

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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Bringing the Good News

Mornington, Vic, is planning another letterbox drop this Christmas. David Redman was one of many who was a "postman for Jesus" for a similar project earlier this year. As a result of David's work two families have come to the fellowship and are joining in worship.

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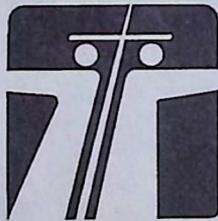
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Guest Editorial

No Risks

by Julie Trinnick

Is it a no-risk lifestyle to which we have been called, or do we take risks every day when we follow Christ? Surely the answer is clear: "Do not worry about tomorrow," we are told. "My God will supply all your needs." No risks, no worries.

Ultimately there is the security of God's promises. Nevertheless, as we live from day to day there are many occasions when we put at risk some aspect of our selves in seeking to share the good news of the kingdom. The trouble is—our society encourages the attitude that risk is wrong.

Provision

- Don't leave a job unless you have a better job to go to.
- Don't drive beyond your front gate unless the car is insured.
- Don't step onto a plane until you have insured your luggage and your life.
- Don't give too much of yourself in relationships because you might get hurt.

These cautionary words are not foolish, but they are indicative of a deep-rooted attitude in our society.

We are encouraged to have an "insurance mentality". Taking precautions in so many areas of our lives threatens to lead to a situation where we find that our trust is in ourselves and in insurance companies. As a result we will only take risks to the extent that we know we have insurance cover or to the extent that we have confidence in ourselves to be able to deal with any difficulties that may arise. We are becoming our own providers and our understanding of God's provision has diminished accordingly.

No-Claim Bonus

Was it a no-claim bonus that the fellow was hoping for: the man who hid his one talent in the ground and dug it up on the Master's return? Proud that he hadn't been careless or bold with the money, was he expecting to be rewarded? And what about us—are we living lives of caution, having stashed away the treasures with which we were entrusted by God, expecting his commendation?

To use those treasures involves risk. If we reach out to people who are hurting, wanting to share God's love with them, we risk rejection. If we move to a different area because we can see the need for Christian ministry there, we risk loneliness and frustration. If we become involved in an auxiliary of our local church we risk being given more responsibilities than we feel

we can handle, we risk failure. But with each such attempt, in God's strength, to serve him, we need risk nothing of our Christian hope and our relationship with God. These are sure and may not be shaken.

Our relationship with God becomes deeper as we find ourselves in situations where we must turn to him more, where we are less able to provide for ourselves. However, society works against the concept of risks being positive. Would it be an ideal world if we could do everything with 100% guarantee of success?

Our Attitudes

As we consider our own attitudes we can gauge whether we have fallen prey to the "no-risk" mentality. For example, have you ever looked at a person or couple planning to go to Bible college and thought, "But you have a good job, a lovely home and good friends at your church. You are foolish to leave all that behind."? It is even harder when those taking the risks are family or close friends. None of us want to see those we love venturing into the unknown, particularly if it deprives us of their company. We can discourage others from taking positive risks by our own misplaced values. It is good to be prudent. It is sensible to consider the consequences of our decisions and plans. It is essential to maintain our faith in God and to be open to his call to move out into the unknown.

When Jesus called the fishermen, "Follow me", they left everything behind and followed. Why do we feel that our own Christian walk should be any different when we are called to follow?

• Julie Trinnick has taught in secondary schools in Victoria and Vanuatu. She is now working as Assistant Director of the Overseas Mission Board.

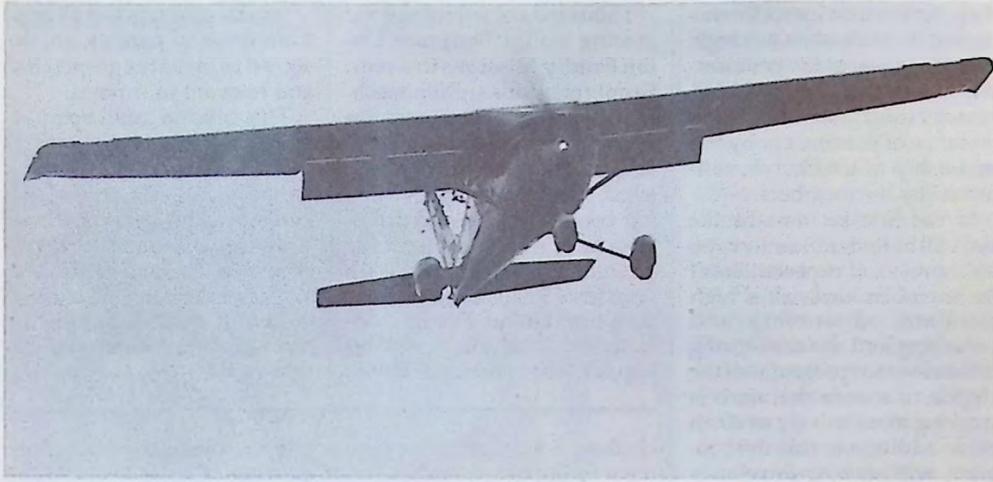
Civic Service

The Maylands, SA, church held a civic service and took the opportunity to thank community leaders for the service they give to the community and to pray for them in their tasks.

John Minney, Mayor of Payneham, and Dennis Henschke, Deputy Mayor, read the Bible readings for the morning.

The Hon Ian Wilson, Federal member for Sturt, and Terry Groom, State member for Hartley, were present, as were a number of Payneham councillors and aldermen. Representatives attended from the local Senior Citizens Club (which the church started), the RSL, the CWA, Red Cross, Meals on Wheels, Probuc Clubs and the Lutheran Nursing Home.

Raining Lollies at the Berwick Picnic



Lollies pouring out of the plane

It was a clear sky without a cloud in sight. Yet it rained lollies at the Berwick, Vic, Sunday School Picnic. The picnic was held after morning worship on a recent Sunday, with families lunching in groups on the green grass of the Mill Valley Ranch at Tynong North. In sight were the great covered wagons, the sparkling lake and the horse-drawn tram with its eager young passengers.

The usual races were held and the usual icy poles created a rainbow of colours on young lips and tongues. Then the sports area was cleared and young eyes scanned the skies. And there it was, a tiny aeroplane coming in from the east. It made a pass over the picnickers and disappeared, but could be heard behind the nearby hills. The next pass was eagerly awaited. And then it happened. It dropped its lollies

like a coloured hailstorm. Children watched spellbound as the lollies fell in a great cloud, and then swooped as they hit the ground.

The lolly pilot was Clinton Smith, son of Liz Smith, the Sunday School Superintendent. And this was the result of another of her brainstormers that make the Berwick Sunday School so popular with its 100 or more children.

—Gordon Stirling



Paying exorbitant prices for simple food—and doing it with a smile. It may be hard to believe, but that's what will be happening as the result of a remarkable experiment in youthful enterprise this Christmas.

In Sydney and Melbourne, patrons of the Christmas Tucker Restaurants will be paying more to eat less. In a dramatic reversal of normal festive season practices, this is an up-front, above-board fleecing of the customer. But it's all in a good cause. All profits made from the sale of the food will be used to support work among street kids and orphans in Uganda. These children would otherwise be condemned to a life of scavenging, begging or crime.

The Melbourne restaurants will be operating from the Scout Hall, Marney's Reserve, Forest Hill, and St Hilary's Anglican Church, John Street, Kew. In Sydney the restaurants are located at the Christian Life Centre, 188 Young Street, Waterloo, St Georges Anglican Church, cnr Forest Rd and The Avenue, Hurstville, and Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 671 Forest Rd, Peakhurst.

Christmas Tucker is a joint venture of Interserve, Scripture Union and TEAR Australia with the support and encouragement of Youth Alive. The idea is based on an innovative British program, Christmas Cracker. Last year, youth groups across Britain set up a restaurant chain in the three weeks before Christmas and raised over £1m for Third World development projects.

Further information on Christmas Tucker restaurants is available from (Sydney) Matt Wade (02) 389 6997, fax (02) 389 7650 or (Melbourne) Steve Bradbury (03) 819 1900, fax (03) 818 7650

Coins for College



Royce Welr (left), Chairman of Board and Tony Armstrong (centre), minister, handing the \$1,000 cheque to Graeme Chapman

In April the target \$1,000 appeal for the CCTC was launched at the Preston, Vic, church. Each member was given a container and asked to deposit a "gold" coin in it each week.

The appeal concluded on 11 November at a special service at which Graeme Chapman (Acting Principal, CCTC) was presented with a cheque for \$1,000, thus achieving the target.

As well, the Preston church has assisted in the purchase of a heavy-duty mower to be used in the maintenance of the College grounds.

*A joyous
Christmas to all
our readers*

Operation Ezekiel

Bob and Marilyn Smith will launch an innovative program of church development at the Hurstville, NSW, church in February 1991. The program, called "Operation Ezekiel", is designed to provide the kind of ministry resources that will help revitalise small churches in strategic locations. The aim is to overcome the initial growth barrier and to develop the kind of momentum that will lead to continuing growth.

Bob and Marilyn, supported by a group of five college students, will work with the members of the Hurstville church for an initial period of two years. Operation Ezekiel will seek to achieve a set of terminal objectives designed to establish a vital, functioning church life and a rapid expansion of the church's prospect base.

The idea for Operation Ezekiel came from the NSW representatives on the National Consultation of Evangelism in 1988. Bob, who is the Executive Director of the Department of Church Development and Education in New South Wales, presented the idea to the DCD Committee in late 1988 and the matter has been kept under consideration since. However no definite plans were laid because of an inability to find a minister to put it into practice. Finally the Smiths themselves decided they should be the ones to launch

the program and Hurstville was chosen because of its strategic location in one of the commercial centres of Sydney and because of the overwhelming acceptance of the concept by the leadership of the church, confirmed by the members.

In the first six months the aim will be to significantly raise the morale and expectations of the members through a high standard of worship and preaching and the monitoring of the essential programs of the church to ensure that each is working as effectively as it can be. In addition to this the program will seek to develop a committed group of intercessors, both within the congregation and the wider Conference of churches who will undergird the project with prayer. The first six months will also see a comprehensive needs assessment survey completed and presented to the congregation.

The next 18 months will be the major outreach phase of the project. There will be a publicity drive throughout the ministry area incorporating local media and regular letterbox drops. The team will also field test a widespread telephone canvas followed by specialised mailings directed towards special events and services. Trained follow-up teams will call on visitors within 36 hours and second-time visits will be followed up in greater depth.

The overall objective of this will be to rapidly expand the church's prospect list and contact base, and then keep it expanding. This list will be given regular and careful attention as part of an ongoing outreach program.

During this time consideration will be given to forming special needs groups, e.g. singles groups, creative living centres and so on, which provide added points of entry into the church for people on the prospect list and for bringing in new names for the prospect list.

The revitalisation of congregations in the urban centres of our cities is one of the greatest

The Battle on the Beaches

Thousands of volunteers are gearing up for Scripture Union Family Missions this year. Family missions are like beachheads, points of strategic importance in exposing Australians to the good news about Jesus. They are a way of reaching people who would otherwise have no contact with the church or the gospel. With around 3,500 volunteers, the Scripture Union Family Missions are Australia's greatest regular evangelistic activity.

Special programs for all ages, from tinies to parents, are designed to make the gospel clear and relevant to Aussies.

The relaxed and open atmosphere of holiday venues means people have time and are happy to talk about Jesus and his purpose for their lives.

Your prayer and support for Scripture Union Family Missions is crucial to their success.

And if you're holidaying near a mission, come and join in the fun!

challenges for church development facing us.

Operation Ezekiel will provide a model for other congregations to follow. Its basic requirements are a skilled ministry team and a church leadership strongly committed to the concept. Bob and Marilyn between them bring a wide range of resources and experiences to this task. For the past nine and a half years Bob has been Executive Director of the New South Wales Department of Church Development and Education. During this time he has acted as a consultant to many congregations in programs of growth and development. Prior to this he was, for seven years, a resource person for congregations in evangelism and community caring

projects. In a four-year ministry at Mount Druitt, NSW, he led the development of the new church, in Sydney's far-western suburbs, from an original 12 members meeting in an old hired hall to the point where the church was self-sufficient and possessed a fine church plant, including a child care centre.

Marilyn, who holds a Master's Degree in Education, has had a long experience in working with the media and in promotion. She was formerly the Director of Northside Adult Singles, one of the most successful singles' ministries in Australia. She is currently Marketing Director for Christian Projects and co-ordinator of sponsorships for the World Assembly in Canberra.



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70th Anniversary

24 March 1991

10 am Service

Speaker: Harvey
Miller

"Back to the Future"
Followed by Lunch

Enquiries: L. Wardle
(03) 729 8237

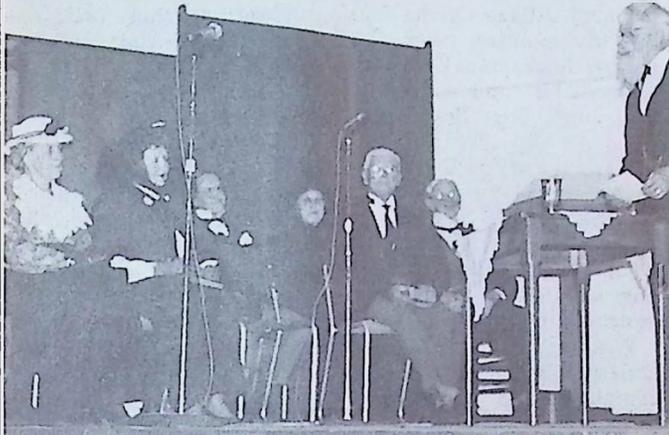


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and
Celebrate**



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Take time out from the madness...
and you'll discover the real Christmas!
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Cnr Malvern Rd and Scott Gve

Centenary Celebrations in Western Australia



A re-enactment of the first communion service on 2 November 1890 with T.H. Bates leading the meeting

Throughout the year various functions were arranged by different Conference Committees to celebrate 100 years of Churches of Christ in WA.

These celebrations came to a climax with five special functions arranged by a Brotherhood Centenary Committee.

On 26 October, about 300 attended a Centenary Celebration Rally in our own Christian Centre. This evening of praise and thanksgiving was chaired by Allan Pyne, a very prominent figure in the Brotherhood in the latter half of the century. The program included music from the Kalamunda church choir led by Graham Spicer and a solo by Maureen Furr. Brief papers were brought by Craig Colvin and Des Croot on "Our Debt to the Past" and "Our Hope for the Future" and a report on the Centenary Church Building Revolving Capital Fund was presented by Ken Patterson. A significant feature was a Covenant of Allegiance in which, under the leadership of Alan Morris, the congregation shared in a responsive exercise of thanksgiving, reaffirmation of faith and commitment. Gordon Stirling brought a challenging message on "God's Call for the Second Century".

The Perth Concert Hall was

the venue for a splendid Musical Festival, a well-presented program of fine music enjoyed by an appreciative audience. The choir of 100 and a 47-piece orchestra, under the baton of Graham Devenish, was supported by a varied selection of items of good quality. An enthusiastic audience let the artists know how greatly they enjoyed the excellent program arranged by Ron Hancock and his team.

On 2 November, exactly 100 years to the day from the first Churches of Christ communion service in 1890, a dawn communion service in Kings Park, led by Gordon Ewers, proved to be a rich and uplifting experience for the 200 who attended. The arrangements were in the hands of Doug Gilchrist. The unseasonable drizzle failed to dampen spirits; it may even have increased the feeling of togetherness. Singing led by David Yardley set the tone and the fellowship around the Lord's Table, a time of remembrance, thanksgiving and hope, brought us all close together and to our Saviour.

A party spirit of celebration was evident at the Gala Centenary Banquet on the Saturday in the dining hall of the Christian Centre. About 250 shared in this occasion, chaired

by Gordon Ewers. Greetings were received from Federal Conference, other State Conferences, some Federal agencies and from Churches of Christ in England. Greetings were given in person by Bhimrao Thavare from our Indian churches and Rev Bob Clark of the Baptist Union, representing other churches in WA. Other overseas visitors included Sam Mantode from India and Mrs W. Haffenden and Mrs Hazel Turner from the Tunbridge Wells church in England. A birthday cake was cut by Conference President, David Pyne.

Before and after the banquet, opportunity was taken to view the impressive display of photographs, records and other memorabilia of the past 100 years. These were assembled and set up by Eric Hogben and Ailsa Maxwell and their helpers, and evoked much interest and nostalgia.

Following the banquet, a historical pageant was presented in the auditorium. Each decade of the 100 years was featured with highlights re-enacted and notable events and activities recalled. Much time and interest went into the costuming and scripting and it was evident that the participants enjoyed it as much as the enthusiastic and responsive audience. The 10 segments were linked by an appropriate commentary by Beryl Hancock who was responsible for the planning and production of the pageant.

Although the proceedings were conducted in a light-

hearted way, with many humorous moments, there was a sincerity of purpose in honouring our pioneers and their successors and acknowledging the Lord's leading over the 100 years.

The final feature of the centenary celebrations was an evangelistic rally in the Perth Concert Hall on 4 November, led by David Pyne. A crowd of over 1,200 shared in a full and inspiring program, which included splendid singing by a choir of 100 supported by the orchestra under the baton of Graham Devenish.

Mark Wilson conducted a session of praise, including the centennial hymn written for the occasion, and the great congregation responded with some tremendous singing.

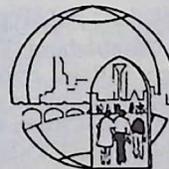
Brief personal testimonies were given by Allen Smyth in "A Tribute of Praise" and Deslee Moyle telling of "One Person's Experience".

The choir excelled itself in singing and Gordon Stirling presented the Gospel in a clear and compelling way.

The Centenary Committee of Gordon Ewers, David Pyne, Don Parker and Doug Gilchrist may well feel satisfied with the celebration of 100 years of Churches of Christ in WA.

All five occasions were recorded on video. Those prevented by distance from being present at the events can share in their inspiration by viewing the video record. Enquiries can be made from the Conference Office in WA.

—Gordon Ewers



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Services

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Gospel Celebration

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Maryborough's Friendship Festival

What do you do when you want to conduct an evangelistic crusade, but you have found that unchurched people don't like coming to crusades? You have a Friendship Festival! That's what the Maryborough, Qld, church did on 3-11 November with outstanding results.

The festival concept was the result of wanting to do something that was evangelistic in nature but also non-threatening to the average unchurched person. The local committee reasoned that, while many non-Christians will not come to a crusade or mission, everyone is in favour of friendship. The congregation was encouraged to "reach out and make a friend—then, introduce your new friend to your best friend".

Guest speaker for the festival was Dr Don Young, from Cincinnati, USA. Dr Young is the pastor of the Russelville Church of Christ east of Cincinnati. In addition, he has spent the last 20 years in evangelistic work both in the US and around the world. Dr Young holds a BA from Cincinnati Bible College. He has two MA degrees and a PhD in education, management and curriculum. He is currently working on a second doctorate in musicology.

This trip was Dr Young's third to Australia. The first, also



Brenda and Don Young

his first overseas evangelistic venture, was in 1970. On that occasion he accompanied another evangelist to Margaret Street in Toowoomba and to Nollamara in WA. He returned in 1988 to conduct a mission at Peel Street, Ballarat. On this trip he was accompanied by his wife, Brenda.

The Friendship Festival was preceded by five months in which members gathered for prayer for revival. Six weeks before the festival a team of visitors reached out to all Girls' Brigade, Boys' Brigade, Sunday School and other contacts. All were invited to take part in the festival, which commenced with an "Old Fashioned Church Social" organised by Althea Brooks. About 200 attended, many of whom are not regular churchgoers.

Sunday services were run along usual lines. Dr Young shared in services both at the church and at Fair Haven Retirement Village. On the final Sunday evening over 240 packed the chapel as Dr Young addressed a combined Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade parade.

Monday and Tuesday nights of the festival were organised as discussion nights for members of the church to look at where the church is going and how we can better reach out to our community.

Wednesday saw 120 ladies gather for a luncheon in the church hall and 75 men for a dinner at a local reception centre. On Thursday the church hosted a musical evening, featuring local talent from the church and sister churches in Maryborough. 180 gathered to encounter everything from contemporary Christian music to Highland dancing (complete with bagpipes). 200 feasted on roast beef, lamb and pork at Saturday's free roast on a spit which was followed by a family service. Don Young spoke at each of these meetings. A challenge was then given by minister David Woodward for people to fill in a prepared response card, giving the opportunity to express a decision for Christ, a desire for more information regarding the Christian

faith or a wish to discuss a special need confidentially.

37 indicated a response via the cards. Follow up is now continuing, with church members offering counsel and guidance to those who responded. One young person has been baptised and a number of others are seriously considering their position.

One of the side benefits of the Friendship Festival was the closer sense of friendship and fellowship experienced within the church membership. One member commented, "If nothing else was achieved, this Friendship Festival has brought us all closer together."

—David Woodward

Free Rent...

What can we do about the homeless youth in our society? Where do we start?

The Frankston, Vic, church is doing something to assist some of these needy young people. With the help of the Salvation Army they are hoping to start up a Youth House early in 1991.

The aim of the project is to teach independent living skills to two or three 16-19 year olds living in a caring environment.

The church has provided a house for the project, but are seeking responsible person(s) to live in the house and provide mature, caring leadership. In return for this leadership the church offers free accommodation. A committee of management has been formed that will provide support and assistance to the "senior tenant(s)".

The Frankston church ran a similar youth house from July 1986 to June 1988, which was most successful. Some of the young people who were helped have now gone on to gain successful employment and take their place in society.

If you know of someone who would be a suitable "senior tenant" please telephone Bob Hindle (03) 783 6974 after hours or Peter Bailey (03) 776 8151 all hours. See the advertisement on page 13.

Betty and Les Dewberry Retire from Full-time Ministry

Oakleigh church has arranged a farewell following the 10.30 am service on 20 January 1991

Lunch 12.15 pm
(bring own basket)

Farewell 1.15 pm

People from other churches welcome

People and churches who shared ministry with Betty and Les are invited to send greetings

A.A. Brown	L. & B. Dewberry
35 Anderson St	109 Willesden Rd
Oakleigh 3166	Oakleigh 3166

CCTC Welcomes Cumberland View

On 15 November 50 residents from the Cumberland View Retirement Village enjoyed morning tea and a time of worship hosted by the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave, Vic.

The service featured singing by Kendra Boyd, Michelle Martine and Christine Sharp, a 12-person singing group formed by the students, a piano recital by Cathy Rochester and a performance by two guest singers.

A message was brought by Will Wigney, a Churches of Christ minister of long standing and father of College Registrar, Graham Wigney.

A number of students and faculty members have contributed to regular worship services held at Cumberland View over the past 18 months.

A spokesman for the residents who attended the service at CCTC expressed their gratitude for the hospitality shown by the college. —Mark Butler

Blindness No Barrier



Marnie Pearce

72-year-old Marnie Pearce was born with a hereditary eye disorder that left her totally blind at 18. But blindness has never held her back.

Marnie is a very much loved and active member of the

Nailsworth, SA, church.

As a teenager gradually losing her sight Marnie bravely put up with the embarrassment of talking to statues, sitting on bunches of flowers and walking into department store mir-

Goodbye after Nine Years

Roger and Jill Bawden, with their sons Troy and Kent, have concluded their time of mission and ministry with the Conference of Churches of Christ in Vanuatu. Their appointment, through the Overseas Mission Board of the Australian Churches of Christ, was initially in the role of Business Manager, located at Santo in Vanuatu.

During the time of their ministry there this position has become one that has been taken over by national people.

For the last year Roger has worked in the role of an adviser and he and Jill have been involved in marriage and family seminars.

Their time in Vanuatu has meant that their oldest son Troy has had to remain in Australia to continue his secondary schooling. Troy lived with John and Val Main and their family at Stirling in South Australia for the last two years.

The Overseas Mission Board, representing Churches of Christ in Australia, says thank you to the Bawden family for their faithful representation of us and their faithfulness to God as they've served the Conference of Churches of Christ in Vanuatu.

The Executive Director of the

Conference in Vanuatu, Pastor Bill Bule, writes: "We are all sad to see the Bawdens leaving. They have contributed much to the development of the Conference of Churches of Christ in Vanuatu. Their work will always be remembered. In the last months Roger visited most of our areas conducting management and marriage courses. Everywhere he went people expressed their appreciation for their valuable ministries in the life and work of the churches here. We highly value their work here in Vanuatu.

"Thank you to OMB for sending them to us and for supporting them during their nine years of prosperous ministries here. They've taught us a lot in both theory and practise and we praise God for them. All four of them have in different ways become part of us in Vanuatu. We are sad to see them leave. We pray that the Lord will continue to use them as they serve him in Australia."

In 1991 the Bawdens will be moving to Queensland where Roger will take up the position of Programs and Administration Manager with the Churches of Christ Department of Social Services.

—Jeff May

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Dean Sander

rors. A top student at Hove's Townsend House for visually impaired children, she articulated with 627 out of 700.

Marnie devoted her time to helping other blind and visually impaired people after missing out on university because her mother couldn't support her.

"It's very important that a blind people don't sit around and twiddle their thumbs," Marnie says. "They must have a challenge or they become like a vegetable."

In 1980 Marnie was awarded an MBE and in October received the Royal Society for the Blind's inaugural Andrew Whyte Hendry Award.

This award is designed to recognise the spirit and

achievement of blind and vision impaired South Australians.

Marnie is a member of the Blind Welfare Association Board, the association's volunteer drivers' co-ordinator, social centre chairperson and liaison officer.

Any time she has left is spent visiting blind and visually impaired people in old folk homes and hospitals, collecting stamps for the association, cooking meals for a horde of hungry nephews and nieces and looking after her husband, who suffered a mild stroke last year.

All of which, Marnie admits, keeps her "up till midnight" every night.

—Photo and story courtesy of Messenger Newspapers

Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to
200 words

Sermons on Relationship Issues

To the Editor,

I previously worked with Lifeline South East (Mt Gambier). Ever since I have been very interested in Lifeline call statistics. They are a clear guide to the issues troubling our society today, and therefore I believe a good guide to what our ministers should be preaching.

Lifeline centres categorise calls into ten major categories and each of those into six to 10 sub-categories. By far the largest number of calls (about 30%) fall into the major category of "relationship" issues.

Within the relationship category are the following sub-categories: loneliness, partner, child, parent, family, friends, neighbours/work and church. About three-quarters of relationship calls (about one-quarter of all calls) fall into the sub-categories of "loneliness" and "partner/marital/de-facto" relationships.

These statistics shout at ministers to bring Biblical teaching on relationships.

I have just completed a series of sermons on this area. Sermon topics included: overcoming loneliness, choosing your friends, unforgiveness is destructive, God's forgiveness, sacrificial friendship, conflict resolution—giving ground, dealing with anger, and dealing with domestic violence.

I would be interested to hear from other ministers who have taught on these sorts of issues or from any who would be in-

terested in sermon outlines.

—Bruce Anderson
(Maryborough, Vic)

The Last Word

To the Editor,

I am writing to express my concern at two items in "The Last Word" column in the latest issue of "The Christian".

The first is the joke about the lion that ate the bull. I believe strongly that this type of humour is not appropriate for inclusion in a Christian's repertoire of jokes let alone be included in a Christian publication.

The second piece which I wish to protest about is the cartoon depicting Father Christmas.

I deplore the fact that this fictitious character receives more publicity in today's society than does our Lord. It is appalling that the true reason for Christmas is forgotten more and more each year.

Please, as a Christian, don't encourage the acceptance of worldly substitutes for Jesus by including mention of them even if it is just a joke.

I generally find the jokes in "The Christian" to be quite funny and applaud the fact that they are included as quite often Christians seem afraid to laugh. However please don't compromise Christian standards and values for the sake of a laugh.

—Geoff Ismail
(West Lakes)

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News

Brigade Awards



Shaun, Caroline and Jason with their awards

Three members of Noarlunga Centre, SA, church Boys' and Girls' Brigades received their Queens Award from Lord Mayor, Steve Condous, at an Adelaide Town Hall Ceremony.

Caroline McClarin, 20, Jason Brand, 16, and Shaun Buchheister, 17, earned the highest award in the Brigades.

Each recipient has a commitment to all-round excellence, a record of service to the community and, most importantly, knows the reality of the love of God in their lives.

The Brigades at Noarlunga Centre have a combined membership of about 130, who enjoy a wide variety of activities.

Letters from Tertius

He Knows Our Insides

To the Editor,

We've started reading from John in our bedtime devotions. Last night we got to the end of chapter 2 and I couldn't get to sleep for thinking about the very last words, "He knew what was in man."

It doesn't say, "He knew what was in woman," but I won't comment on that because my wife might read this letter.

The thought that kept me awake was that the Lord sees past the smart veneer that I manage to maintain for all the world to see, right into the disarray in the rooms inside. I don't know that I've ever thought for a moment that he doesn't know what goes on inside me...but reading it in black and white gave me a bit of a shock. After a while I calmed down. I realised that he also knows the struggle I often put up to get my interior into some sort of order. And he knows how human I am because he was once human himself.

And I remembered that in his earthly life he seemed to be more at home with sinners than with the "pillars of the church". Maybe he could see the potential of the sinners and could see no potential in those who thought that they had already arrived.

This doesn't mean, of course, that I should adopt an attitude of "Gentle Jesus won't mind if I think this and do that because he understands." I have a hunch that he understands that I'm the sort of person who needs a hard dig in the moral and spiritual ribs from time to time. And he certainly delivered one last night at the end of John 2.

Yours with a bruise or two,
—Tertius

Creative Ministry Ideas

At the recent Friendship Festival at the Maryborough, Qld, church, discussions were held with evangelist Dr Don Young regarding evangelism and creative ministry ideas

Dr Young is from the Russelville Church of Christ, east of Cincinnati, USA. This church, in a rural town with a population of around 500, has grown from 35 to about 200 in the six years that Don Young has been its pastor. Much of this growth is attributed to the innovative approaches to ministry that he has introduced. Don's slogan has been "Smaller Churches with Bigger Ministries". Under his leadership Russelville has produced a successful combination of evangelism, social action and unstructured worship.

In December each year the church, with the assistance of other churches and businesses, organises the distribution of six semitrailer loads of food, clothing, furniture and other goods into the impoverished areas of the Appalachian Mountains, including thousands of boxes of toys, lollies, fruit, toothbrushes and Bibles individually wrapped for the children.

This country church has also given away over 50,000 New Testaments at fairs and shows, including the Ohio State Fair. The members have been involved in starting an orphanage and school in Haiti. Through Dr Young, they have arranged for the shipment of tonnes of food, clothing and medicine to India, Haiti and the Philippines.

Locally, the church is learning to release itself from traditional structures and rely more on the agency of the Holy Spirit to draw God's people together and equip them for service. As the church incorporates people from many different Christian traditions, Dr Young said they have had to go through a lot of "deprogramming" in order to stop leaning on human wisdom

Stormy Afternoon at Pendle Hill



Damage to one of the units at Pendle Hill

On Friday afternoon, 9 November, a severe cyclone-type storm hit the Pendle Hill, NSW, Retirement Village, with strong winds followed by hail. In all the storm lasted only about 15 minutes but it left a trail of devastation that affected almost every building and tree on the property.

The cost of pruning trees damaged by the storm, converting to wood chip and removal of all trees and branches brought down by the storm was over \$14,000.

There was considerable damage to buildings. A wall collapsed on the end of one unit. The Dunmore House storeroom shifted on its foundation piers, some almost collapsing. Tiles were blown off and broken from the roofs of 51 units plus Dalton and Knight Cottages. Canvas awnings were torn and perforated by hail on many units.

Aged Care Manager Richard Powell's report on the damage takes up two pages and lists 19 areas of damage and an approximate repair bill of \$100,000.

Additional costs included the hiring of tarpaulins to cover damaged roofs and walls, removal and tipping charges for broken tiles and glass and wages for people brought in to cover damaged roofs on the afternoon of the storm.

and start letting Christ be Lord of the church.

While at Maryborough, Dr Young indicated that there are a number of churches in the USA that could be of assistance to Australian churches in seeking creative approaches to ministry. He is careful to add that Americans do not have all the answers and that they also have a lot to learn from Australians.

In discussions with David Woodward, of the Maryborough church, two possible ideas were brought forward. The first would involve a team of humble American ministers and church

leaders (not all of them are) from the Restoration Movement tradition who would come to Australia at their own expense to conduct workshops and seminars in creative ministries. The second idea involves taking a team of Australian ministers and church leaders to America to see firsthand what is happening in smaller churches in the way of innovative outreach. Anyone who is interested in either of these opportunities is invited to contact David Woodward at the Maryborough Church of Christ, 369 Kent St, Maryborough 4650, (071) 21 6822 or 21 4685.

VISITING BRISBANE?

Come and worship in the peaceful sylvan surroundings of the Ewers Chapel at Kenmore Christian College with Kenmore Church of Christ at 41 Brookfield Road, Kenmore

10 am Sundays—8 am Good Friday and Christmas Day

Take time to inspect campus and Queensland Conference Administration Centre Telephone Pastor Grant Spangenberg (07) 376 6522 or Conference Office (07) 378 1988 (office hours) (07) 378 6082 (after hours)

Media Review

Audio

Lost in Your Love

Mez Evans (Mez Evans Music) \$15.50

This recently released cassette by Melbourne singer Mez Evans should be available in most Christian bookshops. The music is described as contemporary gospel music and is bright and happy. The style would appeal to several age groups. The singing is good and the backing is excellent, although at times Mez's voice could have been a little stronger over the backing. The 10 tracks are all written by others and Mez gives a good interpretation of many of these. This is excellent background music that shares a faith that is confident and positive about the love that God has for us.

If your local Christian bookshop does not have copies information is available from Mez Evans Music, Beranigan Pty Ltd, 16 Donbirn Way, Vermont South 3133. Phone (03) 729 8793.

—CRA

Daily Bread on Cassette

From January 1991, Scripture Union Bible guides have a new look. One of these, "Daily Bread", continues to be recorded on two cassettes each month for those who are visually disabled, by Christian Blind Mission International Library Services.

The Bible passages are narrated by John Levett from Mount Eliza, Vic, and the comments by Wendy Surtees of Glen Waverley, Vic.

The tapes are mailed out free to over 450 people throughout Australia and submasters sent to Kenya, Malaysia, the Philippines, New Zealand and elsewhere.

The warm, direct style of "Daily Bread" makes for good listening and is therefore better for recording purposes. Feature articles included give added information to the passages being studied.

The "new look" is accompanied by a "new sound" that will allow the listener to identify the starting point for each day when the cassette is being fast forwarded or cued. This is being made possible through a new voice indexing system called VODEX, which has been developed by CBMI for all audio producers of magazines and books.

People with reading disabilities can be placed on a regular mailing list by writing or telephoning Sheena, Librarian, CBMI Library Services, PO Box 5, Kew 3101, telephone (03) 817 4566.

Video

Christian Video Network

A new smut- and violence-free video network will be launched in Australia in December by Sydney-based JTV. Believed to be a world first, the Family Video Network will distribute three-hour tapes that will include interviews with well-known Christian leaders, entertainers, sportsmen and businessmen, "specials", a kid's program, Christian comedy, Christian video clips from around the world, a motivational segment by leading motivator Paul Hannan, ministry segments and profiles of leading Australian and international ministries and "The 700 Club" from CBN in the USA.

The Producer of the JTV alternative is 34-year-old Mark Thorn. Mark worked in the Commercial Production Division of TCN9, then produced and directed commercials, corporate videos and TV documentaries. Mark says, "This is much more challenging. We have access to some of the best Christian material available in the world. People hunger for something to inspire them. We have a vision for this nation."

Membership of JTV Video Network will cost \$290, including postage and package for 12 monthly three-hour Christian video tape programs. Single programs are \$32.95. For subscriptions apply to JTV Video Network, Locked Bag 8, Dee Why 2099.

Books

My Prayer Diary

My Prayer Diary is a guide to reading the Bible developed by Wesley Leake. This booklet is for individuals to record within all the things they have learnt from reading the Bible, prayers prayed and the answer God has given to those prayers. Wesley sets out four steps in using the booklet. This is followed by pages listing all the chapters of the Bible so they can be marked off when read. The remainder of the booklet comprises lined blank pages to enable people to write their inspiration and prayers down and record the way God responds to each prayer.

Handy for anyone who is not well organised and needs a booklet. A small exercise book could work just as well.

Available from Wesley Leake, 250 Scrub Road, Carindale 4152, for \$2.50 plus the costs of postage and handling (\$4 total should cover all this).

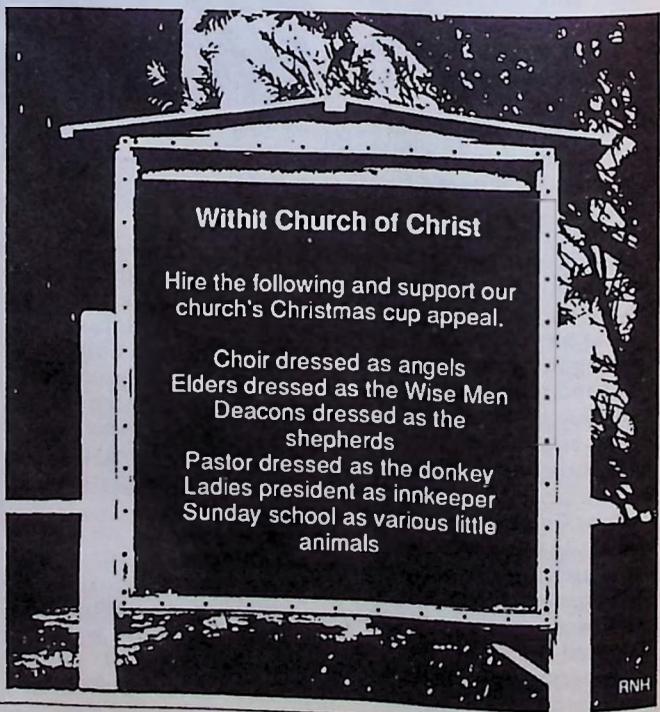
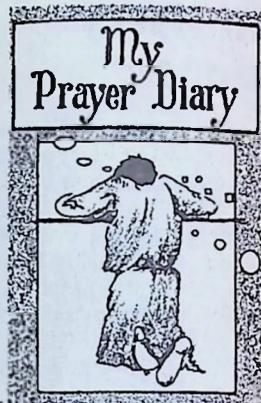
Partners

One Hundred Years of Mission Overseas by Churches of Christ in Australia 1891-1991

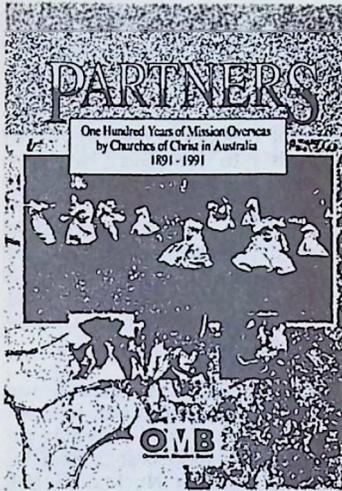
edited by Keith Bowes (Vital Publications) \$14

This book has been written to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the commencement of overseas mission work by Australian Churches of Christ. It was edited by Keith Bowes, with contributions from many authors who have personal experience on the various fields. This book pays tribute to many of the people who have represented Churches of Christ overseas.

There are fascinating anecdotes of events that occurred on the fields and a great deal of historical detail about the establishment, growth and development of mission work. You really need to



Media Review



read it yourself to discover the enormous variety of historical facts, memoirs and visions, service and love described in this book.

God's greatness is acknowledged throughout in all that has been achieved, and it is to his Holy Spirit that we look to for guidance in future work as Christians feel the call to bring "the good tidings of good things that are in Christ".

Strategies have changed as the world has changed and this is acknowledged in some of the reflections. As we commence the second century of our work, "partner-

ship" with indigenous people is the fundamental basis from which we need to work.

The book has an attractive format and is easy to read. Photographs and other interesting historical items are included. I highly recommend it for all those with an interest in history and enthusiasm and feeling for the work of Churches of Christ.

It invokes the enthusiasm, excitement, dedication and loyalty of all those who served God overseas in the past, and those who do so currently, as well as that of the support network in Australia.

Available for \$14 plus \$3 postage from the Overseas Mission Board, PO Box 320, Unley 5061, or the Federal Literature Department, c/o Mrs E Rankine, 5 Atkins Ave, Glen Iris 3146.

—Mary Ambrose

Religion and Ethnic Identity: An Australian Study

edited by Abe (L) Wade Ata (Spectrum Publications) \$19.95

Australia is designated a "multicultural society". The exact meaning of that term and its implications are seldom spelt out. Does this mean all cultures have equal status? There are some "cultural" practices that many Australians would consider inappropriate and unacceptable. Others could add richness and diversity to the dominant Anglo-Saxon heritage. As the late David Penman points out in his foreword to this volume, religion is important to both personal and social identity, while at the same time generating tensions between social groups defined by ethnic as well as religious associations. How do we understand the fine line that separates the apparently desirable former from the divisive latter? This volume explains the experience of different groups from the now well-established Irish Catholics and German Lutherans of South Australia through to the post-World War II refugee groups like Hungarians (Reformed) and Ukrainians to recent arrivals such as the Vietnamese and Lebanese. Religions covered include Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Each chapter is contributed by a researcher with a thorough knowledge of the historical background of the group. This book (and a second volume that is now available) makes interesting and informative reading. One could be critical of the uneven quality of the contributions, but this ignores the strength of the work. In many ways this book tells us more about patterns of Australian religiosity than those survey-based researches that focus on whether or not people believe in God, pray, or attend church. Here we see the extent to which religiosity is coterminous with culture and history. A thorough reading should preclude insensitive, offensive and misguided evangelical approaches to migrants.

—Rosslyn Reed

News

Project "X"



A short drive from the centre of Brisbane, Qld, along the main road that leads to the outer northern suburbs and on to the north coast, you pass the new housing development that until 12 months ago was "Handys Strawberry Farm". Ian and Neva Handy, who are members of the Pine Rivers church, farmed the site for a number of years before deciding to develop the housing estate.

The land in this area is much sought after. The site has direct freeway access to the northern beaches and is only a short drive from the Brisbane central business district.

This may sound like the start of an inviting sales pitch, and the members of Pine Rivers certainly hope so. By January, the house that they have been building on the new estate will be finished and it is hoped the location and quality will attract an early sale.

The four-bedroom, architect-designed house is being built as a fund-raising venture to enable extensions to the church building. The ministry area for the church contains 20,000 people, few of whom have any contact with a Christian church of any denomination. A continuing commitment to reach out to this community, coupled with the employing of a second minister has resulted in steady growth. As finances were committed to supporting the ministry team and evangelism, it was obvious that no funds would be available to extend the already stressed chapel.

As well as the block of land at a wholesale price, most of the key personnel and skills needed for the project were available from within the church membership. An archi-

tect, available finances and a builder provided a great start.

The idea to build the house, or Project "X" as it has become known, was born about 18 months ago out of a "not too serious" discussion after a Sunday evening church service. The comments were based on the rather daunting thought that to raise the estimated cost of extending the chapel to cope with the expected growth over the next few years the ladies group would need to make and sell 14,000 dozen lamingtons. And even though this would supply an extra venue for running additional weight watchers clubs to cancel out the effect of 168,000 lamingtons it seemed some other fund raising venture was needed!

The church praises God for providing the idea and the wherewithal, not to mention the right buyer waiting in the wings, whoever that may be.

Interested people can contact Gerry Weatherall on (07) 285 4765.

No Evening Services in January?

Why not visit the Boronia Church of Christ?

(59 Boronia Rd, Boronia)

Services 7 pm each Sunday night

10 am each Sunday morning

Theme for month: Living in the Kingdom

Ministers

Keith Milne 761 1132

Andrew Henley 758 2296

Happenings

Helium-filled balloons released at sea were used to drop Bibles into Albania earlier this year by the mission ship *Redeemer*. The project was part of a 10-week outreach program covering Malta, Sicily, Yugoslavia, Greece and Cyprus.

Christians in Japan began a 100-hour fast on 19 November in protest against the government's sponsorship of the enthronement of the new emperor, Akihito. The National Christian Council in Japan has expressed its deep concern and questioned the Japanese Government's sponsorship of the Sokui no Rei (enthronement ceremony).

Malcolm Muggeridge, one of Britain's best known media personalities, who had an outspoken Christian commitment, died during November, aged 87.

One year after PTL Ministry founder Jim Bakker was sentenced to 45 years in prison for fraud, a civil trial has opened in which supporters of the ministry are seeking more than \$US757m from the fallen televangelist.

Greg and Sue Cox with their children Stacie (6) and Cameron (4) were killed when the MAF Cessna 206 aircraft Greg was flying crashed while on a flight from Mt Hagen to Tari, PNG, on 23 November. They had just returned from furlough in Australia.

26 Catholic clergy have been released from imprisonment in Albania this autumn, according to reports reaching the Australian Catholic news-agency *Kathpress*.

Following the granting of the official status of a "juridical person" to the Catholic Church in Bulgaria a further announcement indicated that the same legal standing had also been given to the mainstream Pentecostal, Adventist, Congregational, Methodist and Baptist churches, as

well as to the formerly unregistered Pentecostal "Church of God", the Reform Seventh-Day Adventist movement and the "Universal White Spiritual Brotherhood".

One of the 70 Southern Baptist chaplains with US military forces in the Middle East baptised 9 new believers recently in a decontamination tank because there were no rivers, lakes or swimming pools. The tank is designed to decontaminate people and equipment after chemical warfare. Chaplains report increased attendances at worship and enquiries about the faith.

Egyptian authorities arrested 4 Muslim converts to Christianity in October, continuing the pattern of increased harassment and detention this year by the State Security Intelligence Police. They were arrested in their homes under Articles 95 and 98 of the Egyptian Penal Code, which prohibits "opposing religion doctrines" and "actions against any heavenly religion" that endangers national unity. Egypt has recognised Islamic law since 1980 but affirms freedom of religion for all its citizens.

In 6 months 560,000 Soviet Union citizens viewed "Jesus", a 2-hour film based on the Gospel of Luke. Now available on video in Australia, the film has been seen by 330 million people in 165 countries since it was released in 1979 with about 30 million viewers trusting Christ as Saviour.

Evangelicals in Nicaragua have experienced a 22.3% annual growth rate over the last 10 years, according to a report by the Evangelical Committee for Aid to Development. About 20% of Nicaraguans are now evangelical.

In the Malaysian state of Penang, Christians who have been converted from Islam can now be whipped. So, too, can converts who preach to

fellow Muslims, as a result of a legal amendment by the State Assembly.

The International Swiss airline, Swissair, has responded to requests from its passengers to make Bibles available during flights. Passengers using the airline will now be able to ask for a French, German or English version of the Bible to read during their journey.

The Bible Societies have sent a total of 1,635,995 Bibles, 315,488 New Testaments and 480,590 Scripture portions to the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Romania, according to figures for the year ending October 1990. More than 35% of these Scriptures were printed in these countries themselves. The Bible Societies have provided the paper and binding materials for use on state-owned printing presses. The total cost of providing the Bibles and other Scriptures was \$10 million. Of this Australian Christians contributed over \$800,000 through the Bible Society's special emergency appeal.

A Vietnamese government survey has shown that 40-50% of Vietnamese children are malnourished and 15% of these cases are serious or very serious. The economy was hurt by rigid communism until recent reforms and by a Western aid embargo after Vietnam invaded Cambodia in late 1978.

The Adelaide Central Mission of the Uniting Church has set up a scheme for homeless people to prevent them from being evicted from government housing. The mission is teaching people how to cook, clean and budget. Those who have never had a stable family environment in which to learn these skills can find themselves evicted from SA Housing Trust homes because of not knowing how to look after them properly.

Representatives from more than 20 Christian agencies attended the first meeting of the newly formed Arab Broadcasting Convention in November. For the Levant and Arabian peninsula this was the first time so many Christian broadcasters had been able to come together and begin to work on a common, integrated strategy.

Eight Christian films about creation were screened in the past few months in the Soviet Union. Made by Films for Christ of Arizona, USA, and translated into Russian by Finland TV, it was the first time films supporting creation by God have been broadcast on Soviet television.

"Express", a new Melbourne-based Christian band is presenting an Australia Day concert at the Mt Waverley Youth Centre at 7.30 pm on 26 January 1991. Details from Pania Williams (03) 312 6757.

Meeting in Höör, Sweden, the general secretaries of national ecumenical councils in Europe have said they are alarmed by the fatalistic attitude of world public opinion, which seems to accept the inevitability of imminent war in the Gulf. They said the major task of the church in this situation is to persuade the politicians and generals that such a war would be morally indefensible and politically suicidal.

The world-wide Adventist General Conference Committee has set up a commission to consider a timetable for a merger of the two Adventist bodies in South Africa—the black Southern Union Mission and the white South African Union Conference. The merger would result in nonracial policies for all South African congregations and schools.

Albanian leader Ramiz Alia has announced an easing of restrictions on religion—prohibited since 1967.

The 1990 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches reports that membership in several major US denominations continues to decline. In 1987 to 1988 there have been declines in the United Methodist Church, 69,430, Presbyterian Church (USA), 38,173, United Church of Christ, 17,787, Disciples of Christ, 13,549, and Episcopal [Anglican] Church, 6,878.

A British peace group, Christian CND, has criticised as "morally dubious" a sponsorship deal between Nuclear Electric company and the Anglican cathedral in Bristol. Nuclear Electric is giving £250,000 over 10 years to support the choir. The arrangement was announced in a statement titled "The Power and the Glory". In a statement on behalf of CND, "What Power and Whose Glory" David Platt says the nuclear industry is one which for many Christians raises major issues of conscience.

Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda has appealed to African leaders to turn to God and exercise a spirit of reconciliation. He was speaking at a prayer breakfast attended by the presidents of Uganda and Mozambique, the South African Foreign Affairs Minister, the Transkei Homeland leader and representatives of other governments in southern Africa and the ANC.

At the Perth Bible College Graduation Service, Colin Wheat, minister at Manning, WA, church, was presented with an Honorary Doctorate in Laws degree on behalf of the Central School of Religion, London.

More than 1,500 Bibles in Khmer have been distributed among the Khmer people in the past year. The Bibles have been distributed both in Cambodia and in refugee camps in Thailand, where many of Khmer people live.

Advertisements

Christian View

ATROON
Perspectives
Arnold Troon Photographer
For all photography
Phone (03) 898 6009 

Moving to Melbourne?

You are welcome at the Richmond Church of Christ cnr Coppin and Murphy Streets Morning service 11 am (03) 428 4844

Frankston Youth Housing Project Frankston Church of Christ and The Salvation Army Peninsula Family Services

are offering "rent free" accommodation with strings attached
Free Rent

We are looking for "senior tenant(s)" interested in sharing the responsibility of caring for two or three teenagers.

If you consider yourself(ves) to be capable of providing mature leadership to some homeless teenagers, please contact either:

Bob Hindle or Peter Bailey
(03) 783 8874 (AH) (03) 776 8161 (all hours)

All applicants are required to provide a résumé that includes details of any relevant experience in relating to young people and the names and telephone numbers of three referees.

Keilor East Church of Christ 30th Anniversary Weekend

16-17 February 1991

Saturday—Concert Evening (Catalyst Covenant Players)

Sunday—Worship 10.30 am
Luncheon

All past members and friends invited

Enquiries/RSVP Lyn Beasley (03) 336 7601
Gwen Cheal (03) 330 2746
PO Box 70
Niddrie 3042

Your Chance To Make History

You could be one of the first people appointed to begin the second century of overseas mission with Churches of Christ.

Experienced pastors are invited to apply to work as church advisers in Papua New Guinea.

Further information from Jeff May or Julie Trinnick, PO Box 320, Unley 5061.
Phone (08) 271 3620

Holidaying in the Geelong area?
Then we invite you to worship in the recently renovated La Trobe Terrace Church of Christ at 10 am

The Questions No-one Asks Aloud

	6 Jan	Is God Unfair?
Minister	13 Jan	Is God Silent?
Dr C.J. MacKenzie	20 Jan	Is God Hidden?
Phone	27 Jan	Where Is God when It Hurts?
(052) 50 2891		

Is there any room for us, at the inn?

Inserted by ADPACC (Accommodation for Disabled Persons under the auspice of the Christian Church)
—Auspiced by Victorian Council of Churches



Developing Effective Worship in Your Church

Your church is unique! It has its own style of worship, because you won't find the same group of people anywhere else. Whether you are a worship leader or a worshipper, you can make a difference.

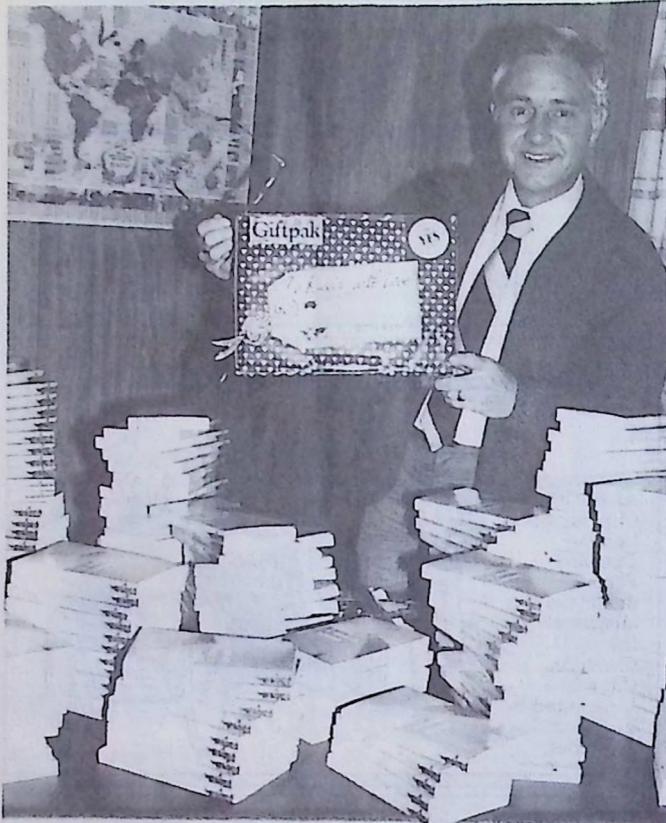
Take six evenings to—
Look at worship in the early church as reflected in the Bible.

Join in with a music workshop and evaluate different approaches.

Consider the use of symbols, drama, architecture. Explore the tremendous benefits of developing a greater level of participation—the honest, human face of worship.

When? Mondays, 18, 25 February, 4, 11, 18, 25 March 1991
Where? CCTC, 40-60 Jacksons Road, Mulgrave 3170 (Melway 80 K3)
Cost? \$35 per person (includes notes)
Enrol Now by contacting the Registrar, Graeme Wigney, at the College on (03) 790 1000, or PO Box 629, Mulgrave North 3170

"To Russia with Love"



Winston Gauder with copies of the Russian New Testament

Project "To Russia with Love", organised by the World Home Bible League Australia, will see Soviet Christians re-joining as the ship *Magnit Agorsk* berths in Leningrad towards the end of this year.

The high-speed presses rolled for 186 hours at the Maryborough, Vic, printing plant as gigantic reels of plain paper were converted into 1 million Russian New Testaments to fill the order.

Special Delivery Points

The Bible League's General Secretary, Dr Winston Gauder, took charge of the 130 pallets that are destined for placement in the USSR. Shipping will take place in 13 containers and will initially be transported to strategic distribution points in Moscow, Minsk, Odessa, Irkutsk and Alma Ata. Some are being channelled through Stockstadt, Germany, and Helsinki, Finland, where smaller quantities are needed

to meet personal requests coming through letters and radio programs.

The primary aim of the distribution plan is to get these Scriptures into the hands of people away from the major cities where stocks are more plentiful. They will go to pastors and key workers who are waiting to receive their very first copies for both outreach and discipling.

Special Design

The Bible text is that of the Synodal edition.

The supplementary material follows the general format of the Celebration New Testament produced by the Bible League for the Australian bicentennial in 1988. Dr Gauder said: "In our consultations with Russian advisers we agreed that the basic material, with some adaptations, and the addition of some Old Testament selections could provide a very effective resource, especially for

Clippers Wanted

Magalla magazine in the Middle East is seeking volunteers to help maintain a clipping service. They need people who enjoy reading magazines and journals, and who would regularly leaf through some to find articles on topics for the magazine. No writing is needed; only reading and clipping. This could appeal to housewives, librarians, bookworms, shut-ins or retirees

Magalla is the Arab world's leading youth magazine, with

a readership of almost half a million. The team of Christian editors in the Middle East needs articles from Western secular and Christian magazines and newspapers on subjects relating to upcoming topics in the magazine.

More information and practical guidelines on how to do this simple and rewarding job can be obtained by writing to the Research Editor, Middle East Media, PO Box 3545, Nicosia, Cyprus.



Young Arabs enjoying *Magalla*

outreach and personal witnessing."

The Russian New Testament has an attractive full colour cover with a rainbow design, a reminder of God's faithfulness and promise

This special New Testament also includes the first nine chapters of Genesis, selections from Isaiah 53 and 55 and several Psalms.

The Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, Gospel outlines and a table of selected readings, plus maps, form part of this 320-page volume.

Special Price

The 50 cents a copy price, which includes printing and shipping to Moscow, has led many Scripture organisations to benefit as well.

This is the most cost-effective Scripture placement project

that Australians have been involved in.

Special Delivery

The first 100 copies were rushed to the 700 Lausanne Conference delegates meeting in Moscow recently. When special couriers wanted \$100 to airlift just two copies in four days time, a phone call to the USSR Consulate brought action.

They instructed the Russian airline, Aeroflot, to use its charter flight scheduled to leave the next morning to rush the "hot off the press" copies within 48 hours.

So far \$200,000 of the project cost of \$500,000 has been received. Gifts towards the project can be sent to "To Russia with Love", The Bible League, PO Box 464, Penrith 2751. Phone (02) 673 3055.

To Vanuatu



Jan Christensen

The Overseas Mission Board is pleased to announce that Jan Christensen has been appointed to the staff of the Banmatmat Bible College in Vanuatu. We're pleased to make this announcement for two reasons. The first is that we had been advertising for someone to fill this position on the request of the Conference

in Vanuatu. Jan has been teaching at Kenmore Christian College and brings with her an appreciation of mission and an understanding of biblical and theological issues that make her well suited to this position. The second reason the Board is so glad Jan is going to Vanuatu is that her twin sister, Fay, works in Papua New Guinea. We can only begin to imagine how confusing it would be if they were both working in the same country!

Banmatmat Bible College, in the south of Pentecost island, is steadily progressing in training quality leaders for the churches in Vanuatu. The Principal is Samuel Vusi, who, with his wife Judith, studied recently at the Pacific Theological College in Fiji, where both of them were awarded the Bachelor of Divinity degree. Both Samuel and Judith are part of the staff, as is Pastor John Stephens, and with Jan there will be a staff of four. We would encourage prayer for all of the staff at Banmatmat and look to the churches in Australia for the continuing support of this ministry. —Jeff May

No More Floods in PNG



Michelle, Stephen, Judy, Ian and Darryn Flood

I imagine that going through life with a surname like Flood is a bit like going through life with a surname like May! So many people make the same wisecrack and assume that perhaps you've never heard anything like that but that may be or may be not!

There are no may-be's about the fact that Ian and Judy Flood, with their children Darryn, Michelle and Stephen, have concluded their time of mission and ministry in Papua New Guinea.

The Floods in PNG served the Conference of Churches of Christ there in the role of "Director of Technical Services and Administration". That's a very fancy name for the fact that Ian's job was to fix everything that broke down. Along with this very valuable servant min-

istry this family have contributed a great deal to the churches and to the lives of their fellow expatriates.

Originally from the Mt Druitt church in Sydney, the family has now settled at Kenmore Christian College in Brisbane. In 1991 Ian will begin studies there, looking for God's leading for future mission and ministry. The Overseas Mission Board gives grateful thanks to the Flood family and to God for their faithful service and their cheerful willing dispositions. During the period that Ian was fixing everything Judy taught her three children correspondence lessons. That's quite an achievement when you consider that her background is in nursing and not in teaching.

—Jeff May

New CCES Deputy Director

The Council for Christian Education in Schools in Victoria is delighted to announce

that Dr Elizabeth (Beth) Nolan has commenced as Deputy Director. Beth has been the State Co-ordinator of the Religious Education Consultancy team within the Special Programs Services section of the Queensland State Department of Education.

Dr Nolan is a Uniting Church ordinand and hopes to be ordained during 1991. She is currently a member of the Uniting Church Assembly Standing Committee and has worked in Christian Education since 1974.

Her doctoral study was at the Union Theological Seminary and Teachers' College, Columbia University, in New York, 1983-86, focusing on the training of clergy and lay people within the ministry of Christian education. She has returned to the United States three times to speak at confer-

ences of professors and researchers of religious education and was elected recently to their Executive Committee.

The Council for Christian Education in Schools, an ecumenical organisation, provides Christian religious education in Victorian state primary schools using the award-winning curriculum *Religion in Life*. The CCES also has full-time chaplains in state postprimary schools providing a Christian educational and pastoral care role.

Beth Nolan



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BIRTHS

POLLARD (NEE WRAY) Dianne and Darryl are thrilled that Hayley Skye arrived on 7 November at Swan Hill Hospital.

APPROACHING MARRIAGES

ARMSTRONG—JEFFUP The marriage of Phillip, son of Tony and

Lynette (CCTC), and Tania, daughter of Dennis and Lee (Legana) will take place at the Launceston Church of Christ on Sunday, 6 January 1991, at 4.30 pm. God's blessing and love and happiness to you both.

SILVER WEDDINGS

GREIG—SEARLE Pat and Bruce thank God for 25 wonderful years

of marriage. Married at Croydon, SA, 1.1.66 by Jack Manallack. Present address: 3 Byways Drive, Ringwood East 3135.

40TH ANNIVERSARIES

KEATCH Betty and Maurice offer thanks to God for his blessings over forty years of ministry (November 1950) and for forty years of marriage (13 January 1951).

DEATHS

SMITH, Ashley Graham. Tragically, on 11 November at Milparinka, NSW. Dearly loved son of Graham and Elsie of Pyramid Hill, Vic, and very special brother of Narelle, Darryn, Tanya and Debbie. Aged 20 years. Those we love don't go away./They walk beside us every day./Tears in our eyes we wipe away./But the love in our hearts will always stay. "He is in God's everlasting arms."

IN MEMORIAM

GOLDSWORTHY Loving memories of our parents, Reginald (12.1.1941) and Amelia (2.1.1954). Till we meet again.

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

AMBROSE Chris and Mary wish all their friends a joyous Christmas. We thank all *The Australian Christian* subscribers for their loyalty and support during the past year.

CUDDY Tom. Christmas greetings to all my friends and will you please note my change of address to Christian Guest Home, 139 Atherton Rd, Oakleigh 3166. Phone (03) 563 3539.

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91 FOR THE SON

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THE 1991 SUMMER SERIES AT SEVEN
STAYING SANE IN A CRAZY WORLD

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6, 13, 20, 27 January, 7 pm

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CHELTENHAM CHURCH OF CHRIST, VIC
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Perth City Church Centenary Celebrations



Re-enactment of the first communion service in Perth. Back row: Gordon and Elma Ewers, Robyn Povey, Audrey Nicholas, Jack Bridge, Jim Collingwood, George Powell. Front row: Barree Povey, Graham Povey, Ian Nicholas, Thelma Bridge

Members of the Perth City, WA, church have been busily involved in celebrating not only the 100th anniversary of the Restoration Movement in WA but also their own church centenary.

The opening celebration was the publishing of "Our Church Family", a collection of memoirs written by present members and produced by Audrey and Ian Nicholas and their daughter Sarah. In September, the CWF arranged a reunion and luncheon, when some 70 ladies enjoyed a talk by Ray Vincent, "Changes through the Years", and a duet by Marian Hall (nee Ewers) and Jeanie Hamilton (nee Conigrave) with

Belle Conigrave at the piano. The church also contributed to the Brotherhood pageant by re-enacting the first Churches of Christ communion service in Perth, 2 November 1890, with 11 communicants.

The highlight of the church's celebrations was the morning worship service on 4 November when 200 people filled the chapel. Gordon Stirling was the speaker. Grateful thanks are due to musicians: organist Ron Raymond (son of centenarian Roy Raymond), soloist Jenny Klenner (daughter of minister George Powell) and regular music group Sung Eun Kong (piano), Gwen Thomas (flute), Adrian and Natasha Povey and

James Yang (violins) and Sung Joo Kong and Anna Yang (cellos).

After this service, 175 people stayed to the lunch, catered for by Elsie Brennan and her team of helpers from Nollamara. The centenary cake was cut by oldest member, Ann Anderson, who also shared in "Reflection on the Past", along with George Cugley, Gordon Ewers, Wilf Paget and Ross Povey.

Finally came an impressive "Gallery Unveiling", which revealed photographs of City Church ministers over the last 100 years (painstakingly collected by Gordon Ewers and framed by Doug Povey).

BBC Songs of Praise in Melbourne

The BBC will be videotaping the popular program Songs of Praise in Melbourne early 1991. Associate Producer, Lelia Green, was in Melbourne during November setting in motion arrangements for the program.

Songs of Praise is based around community hymn and chorus singing and includes interviews with local people and film of identifiable local landmarks. In Great Britain it is televised weekly.

The Melbourne Songs of Praise will be filmed in the Sidney Myer Music Bowl on 10 February, from 4 pm onwards. Lelia believes that the open-air atmosphere of the bowl will give a really "Aussie" flavour to the event.

A large crowd is expected to gather, bringing their families and picnic tea to enjoy on the lawns of the bowl. Church choirs are being invited to join the special Songs of Praise choir that will help to boost the congregational singing. A special hymnbook is to be printed for the occasion.

The BBC crew will be in Australia during February 1991 to cover the WCC Assembly in Canberra. They will come to Melbourne 9-11 February to produce Songs of Praise.

A Melbourne-based co-ordinating committee is organising the local arrangements. Enquiries can be made to Linda Giddy at the Wesley Central Church Office, 148 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000. Phone (03) 662 2355.

—George Warren

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Norma Hall's Record: 25 Years in Ministry



Celebrating the occasion with a group of women-in-ministry colleagues at Neerim South, Vic: Iris Lawson and Marj Buckingham (back row), Robyn Schaefer, Norma, Pam Bowers and Sharn Waldron

Norma Hall, senior minister at the Carnegie, Vic, church, recently completed 25 years as an ordained minister with Churches of Christ.

Norma was born in country Victoria and, with the family, attended the Castlemaine church where she was baptised. She soon became active in Sunday school teaching and youth work, later as church organist, deaconess, and Good Companions leader, while she was also involved in primary school teaching.

In 1960 she attended the Edinburgh World Convention, returning via Canada to visit relatives. It was while in Canada that she responded to God's call to ministry, at a time when our Australian college offered only a limited course to women to train as missionary candidates.

In 1961 Norma was accepted by Alberta Bible College, Calgary, for their four-year ministry course and in 1965 graduated Bachelor of Theology, with ordination to ministry at Cambrian Heights

Church of Christ. This was followed by a five-year ministry at Winnipeg (Manitoba) Christian Church.

Norma returned to Australia in 1970 to attend the World Convention in Adelaide, subsequently taking up pastoral ministry at Warracknabeal-Brim, Vic, in 1971, and at Elizabeth, SA, from 1973-79. After a temporary retirement to care for her aged mother, Norma enrolled for a part-time "refresher" at COB while continuing in ministry at Surrey Hills (Eastern Region), then in 1985 commenced her present ministry at Carnegie. She also served as Chaplain to the Churches of Christ Homes in Oakleigh and Murrumbena in 1985-88.

During her 25 years in ministry Norma has gained experience with ethnic groups and has made wide ecumenical contacts both here and overseas, partly through attendance at six World Convention gatherings. In 1985 she travelled to USA to study developments in ministry with single adults and

Grant for Kenmore

Grant Spangenberg, who served in a very successful team ministry with friend and colleague, John Adermann, throughout 1990 as they concluded studies at Kenmore Christian College, has accepted a five-year call to the Kenmore, Qld, church.

Grant served as student minister at Centenary, Sunnybank and Kingsthorpe (Toowoomba). He and his wife, Helen, and children Joel, Alecia and Luke, now feel very much at home in Queensland. Grant was an elder at the Keith,

SA, church, before deciding to enter the ministry.

A former teacher, Grant is a keen sportsman—basketball, tennis and hockey to name a few—as a player and coach.

Grant believes that, as the church continues to meet in the Kenmore college campus, shared also with the administration of Churches of Christ in Queensland, that the benefits of this association will flow out to the people of the fast-growing and beautiful region of Chapel Hill, Brookfield and Kenmore.

John Morrow to Nollamara

The Nollamara, WA, church has appointed John Morrow as minister, to commence February 1991.

Following ten years as a senior primary school teacher, John enrolled for ministry training at Woolwich Bible College in 1971 with a three-year ministry at Bentleigh East, Vic, following graduation. In 1977 John and Shirley moved to Tasmania and a team ministry with the Hobart and Howrah churches. In 1984 John was awarded the Australian Christian Scholarship, which assisted in financing a twelve-month study and recreation leave adventure. John and Shirley, with two children, travelled to the USA for six months study at Fuller Theological Seminary, followed by a further six months travel through USA, Europe and Israel.

John and Shirley's departure from Tasmania brings to conclusion a 14-year ministry in the state, initially jointly at

is at present leading the "Whole-in-One" singles group based at Carnegie church.

Norma is encouraged that the churches are starting to take seriously the implications of Galatians 3:27 and 28, and is confident that the future will see wider acceptance of women in the ministry of our churches.



Shirley and John Morrow

Hobart and Howrah, but over the last five years with the Howrah church. With their youngest son, Brett, they will be returning to their homeland, however they will be leaving a son (Gavin) and daughter (Robyn) and three grandchildren in Tasmania.

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Vic-Tas Department of
Mission, Education and
Development

Professional Athletes Conference

Dav Whatmore, former Australian and Victorian cricketer recently attended the **Pro Athletes Outreach** sports conference in Ft Lauderdale, Florida, USA, and thinks we should have a similar conference in Australia.

Dav, who is Manager of the Victorian Cricket Association's Coaching and Promotions Department, attended the conference after being nominated as the winner of the 1990 "Friend of SLM Award". The Sports and Leisure Ministry is the nationwide organisation that provides chaplains to Australian sport.

A major purpose of the conference in Florida was to train Christian athletes to become Christian leaders.

The 200 participants included some of American

baseball's biggest and highest paid names. Workshops were held on careers after sport, financial planning, marriage and the travelling sportsperson, family relationships and dealing with loss.

"The problems that face professional athletes in Australia are very similar," Dav Whatmore said.

Dav was impressed with the "smorgasbord of vibrant Christian teaching" at the conference.

Meanwhile at home SLM has been active at the World Masters Games in Melbourne, Vic, and at a seminar in Canberra, ACT, and over summer will have a ministry to Australian and Sheffield Shield cricket, motor sport, PGA golf, soccer, yachting, rodeo, tennis and baseball.

Carlingford Graduation

It has been a momentous year for the Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College. It reached its culmination on 23 November at the 1990 graduation service. Close to 700 people shared a time of worship and inspiration as 22 people graduated.

The college singing group, led by **Robyn Moses**, with solos by **Michael Parker** and **Liz Tilson** added greatly to the worship and enjoyment of the evening.

Two graduating students, **Jim Tilson** (student president) and **Rocky Quinlivan**, spoke on behalf of the students and expressed their thanks to the faculty, board, and churches of NSW for the part each played in their equipping for ministry.

An important part of the evening was the recognition of five people who have served the college faithfully, some over many years. **Colin Bowser** has had active involvement with the college for 45 years as lecturer, board member and, until recently, chairman of the board. **Tim Hanna** served for two

years as director of field education and has shaped the direction which that area of college life will take. He is moving to a ministry at Berwick, Vic. **Jim Henderson** has retired from the position of chaplain after many years. **Mara Goodall** has relinquished the position of librarian, which she has held for nine years.

Robyn Moses has been music director as well as part-time lecturer in public speaking for nine years.

Preaching from 1 Timothy 4:9-16 **Tim Hanna** challenged the graduates, as well as those present, with the idea that there are important factors in making an impact for God in the world. All were exhorted to be people of faith and to remember that ministry is not primarily a profession but a calling from the living God. Building a strong integrity of character and willingness to persevere will allow them to minister effectively.

Diplomas and certificates were presented by **Dr Keith Farmer**, the college Principal,

Belmont's Jubilee



Ron and Marlon Watt, Belmont's longest-serving members, with Ron's painting of the church and display of the church's history

Dr David Millikan, Director of Religious Broadcasts for the ABC, was guest speaker for the Belmont, Vic, church's jubilee. He spoke of the need for the church to re-assess its strategies every decade because of the continuing change in society. He also stressed that we need to listen to what people are saying rather than waiting for them to say what we want to hear. A point of entry is found when we commend their strengths rather than concentrate on their weaknesses.

On the Sunday night **Dr Millikan** continued his theme,

speaking on "The Christian's Role in Australian Society".

Belmont's great weekend commenced with a dinner on the Saturday night at which 169 gathered. A video highlighting the past fifty years was screened.

260 gathered for worship on the Sunday morning, when **Sandra Gibson**, of Mulgrave, led the singing and **Juliet Tripodi** sang. 240 stayed for lunch and another time of fellowship. It was mainly local members at the evening service when 102 gathered and **Jean Smith** sang.

who also led in a prayer of commissioning.

Diplomas were awarded to **Michael Adamson** (from the Institute of Contemporary Church Leadership, Ormond, Vic), **Greg Bruggemann** (East Ipswich, Qld), **Ian Chapman** (from ICCL, Belrose, NSW), **Ian Docker** (returning to do the BTh), **Trevor Firth** (Bongean, Qld), **Craig Humphris** (Midway Point, Tas), **Graham Mann** (negotiating), **Terry Paris** (negotiating), **Barry Purnell** (from ICCL, Nerang, Qld), **Rocky Quinlivan** (East Tamworth, NSW), **Kim Roberts** (negotiating), **Chris Rubie** (Pendle Hill, NSW), **Paul Smalley** (negotiating), **John Sutton** (Rowville, Vic),

Jim Tilson (Glenelg, SA), **Steve Wescombe** (returning to do the BTh).

Christians Service Certificates (two-year course) were awarded to **Glen Phillips**, **Bill Risby** and **Trudy Roberts**.

A number of students also completed their requirements for the Bachelor of Theology Degree from the Sydney College of Divinity. They are **Greg Bruggemann**, **Craig Humphris**, **Graham Mann**, **Terry Paris**, **Grant Ramsay** (Canley Heights/Wakeley, NSW), **Kim Roberts**, **Chris Rubie**, **Paul Smalley**, **John Sutton**, **Jim Tilson**, **Stuart Wesley** (Thornleigh, NSW) and **Stephen Kearns** (Burwood, NSW).

Billy Graham's Largest-Ever Single Outreach

The Hong Kong Billy Graham Crusade, which ended 18 November, was his largest single outreach in over 40 years of international ministry, as the meetings were extended by satellite and video to more than 30 countries throughout Asia and the Pacific region in 48 languages to an audience of 100 million per night.

Of these, more than 25 million attended over 70,000 satellite and video crusades, organised by over 125,000 churches. Each crusade had been prepared as if Mr Graham were coming personally, with over 400,000 counsellors trained and 10 million pieces of follow-up literature printed—in 30 languages.

The 29,000-seat Hong Kong Stadium was filled to overflowing at each of the five meetings. Total attendance for the five meetings was 331,000.

Of these, an average of 4,762 came forward each night at Billy Graham's invitation to make a commitment to Christ, increasing the number of Protestant Christians in Hong Kong by nearly 10%.

Many people in Hong Kong are saying that this crusade was more than evangelism, it was revival. It was the largest religious event in the history of Hong Kong, and far exceeded everyone's expectations.

On the final afternoon, 103,000 were able to get into the two facilities. Police sealed

the gates one hour before the meeting and closed streets many blocks from the stadium. Over 15,000 individuals unable to get in found places along the road and cliffs overlooking the crusade site. Still, countless thousands had to be turned away.

More than 890 churches participated in the year-long preparations for this crusade. The Hong Kong people paid all of the local expenses, with money left over to help defray the costs for satellite broadcast of the meetings across Asia.

Many of the 20,000 volunteers mobilised through this effort were young people, 3,000 of whom distributed one million crusade invitational tracts throughout Hong Kong.

Each sermon was translated into Cantonese from the platform and six other languages in the stadium via low-power radio transmission to headsets.

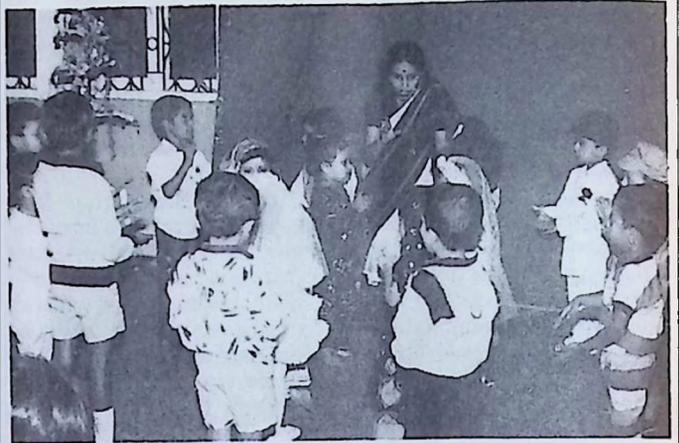
At the same time, translators interpreted Billy Graham's message for satellite and video distribution across Asia through Mission World, an international ministry of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA).

This extension of the Hong Kong Crusade is one of the largest telecommunications efforts for any event from the territory, second only to the Olympics. It is the second of four regional outreaches worldwide, which are being conducted in co-operation with local church leaders, who are co-ordinating specific strategies to match local needs and supplement local efforts.

National telecasts in prime evening time were combined with television household parties. Satellite crusades in numerous churches, auditoriums and stadiums were organised.

In Taiwan there were 100 satellite crusades, ranging in audience size from 500–2,000 per location. Another 500 video crusades will be held in churches, auditoriums and

Christmas Celebration at Bombay Kindergarten



Some of the children singing

This was a Christmas celebration with a difference, since most of the children and parents involved were not Christian but Hindu. The party was held in India, at the Bombay Christian Centre (Church of Christ). The kindergarten meets each weekday morning at the Centre and last year Father Christmas arrived at a special celebration and gave sweets and gifts to the children.

The parents were offered gospel tracts, which were accepted by many. Conference Chairman, Pastor Balu Bhonsle, spoke to those gathered about the message of Christmas. About 150 joined in the celebration, including



Guest speaker, Pastor Balu Bhonsle

guests, singers, parents and children.

theatres. In addition, 25,000 television house parties will be organised around a national TV broadcast.

In other places like Papua New Guinea, where the national TV broadcast was picked up by satellite, house parties turned into mini-crusades, averaging 60–70 people per home.

In the Solomon Islands, 12,000 attended the first night of a satellite crusade with an overflow crowd of an additional 3,000 individuals—the largest gathering for any purpose there.

In India, video crusades were organised at 66,000 locations in

21 languages, with requests for an additional 62 languages to be interpreted.

Early next year, a special nationwide broadcast of the Hong Kong Crusade will run in English and Hindi during prime time on the country's only television network.

All programs are culturally adapted, with special Asian inserts placed around Mr Graham's message. A total of 55 preproduced musical segments and 30 testimonies suggested or requested by local church leaders were included in six different editions for each program.

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25 Years in Unity

On Sunday, 25 November, the Co-operating Churches in Churchill, Vic, celebrated 25 years of work and witness for their Lord. The service had standing room only and was attended by Bishop Colin Sheumack representing the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland, Rev Dr David Beswick representing the Uniting Church and Stan Bannon representing Churches of Christ.

The guest preacher for the service was Rev David West, the third minister of the parish. He challenged the church about its mission, its appreciation of its resources and its acceptance of the Lordship of Christ. Rev Brian Edgar (fourth minister) was present also and shared in the Holy Communion. Greetings were received from Margaret Arch, widow of Rev Peter Arch (first), Rev Noel Park (second), Rev John Gale (fifth) and Deaconess David Webster (part time during

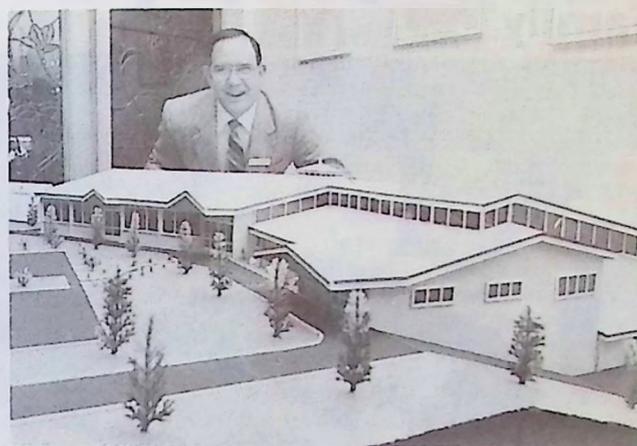
fourth and fifth). Also present at the service was Mrs Knife, widow of Archdeacon Knife, who contributed much to the establishment of this co-operating ministry. A special greeting was brought by Fr Peter Bickley, from Lumen Christi (Roman Catholic) Parish, encouraging the witness we proclaim of Christ as King, together.

The town of Churchill was also celebrating 25 years and Christian events were prominent throughout. It began with the ladies dinner, which was catered for by the Co-operating Churches men. The Catholic Church Fete included an emphasis on Christians having fun. The Arch family were the second residents of the town and Peter set up many of the continuing associations that have helped to establish this new town. A memorial service and tree planting was held to remember his contribution.



The five Arch children planting a tree in memory of their father Peter

Toowoomba's Plans



Senior minister Bruce Armstrong with a model of the new church in Toowoomba

The Margaret Street, Toowoomba, Qld, church will have to raise an extra \$700,000 to build its new \$2.1m complex at Middle Ridge after hitting a snag in the sale of its old church in Margaret Street. The historic church has been heritage listed, and this has hampered the sale.

However, the church has promised to give \$1.54 million over the next three years. The first offering towards the project brought in over \$30,000. The church used Cargill Assoc. as our professional stewardship directors. It has been well worthwhile—each dollar raised in this way has cost the church only 5c. The new com-

plex includes a 1,000-seat auditorium, two 500-seat halls and an indoor sports area. Major earthworks have already begun at the site, which is in Hume Street above K-Mart Plaza. Building is expected to start early in 1991.

Many offers "in kind" have been made, including promised man hours for carpentry, brick laying, steel fabrication, landscaping etc. In this way the project will be finished in a year. Already \$30,000 worth of earthworks has been completed for the cost of the fuel—\$2,500—by one member.

The ICA will extend \$100,000 interest-free over six years.

The Co-operating Churches produced a 24-page edition of the tabloid *Churchill News*—a fortnightly event continued from almost day one of the town.

A combined churches service was addressed by Bishop Coffey (first priest of Lumen Christi), who challenged with the line: "Take the church out of Churchill and what are you left with..."

The slogan used by the town for its celebrations was "Young Town Great Potential" and the churches did a lot to remind itself and the community that the potential comes from Christ's action and can only be realised by dedication.

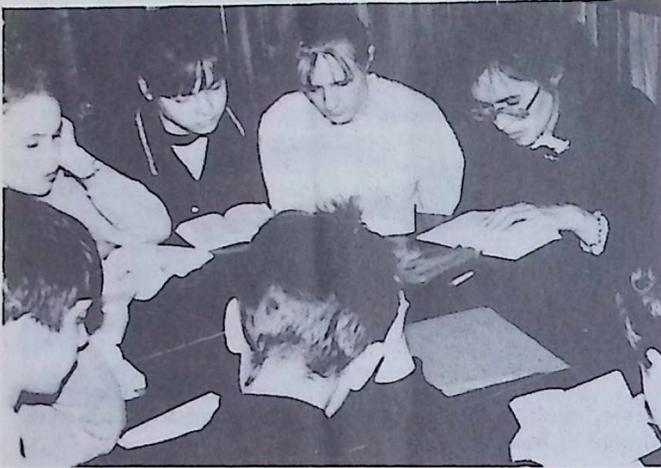
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Bible Society's "Operation Family"



Sunday School class at First Baptist Church, Leningrad

In response to unprecedented demand for Bibles from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, the United Bible Societies have launched the biggest project they have ever undertaken.

"Operation Family" is an \$80 million commitment to provide 30 million complete Bibles and children's Bibles to Russian and Eastern European families by 1994.

"The people of Eastern Europe have been deprived of God's Word for generations," says Bruce Pearce, Australian General Secretary of the Bible Society. "Now, the demand for Bibles throughout the former Eastern Bloc is just unbelievable. There are real physical needs in those countries for food, clothing, shelter and so on—but the people are asking for Bibles as a first priority."

Astonishing Events

- Young people are flocking to newly-opened churches to hear about Christianity, and to request hundreds of thousands of Bibles.

- Recently, on the steps of Leningrad's old Museum of Atheism, two American tourists were stopped by an enthusiastic girl—who witnessed to them vigorously about Jesus.

- The Museum of Atheism itself has now been reconsecrated as a cathedral.

- In Estonia, teachers who used to persecute Christian children for attending church are now going to church themselves.

- The newspaper *Komunist*, the official voice of Yugoslavia's officially atheistic government, recently ran a full-page advertisement for the Bible Society of Yugoslavia, list-

Good News for Sunbury

A new church is being planted at Sunbury, Vic, very early in the new year. Milton Oliver, who recently graduated from CCTC, with his wife Anne and three sons are beginning the new work. As yet there is no congregation, and financially the whole venture is a leap of faith. But already two big pledges of financial support have come from two smaller churches—both of which have very limited resources themselves. The Strathmore church have pledged \$175 per month and the Fountain Gate Church \$100 per month for the whole year. Milton is enthusiastic that these churches have taken up the challenge of church planting. The Gisborne church is finalising a similar support pledge too. Churches and friends wishing to pledge financial support can contact the Gisborne Church of Christ direct. A Sunbury Church Fund is being established there under the care of the Treasurer. Contact Ray Smith, 7 Plummer Street, New Gisborne, 3438. Phone (054) 28 3378.

Anyone who knows of possible new church contacts in the Sunbury area are asked to

forward names and addresses by telephone or mail to Milton and Anne. People will be visited personally with the view to offering pastoral support and knitting them into the new congregation. You may have friends or relatives who you think may benefit from a pastoral visit or involvement in a new church and its various, men's, women's, children's and youth ministries. Write to 16 Denman Court, Sunbury 3429, or phone (03) 568 6675 or (03) 744 5511.



Milton Oliver

ing currently available Scriptures.

- Moscow University plans a special teaching program based on Jesus and the Bible and has ordered 100 Bibles, 100 children's Bibles and 100 Bible encyclopaedias.

- Perhaps most unbelievable of all: a Bible Commission involving the Russian Orthodox Church, the Leningrad State University and the Leningrad Archives of the USSR Academy of Sciences has been formed specially for the translation, publication and distribution of the Bible.

History's Greatest Opportunity

"Because of all this, we are facing what is probably history's greatest evangelistic and pastoral opportunity," Bruce Pearce said. "Nothing less than

our biggest effort ever could go near to meeting the need."

\$15 for Two Families

Australian Christians are being asked to give at least \$15 a month to "Operation Family".

"That comparatively small amount will provide a Bible and New Testament, or a Bible and a children's Bible, to two families in Russia and Eastern Europe."

New Bible Societies

Bruce Pearce says that new Bible Societies had already been established in Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union and Latvia, and that others would soon open in Romania and Armenia.

For further details of "Operation Family" see the advertisement on page 28 of this issue of *The Australian Christian*.

Visiting Canberra? Stay with a Church Family

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

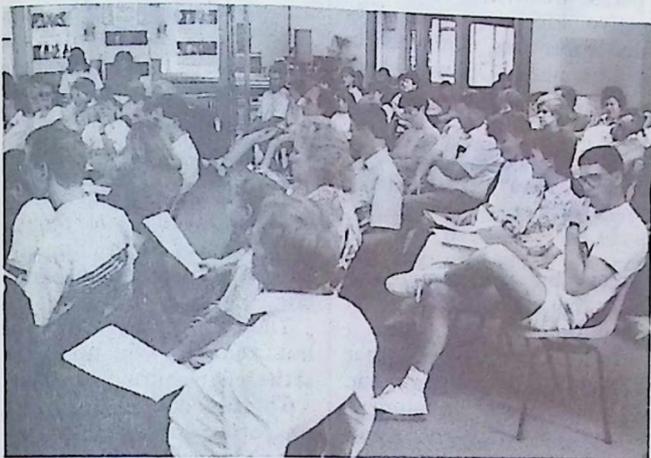
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Waramanga 2611
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Barbara Kennedy
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Melba 2615
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Advance bookings appreciated

A Vision for Youth Launched



Launching Youth Vision at York Street

Many churches struggle with moving beyond simply maintaining their ministry. Youth ministry, in particular, is often fraught with difficulties because both young people and leaders live highly mobile lifestyles. This causes a breakdown in the overall continuity of the ministry, resulting in obvious "hiccups" to effective program planning, discipleship, leadership recruitment and role modelling.

Our concern rests with both leadership and the spiritual well-being of young people. We have a desire to see more young people in Ballarat East, Vic, come to find life through a personal relationship with Christ. If you like, we have a vision for our youth. A youth vision!

On 4 November over 80 people of all ages, from young children to grandparents, met at 4.30 pm for the launch of the

Youth Vision for York Street, Ballarat. The launch saw the culmination of a number of months of prayer, research and planning involving the members.

Soon after Gary Berry commenced as the Associate Minister in February, Andrew Ball from the DMED approached the eldership of the church to see if they would pray about being involved in a Youth Vision pilot program. The aim was to help the church to develop a Youth Vision—a five-year plan of development of the youth ministry.

The process of formulating the Youth Vision was just as important as the outcomes. The foundations had been laid when Andrew Ball assisted the church in the development of a philosophy of youth ministry in September 1989 under the ministry of Roger Risson.

In mid-1990 the eldership

My Other Dad

by Pania Williams

Death notices have a tendency to depress people and they usually don't really say what you're thinking. This is my way of saying, "Goodbye, till we meet again."

Recently, I lost someone very special. Over the seven years that I knew him, he carved a very special notch in my heart. Living as an MK in PNG, I was always very aware of the dangers faced by my own father as he travelled around the countryside doing the work he loved so much.

My other Dad also travelled around the countryside doing something which was his life. Bob Peaker, a pilot with the Missionary Aviation Fellowship in PNG, became for me my second father as I grew up in Madang.

I always took pride in being his "little daughter", the one he and his wife Sharon never had. Along with my second Dad, came my second Mum. Actually it was sort of a family pack-

age because along with my second set of parents came my other brothers, Michael and Tony. They were the cousins I'd never had. The Peakers showed me the many benefits of having that second family.

On one Scuba dive, Bob explained to me the simplest way that he knew to explain the Christian faith. He said that if I could trust a tin can of air on my back at 80 feet below sea level, then trusting God to look after me was "as easy as pie".

At a time in my life when I'm making so many achievements, it often hurts to know that my other Dad won't be around to see them. Yet in all of my grief, I know that I can be certain of his whereabouts. So here's to you, Uncle Bob, your parting is our loss, but forever Heaven's gain.

Always my Daddy too.

Love—your little daughter Pania.

• Pania Williams is a member of the Sunshine, Vic, church.

were then challenged to pray for what they believed God would want to see happen in the lives of the young people. Through the distribution of prayer journal sheets the congregation were given the opportunity to be involved in the process.

The next stage of the process was conducted by Glen Strange, a board member and member of the youth committee, who gave up two weeks of employment to research the needs of the young people in the community and identify the current services for young people and any gaps that existed.

The final stage was to document the findings and formulate the plan of development. The Youth Vision that resulted could be summed up in the following statement:

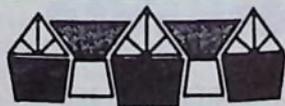
"Every young person in the Ballarat East area to come into

meaningful contact with the message of Jesus Christ and those who respond be effectively disciplined and involved in the life of the York Street Church of Christ."

The key ministry areas that we will address include leadership training, discipleship, outreach and evangelism, worship, pastoral care, personal/spiritual development, prayer, parents/family, community, roles/administration and creative ministries.

The launch was followed by a fellowship tea and then onto the Focus on Youth service at 7 pm, where Andrew Ball gave a challenging gospel message and Doug McFarlane sang. He also presented an after-church concert at the conclusion. Over 250 people were in the congregation, with three-quarters of the congregation being young people and young adults.

—Gary Berry



El Kanah

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A Church ABC

Ipswich, 40 km southwest of Brisbane, is the oldest provincial city in Queensland. Originally a mining town, this city of over 60,000 is now also an important industrial (manufacturing, railway workshops) and farming centre. There are a number of Churches of Christ in the area. The fellowship now known as Ipswich grew out of a group that started at the East Ipswich church in 1974-5, when Barry Rice was minister there. A new, contemporary-style 8 am worship service started with 12 people and grew to 55 within six months. Restraints of time and space prompted a move to the Clairmont Special School assembly hall and the group became a separate fellowship under the umbrella of East Ipswich. In 1987 the group became the Ipswich Church of Christ.

The emphasis is on people rather than buildings. The fellowship now meets at the Year 12 Centre at Bundamba State High School. This school has

just built a new assembly hall and the church is looking forward to using this facility soon. Although there are no plans for a church building, a shop or office could be considered.

ties are filled from within the fellowship or visitors with expertise are invited. There is an active eldership, which plans and supervises, confirmed in office annually. Deacons are not

ing the second half of the morning service.

Every now and then there are special times of fellowship. For instance, last Sunday the members went to Wivenhoe

Dam for the service, where the older youth were having a camp, then stayed for aquatic activities. Such opportunities are invaluable for fellowship and for inviting others to a non-threatening situation.

The church runs a camp at least annually, with up to 90% of the fellowship in attendance.

The Ipswich Church of Christ supports people in other areas—Greta O'Neil, with YWAM in the Philippines, the Sherwood family working on drug rehabilitation at Sherwood Cliffs on the north coast of NSW, and other families throughout Australia.

The fellowship at Ipswich has been successful in demonstrating to people that Christianity is viable and real and something worth doing.

Focus on Ipswich

At present the church is administered from a spare room under the house of the secretary, Ian Neumann.

The service is now held at 9 am, and there are over 100 regular attenders. The membership is young—44% under 19, 32% 19-30, 23% 31-50, 2% 51-65 and none over 65. It is a lively fellowship, which aims to fill the area between the more traditional and the charismatic styles of worship. There is a music group, and a dance group. For three years there was a full-time minister, Larry Holt, but there is no paid ministry at present. Teaching responsibili-

ties are filled from within the fellowship or visitors with expertise are invited. There is an active eldership, which plans and supervises, confirmed in office annually. Deacons are not

There are a number of other groups in the life of the church. A group meets for intercessory prayer most weeks, and there are two youth groups that meet every second Friday night, though this could probably be weekly next year.

Almost everybody belongs to a cell group. These meet weekly or fortnightly and provide pastoral care. There is a cricket team and plans for a play group and a handyman service. Children have "Minimites", which meet dur-

Growing Spiritually

Justice Demands

by Kevin Bray

One day, when I was about five and my sister about seven, we had a great time rearranging all the portable doves and angels at our local cemetery, which was just a short walk from our home. Oblivious to the "desecration" we were doing, we felt—in our childhood simplicity—that justice demanded a fairer distribution. Some graves had too many decorations, while others had none. (We were never found out, and I smile now at the havoc we must have wreaked.)

Some years later, my father caught me doing something—going into town when I should have been at home—that he had expressly forbidden. Justice demanded punishment, but it was Cub's night and I gratefully

accepted a reprieve "until tomorrow". Imagine my delight when Dad forgot to punish me the next day! For several days I lived in fear that he'd remember, but he didn't. It was many years before I realised that he'd forgiven me, unconditionally, from the very beginning.

In those days, my father was an "engine-driver" for the local shire, working shifts to keep the town electricity generators running every day—even on Christmas Day. I have vivid memories of taking Dad his Christmas dinner—piping hot—on my bike, with the billy can of food, plates, knife and fork (and Christmas pudding!) all wrapped up in a tea-towel. Somehow—certainly not from Dad—I later discovered that he'd shared his precious

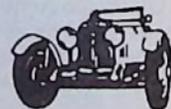
Christmas lunch with an Aboriginal man who would otherwise have had nothing.

Recently, a friend opened his home to a ship-jumping foreign sailor seeking refugee status...and then to another... and another. Justice demanded friendship, hospitality, the seeking of legal aid and other assistance, and support in the

refugees' struggles—not just for a week or so, but for several years. Thank you, O God, for the experiences that, and the people—made in your image—who have shaped our lives in patterns of justice, faithful to your own unconditional love.

• Kevin Bray attends the Belconnen church in Canberra.

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• *Know where you are going and know your young people*

Pastoral Care

by Ross Savill

Know Where You Are Going

Our top priority as youth leaders seeking to provide pastoral care to young people must be our relationship with God. This is said so often at leadership seminars that after a while it can lose its impact, but I sincerely believe it cannot be emphasised enough. Youth leaders need to guard their relationship with God, to cherish it, to allow God the opportunity to continue to mould them. God is far more interested in the person they are becoming than what they do. Young people also will be far more interested and influenced by the type of people their youth leaders are than what they say or do.

Yet setting aside quality time with God can sometimes seem so difficult. Our schedules can become crowded with many urgent things, visits that should be made, phone calls that should be returned and lessons/programs to be prepared, that we go after these things and neglect what is vitally important. If this continues for any length of time, we face the danger of trying to "run on empty" of exhausting our spiritual resources and just going through the motions. Gordon McDonald in his superb book, *Restoring Your Spiritual Passion*, describes this condition as "action without heart, oratory without power, doctrine without love". For a while even in this state it is possible to continue the activity but it cannot last. We become ineffective, unenthusiastic, even negative and those for whom we are responsible suffer. As youth leaders we need to make sure that we have our priorities in order and are seeking always to give God the opportunity to help us become the type of person that he can use in his work with young people.

Know Your Young People

Sounds basic I know, but essential. If we are going to be in the business of caring for young people we need to really know them, and this is not achieved by seeing them just for one or two hours each week. We need to get to know our young people and give them the chance to get to know us. John Bond says that "Christianity is more often caught than taught". I agree. We youth leaders need to make sure we have something worth catching and are close enough to our young people for them to catch it.

A Few Suggestions

- Talk to them. Find out what they are into, e.g. if it is sport and they play for a club, arrange to go and watch one weekend or invite a couple of them to give you a game. (If it is tennis or squash or tenpin bowling they will love to try and beat you.)

- Visit their homes. Meet their families, get to know their parents—very important.

- Open your home to them. Invite them over for a meal or to watch television.

- Look for opportunities to help them in practical ways. This might mean providing them with transport to an event or to regular events, or offering to help them with their school work, finding some resources for them etc.

These are only a few very simple but effective suggestions. As we get to know young people, and they get to know us as people who are hopefully genuine and who care, we will then have opportunities to really make a difference.

- *Ross Savill is the youth and family welfare officer at the Margaret Street, Toowoomba, Qld, church.*

Not Just "Whingeing Farmers"

by George Warren

This time it is not just "whingeing farmers"—the men and women on the land really are feeling the pinch. The trade war in Europe causing export prices to drop dramatically, prices for agricultural products being unrealistically depressed, fruit and other products being imported from countries that subsidise their farms all combine with the problems of salination of the soil and the increase in pests such as rabbits to make the future a very bleak and dreary one for the country dweller.

On 24 November I was at a Victorian Council of Churches Conference at Bendigo. At the afternoon session a group of us elected to study "the rural crisis" firsthand. We met five farmers, all of whom were Christians, and we visited a farm. None of these people are the militant rabble rousers who are out for their pound of flesh. They all have a deep commitment to high ethical standards and see one of their tasks as leaving a better country for future generations. Yet each of them showed the strain of being squeezed beyond reason.

One example is to be found in the production of wheat. Production costs are rising enormously while sale prices stay the same. Ten years ago a ton of wheat fetched around \$90. Today a ton of wheat will bring in a maximum of \$90. In the same time the cost of diesel fuel has risen from 20c a gallon to \$2.70. It costs more for farmers to produce their wheat than they receive in return.

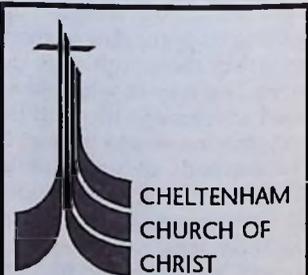
The one thing that sustains the group of farmers I met is

their faith in God. While it is not going to be easy for them they know that they will get through this time with God's strength.

What can we as city-dwellers do? Obviously a lot of factors are beyond our control. The restructuring of the agricultural industry and trade wars are a little difficult for us to do much about. But there are some simple things we can do.

We can accept, without complaint, significant rises in the prices of products from the land. Bread, milk and dairy products and fruit must increase, as long as the profits are passed on to the farmer. We need to take care in buying Australian produce, even if it does cost a little more. Thirdly, letters to politicians expressing concern for our rural producers may help redress the balance of decision-making that favours urban Australia at the expense of the country. Then let us also pray for our sisters and brothers in the country who help to feed and clothe us city-dwellers. The farmers' problems ultimately will be ours. Let us make them ours now and we will be able to solve them together.

- *George Warren is minister at the Greensborough, Vic, church.*



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The "Youth Ministry" series is edited by Andrew Ball.

World News

Revival in Bulgaria



Ned Blaskow with two leading Turkish Christians

I am sending this report from Bulgaria where I have been staying since September. I feel that what God is doing here deserves the attention and prayers of Christians in Australia.

After my visit to Bulgaria in 1989 I stated that Bulgaria was at the threshold of revival. After what I have witnessed now, I can say that Bulgaria is in revival.

It is a revival of a special meaning. My reason for this view is that now the Bulgarian Gypsies are turning to the Lord in masses.

A few days ago we had a meeting in a small mountain town. Two-thirds of the 300 crowding the cinema were Gypsies and Turks. When we made the appeal to receive Christ virtually all of them surged forward, fell on their

knees, and with tears acknowledged Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

It is difficult to describe the scenes of deep emotion as God's Spirit opens the hearts of these people, most of whom have never heard the good news. A Christian has recorded most of them on video and we will be showing them to God's people in Australia.

I have invited Pastor Christo Christov of Shumen to visit Australia in March next year to tell the story of God's work in Bulgaria. Churches who want to hear this man of God are invited to contact Voice of Peace Mission. I will also be available for meetings on my return to Australia in late November.

Write or phone Voice of Peace, PO Box 339, Cronulla 2230. Phone (02) 527 2387.

—Ned Blaskow

"The Australian Christian" Not-So-Trivial Christmas Quiz

compiled by Geoff Alves

- Who was John the Baptist's mother? (Luke 1:13)
- In what town did Jesus turn water into wine? (John 4:36)
- Who succeeded David as king? (1 Chronicles 29:28)
- Lydia from Thyatira was a dealer in what commodity? (Acts 16:14)
- What relation was Jethro to Moses? (Exodus 1:18)
- On what day did God create living creatures? (Genesis 1:20, 23)
- Which three disciples witnessed Jesus' transfiguration? (Matthew 17:1-2)
- Name the nine fruits of the spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23)
- Who was Hanna's son, whose name meant "heard of God"? (1 Samuel 1:20)
- What good deed did Joseph of Arimathea do? (Mark 15:43-46)
- What were the gates of the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, made of? (Revelation 21:21)
- What caused Michal to despise David? (1 Chronicles 15:29)
- How many husbands did Jesus say the woman at the well had had? (John 4:18)
- Who was Philemon's slave? (Philemon 10)
- What Psalm begins: "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness."? (NIV)
- How many loaves and fish were used to feed the five thousand? (Luke 9:13)
- Who killed Sisera by driving a tentpeg into his temple? (Judges 4:21)
- Which church is described in Revelation as lukewarm? (Revelation 3:14-16)
- Who said, "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" (John 1:46)
- How many oxen was Elisha ploughing with? (1 Kings 19:19)
- What did Paul plead with Euodia and Syntyche to do? (Philippians 4:2)
- What did Jesus say the thorns were in "other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants"? (Luke 8:7, 14)
- What does the shield represent in the armour of God in Ephesians 6:16?
- The Ethiopian eunuch baptised by Philip was an important official in charge of whose treasury? (Acts 8:27)

How Did You Go?

25—Congratulations! You have just been appointed the new Principal of the Churches of Christ Theological College!

20-24—Congratulations! You have just been nominated to run one of the church's Bible study groups next year!

13-19—Congratulations! You have just decided to join that Bible study group next year!

0-12—Congratulations! You must be a new Christian! Welcome!

Federal Conference

A reader has pointed out that in our summary of some of the decisions of Federal Conference in the 3 November issue we did not make clear that when the constitution was changed that the National Council will have an Executive. The Executive will be made up of the National

President, the National Secretary, Treasurer and the two Victorian members and this Executive will meet every two months.

A copy of the new constitution will be available early next year and is obtainable from the National Conference Secretary.

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Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Bolduan, Dorothy (9.11.90) Dorothy was born at Reedy Creek, Vic, in 1905. She made her decision at the Dandenong church and entered the College of the Bible from there for missionary training. With her late husband Reg she went to India where they served for 17 years. Upon their return to Victoria Dorothy supported Reg in his ministries at Gardiner, Cheltenham and Kaniva. Dorothy was a devoted wife and mother. She was a creative and practical person who enjoyed working with her hands. Her death occurred at the Murrumbeena Nursing Home. A service was conducted in the Nunawading church. Sympathy is expressed to Dorothy's family and friends. —Mal Giezendanner

Hodges, Alice Bertha Born Oakleigh 1906. Baptised 1920. 70 years a member Oakleigh, Vic, church. Married to Frank Hodges by Allan Brooke, 1932. Enthusiastic member Mission Band, Dorcas, CWF. Became Secretary and President of local CWF and State CWF President. Alice was involved Inter-Church Women's Council. Was Supt Homes Visitation Committee CWF for 27 years. She and Frank served Meals on Wheels many years. Had wonderful capacity for challenging others to Christian service. Had strong and practical faith, abounding hospitality, great loyalty to local church. Bishop Newell, Anglican Bishop of Tasmania, made helpful contribution to thanksgiving service. Sympathies expressed to daughters Pam and Marlene, sister Linda Gillespie, son-in-law Geoff and grandson Peter. —Les Dewberry

Jory, Esther May (10.10.90) Born 1917 at Mentone to Inez and William Macbeth, May was baptised at Cheltenham, transferring to Carnegie in 1934. She married Keith and they had three children—Lynette (Griffith), Glennis (Couper) and Max. May's interests and talents were many, including beautiful crafts, church (23 years secretary of CWF), CWA, opportunity shop. In 1980 she went to the World Convention in Hawaii. Although her life was not easy, she is remembered for her bright disposition and for her loving, caring ways. Her family (including nine grandchildren), sister Thelma (Woodward) and the Carnegie church thank God for the qualities that endeared May to all. —Norma Hall

Kleinig, Rae Isobell (22.10.90) Born 25.7.22, Rae was a foundation member of Numurkah church. She worked willingly and freely, using all her many talents, presiding, reading, leading women's groups, making friends, giving hospitality. Her faith was strong. During her last few weeks she said as cancer was taking over, "Whatever is the Lord's will, I am ready." Rae is sadly missed by her family and her church.

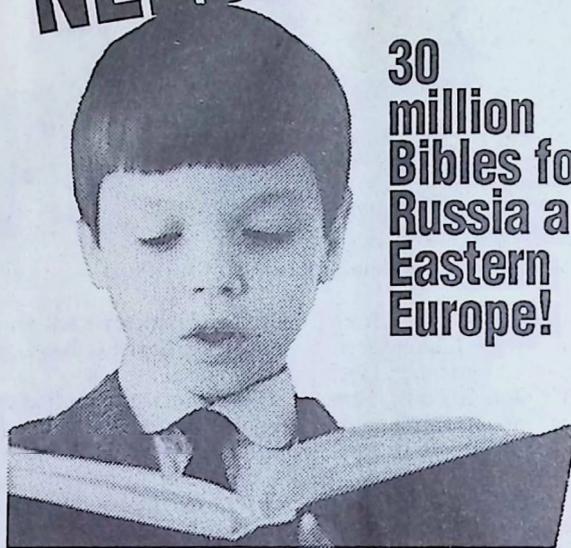
—A. Farrar

Smith, Ashley Graham (11.11.90) A small rural community was stunned on hearing of the death of one of its favourite sons, and over 600 gathered to thank God they had had the privilege of knowing Ashley Smith. A member of the local football and tennis teams, and a faithful member of Pyramid Hill church, Ashley became a friend to all he came in contact with over his 20 years of life. Having gained his day and night flying licences, Ashley was planning a career in flying when he was tragically killed in an air accident. Sympathy is conveyed to parents Graham and Elsie, and to Narelle, Darryn, Tanya and Debby.

Stewart, Sarah Jane Mrs Stewart was born in Fitzroy, Vic, in 1897. Though brought up in the Presbyterian Church she became a member of the Thornbury church 23 years ago during the ministry of the late L.G. Crisp. She was a faithful member, involved in the ladies work and regular in attendance. Her children, Thelma, Les and Ken were brought up in the Thornbury Sunday School and church. Les became Chief Explorer and an elder and Thelma very active in the Reservoir church until recent times. To the family we offer our sympathy. A thanksgiving service was held at Thornbury on 1 November, Larry Holt (minister) assisting the writer. —Bruce Alcorn

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Discipleship

•Bo Tse, Maureen Lane, Rachel Somic, Justin Poole, Glen Waverley, Vic •Brian Searles, John Forward, Frankston, Vic •Gail Fisher, Robert Berry, Wayne Prince, Marian Prince, The Patch, Vic •Lucinda Pickett, Kaniva, Vic •Kerryl Griffin, Magan Schaefer, Stuart Winter, Happy Valley, SA •Alisa Gilbert, Matthew Evans, Collins St, Hobart, Tas •Craig Plail, Liz Plail, Bradley Battin, Sarah Higgott, Peter Knol, Rhonda

WA News

CARNARVON (Donald Bone) During minister's holiday time several men were rostered to speak and John Doubikin presented radio program ... John Doubikin re-elected deacon ... CWF enjoyed Christmas program presenting a play ... Criss Jones elected as 1991 president, theme text James 5:8 ... Elizabeth McCrae, who has lived at Olive Laird Hostel for some years, celebrated her 90th birthday ... Film "Kevin Can Wait" screened.

Tas News

NUBEENA (G. Henderson) First church fair raised over \$3,000 ... KYB has now two groups, with Gwen Henderson & Pam Williams attending leaders training session in Hobart ... Malcolm Orr & Gwen Morffew spoke to church before annual meeting re Bicheno Camp site ... Ian Tippett visited from DMED re planned giving ... Enjoyed visit from Bill & Margaret Howard representative for Bible Society. **CAVESIDE** (John & Colleen Harrison) 13 participated in Walk Thru the Bible ... OT seminar sponsored by Ministers Fraternal conducted by Bryan Greenwood ... Christmas card & book sale held as outreach to community—sales \$730 ... Church information pack prepared for contacts ... Successful 55 anniversary held with choir and Youth Group participating—"Our Great Big God" ... Planning underway for "So This Is Christmas" service and lunch 23 December.

Knol, Fiona Ritchie, Darrol Finger, Darren Finger, Michelle Finger, Wendy Beatty, Louise Brown, David Bradley, Sharon Yates, Emma Cameron, Kate Randall, Adam Charlesworth, Tracey Stevens, Berwick, Vic •Stuart Morris, Boronia, Vic •Michelle Pettit, Bordertown, SA •Jackie Gordon-Smith, Liverpool, NSW

Mariages

•Ruth Schemmel to George Stratford, Brighton, SA •Sue Bennett to Peter Dooley, Bordertown, SA •Julie Stock to Ian Broadley, Albion, Qld

Deaths

•Ivy Marsh, Glen Waverley, Vic •Ern McLucas, Maryborough, Qld •Ashley Graham Smith, Pyramid Hill, Vic •Mrs Vera Tomey, Mrs Kath Saunders, Ben Huntsman, Mrs Eileen Dunn, Mrs Cathy Marshall, Franston, Vic •Letitia Sibly, Olive Heard, Grace Ames, Marj Dempster, Brighton, SA •Mrs Nell Coxhead, Nunawading, Vic •Mrs Olive Stephens, Mrs Barnes, Kelth, SA •Peggy McCrone, Boronia, Vic •Alma Barry, Maitland, NSW

Changes

Sunbury: New address and church office—Milton Oliver, 16 Denman Court, Sunbury 3429. Phone (03) 744 5511.

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Mrs Robyn Claydon from Sydney—Monday, 3 pm
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Church News

Vic

GLEN WAVERLEY (Ron Elbourne, Lindsay Croxford, Doug Fitzpatrick) We pledge prayerful support to Howard Sanders, who has accepted the invitation to serve as youth minister at GW from early Feb ... 1991 church program now in hands of each worshipping family ... Our music director, John Marshall, accepted further 12 months term in this important ministry ... 75 attended Ladies Dinner sponsored by CWF ... YP held canoe day at Auravale.

HARTWELL (G. Rogerson) Graeme Rogerson to continue in ministry for further two years as from January 1992 ... Student minister, Tim Green, returning to give leadership to young people ... 60 members of church family registered for weekend camp at ADANAC, Yarra Junction. A time of learning, sharing & fun ... Planned Giving Program produced satisfactory result ... Bruce & Ruth Clapp visited from Western Australia. Bruce guest speaker.

PRESTON (T. Armstrong) 100 were present at a combined morning service with the Greek Church (who meet in our building each week). The service was conducted jointly by the Greek pastor & Tony Armstrong. The band, organised by Tony, featured. A luncheon followed & then a musical fellowship afternoon ... At a recent morning service recognition was given to the incoming CWF executive.

FRANKSTON (Allan Avery, Harold Bischoff) Fete resulted in \$5,900. A record ... Sincere sympathy to Dick Saunders on passing of Kath ... Allan Avery & Fred Combridge back after hip replacements ... Greenways PSA held monthly, led by Dick Saunders ... Recognition service for Merv Chiswell, who retired after 14 years as leader of Explorer Club ... Farewell to Pam Bowers, who has resigned from ministry to seek employment in other fields.

THE PATCH (Mike Folland) CWF & friends enjoyed Christmas dinner Camp Waterman ... Mike Folland & Paul Fry attended 15-day Christian Outward Bound course in Qld ... 50 enjoyed great night at Youth Group break-up ... 25 Nov we celebrated with Gail Fisher, Robert Berry, Wayne & Marian Prince as they were baptised & welcomed into membership of the church, also dedication of Sam & Jessie-Ann Prince ... Choir presented carols & Christmas music.

NUNAWADING (E. Keating, D. Hamilton, J. Wright, L. Smith, A.

Spoelder) Church choir, Labyrinth, Phoenix, Treble Clefs, Dance & Drama groups assist in worship ... Proceeds from PSA concert to Christmas Bowl ... Springfield Road fair raised \$5,620 ... Glenda de Jager presented illustrated report on visit to Philippines for International Needs ... Ann Thomson raised \$754 for CCTC from sale of china painting. Outstanding display at Surrey Road of art, craft, & collectables.

KANIVA (M. Goldup) CWF ladies this year competed numerous rugs for elderly ... Boys & girls clubs continue to flourish ... Church planning a church retreat for 1991 ... Offerings for missionary project to help support Rick & Helen Nolan in PNG are measured on church thermometer. \$200 was forwarded; more will follow.

MAIDSTONE (Wes Rodgers) Wes has taken most services ... Ray Taylor (Bible League) visited ... Newly formed Childrens Club has made good beginning ... Childrens Day special service: Maj Grigsby (SA) with Alexander (doll) visited. Tea together followed ... Most of recently sick people now able to attend services ... CWF packed 400 articles for hospital visitors ... Stall at Sunshine raised \$286, church fete raised \$2,139.

BERWICK (Peter Holt, Gordon Stirling) Steel frame up for new church. Mud brick manufacture by members starts mid-December ... Hospitality Sunday: members had others for lunch ... Country Fair raised \$4,000 ... Sales of Lesley Stirling's poems reach \$1,000 ... Proceeds of dunking machine \$600 add to Relocation Funds ... 200 Senior citizens entertained at musical afternoon ... Picnic held on new site ... 9 lessons & carols presented at Leisure Centre.

BORONIA (Keith Milne Andrew Henley) Two studies completed, "Come Holy Spirit, Renew the Whole Creation", leaders Bruce McIntosh, Keith Milne ... Committee planning 70th anniversary 1991 ... Rosalie Cree, Ellen Teakel president and secretary respectively of CWF ... CWF garden party at Joan Stephenson's raised \$300 ... New heating system installed in large hall by Trevor Dow ... Recent visiting speakers Gordon Powell, Andrew Ball, George Mallaby, Dave Reynolds, Jeanette Drummond.

MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (Max Ball) Secretary, Trish Kirwood, newly elected deacons Ross Lucas, Glen McNight, treasurer Brendon Howard, editor Grace Cole at AM. BYO lunch, meeting, then discussion groups—missionary support, cell groups, young people, evan-

gelism & local community ... Fundraising: ladies catering \$800, fete \$2,740, progressive dinner \$260 ... Church concert ... Support for Compassion International—speaker Roger Ellem ... Graham Barnett graduated from BCV to ministry Tamworth.

ASCOT VALE (Ross Bourdon) AGM held—minister's term happily accepted for further four years ... Howard Willard held meetings for three nights; Prakesh Samuel, former high priest of Kali, shared amazing testimony ... Houseboat hired on Murray River to give Half Way House men holiday ... Church encouraged by new people attending ... Sympathy extended to Cardonas on deaths of mother and aunt.

CHELSEA (I. Whitelock) Andrew Augustine & Howard Barnden appointed as elders emeritus by AGM ... Scott & Karen Milan have moved to St Arnaud ... Ruth Smith is now secretary ... CWF presented program to elderly folk at Northcliff Lodge ... Minister guest speaker at civic carol service in city hall ... Elva & Howard Barnden move to Echuca in Jan ... \$700 raised by street stall of cakes, plants etc.

SA

BRIGHTON (N. Moore, K. Bowes) Congregation committed to mission to the community & to long-term plan. Strengthening leadership resources is current emphasis ... Friendship Group donated \$4,000 to others, including Parkrose, CCTC & Community Care ... Open gardens afternoon raised \$500 for CCTC ... 40 new attenders during last months, many attending luncheon ... Great Fiesta for Christmas Bowl raised \$560 ... Thursday Bible study group continues to grow.

ALBERT PARK (Steve Ogden) Steve Ogden concludes ministry 13 Jan. He will then become an ordination candidate in the Anglican church ... Church to introduce eldership ... David Thompson CCTC accepted call to ministry ... Val Stevens awarded Certificate in Biblical Studies from Burleigh College ... Auxiliaries enjoying breakups ... Church celebrating Advent & supporting Christmas Bowl ... Dr Keith Bowes speaker, Vonda Mason soloist & church choral group supporting Advent.

MUNDULLA (K. Wray) Church of Christ personnel the mainstay of well-attended Mundulla Combined Churches Sunday School ... Mundulla Community Carols basic plan our responsibility this year.

Sunday School organising a Christmas Story Pageant complete with donkey, sheep & camel for the occasion ... Church Proect 1990-91 boat fuel for Banmatmat, Vanuatu ... Monthly pre-service prayer meetings expressing the praise, awareness & concern of church family.

SALISBURY EAST (Graham Wade) The church had a garage sale that raised \$1,487. It was a very successful day selling second-hand furniture, books, clothes, plants as well as a barbecue lunch ... Boys' & Girls' Brigades participated in their respective state parades. On 25 Nov they also shared in a time of fellowship at tea and afterwards their final church parade for the year.

HAPPY VALLEY (Russell Allison) Craft Group recommenced under leadership of Lee Bowley ... Recognition given to Earle Martin for his ministry at Happy Valley as he & Melva concluded their time with us ... Lunch was shared & enjoyed by many families to celebrate Seniors Week ... Sunday School Christmas & presentation service followed by basket tea ... Three young people baptised—Kerryl Griffin, Magan Schaefer, Stuart Winter.

KEITH (Ken Wray) 21 attended family camp ... Care & Share functioning well ... 75 Challenge papers delivered in town monthly ... SEDC to be hosted in Keith ... Junior Youth will go into temporary recess ... AGM held in July ... New seating format well accepted ... Board breakfast to discuss proposed interim guidelines ... Celebrated Christian Book month ... YP divine drama completed ... 2 YP holidaying in Switzerland.

DULWICH-ROSE PARK (Rob Williams, Roger Brown) Guest preacher for parish 19th anniversary, Rob Combridge, told of combined efforts of Blackwood churches, service clubs and local council to meet needs of non-church youth of district ... Parish's mission fund 1990 reached \$3,352. Cheques presented to Jeff May for \$838 plus proceeds of quiz night (\$240) and to Aboriginal minister Bill Hollingsworth (JC, Qld) for \$2,514.

BORDERTOWN (S. Pillay) Church family luncheon combined with kitchen/pantry gift afternoon to Sue Bennett and Peter Dooley prior to their marriage ... Monthly CWA special craft evening by P. Milne, B. Wiese, M. Staude ... Bible Club anniversary again well received ... Quarterly half night of prayer 8 pm to midnight for church & outreach work ... Visit from Norman Thomas, African Mission.

Church News

NSW

THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley) Large number attended NSW Churches of Christ Theological College graduation 23 November. Those graduating included Stuart Wesley & Kim Roberts, both having fulfilled requirements for Bachelor of Theology degree. Kim also received his Diploma of Ministry. Trudy Roberts graduated receiving Christian Service Certificate... On same night John & June West attended Institute for Contemporary Church Leadership graduation, where daughter Sharon received Certificate of Ministry.

TWEED HEADS (Richard Oakes, Guy Cooper) Clive Ward, National President, visited with wife ... Noeline Rose, State President, speaker Northern Rivers CWF Fellowship Day ... Church family concert night of fun, entertainment, surprises ... Playmates group held barbecue ... Groceries collected for local Crisis Centre ... Ian Jones, "Pearly Gates" comic strip, speaker at men's Christmas dinner ... 32 welcomed 5 December—17 by baptism. 12 baptised believers, 2 restorations, 1 transfer.

THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley) Recent ACM was exciting as the past year was reviewed and challenging as the coming year's program was presented. Bruce Moffat, John Stanford re-elected deacons. June West re-appointed secretary, Bruce Moffat treasurer ... Teen Club held Pancake-eat-a-thon raising \$670 for Jesus Cares ... Kids' Club final meeting for 1990 recognised leadership of Trudy Roberts who moves, having completed her training at Carlingford.

MAITLAND (Ray Hawkins) 2 baptisms at Mosely's home pool, Linden & Toni Green. 2 baptisms at Tahlee Bible College, Fiona Pond, Malcolm Asquith ... Training weekend with Navigators ... Maitland City Choir Sunday evening concert ... Family camp with Graeme Jones excellent. Children cared for by Mr & Mrs Minnis of SU ... Childrens Church anniversary featured in am service, L. Barrett speaker ... Max Hall held second coming seminar.

LIVERPOOL (Peter Raymond) 21st birthday party for Samantha Raymond (minister's wife) ... Mission offering Nov-Dec assisted Aboriginal church, South Hedland, WA ... Church of 60 members has given over \$4,500 to missions etc ... Council passed plans for new chapel and facilities. Move in early next year, debt free ... 15 churches

in area combining in "Liverpool Alive Crusade" next April with Bill Subritzky, leader.

Qld

MARYBOROUGH (David Woodward) Annual meeting. Pastor & wife commended ... Weekly prayer for revival ... Gospel Music Spectacular City Hall ... Boys' Brigade won district competition ... District CWFs annual day ... Church family picnic ... Em McClucas passed away ... "Friendship Festival"

with Dr Young (USA) included 1950-60s social, home fellowship night, "open forum", ladies' luncheon, men's dinner, music night, barbecue, family service, Brigades' parade. 37 responses.

MAROOCHYDORE (Geoff Risson) Many attended Federal Conference in Brisbane & saw our minister installed in State Conference presidency. This year he is also President of Bible Society in Queensland ... Church family camp October shared jointly with Kingaroy church ... Recently acquired 22-seat bus to help especially in the growing youth

group being formed to cater for those slightly younger children in grades 7 & 8.

ALBION (Peter Overton) Peter Overton has accepted a 3-year extension of his ministry ... Capacity audience when Kedron and Albion churches joined Anglican, Catholic and Uniting churches for Inter-Church Council Gospel Celebration—Ron Holt speaker ... Social Services Family Emergency Accommodation Program operating from office in part of the church building. Dedication service for Director Jim Meharg and the office.

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A Minister's Story

It was a white cross, formed and welded from rectangular steel tubing, standing to one side on the balcony and bearing a simple message that caught the eye:

26 April 1989
ROGERIO ALVEZ DE CARVOLAH
 Aged 15 years

Until the intervention of the Main Roads Authority, the cross had stood at the roadside three kilometres out of town as mute testimony to the kind of tragedy that may at any time suddenly envelop a Lord's servant in full-time ministry.

The attention-catching cross, having performed its silent vigil for 18 months, and now adjudged by the authorities to be a hazard greater than the dangerous contours of the road, had been ordered for removal only recently in a new episode of a yet-to-be completed story of heartbreak and the need for a fellowship of love.

The telephone shrilled urgently as the Matron at the small Normanton Hospital once again sought the help of the minister at the Christian Centre.

It was a story of multiple tragedies.

As a gift to mark the 15th birthday of a vibrant youth, who had never previously ventured out of his native Brazil, his uncle had undertaken to his parents to sponsor and superintend a visit across the miles to a beautiful remote grazing station at Gregory's Crossing near Burketown in Northern Queensland. There they were to celebrate the significant event with the proprietor of the station who was enthusiastically awaiting reunion with his godson.

By far the greatest proportion of the trip had been completed when they arrived at

Normanton (some 2,000 km north of Brisbane) and only six to seven hours of travel then separated them from their goal and its potential shared joys.

This was not to be.

A mere three kilometres back along the road from Normanton, the vehicle in which the godson and his uncle were travelling skidded out of control and left the road, crashing into a gully.

The distraught uncle, a devout Catholic, pleaded for help, absolution and comfort as nursing staff at the hospital laboured to no avail to save the young man's life. His uncle will never erase the tragic memory of his young charge's death in his arms! How he needed a bridge to the Almighty!

After seemingly hours of counselling and prayer, the bereaved, fretting uncle pleaded for a roadside memorial to the tragedy and the minister called upon his past trades experience to fabricate the white cross and its sad message.

The interrupted journey never finished at its planned destination. It now remains a commitment of God's servant in the sad event, at that time, to achieve his own goal of delivering the silent cross to the grazing property where it might serve as a memorial and challenge about the brevity of life, and the nearness of eternity, to those who mourn.

May those who suffered such tragic loss continue to reach out for comfort and help, and so may the Lord of Life, through such a sequence, that he alone can understand, bring love and eternal life in its place. May there ever be an emissary of the Lord ready to respond to the compelling call for help.

• *This story was told by Ann and Neil Ewart, Normanton, North Queensland*

The Last Word

If you're dead to self, you can't hurt anymore.

—Kay Long

A pedestrian was taken to the hospital after the accident and operated on straight away. Coming out of the anaesthetic the patient noticed that although it was daytime the blinds were drawn, so rang for the nurse. "Do you feel all right?" asked the nurse. "Fit as a fiddle," said the patient. "But why are the blinds closed?" "Well," replied the nurse, "there's been a big fire over the road and we thought that if you came to and saw it you might think the operation had been unsuccessful."

"How's your job as a sales representative going?"

"Well, I've had two orders so far—one to get out and the other to stay out!"

First Explorer: Good heavens! Cannibals!
 Second Explorer: Now, now, don't get in a stew!

Student: I'll ask you a question, and if you can't answer it you must give me \$10. Then you ask me a question, and if I can't answer it I'll give you \$2.

Teacher: OK.

Student: What has four legs and two wings, but only has two legs when it flies?

Teacher: I give up. Here's your \$10. What is it?

Student: I don't know either. Here's your \$2.

Cannibal: What were you before you before you were captured?

Captive: Merely a sub-editor.

Cannibal: Well, by the time we're finished with you you'll be editor-in-chief

First Crow: That rocket's going fast.
 Second Crow: So would you if your tail was on fire.

Visitor to art gallery: I suppose this is one of those hideous bits of modern art.

Gallery owner: No—that's a mirror.



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