spite of the current economic difficulties, encouraging progress is being made in most areas of our work. National cohesion and co-operation mark our conference work and are positive indicators for continuing progress.

—D.H. Smith
(Executive Director)

Preventing Crimes

Churches urged to join fight against crime

SA Police Commissioner David Hunt urged SA churches to become involved in crime prevention—and a spokesperson for the churches said they will take his call seriously.

Commissioner Hunt spoke to the SA Heads of Christian Churches in September.

"The Commissioner has issued us with a challenge," Rev Neale Michael, Moderator of the Uniting Church and Chairperson of the SA Heads of Christian Churches, said afterwards.

"He spoke about the need to change community attitudes and values. A root cause of the growing crime rate is a failure in personal and corporate values."

Commissioner Hunt said in an interview that crime in Australia was increasing. "The level of crime in Australia is unacceptable, totally unacceptable," he said. "There are signs of a downturn in some areas, like certain property crime and motor vehicle theft. We suggest that there's a connection between this and the success of crime prevention programs like Neighbourhood Watch. But there's a high level of violence, particularly in crimes like personal and sexual assaults. The cost of crime in Australia to the public purse is in the order of \$27 billion a year. That doesn't take into account the personal fears and traumas people have. And they lead to a diminution of the quality of the environment of our community."

He said crime prevention

must include changing concepts—concepts about what it meant to be a citizen, about morality and about Australia's culture.

"The churches have a special contribution because of their moral teaching, their emphasis on 'virtues' and their sense of the values of individuals. If the churches aren't part of attempts to build a better community a great deal will be lost. It will mean a totally humanistic approach."

He said most people found the idea of crime prevention extremely acceptable. He said: "We can do things in a programmed way. But we can't do the whole job. That's the role of the whole community."

Mr Hunt said Australians must establish the "core values" of their community. "That means establishing what we see as the rights of individuals allied with their responsibilities. Everyone talks about the right to free speech, to life and to the pursuit of happiness. Individuals and the community have obligations as well as rights. That needs to be reflected in a common set of values. Establishing these core values mustn't be left to an academic approach. It needs to take into account the spiritual worth of our existence. All this means dealing with people's beliefs and attitudes. And that's very much within the church's role."

—reprinted with permission from *New Times*, the Uniting Church newspaper of South Australia

Furniture Supply Stolen

Kensington workers recently had their furniture storage shed broken into and everything stolen. New arrangements have been made and gifts of used furniture are invited. Mike Esbensen (pictured) and Kim and Heather Thoday appreciate your support. Financial support for their ministry is an urgent need.

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



Cartoonist

Daniel Changer

Ever considered that that article you're writing or that pamphlet you're producing could use a bit of visual embellishment?

Daniel Changer, who draws the regular "Angelic Verses" cartoons in *The Australian Christian*, is offering his services.

Daniel, from the Chatswood, NSW, church, also contributes a weekly editorial cartoon to the local newspaper and does cartoons for his university's newspaper. While he specialises in caricatures and one-frame cartoons, he has also done some illustration work.

So if you need drawings for any purpose contact Daniel on (02) 958 1178 or write to him at 19 Marlborough Road, Willoughby 2068.



• Daniel Changer

Evangelism Course

Raymond Fung in Melbourne

An intensive course, *Evangelism in the Modern World*, is to be given in Melbourne, 1-19 February 1993, conducted by Raymond Fung. Raymond, a layman from Hong Kong, has an international reputation for the promotion of a holistic evangelism that facilitates the

living out of Christian faith as well as the important initial response. His is a Biblical understanding of conversion.

The course is offered jointly by the School of World Mission (World Vision and Whitley College) and the Evangelical Theological Association (CCTC and Whitley). It will be of special interest to Asian Christians, but will be of great value to all who want to grapple with important issues. Class sessions will be held most mornings for the three weeks. If desired, credit can be gained for a semester unit for the BTheol degree. Details can be obtained from the Registrar, CCTC, PO Box 629, Mulgrave North 3170. Phone (03) 790 1000.

Raymond's book, *The Isaiah Vision*, was favourably reviewed by Don Smith in *The Australian Christian* (5 September). His latest book, just published, is *Evangelistically Yours*. This is a compilation from his letters on evangelism sent monthly to 6,000 readers while he was responsible for the Department of Evangelism of the WCC for the years 1981-91. It is a goldmine of insights, in lay language, about the understanding and practice of evangelism in today's world.

Great Modern Preacher

Final in series

On 22 November at 10:30 am the East Keilor, Vic, church (59 Milleara Rd, East Keilor) is holding the fifth and final of its series "Great Modern Preachers".

Gordon Stirling, a widely respected leader among Churches of Christ in Australia, will be the preacher on this occasion. Gordon has been Conference President in South Australia and Victoria. He was Federal President 1976-79. He is fondly remembered from his ministries in New Zealand, South Australia, Canberra and Victoria and as Vice-Principal



• Gordon Stirling

of the Churches of Christ Theological College (COB) 1968-81. Gordon's ministry has been one of broadcasting on radio and television and writing. He also served as Editor of *The Australian Christian* 1979-87.

For more details phone Ron Schepis on (03) 336 2484 or 336 7129

A.B. Withers

90th year

A.B. (Arthur) Withers died in the Box Hill Hospital on 29 October after suffering a stroke. Mr Withers was in his 90th year.

A.B. Withers ministered in Churches of Christ in Victoria following his graduation from the College of the Bible in 1925.

An obituary will be printed in a later issue.

Allan Male

Wonderful improvement

Hospitalised since 29 July with acute pancreatitis causing multi-system failure, Allan Male was transferred from intensive care on 10 October to Ward 4F at the Royal Brisbane Hospital.

Allan's recovery has been miraculous. He is off all life supports and is eating, talking and mobile. Thank you for your continuing prayer.

Allan is Executive Director of the Shaftesbury Citizenship Centre and Campus and was Youth Director of our Queensland churches for 20 years.

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The Carnegie Church of Christ

celebrates its 100th year in May 1993

The church asks readers with past association with the church, Bible school auxiliaries etc., for any information of names and addresses, photos etc. that would provide memorabilia for this august occasion. Please send correspondence and photos (please mark if articles are to be returned) to

The Secretariat, Church of Christ,
40 Toolambol Road, Carnegie 3163



SWANSTON STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

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(cnr Swanston & Little Lonsdale Streets)

Sunday

9.00 a.m. & 11 a.m.

7.00 p.m.

Worship & Communion
Services
Gospel Celebration

Wednesday

1.15-1.45 p.m.

Lunchtime Service

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Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Rearranging the Deck Chairs

To the Editor,

The amended vision statement referred to by David Moyes ("AC" 3 October) is a vast improvement on the original statement prepared by the NSW Vision and Strategy Group, which appeared incapable of identifying anything specially distinctive about Churches of Christ. However, problems remain. It is not clear whether this statement applies to the churches or the conference. If it refers to the latter, it provides no guide as to how our conference arrangements should be structured and could easily justify the existing situation.

COWANDILLA

Church of Christ (SA)
70th Anniversary

6 December

10 am

Guest Speaker

Marj Dredge

Conference President

Afternoon Program

2.30 pm

Baptist Men Singers

Speaker

Keith Horne

Past Minister

Afternoon Tea

In the literature on strategic planning, a clear linkage exists between mission or vision (deciding one's distinctive field of operations), strategy (deciding aims and objectives) and structure. The management axiom (which follows common sense) is that structure follows strategy. In the case of the proposed changes, there has been no clear articulation of what the new conference model is proposed to achieve, nor any analysis of costs. The latter is important because declining financial support was a primary argument for change. Rather than structure following strategy, structure itself is strategy.

The suggestion that our present conference structure has become a vast bureaucracy dictating remotely to churches is a gross calumny and does not accord with my own experience on three conference committees totalling more than twenty years. It is inconsistent with the policy consistently enunciated and applied by the former conference secretary, Kevin Crawford, that conference was the servant of the churches. It is to be regretted that so much energy and resource is being devoted to this exercise, which one wit at the special conference in September described as "rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic".

—Harold E. Hayward
(Berowra, NSW)

Congregational Autonomy!

To the Editor,

I have been waiting for a long time for one of our informed leaders to question openly the assumption that congregational autonomy is a biblical principle and that "Churches of Christ stand for congregational autonomy". And now it has happened in the excellent Pamphlet Club No. 380 ("AC" 17 October). Thank you Graham Warne. I remember both A.R. Main and Thomas Hagger privately questioning congregational autonomy as a biblical principle.

The fact that Churches of Christ have survived as well as they have while practising congregational autonomy is because so many churches and leaders have accepted the principle of congregational accountability, which does have a biblical basis. However we have seen over the years what happens when congregational autonomy drifts into congrega-

tional independency and then lapses into congregational isolationism.

I wonder if the time has come for us to bury the term "congregational autonomy" and to proclaim to the world that Churches of Christ stand for congregational responsibility. That is, the local congregation responsible to God, responsible to the whole Body of Christ, responsible for the historic witness and mission of Churches of Christ and responsible for the local congregation in active fellowship with all other Churches of Christ.

—Gordon Stirling
(Boronia, Vic)

BUCKINGHAM MEMORIAL CENTRE Self-catering camp site

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Letters from Tertius

Presbyopia

To the Editor,

The time has come when either I have to get extensions to my arms in order to read, or I have to get glasses. The latter was the easiest and cheapest alternative. So here I am with glasses because I have "presbyopia", a scientific word for "old man's sight" or long-sightedness. The doctor told me that it is quite natural for us to develop long sightedness as we get older.

But increasing years have not only made me long-sighted, but also as far as life is concerned. I find myself looking ahead far more than ever I did. Once I climbed a ladder without apprehension. Now long-sightedness gives me a vision of a hospital bed with pulleys and ropes and gadgets, so I hang on to the ladder a bit tighter than I used to.

When I was younger long-term satisfaction meant nothing to me compared with short-term gratification. I never seemed to see in advance the consequence of my action. I found it so easy to do the wrong thing (nothing criminal mind you!) and so hard to keep doing the right thing. In fact I liked doing the wrong thing, but not the trouble it got me into. And while I often found doing the right thing tedious and boring, I had to admit that afterward I always had a sort of glowing warm feeling inside me.

I'm still not sure that I am as presbyopic as my eyes have become. I still find it easier to lay up treasure on earth than in heaven and my savings account towards getting the "pearl of great price" is often raided for other things.

Your myopically,
Tertius

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Living under the Southern Cross

Workshops, fifth speaker announced

The workshop program at the ecumenical event, *Living under the Southern Cross*, has been announced and represents a range of issues and interests topical for Australian Christians.

Topics range from Aboriginal Religion and Law to Parish Worship, Art and Spirituality to Women, Human Rights and the Church, Banner Making to Taizé and Business Ethics to Tourism in the Third World. Over 40 workshops are available for both full-time registrants and day visitors.

The event's fifth keynote speaker also has been announced. Professor Peter Newman, the Director of the Science and Technology Policy Unit at Murdoch University in Perth, will speak on hope for Australian society.

The event, planned as a follow-up to the successful visitors program of the World

Council of Churches' Assembly in Canberra last year, is to be held at the Hawkesbury campus of the University of Western Sydney, 19-24 January 1993.

The keynote speakers (three of them from overseas), as well as overseas guests and Australian church leaders, will provide a core of input to stretch people's horizons of thought and faith.

The input sessions and workshops will be complemented by special celebrations at night and a creative, dynamic worship life. A worship resource book compiled for the week will be available for wider use in churches after the event.

Places are filling but registrations are still open. Full-time, part-time and day-visit options are available. Contact Jean Skuse, PO Box 224, Rozelle NSW 2039, phone (02) 810 7864, fax (02) 555 8141.



Vision Church

Official launch



• Suresh Chandra, Amar Raj, Dilip Abraham, Bob Barreau and Chek Chia

Vision church, which affiliated with the Vic-Tas Conference earlier this year, held its official launch on 13 September. Meetings are held in the Mimosa Primary School, High Street Road, Glen Waverley. The launch followed meetings in homes of members each Sunday since March.

Some 70 attended the service and luncheon. Conference representatives included Barry Jenkins and Bob Barreau, and Chek Chia and Don Smith from the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development.

A core group of 25 has developed the project. The church has been encouraged by the addition of new people since the launch. The congregation has a basic orientation to people of Indian origin, but includes others with an interest in the church's mission. Services are conducted in English.

The minister, Amar Raj, would be interested to hear of contacts. Phone (03) 878 5039. Grace church has been active in support of the new venture. The establishment of Vision church is a further step in the CROP initiative.

South Pacific Christian Convention

Bringing the message of restoration

The South Pacific Christian Convention (SPCC) was held at Camp Elim, near Forster, NSW, 2-5 October. 70 attended, representing 12 churches in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland.

The intent of SPCC is to bring the message of the restoration of New Testament Christianity by drawing attention to the first principles of fundamental biblical truth, and so endeavour to remove obstacles that hinder the effective ministry for Jesus Christ. SPCC is thus not a centralised body, and the convention is merely a means by which churches concerned for the restoration of New Testament Christianity may meet each year. This year the local hosts were the Charlestown, NSW, church.

Fred Miller from Orlando, Florida, USA, was the keynote speaker. Other speakers at the convention were Delroy Brown and Tom Huffman. Elective workshops were also held led by Anthony Giles, Doug Willis, Alan Horne, Peter Ramu Rau, Tom Huffman and Fred Miller. Joyce Willis, Sue Giles and Jean Milligan conducted workshops on women's issues.

As well as members from conference churches there were several who attended from non-instrumental churches of Christ and other concerned Christians. On the Sunday night there was a baptism.

The next South Pacific Christian Convention will be held in Toowoomba, Qld, on the first weekend of October 1993.

Further information on SPCC and tapes of convention sessions can be obtained from Terry Smith, PO Box 358, Charlestown 2290.

—Peter Ramu Rau

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Media Review

Books



Messengers of Peace

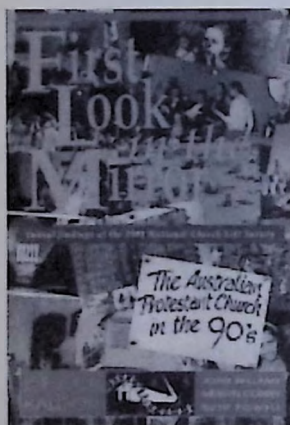
(Kenmore Christian College) \$3

This booklet has been produced to celebrate the centenary of the establishment of the Kanaka Mission at Childers, Qld, in 1893. Researched by Graham Warne this history of the Kanaka Mission is very well presented, with historic photographs and sketches by Shone Foley. Tamara Kraal has scripted the story very well.

The booklet traces the reasons for the importing of the Kanaka labour into Queensland and the vision of Christians to share their faith with these islanders. The history of the mission is traced and then some of the leading converts are featured and their pioneering mission work in the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu) is described.

Available from Kenmore Christian College, PO Box 55, Kenmore 4069, for \$3, \$5 for two copies or \$2 per copies for an order of 10 or more.

—CRA



First Look in the Mirror

Initial Findings of the 1991 National Church Life Survey by Peter Kaldor, with John Bellamy, Marilyn Correy and Ruth Powell (Lancer) \$12.95

In 1991 a National Church Life Survey was conducted, which questioned over 300,000 Protestant churchgoers in over 6,500 congregations in 19 denominations. This book is a presentation of the initial findings and their implications. Here there is some excellent resource material for churches looking seriously at their future

and the style of mission they should be developing. The book not only presents some of the findings in table form but also offers an interpretation and commentary on the figures. This is important as often in church discussions we are presented with figures without the ability to interpret the material.

The book starts with a justification for the survey and sets out what those who initiated the research hoped to find. This is followed with several chapters that look at the changing picture of church life in Australia raising questions about how we are involved in mission in our local situation. The book then looks at congregational life and mission, including involvement with the wider community and faith development as seen from the local level. The final section helps readers interpret the data and gain further information to help local congregations make effective use of the NCLS data for their own growth.

The book should be available at most Christian bookshops.

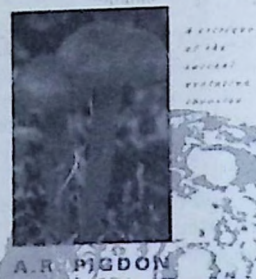
—CRA

Rethinking Evolution

by Arthur Pigdon (Vital Publications) \$15

Rethinking Evolution was written with a pastor's heart. It is not a book only for those interested in science. It is not a book that will

RETHINKING EVOLUTION



cause hot disputes in the letters column of *The Australian Christian*.

Arthur leads the reader through a careful look at the theories of evolution, beginning by clearly defining terms, and explaining the theories. He then proceeds chapter by chapter to look at evidence in various areas: photosynthesis, the living cell, the immune system and special organs. In these chapters he highlights the inadequacy of evolution theories to adequately explain the specialisation and complexity present.

The key elements of the theory of evolution, mutation and natural selection, are discussed after a look at the fossil record. Arthur clearly shows that these key elements should actually be working against what the evidence indicates is happening—increasing complexity, some species remaining over long periods of time and a vast range of stable species with changes only within species.

He concludes with a chapter on the social effects of the theory of evolution, the reason for writing—the pastor's heart with a concern for our society and especially young people faced with regular teaching on evolution; and then a summary of the theories for the origins of life in all its diversity, including his own "possible alternative", progressive creation, which he says fits the evidence, is true to scripture and answers the questions science can't answer because of its self-imposed boundaries.

Arthur has done all this with the minimum of technical language without being simplistic. (There is a glossary for those not familiar with terms he uses.) I recommend this book to everyone because it helps us look at the bases for a lot of attitudes in our society. It is not just a "science book".

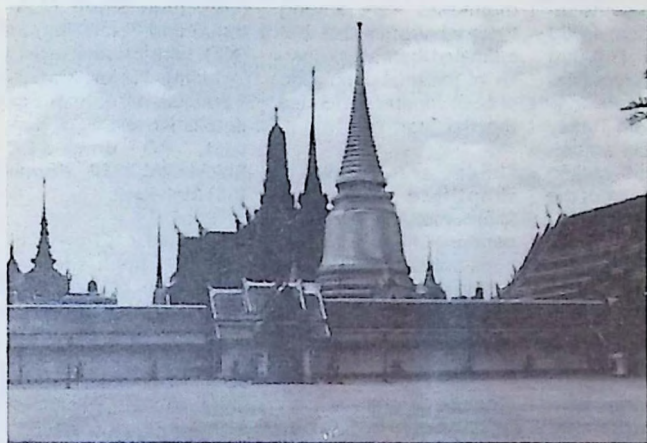
Available from the Federal Literature Department, c/o PO Box 629, Mulgrave North 3170, for \$15 plus \$3 for postage and packaging.

—Doug Walladge

The Angelic Verses—Daniel Changer



The Good and the Bad in Thailand



A life-changing experience

Three young people, Paul Bauer from the La Trobe Terrace, Geelong, Vic, church, and Anthony Hall and Bronwyn Harding, of the Nunawading, Vic, church, with financial assistance from the Vic-Tas Department of Christian Union and Ecumenical Affairs, the Nunawading church and World Christian Action, were part of an ecumenical group of 15 representatives who went on a two-week study tour of Thailand. This was undertaken as part of the Australian Catholic Relief and Australian Council of Churches' One World Week, which this year focused on tourism in the Third World. Paul writes:

Thailand is a mecca for tourists. More than 5 million visit the country every year. A quarter of a million of these are Australians, making us an important source country. Tourism is a number-one earner within Thailand's economy, and so enjoys a special place in the government's priorities.

However the "downside" of Thai tourism is ugly and demeaning, and unfortunately involves Australians. Some tourists are attracted to Thailand for its cheap shopping, inexpensive accommodation and exotic locations, but to others, tourism in Thailand is synonymous with prostitution. A

significant number of tourists comes specifically for sex, which is readily available. The number of prostitutes is estimated to range between 700,000 to 1 million in a population of 58 million.

Prostitution needs to be seen in the overall context of how Thai society and its economy are evolving. Thailand is now classified as a NIC (newly industrialising country) alongside such countries as Malaysia and Singapore. While the growth rates may be satisfying indicators and outcomes to some, the market-led economic model followed leaves many victims in its wake.

Rapid urbanisation, slums (an estimated 1,500 in Bangkok), AIDS, child labour, cash cropping, use of farmland for such leisure activities as golf, environmental degradation and the breakdown of families are some of the factors characterising modern-day Thailand.

Prostitution in Thailand becomes even more unacceptable because, as in Sri Lanka, India and the Philippines, it involves young children, both boys and girls. A number of Australians and foreign tourists use children as sex objects, often believing that they are assisting their families and Thailand's development. The campaign to End Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ECPAT), an ecumenical group based in Bangkok, has been organised to combat this evil.

You can attend the ECPAT National Conference in Melbourne on 10 November. Contact Caesar D'Mello on (03) 650 6811 for more details.

The tour group met with Buddhist organisations and church personnel. It was encouraging to see Buddhist people attempting to change their society, showing greater commitment and risk than many comfortable Australian Christians, myself included. They indeed acted as God's people.

The Protestant church is dominated by a coalition of four denominations (including Disciples of Christ) under the name Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT). With 40,000 members in 300 congregations their work covers the whole of the country. They are also active in the slum areas of Bangkok. Their most productive form of evangelism arises out of displaying their Christianity in their lifestyle. It is then that the Thai people ask the right questions!

We also caught up with Harold Gross, a Churches of Christ minister some readers may know.

A highlight of the tour was meeting the Australian Ambassador to Thailand, with whom we tested some of our impressions and conclusions of our tour from an Australian perspective, including an initiative of the German government. Germany has recently passed legislation under which it can prosecute German tourists for sex crimes against children in overseas places such as Thailand. Should there not be a simi-

lar piece of legislation enacted in Australia for Australian offenders outside Australia? This will be pursued by some of the members of the tour group.

As the heading indicates, the tour was a life-changing experience, especially as it raised several issues and provided many insights in view of Australia's relationship with another close neighbour, Thailand. Seeing individuals and organisations, Buddhist and Christian, striving to change structures and situations that oppress so many left us with a sense of hope for the future of Thailand.

So what can we do?

We can pray, especially for the new coalition government, which aims to stop corruption.

We can examine what we buy. Cheap overseas clothes may have been made with cheap labour. To be safe buy Australian made.

We can give. Support the Christmas Bowl appeal in your church. Phone Caesar D'Mello on (03) 650 6811 for details.

Support your state's Department of Christian Union. Why not become a member, especially if you are a young person.

Finally, continue to support your local state, Australian and World Council of Churches. The councils are major platforms for the church to speak on issues and government policy.

—Paul Bauer

Churches interested in having Paul or Anthony speak about Bangkok should ring David Allison on (03) 598 5594.

Indian Village Evangelism Changes

There have been several changes to the boards of both Indian Village Evangelism (IVE) and Indian Gospel Services (IGS). Following a review of its involvement, including a field visit to India by one of its elders, the Thornlie, WA, church has ceased its links with both organisations and supplying members of the boards.

IVE started with the vision of John Timms on evangelism in India in 1983. John will continue in his position as the Australian Director (he is currently in India looking at the work there) and the new Australian boards will have membership of elders or former elders of the Wembley and Whitfords churches.

Happenings

Church attendance is rising in England with 10% now attending Sunday services. However, a recent poll showed that one-third had no idea why Easter was celebrated and 40% did not know what happened on Good Friday.

Between 1968 and 1989 more than 10,000 Australians killed themselves with firearms. A study has indicated that the higher the level of gun ownership in a state the higher the rate of suicide using firearms. The suicide rate in rural areas is much higher because of easier access to guns.

The cost of crime in Australia could be as much as \$27,000 million each year, or about \$5,200 for each Australian household, according to Professor Duncan Chappell, Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology. He says about half of this is from corporate crime.

Infant mortality in Aboriginal communities has fallen dramatically, but the life expectancy of Aborigines is still at least 15 years lower than that of white Australians, says a study published by the Australian National University.

Surveys by the NSW Family Planning Association show that only about 25% of students aged 13-16 were "sexually active" and that half of these said they had been forced into sex.

This year the Sydney City Mission is celebrating its 130th year of operation. It currently operates 49 centres throughout NSW, assisting over 100,000 people in need at a cost of \$25 million annually. It makes 22,000 pickups of homeless people in its 6 Missionbeat Street Patrol vans and is now the largest private trainer of unemployed people in Australia, training 6,000 annually and placing 70% into employment.

When Public Security Bureau officials raided an un-

registered house church meeting in China's Henan Province, they arrested 120 local Christians and three foreign visitors. The visitors were an American-Chinese man, a Singaporean woman and a Malaysian woman, who were accused of "participating in illegal activities" and are still being held, under police investigation.

Almost one-quarter of US adults have changed religious affiliation at least once, according to a survey by George Gallup's Princeton Religion Research Centre. The study found that switching to Protestantism is nine times more common than converting to Catholicism. Among Protestant bodies, 19% of switchers left Baptist denominations, followed by Methodists, with an 11% loss, and Presbyterians, with a 6% loss. Asked why they changed 24% cited marriage to a person of another faith or denomination, 14% said they preferred the religious teachings of the church they joined to the one they left and 11% cited relocation to a new community or the convenience of attending another church. People who change churches are also more likely than non-changers to describe religion as very important in their lives.

Leaders of Australia's churches are to mark the mid-point of the 1988-98 Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women. They will re-affirm the churches' commitment to the decade during the gathering "Living under the Southern Cross" on 22 January 1993 at 6 pm at the Hawkesbury Campus (Richmond) of the University of Western Sydney. The re-affirmation will be followed by a picnic tea and a women's festival.

There will be a concert at the Nunawading Church of Christ, 182 Surrey Rd, Blackburn, on 29 November at 2 pm. Featured artists will be organist Beryl

Condick, the Victoriana Singers and The Avenue Uniting Church Choir.

Iran's main Islamic missionary movement sent 1,000 preachers and 100,000 books to Muslim republics in Central Asia. Iran is vying for power with Turkey and Saudi Arabia among the estimated 60 million Muslims in that part of the world.

About 8% of Argentina's population is now estimated to be Protestant, up from 3% in 1980. The majority of the growth is taking place in Buenos Aires, where more than half of the more than 300 Protestant churches and meeting places have opened since 1980—60 of those since 1990.

After being closed for 40 years, the Theological Seminary connected with the Reformed Church College at Sarospatak, Hungary, has re-opened. A worship service to celebrate the event was held 20 September. The seminary was forced to close by the former Hungarian Communist regime.

The latest results from the National Church Life Survey are on the ordination of women. 21% thought it was inappropriate for women to be ordained while 1.5% did not believe in ordination for men or women. 33% supported ordination for women enthusiastically while 35% did not see any problem with it. Amongst Anglicans 65% supported the ordination of women, 11% were unsure and 24% did not support it. The highest levels of support came from the Salvation Army (96%) and the Uniting Church (86%) while the lowest levels of support came from the Baptist Church (42% opposed) and the Presbyterians (35% opposed).

30,000 made first-time commitments or recommitments to Christ during crusades by New Zealand evangelist Bill Subritzky in Tonga and Western Samoa. About

25,000 decisions were made in Western Samoa and 5,000 in Tonga. Government leaders and other dignitaries were among those who responded. It is estimated that about a quarter of the total population of both countries attended the meetings.

"Bibles are our No. 1 shoplifted book," a spokesman for an independent Chicago chain of bookstores recently told a "Chicago Tribune" reporter. "Shoplifters can resell them right away on the street."

Adelaide Central Mission's Wright Court Day Centre for homeless people experienced its busiest day ever on 7 September, when 181 were present. This indicates a 23% increase in the number of people using the centre compared to the same time last year. Staff have also noticed an increase in the numbers attending who have gambling problems.

A third shipment of scriptures has been taken to Iraq and distributed. 20 tonnes of books, including 10,300 Bibles, 30,084 New Testaments and 11,500 Bible study books were accompanied on their journey by the Bible Society distribution officer.

The World Vision 40 Hour Famine this year raised \$7.1 million. The money will be used to support projects and programs in famine-stricken Mozambique, Sudan, Somalia and other parts of the world. The event has now raised more than \$67 million in the last 18 years.

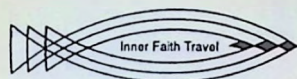
The Oz Harvest Youth Conference, aimed at young people 16 years and over, has as its chief purpose "to motivate, mobilise, train and equip young people from all denominations into ministry, service and mission". Oz Harvest '93, "With Wings Like Eagles", will be held at Belgrave Heights Convention Cen-

tre, Vic, over the Australia Day weekend 29 January-1 February 1993. Speakers will be Steve Chalke (UK), John Smith (Australia) and Peter Thomas (NZ), with musical artists including Taylor, Markus T and Julian Dunham. For details write to Oz Harvest, PO Box 545, Blackburn 3130. Phone (03) 894 4049.

The Baptist Church of Kobryn in the former Soviet Republic of Byelorussia was allowed to demolish a nearby army barracks and missile silo for bricks and steel to use in a new 1,000-seat building. While doing so it found a hidden 42-year-old letter that said that the barracks and silo had been built from churches demolished under Stalin.

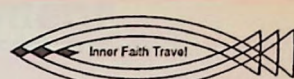
To date 1,600 Australian residents have taken the opportunity to bring back knowledge and skills for the enrichment of Australian society through Churchill Fellowships. The average Churchill Fellowship is worth about \$13,000. Applications for the 1994 Churchill Fellowship are now open and close on 28 February 1993. For an application form send a self-addressed, stamped envelope (24 x 12 cm) to Application Forms, The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 218 Northbourne Ave, Braddon 2601.

J. Oswald Sanders, international Christian preacher, missionary statesman, prolific author and administrator, died in New Zealand on 24 October, aged 90 years. He became a key figure in significant changes to the China Inland Mission's direction after the Communists forced missionaries to withdraw from China. In 1954 he became the 5th General Secretary of CIM, now renamed Overseas Missionary Fellowship, a post he held until 1969. J.O. published over 40 titles, selling more than 2 million copies in English as well as being translated into 23 languages.



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Sarabetu Church

A group of young people from the Sarabetu Church, Port Vila, Vanuatu, came to Australia to share with the Queensland Conference. The 36-member choir with five musicians also shared with various churches in Queensland. Wilson Bebe, the pastor of the church, and Albert Vira, one of the elders, also visited Victoria and New South Wales.

The choir was formed from the five choirs and musical groups that operate in the Sarabetu church. Most of them are made up of young people from the various home islands who come to Port Vila, the capital of Vanuatu, for work or further education. In the Sarabetu church they generally meet in youth groups with others from their home island. However, there is some interchange between various island groups.

The Sarabetu church is not the only Church of Christ in Vila. Sarabilu church is a smaller congregation that has been in existence for a couple of years.

The Sarabetu church is a very active church with 300-400 involved most Sundays. The church is not only for ni-Vanuatu members but also has an active ministry to people living in Vila who are from Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and other Pacific Island nations as well as Chinese residents of Vila.

The church mostly uses Bislama (the Vanuatu Pigeon English) in preaching although Wilson commented that he will also use English at times. The Bible readings are generally in English as is most of the singing, however there are now three hymn/chorus books that have been translated into

Bislama and these are also used in worship. (The Bible translators have completed these translations to help in the teaching of reading Bislama.)

Wilson Bebe is the senior pastor of the church and he is assisted by an assistant pastor, Hosea Tor, who has an involvement with the youth of the church. There are four elders who assist Wilson in pastoral care.

The Sarabetu church has a very active program. During the week nearly all activities take place in the evening because most of the members work. On Sunday they hold two services. The morning service (of about two hours duration) follows a pattern similar to most Churches of Christ in Australia. The evening service is primarily aimed at youth and is a time of celebration and music as well as sharing the gospel. A Sunday school also operates in the church on Sunday mornings.

During the week each day has a special emphasis. Monday night is regarded as family night. Members are encouraged to hold worship for their family units in their own homes. Some of these worship groups may include others outside of the traditional family circle, depending on the size and Christian experience of those involved.

On Tuesday evening the youth of the church meet. They have a program that includes Bible studies and Christian education and other development programs. Christian Women's Fellowship runs a well-organised program on Wednesday nights. Generally around 30 women are involved in this weekly activity.

The church has 11 cell groups operating around Vila on a Thursday night. There are three co-ordinators who ensure that each of the cell group leaders (each group has from 5-12 in-

involved) has adequate resources and training.

Friday evening is the night on which the adult education program of the church is operated. This is primarily Bible study. However if somebody is visiting from overseas they will conduct a teaching time. On about three or four occasions a year when a leader is available such a teaching time will also include sessions on the Saturday.

On Saturdays those involved in the worship on the Sunday will be involved in practice and preparation. This will include most of the singing and musical groups in the church.

Wilson Bebe has a gift for evangelism and so with some of the musical groups is involved in outreach trips to other islands in Vanuatu at least three times each year. They have also held special childrens ministry times on Santo and other islands. Wilson has been asked by the church to continue in his ministry with them until the middle of 1993, after which he

is looking at commencing a roving evangelism role amongst our churches.

When asked why the church was growing Wilson and Albert commented that the church had evangelism as a goal. It is involved in outreach every year and this helps the young people exercise their faith in a deeper way. They also talked about the revival that has gradually spread through Vanuatu. One way that the church encouraged the concern for revival was to hold a "Pray Out". This involves a night of prayer (8 pm to about 2 am) on a local beach. These are held about twice a month at present, with a core group of 30-50 praying for revival in the church and the community (the largest number in recent times was when 72 young people joined the "Pray Out").

The revival and its continued effect on the church has helped with the growth of the church. They both agreed that one reason why the church had not grown even more dramatically was that there were not enough trained teachers to help those who had been renewed by the revival and therefore some had fallen away from their new faith.

—Chris Ambrose

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Convention in Perth

Aborigines Board celebrations

As part of the Federal Aborigines Board's 50th anniversary celebrations the WA Aborigines Committee organised a convention in Perth in early October.

Aborigines from as far north as Looma, Port Hedland and Marble Bar joined others from Norseman, Carnarvon and Bunbury for three days of Christian fellowship, teaching, testimony and song.

About 50 lived in for the convention.

Many former missionaries were present at the gospel concert held on the Saturday evening when 150 crowded in to the hall.

In the tradition of Aboriginal conventions each group brought items and testimonies. The tribal songs of the Looma people especially delighted the full house.

Speakers were Denzil Humphries, Frank Johnson and Bruce Smoker. Each paid tribute to Churches of Christ for 50 years of service amongst Aboriginal people around Australia.

Several Aborigines present thanked past and current missionaries for their perseverance and steadfastness.

The convention was a happy, united one. The fellowship was rich, the singing was delightful and the note of thanksgiving to God was genuine. Several have already asked that the event be held annually.

The convention was one of several activities organised in several states to celebrate the milestone in the Board's ministry. It was wonderful to see the leadership given by Aboriginal Christians on this occasion.

—Avon Moyle

L. C. F. Higgins

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2-8 pm, Thursday, 17 December 1992
10 am-4 pm, Wednesday, 26 January 1993
2-8 pm, Monday, 15 February 1993

*The college office will be closed from
23 December 1992 to 10 January 1993*

Productivity Test?

A few weeks ago my husband was preaching on his favourite topic, "Reaching Australians for Christ", when a visitor to the church left before the sermon was over. He stole a briefcase from the foyer, which happened to contain the car keys. Then he stole the car!

As the days passed the chances of seeing our car again were pretty remote. Nevertheless the church prayed earnestly for the car's return.

Two weeks later the police spotted our car outside the Parkes, NSW, Hospital. They arrested a psychiatric patient from Brisbane who had driven over 5,000 km in it. He even kept a list of things he didn't like about the car! Still, we got our car back in good order. So,

what might God be teaching us? He's keeping us laughing!

The following paragraph appeared in the York St, Ballarat, Vic, church paper while the car was missing:

The Productivity Test

In the current climate of individual negotiations with employers over wages and conditions, it would seem that reward in direct proportion to productivity is the way of the future. Company directors in the past have been given cars as bonuses for "a job well done". But what can we think when a preacher has his car stolen when visiting a church to speak? Someone didn't get value for money? Punitive action for low productivity?

—Glenys Janssen

Evening Shadows

Evening shadows had fallen.

I said to God, "Are you up there?"

Do you know what we are going through, God, Can't you hear me calling?"

My God answered me and said:

"I am not up there,

I am down here with you, Laurie and the boys.

I feel your sorrow, I understand your pain

But do not be afraid, for I am with you."

"But God, at this time I need more of your love,

Your peace and your strength."

My God answered me and said:

"I am the God of love, I am your peace

And your strength."

Again I cried to God and said:

"Will the anger, the pain and the hurt,

Will it ever go away—

And will you, too, go away God?"

My God said to me: "The anger, the pain

And the hurt, in time—if you allow it—will go away

But I am the Lord your God,

I love you, I died on the cross for you,

I rose again to give you a new direction in life;

And I will never leave you,

And yes, if you allow me to be,

I will always be there for you."

—Lorraine Jordan (read at her husband's funeral in the Devonport, Tas, church)

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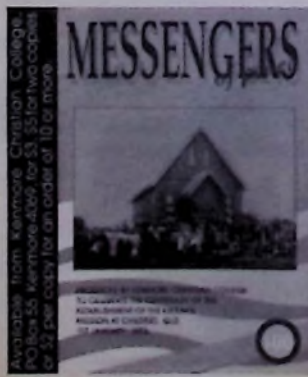
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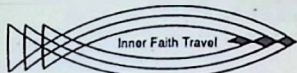
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Curkpatrick

The Audacious Widow

She is only 30, still very young, a bride at the age of 14. Her husband has died from tuberculosis and her only inheritance has been unjustly taken from her by an unscrupulous relative. She has no widow's pension, no-one to turn to for help, and when she leaves the city to glean in the fields she faces constant harassment and risk of being molested. Her only hope of survival is gaining justice from the local judge, but this judge has no regard for God—the God of the Deuteronomist and the prophets—whosides with widows and orphans. The judge will not budge and the widow will not live if he doesn't. If the judge will not help her her plight is precarious for there is no social welfare security net.* Her children will likely become vagabonds and prostitutes. She will have to beg, and if begging fails, face the possibility of death! Her dilemma was not uncommon and people knew it happened, but it was easier to turn a blind eye and let it happen.

The Old Testament assumption—that God is the protector of widows—is frustrated by the uncaring judge who is to some degree symptomatic of the society he lives in. As "a woman" the widow has no place or right to make a public scene, nevertheless she defies convention and "disgraces herself". Not only does she demand justice from the local judge, she keeps returning, persisting, nagging daily at the city gates where civil cases are heard, defying his refusals until he gives in for the sake of peace. The parable creates a disturbing sense of irony for the listeners. The least powerful member of society, a widow, overcomes the most powerful member, a judge. The role of protector—asccribed to

God—is taken into the hands of the least significant person in the community—the widow herself. The judge who fears neither God or man is afraid of a woman, and a widow too! For she is like a boxer "wearing down" an opponent until the opponent falls to the ground.†

The nature of God's Kingdom is revealed yet again in this parable. When the Kingdom comes among us, conventional expectations are turned upside down. The one who is least feared—whose life is easily ground under foot and forgotten—overcomes the one who is most feared, who holds life and death in his hands. Jesus' portrayal of the Kingdom's presence is extravagant in such liberating reversals of human status and values, especially for those who were denied fair play, stripped of human dignity and put in a precarious balance between life and death. The widow defies the etiquette and inclinations of her society in order to gain justice. Ironically, she, not the judge, becomes the true champion of the weak and vulnerable. God is nothing like the judge, even if traditionally the judge was used as a "how much more" analogy to God, and the parable as an example of "nagging God". It is the widow who is a metaphor of God's presence among us.‡

Like the good Samaritan, the prodigal's father and the unjust steward, the widow is a powerful metaphor of God's presence among us, a presence that will persist to wear down everything that denies realisation of God's compassion, com-

munity, human dignity and justice—God's shalom in God's world. The Old Testament prophets announced unequivocally that God has elected to be on the side of the widow, orphan, and stranger, those who were vulnerable and so easily denied "fair play", stripped of human dignity, and put in a precarious balance between life and death. But in the presence of the Kingdom the weak and vulnerable find courage, community and life, with bread to eat, clothes to wear and hope of human dignity. And the Christian community that works for such justice in the world will meet the Son of Humanity with true faith.

Prayer articulated and lived out in the spirit of the prophetic tradition will be heard, for the presence of the Kingdom is among those who persist with what Matthew calls "the weightier matters of the law"—justice, compassion and integrity. If it is women with their compelling experiences of injustice§ who give prophetic voice to such concerns—then so be it! The widow of this parable enjoins us all to do no less if we are to meet the Son of Humanity with true faith and authentic prayer.

—Stephen Curkpatrick

*Although almsgiving was meant to alleviate the plight of the poor, among them widows, its identification with "righteousness" meant that the practice of almsgiving became ego-centric rather than community centred. Consequently the "act" of almsgiving became more important than its communal purpose. Indeed the Marcan and

Lucan narratives speak of the scribes "devouring widow's houses". The plight of widows was proverbial and used by the Biblical narrators as a metaphor for cities in famine or postwar desolation.

†Several scholars indicate that "wear me out" (*hypopiazē* = "blacken my eye") is an image from boxing. Therefore the metaphor creates a vigorous image of the widow's interaction with the judge, but a dissonant image for androcentric listeners of the parable for whom it was "improper for a woman to be so aggressive"!

‡In telling the parable, the participation of the listeners is as crucial to its performative meaning, that is, how it is "heard", as the details of the narrative. The parable gestures beyond the narrative interplay of participants and plot, to refract unexpected dimensions of the Kingdom through the story, challenging the listener's perception of reality, soliciting a response to a new reality—the presence of God's Kingdom in the metaphor—widow. This is a reality we are challenging to live out. Technically this is known as "language event".

§For example, by far the majority of the world's refugees are women and their young children, not to mention the high level of violence against women in our society.

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Information

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Implications for churches

There are no blanket exemptions for churches from copyright laws. Many churches are still not aware of the extent of their copyright obligations.

The Copyright Act gives the owner of copyright a bundle of rights that are theirs to exercise exclusively. The act provides that only the owner can do the following things with the work unless permission is obtained:

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- Publish.
- Perform in public.
- Broadcast.
- Make a copy of a sound recording causing the recording to be heard in public.
- Broadcast the recording.
- Make a film.
- Cause the film to be seen in public or a soundtrack to be heard in public.
- Broadcast a film.

Copyright generally subsists for 50 years after the death of the author or publication, whichever is the later event.

Therefore in all dealings with music, liturgies, Bible passages and other works, it is safest to assume that the copyright applies and that permission is required.

Unfortunately, there are no easy ways to ensure that organisations do not contravene the laws regarding copyright. However, there are several practical steps that can be taken to make compliance with copyright laws easier.

Licensed Overhead Transparencies

The making of overhead transparencies without permission constitutes an infringement of copyright. Some companies do provide overheads for which permission has already been granted.

Alternatively it is possible to request permission from the publisher to make an overhead. It is important to specify the intended use of the overhead.

Licensing Schemes

While the creator or author of a work is the owner of copyright in it, most authors enter into an agreement with an

agency to license use of their work in return for royalties. The licensing agreements involve the levying of a fee that is based on usage or church membership numbers.

These bodies include the **Copyright Agency Limited (CAL)**, which administers the print copyrights of its members. The principal restriction of this licence is that the licence allows the copying of the lyrics from musical work only, not the score.

The **Australasian Performing Rights Association (APRA)** is an association of authors, composers, music publishers and other copyright owners who have assigned the broadcasting and performing rights in their work to APRA.

The **Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners' Society** is a parallel society to CAL, administering musical copyrights for its members.

A licence currently operating successfully overseas is provided by **Christian Copyright Licensing International**. This licensing arrangement is specifically designed for churches and Christian organisations and a similar licensing scheme is currently being negotiated in Australia. The scheme is awaiting finalisation and it is intended that it be operational late this year.

It is possible to obtain individual licences from these agencies or to negotiate a denominational licence.

Specific Permission

If a particular author is not covered by an agency agreement it will be necessary to seek permission from the author or the author's publisher individually.

Permission should be sought in a letter, which should include the following: the title, author and publisher of the work, the part you wish to copy, the number of copies you wish to make, the use for which the copies are intended, the number of times you intend to use the copies, any commercial charge that will be made for the copy, etc.

Naturally, this will require some advance planning and, in some cases, you will not have received a reply by the time you need to use the work. It is never safe to use the copyright work without permission and the penalties for doing so can be great. Colin Golvan in his book *Words and the Law* suggests that at this point it becomes necessary to weigh up practicalities against the strict letter of the law. In his opinion, if there is no reply and permission has been actively sought, then there is probably a negligible risk of future problems. He advises that it is probably then safe to use the work, marking it as copyright, to whom, and standing willing and able to pay whatever the licence may cost.

It is important to note that copyright subsists in particu-

lar translations of the Bible. It is accepted that passages can be read in services and quotes from the Bible can be published in church bulletins without seeking the specific permission of the publisher.

However, any extensive dealing with part of most translations of the Bible will require the permission of the copyright owner. A worship licence granted by CAL does allow churches to make multiple copies of extracts from most translations of the Bible for distribution.

Copyright laws are there to protect the interests of the copyright owner in their work. Before you copy, perform, transpose or record a literary, dramatic, artistic or musical work, ask permission. You should destroy all photocopies, transparencies and song books that you have made to date without the express permission of the copyright owner, or where permission cannot be obtained retrospectively.

• This article was prepared by Moores, a group of solicitors operating in Melbourne, in their "Legal Briefing" paper published in spring 1992, and is used with their permission.



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JUSTINE TIME



Is Autonomy a Sin?

Bruce McIntosh

Graham Warne's pamphlet (No. 380, "Some Thoughts on Congregational Autonomy" in "AC" 17 October) is a persuasive argument for the end of the kind of autonomy of local congregations that leaves the wider communion of Churches of Christ unable to intervene when things appear to be going wrong. He argues that autonomy in the sense of "self-law" or independence does not appear to concern the New Testament writers. He notes that "autonomy" only re-enters the vocabulary of the western world at the time of the Enlightenment in the 18th Century. (This is more significant than Graham acknowledges, as Churches of Christ have been greatly influenced by this period.) He then equates the expression of autonomy with the rebellion of Adam and Eve (a novel interpretation of the origin of evil, and a rather nifty connection of autonomy with sin). He then more correctly states that it is difficult to find explicit evidence of either autonomy or non-autonomy in the New Testament.

He is on firmer ground arguing that the New Testament is about a "high degree of co-operation", but slips again when he suggests that the Antioch church accepted the leadership initiative from the central church at Jerusalem. There is no evidence that Antioch ever accepted Jerusalem's authority. At the First Council at Jerusalem the whole assembly reached a consensus decision on the status of the Gentile Christians, more on the persuasion of Paul and the non-Jewish (non-Jerusalem-based) Christians than the other way around. The writers of the Gospels certainly took an independent (autonomous) view of their work. They do not seem to have worried about consult-

ing any centralist body, editing and interpreting the body of documents (including existing Gospels) as best suited their theology and main emphasis.

Paul certainly exercises a great deal of independence (autonomy) in establishing his churches, differing with the apostle Peter on several issues, and arguing his personal authority as an apostle (not one of the twelve).

Graham returns to firmer ground when he argues that the New Testament is about interdependence, community and mutual encouragement. But this does not equate to the denial of autonomy. Surely interdependence arises out of responsible autonomy. This leads me to think that what should concern Graham is not so much the expression of autonomy, but isolationism, and the kind of arrogance that suggests that we can make it on our own, and that we have no responsibility for the care and concern of our fellow congregations. The answer to this is not central control, but, as Graham does suggest, responsibility and accountability. A responsibility that ensues that the consensus of opinion that makes us a discrete body of Christians known as Churches of Christ (churches of Christ) is taught and understood, and the acceptance of our accountability to the wider fellowship of Churches of Christ for the diversity of expression that makes us what we are: a fellowship of autonomous churches of Christ who care for each other.

• Bruce McIntosh is a member of the Upper Yarra, Vic, fellowship, and as Manager, Human Resources, is co-ordinating the setting up of several self-managing (semiautonomous) work groups in the Shire of Lillydale. He is a member of the new Vic-Tas Department of Ministry.

Partakers of the Divine

John Tocknell

The Bible abounds with promises that tell us of the wonderful things that God will do for us through Jesus Christ. By accepting these promises and making them real in our experience we can be "partakers of the Divine nature". The reference in 2 Peter 1:4 that tells of the Christian as a partaker of the Divine is the means of transforming us in our daily life. Because Christ is dwelling within, our life takes on new meaning and direction. We are not alone nor unloved and the forgiveness, cleansing and the lifting of the guilt is real.

Our acceptance before God is to do with the one who dwells within. Being a partaker of the Divine nature means that we stand in his righteousness. We are accepted in Christ in all that he is and all that he has done for us. The basis of our standing before God is the same as Peter and Paul and all the Christians down through the ages. If we have been born again we have the "like precious faith"

and the promises and possibilities before us are ready to be our experience.

As Christians we can commence each day with the wonderful knowledge that we have Christ dwelling within. We are "partakers of the Divine nature". Because of this our lives are different. Through baptism we have shown that we have died to our old life and now have risen in a new life in Christ. Galatians 2:20 says, "I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me." Each day brings different experiences, but as Christians we know that our position in Christ is the same: "He dwells within." No matter what may come—trials, temptation or whatever—his power is available. As it says in 2 Peter 1-5 we will know about the fruitful life as we walk in obedience to the life that we have within.

• John Tocknell is minister at the York, WA, church.

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Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Butler, Thelma Marjorie

On 4 October 250 gathered in the Hartwell, Vic, church to share a thanksgiving service for the life and faith of Thelma Butler. The number present paid tribute to the special place Thelma held in many people's hearts. The service was led by Neil Gilmore, Bruce Clapp and Graeme Rogerson. Churches of Christ, particularly the Hartwell church, were to play a significant role in Thelma's life and vice versa. The Sunday School and Cradle Roll, the Netball Club, the Good Companions and the Friendship Group were all recipients of Thelma's generous gifts of time and energy. Despite caring for the large number of people associated with these groups, often in very practical ways, Thelma possessed the rare ability of making each person she cared for seem the most important person in the world. Thelma's influence and care extended beyond Hartwell to other churches and conference departments and through other community organisations. Snippets of many letters received by her husband Len, following Thelma's death, were read and affirmed the significant impact Thelma's life and

faith and leadership had on a large number of people. We commend Len and family to the ministry of God and his people.

—Graeme Rogerson

Cook, Dorothy

(28.9.92) Dorothy Cook, a foundation member of the Narraweena, NSW, church from 1957, was a great encourager and supporter, a counsellor and friend to many people over many years. Born 9.4.17, baptised at North Sydney, member at Chatswood and Narraweena. Service of thanksgiving was led by writer. Friends and relatives packed the church in a tribute of praise to this gracious, considerate and courageous lady who was loved by all. Following heart surgery in Royal North Shore Hospital, Dorothy is now with the Lord she loved. Sympathy and love are expressed to her husband Jim and family Yvonne, Rodney, Gregory, Neville and Kevin and their families.

—Ray Patterson

Morris, Charlotte

(2.10.92) Esteemed member Caulfield, Vic, church for 50 years. Born Ethel Charlotte Linton, Springfield, Tasmania (1911), one of 10 children of George and Elizabeth Linton, members Margaret St, Launceston, church. Charlotte made commitment to Christ, Hinrichsen tent mission, Launceston. Gifted singer, featuring in Tas Conference gatherings etc.; voice later affected by illness. Depression years married Hedley Morris in Melbourne, eventually settling in Caulfield. Charlotte was always loyal, active, devoted to family, church and faith. Widowed 1968. Last five years declining health borne with patience and fortitude. Thanksgiving service Caulfield conducted by A. McMillan. Daughter Patricia (Dabb), son Linton Morris, and their families mourn their loss but comforted their loved one is "with Christ, which is far better". —MB

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Church News

Tas

DEVONPORT (B. Butler) Kyrie Eleison Singers presented night of praise & worship with contemporary music Devonport High School hall ... Senior youth group entered team in Devonport men's basketball competition ... Refocusing Ministry Goals workshop commenced with Sunday morning worship. Ron Chapman, future minister, guest speaker ... Lynette Leach spoke to women's lunch meeting & small group leaders at night ... Church shares sadness of Lorraine Jordan & children at death of their husband & father.

HOBART CITY (J. Weston, G. Hush) Gordon Barr relinquished position of Director of Music & Arts at end of September. Following

exams he, with family, departs in November to take up position of NSW Youth Director ... Ceiling installed in annex area as first stage of renovations ... Youth held "Formal" aboard ferry for second anniversary ... Eight attended Spring Conference at Wollongong ... Emphasis continues on prayer with monthly midweek services & breakfasts in addition to regular meetings.

LAUNCESTON (R. Foster, C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) John Goodwin baptised on 11 Oct & one decision made ... Rod Foster's ministry concludes on 20 Dec. He will be Conference Secretary of Queensland Churches of Christ ... Fellowship lunch held on 25 October ... Election of elders & deacons under way.

Youth Worker/Minister (Part-Time)

Greensborough Regional Church of Christ wish to appoint a person with suitable skills to provide leadership and direction for youth activities in their church.

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T. Leach

or

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(06) 255 1414 AH

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Written expressions of interest should be forwarded by Wednesday, 25 November 1992, to

Belconnen Youth Ministry

c/o 28 Davis St

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Phil Kennedy, Senior Administrator,
Churches of Christ in Qld Social Service Department,
Gold Coast Region, Marana Gardens,
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MITCHAM HILLS INTERCHURCH COUNCIL COMMUNITY YOUTH PROJECT INC.

seeks a

PROJECT YOUTH WORKER

for a contract position of twelve months. Renewal is subject to funding availability.

The successful applicant will be based at Blackwood Railway Station and will work amongst at risk young people in the Mitcham Hills area and will implement programs and co-ordinate volunteer workers. Some out-of-hours work is required.

Essential skills will be in communication, organisation, research, report writing and experience in implementing community programs for young people at risk will be required.

Salary will be in the range of \$27,931-\$33,313

Applications close Friday, 20 November 1992

A position description is available from Mrs L. Lewis (08) 278 8666 and applications should be addressed to:

The Convenor
Mitcham Hills Interchurch Council
Community Youth Project Inc.
PO Box 476
Blackwood 5051

WA •Bridget Cripps, Chris Dolliver, Hobart City, Tas •Vicki MacIntosh, Lismore, NSW •Richard & Helen Boyd, David Lewis, Bruce Rock, WA •Shelley Duncan, Jeff Archer, Rebecca Wright, Luke Bell, Sarah Butt, Ryan Buesnel, Nicholas Waring, Warragul, Vic •Jim Lumsden-Keys, Marie Lumsden-Keys, Bree Larkam, Avonsleigh, Vic •John Goodwin, Launceston, Tas

Marriages

•Sandra McCaffrey to Steve Milligan, Manning Valley, NSW •Denise Lyon to Richard Fry, Kalamunda, NSW •Deanne Geyer to Craig Slatter, Ringwood, Vic •Kristal Lockley to Wayne Henderson, Hobart City, Tas •Sandra Freebairn to Ashley Burman, Carolyn Freebairn to Garry Heintze, Owen Community, SA •Muriel Mullan to Frank Pearce, Hampstead Gardens, SA

Deaths

•Lawrence James Jordan, Devonport, Tas •Mrs Thelma Butler, Mrs Beth Farrer, Mrs Isa Robertson, Hartwell, Vic •Violet Fisher, Glen Waverley, Vic •John Harkness, Owen Community, SA •Dick Whalland, Hampstead Gardens, SA •Mrs Olive Reeson, Lismore, NSW •Dr W.M. Morris, La Trobe Terr, Geelong, Vic •Eva Miller, Boronia, Vic

Changes

East Bentleigh: Secretary—R. Lang, 5 England Street, East Bentleigh, Vic 3165. Phone (03) 570 6939.



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CHURCH OF CHRIST, GLEN WAVERLEY

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

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- ✱ 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.

Church News

NSW

ALBURY (Alex Wilson) Church honoured Betty & Gordon Benson for their 30th wedding anniversary ... Five baptisms in September making total of 18 baptisms in 12 months ... New convert Wayne Miller addresses Sydney Vietnamese community with over 1,000 resultant commitments ... Yvonne Belieu concert well attended ... Barton family leaving for Ethiopia ... Men's breakfast's topic "Maximised Manhood".

MANNING VALLEY (Barry Rice, Ross Norling, Guy Cooper) Guitarist, Tommy Emmanuel, shared testimony and played ... Outreach concert sponsored with Peter Shurley ... Successful fashion parade held by Junior Church with children & mums as models ... Week of evangelism held with Carlingford students. New contacts made ... Pastoral care system being implemented by elders & pastoral carers ... Special services for Education Sunday ... New outreach to Kooris commenced.

LISMORE (Ian Phillips) New cell groups meeting on Wednesday nights ... Ron Kalmier speaker at combined church anniversary & Northern Rivers Convention ... New babies for Pam & Aaron Hoang & Del & Craig Willmott ... Senior youth group held trivia night & raised \$37 for youth project ... 40 Hour Famine effort \$1,129.

MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins) BirGitta & Swante from Sweden excellent musical duo. Sunday morning was a beautiful worship time. They also sang at retirement village, fete & Rotary ... Megalife, a youth outreach team, shared at evening service & hostel ... Dr Jacob from India visited with Christian nationals ... Church enjoyed picnic, bushwalk at Watagans ... Members reaffirmation service well received.

Vic

NORTH ESSENDON (Graham & Bev Burgan) George Warren recent guest preacher ... Fountain Gate singers entertained at musical evening ... Members kept busy packing showbags assisted by local Churches of Christ ... Ray Chapple celebrated 80th birthday ... Congregation attended East Keilor to hear former minister Alf White preach during their "Great Modern Preachers" series ... Joint service 4 October at Keilor Road Uniting ... SEC representative addressed CWF at October meeting.

STRATHMORE (James Pearce) Patricia & Talitha Pearce baptised

... Sunday School growing. Now two classes ... Church service starting time changed to 10.30 am ... Gideons guest speakers in August ... Muriel Baldry travelled to US for World Convention ... Church involved in establishing LINC network in Essendon. Peter & Esther Chamberlain on organising committee ... James study director on Youth 1 camp at Halls Gap.

BELLARINE PENINSULA (Mark Butler) Craft group commenced with good support ... Successful church dinner held recently. Many contacts attended ... Many found recent communion leadership seminar helpful ... Church encouraged by recent attendance of a number of new people ... Church saddened by death of Eunice Rayner ... Evening services well supported by people from other denominations ... Recent guest speakers included Greg Eldson (CCTC) & Peter Breen (CBMI).

RINGWOOD (John Sharpe, Jonathan Moore) Successful "Walk Thru the Bible" seminars ... 150 attend outreach dinner at Bird & Bottle receptions. Special guests BirGitta & Swante ... Family bush dance ... Tennis Club dinner ... Pastoral care visitation group established ... Prayer & healing group meeting Fridays ... Prayer chain established ... Mark & Shashi Emerson return to PNG ... Pat & Bruce Greig return from World Convention ... \$300 raised for Bible Society handwritten Bible project.

DANDENONG (Graeme Foong) Church's 100th anniversary celebrations on 12 & 13 September were a great success with 400 present & past members & visitors in attendance ... Cup Day picnic at Mornington with a hat parade held 3 November ... Christian Women's Fellowship raised \$552 at market stall ... Playgroup continues to grow ... 1,350 calendars ordered to be given to the area surrounding the church.

TOOTGAROOK (M. Giezen-danner) CWF 40th birthday celebrated with indoor garden party ... Church anniversary interesting day with speaker Chris Ambrose. Combined lunch & PSA with Chris & Mary Ambrose speakers & Bev Beazley soloist. Madge Leigh on piano ... 35 attended social day at home of Eric & Val Best ... Open Door well attended each month.

KNOXFIELD (Rod Brown, Craig Allan) Rod Brown has been invited to minister to the church for a further three years ... With regret, Brian Tunks has had to resign his position as associate minister, following his relocation to Hamilton ... We are starting a community

counselling centre, or "Hodos" Centre to assist community needs ... Bruce Anderson is organising an outreach program to try to reach potential new members.

REDCLIFFS (S. Mackie) Impressive induction service for Stephen Mackie conducted by David Ratten (Mildura) on 4 Oct. Delicious luncheon followed ... Manse has been fully renovated ... "Care N Share" group held very successful fundraising cruise & luncheon on Mansell's river boat "Impulse". Weather good ... Kid's Club held happy quiz night to begin new term ... Numbers keeping up.

LA TROBE TERR, GEELONG (Dr C.J. Mackenzie) Belmont & Terrace joined in family service, Paul Bauer telling of Bangkok visit ... CWF 78th birthday raised \$510 for Council for Christian Education in Schools ... Sympathy extended to Mrs Morris on passing of Dr Bill Morris after long illness ... Ian Allsop guest speaker at 135th church anniversary. Lunch served to 85 ... Trevor Carr & Glenda James married in Werribee Mansion chapel.

NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn) Pastor Neville Lilley (AEF) preacher at morning service when minister was speaker at Oakleigh anniversary ... 89th church anniversary held. George Warren (Conf Pres) morning speaker. PSA: Beryl Killmier was soloist & Fay Christensen (missionary on furlough) spoke on PNG. Dorothy Geyer introduced Fay & spoke on OMB ... Mrs Bates seriously ill in PANCH ... New noticeboard in front of chapel.

BORONIA (Keith Milne, Andrew Henley) Recommended changes to constitution accepted by church ... John & Joyce Masterton home from World Convention ... Dinner to welcome newcomers to church ... Ed Ots, chaplain Scoresby Secondary College, speaker on Religious Education Sunday. Church members involved in religious education were recognised ... Fay Christensen spoke of work of Bible translator in PNG ... CWF raised

\$400 for building loan fund & \$270 for CCTC.

OAKLEIGH (W.J. Edwards) Recent speakers Jack McCormick, Bruce Alcorn (church anniversary) ... Lynette Leach (DMED) preached when minister visited Norlane's 37th anniversary ... Temple Day held on church anniversary day. Offering \$1,080 ... Ladies were thanked for their work at anniversary dinner ... Church congratulated minister on his obtaining Graduate Diploma of Ministry from CCTC.

WARRAGUL (D & D Buesnel) Successful school holiday program held for children ... Part of church land leased to neighbour ... New roof on manse. Partly funded by Temple Day offering ... Four attended Gippsland Gathering at Toora ... Eight attended Spring Conference at Wollongong ... Recent guest artists Jodie Mudie, St Paul's School Madrigal Choir, True North Band & Trinity Players ... Speakers Ken Clinton, Wally Tabensky & Gary Prime.

SHEPPARTON (R. Hough) Church Fair 24 October organised by young adults a great time of fellowship. \$3,000 raised for CCTC & local outreach ... Combined evening service monthly with Mooropna Fellowship ... Informative weekend with Alan & Chris Niven & family, representatives of CCTC ... Youth group enjoyed tremendous weekend at Happening, Belgrave Heights ... Planning retreat for church leaders 3 October at Dookie.

AVONSLEIGH (A.B. Titter, J. Larkam) Well-attended baptismal services included number of visitors. Jim & Marie Lumsden-Keys, husband & wife, baptised 27 September, Bree Larkam, daughter of student minister, 25 October ... Church welcomed back travellers. Secretary Ruth Johnson from tour of the Holy Land & England, Mr & Mrs Titter after attending World Convention at Long Beach & world tour, Mrs Rainey home after winter sojourn in WA.

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Church News

SA

OWEN COMMUNITY (Doug Walladge) Name changed from Combined Congregation to Community Church, AGM ... Ron Roberts guest speaker anniversary service ... Sunday School arranged bike-athon for Bible Society. Riders of all ages completed short or long course & finished with barbecue ... Hampstead Gardens members visited, taking tour of town & riding in carriage drawn by Shetland ponies before barbecue in Warnes' scrub ... Hosted four pre-wedding parties, including joint event for twins Sandra & Carolyn Freebairn.

HAMPSTEAD GARDENS (Keith Ridge) Service held to launch "Mission '94" ... Children appreciated presentation by Colin Pearce at Sunday School anniversary ... CWF hosted visit by Gawler CWF ... CWF & Greenacres Uniting Women combined for fundraising concert ... Recent evening service featured spectacular multimedia "creation" presentation by church drama group, written & directed by Wendy Ridge ... Family camp held at Victor Harbor under theme "Getting to Know You!"

MURRAY BRIDGE (Morrie Munyard) 18 October 200 past & present members celebrated 80 years witness. Offerings amounted to almost \$7,000. Typical country luncheon & tea was served to 150. Evening celebrations enjoyed newly formed puppets group. Guest artist was trumpeter Ray Rawlings.

Guest speaker both services was Ian Hunt, Horsham, previous member at Murray Bridge. Our own band & quartet helped to cap off a great celebration.

WA

MAYLANDS (Robert Drown) Church members & friends enjoyed three-day bus trip to central Midlands districts viewing abundant display of wildflowers & countryside. Visited historic New Norcia Monastery complex. Shared evening meal & fellowship with Dalwallinu church. Thanks to tour director Trevor Streeton & drivers Gary Elverd & Vic Colyer ... Recommended that ministry of Robert Drown be extended to end of 1993. Expect ratification at annual general meeting.

EASTERN HILLS (Maurie Ashworth) Guest speakers September David Robertson (Overseas Mission Fellowship) & David Best (Far East Broadcasting Company) ... September business meeting well attended. Reports encouraging ... Bus fund has reached \$3,000. Target \$8,000 ... Social committee planning Christmas play ... Youth groups & Girls' Brigade numbers increasing. Leaders & helpers needed ... Girls' Brigade enjoyed fellowship weekend at Greenhills Camp ... Special service & luncheon for Sunday School anniversary 25 October.

KALAMUNDA (Paul Sanders) World Mission week 18-25 October. Theme "Healing of the Na-

tions". Ian Borham guest speaker. Program included men's breakfast, youth night & family tea ... Church farewelled Mark & Robyn Proud & family, expressing appreciation of nine years ministry ... Family camp at Northam, 50 attended ... Margaret Court guest speaker at victory evening. Four ladies made decisions ... Young people plan weekend working visit to Team Challenge farm, Beverley.

MERREDIN (David Jolly) D. Croot, D. Pine conducted evangelism presentation ... New ladies group meeting each month (the M&Ms) ... Scripture at two primary schools ... David & Sharyn attended Harvey Miller workshop June ... Meeting with Ian Allsop in August ... Endless Praise concert ... Baptisms celebrated of J. Crisp, S. Cosh, I. Ergovich & S. Govers ... R. Holmes guest missionary speaker ... Bible studies continue with a new group starting October ... Members attended family camp at Naremburn.

FREMANTLE (W.W. Saunders) Praise God! John Caporn to begin full-time ministry here early in 1993. Thanks expressed to all who have prayed for this need to be met ... 22 enjoyed church camp at Busselton ... 70-80 previous & present members of the CWF reminisced at morning tea centenary celebration ... Letter sent to State Parliament protesting against proposed changes to liquor licensing laws.

BRUCE ROCK (David Jolly) Two baby boys born to Dowsett & Sprigg families ... Three recent bap-

tisms ... Some members on trips. Rob & Gwen Butler to Townsville for veteran's hockey carnival, Barrie & Vera Butler & Tom & Denise Lewis on trips to north of WA & Elma & Bill Arnold to Bali ... Perth Bible College students visited for weekend. Bevan Griggs preached ... Hospitality day held ... Family camp with Ross Burton speaker.

Qld

BUNDABERG (Alan Leane) Thanks to God for Alan Leane's ministry over four years. Some 70 souls won for Christ. Notice intention to retire from ministry due to illness effective 14 Jan 93 ... Edna Theverkauf leaving for Mackay to reside ... Centenary celebrations Kanaka Ministry Childers 1 Jan 93 ... Dr Adrian Nowitzke divinely sent to Bundaberg to minister medically, spiritually & practically. Tremendous assistance ... 69th AGM 25 Nov. Notice intention retirement Wally Pohle, elder, secretary, treasurer, board member 45 years.

PINE RIVERS (Neale Proellocks, Ian Todd) Extensions to church commenced ... Number attended Spring Conference, Wollongong ... Ladies studying *Christianity Explained* ... Sunday morning Bible class studying Romans ... Youth service Sunday evening, 25 October. Theme "Love's Extravagance" ... Allan Male continues to improve daily ... Annual general meeting 7 November ... State Conference well attended in October.



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Melbourne, 5-11 September 1993

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The Seasons

Spring Festival



To coincide with the celebration in Canberra of Floriade, the Ainslie, ACT, church decided on a Spring Festival between 20 and 27 September. On the first Sunday, a breakfast was held, followed by a combined service shared with the Austral-Asian church and led by their members. The service included a delightful singing and musical segment by children of the Austral-Asian church.



A special Bible study was held during the week. On the second Sunday, all those who used to attend Ainslie were invited to return to the morning worship service and a luncheon to follow. The service included a musical segment by Chrysalis and following the theme of "New Life, New Chance", children enjoyed the presence of new chicks and a new baby. The floral arrangements throughout the church complex were the feature of the week, and the verandah had a special floral decoration.

—Beth Butler



The Last Word

The world hopes for the best,
but Jesus Christ offers the best
hope.
—John Wesley White

Carpenter: "You hammer like lightning."
Apprentice: "Really fast, huh?"
Carpenter: "No. You seldom hit the same place twice."

An artist decided to buy a new easel. The artist wasn't too sure what type to get. At the art shop they offered two, a big one and a small one. The artist pondered for a while and finally decided on the lesser of two easels.

A young university student wrote home: "Dear Mum and Dad: I haven't heard from you in nearly a month. Please send a cheque so I'll know you're all right."

Children are a comfort in our old age. True—and often they help us reach it faster, too.

Item from a parish newsletter: "We shall be meeting on Wednesday, 11 April, when the subject will be: "Heaven. How do we get there?" Transport is available at 7.55 pm from the bus stop opposite the Harewood Arms."

Two men met at a function after not having seen one another for a number of years. The first man asked his friend what he was doing for a living. "I'm a magician," was the reply. "And what is your most famous trick?" "Sawing a woman in half." "And what about your family?" "Well I have a brother and three half-sisters."

Judge: "What good have you ever done for society?"

Criminal: "Well, I've kept four or five detectives working regularly."

You can tell how old you are by remembering when a family went for a Sunday drive and everyone got in the same car.

Pontius' Puddle

22 OUT OF EVERY 100 PEOPLE
IN THE WORLD ARE MALNOURISHED.
IF WE REALLY WANT TO OBEY
GOD, WE SHOULD PUT OUR MONEY
WHERE THEIR MOUTHS ARE!



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