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Vol. 96 No. 19
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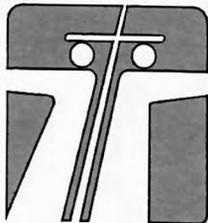
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Guest Editorial

Diversity and Disappointment

Maurice Hodgson



I recently attended a church service in another city. The service had been well advertised with "a renowned international Bible teacher" as the preacher. The preacher's name was one I knew, though I had never heard the person preach.

It's one of those experiences I hope not to repeat. I had gone with a deal of anticipation and left extremely disappointed. Indeed it was all I could do as I left the church building not to turn and shake my fist and shout out "I am going to stay Christian regardless of what you say!"

All of that set me thinking about a range of issues with regard to the Christian faith and church life. Here are some thoughts I am still trying to process for myself.

The first of these is the importance of diversity. Whilst my own experience of that speaker was of particular disappointment, I am aware that some people actually enjoyed him! Whilst I find that hard to appreciate, it's something I have come to understand to be of great importance. We are diverse creatures as humans; we appreciate quite different things and in quite different ways; we hear the same thing quite differently from others. Maybe, I have thought to myself, some people would not be excited by some of the sermons I have experienced as so profound, enriching, and stimulating.

So, my reflecting has continued; within the life of the church we need to be alert to the need for diversity. It's important to understand that our own particular "pet hates" or disappointments are not necessarily those of other people and are not issues about which judgment needs to be made on people. Especially, it is important

not to use these personal differences as issues on which we judge others' spirituality or Christian status. (This is not to excuse the use of speakers with dubious interpretations of the gospel, but rather to emphasise that—in all our congregations—there is not only room for but also need for diversity.)

Further reflection led me to consider what might be called "gleaning from the dross". For, as I reflected on the sermon which I found to be so disappointing, I became aware that there were two particular insights within it which were of significant value to me. It would have been so easy to dismiss the whole lot. Yet here, in what was so disappointing and what was, in my view, a sub-Christian presentation, were two profound insights worthy of remembering, learning from and using for my own spiritual growth. So I keep wondering and also hoping that I can be like that in other situations in which I experience something less than I expected.

My learning at this point wouldn't take me back to hear that speaker again! I do hope, however, that it will assist me in processing and responding to other situations in which I feel let down. And that applies whether it's other people or myself in whom I feel disappointed.

Maurice Hodgson was appointed NSW Conference Secretary in April this year. For the past 20 years he has worked for Lifeline, the last 8 years as their National Executive Officer. Maurice and his wife, Una, are members of our Wollongong church. Maurice is interested in socio-cultural issues in church life.

Pontius' Puddle



National Conference And Convention Report



◦ **Drama group**

Evaluations are generally difficult and tend to relate to expectations. The recent **National Conference and Convention** which was held in Melbourne in many ways was an outstanding success, yet it raised some of the apparent difficulties we face as a church.

In terms of much of the content of business debate, electives and rallies, the program was one of the best we have held. In terms of organisation and convenience of facilities, again it was excellent. A weakness was that the numbers attending did not meet expectations. Just over 200 registered as full-time participants with attendances at the rallies varying from around 350 to 1000. Electives were moderately attended but with enthusiastic response and much appreciation.

The issues raised by the moderate support must be addressed and are very much on the agenda of the **National Council**. What does it mean for Churches of Christ to have a national expression of church life? How best do we structure for, and present that national identity among ourselves and to the wider Australian community?

Rallies

The opening rally in the World Congress Centre was an excellent event with a solid attendance of just over 1000. We worshipped because of the beautiful contributions by numerous musicians, artists and dancers. We celebrated the faith with

communion, led by our national president **Clive Ward**, as a fitting focus. **Dr Noel Vose** challenged us in a timely way. The Convention had commenced well!

The Wednesday and Saturday night rallies some felt even surpassed the opening rally in terms of outstanding content, music and worship. The speakers, **Lynette Leach** and **John Gilmore**, respectively, were magnificent.

Both challenged us with clarity of insight and relevance of faith to contemporary issues as we face family life and the future.

Keynote Addresses And Electives

Dr Noel Vose challenged us to address personal and national issues from the perspective of faith and to discover the relevance of "Christ as the Timeless Resource". Each of his presentations established a focus for the day and this was developed further through the daily electives. All were well led, relevant, well prepared and deserved to be attended by hundreds.

Bible Studies

The daily bible studies, led by **Greg Elsdon**, were top rate. Again we discovered that good scholarship and biblical exegesis allows us to discover deep meaning with real relevance. For many **Greg's** leadership was a highlight.

Presidents' Reception

Clive Ward as national presi-

dent and **Eunice Reidy** as the ACWF president hosted the 260 present to an evening of music and the enjoyment of friendship. The significance of the event was that we had ecumenical guests and civic leaders among us. They observed and participated within our ethos and brought greetings and reflections. It was an event of devotional reflection, good entertainment and friendship.

Aboriginal Issues

This conference will be remembered for the key focus on Aboriginal issues. The **Albury Koori church** presented insights into Aboriginal understandings of the faith in the light of their culture. It was profound and deeply spiritual. During the business sessions, **Ian Allsop**, **Cec Grant** and **Avon Moyle** had shared insights and understanding relating to Aboriginal reconciliation, native title and the ongoing work of our Aboriginal churches. It was a fitting contribution in the light of the Year of the Indigenous Peoples and our commitment to share with Aboriginal and Islander Australians in achieving recognition and justice.

Business Sessions

Debate was at its best when the nature and direction of National Conference was being discussed. **Ian Allsop** as Conference Secretary posed some questions in presenting the Council report. These related to the paradoxes posed by the relatively poor attendance and the apparent lack of support for the national expression of the church in its current form. While the recession was a factor, the real reasons relate to relevance, structure and function. These will be addressed and the Adelaide Conference and Convention will be an event that will take us into the future. Other business related to the status of women in our churches, the reception of agency reports and some constitutional changes. Each was

debated in an atmosphere of goodwill and acceptance of difference.

Robert Leane AM

The final act of the conference was to induct **Robert Leane** as the incoming National President. A past South Australian Conference President, a present elder at **Blackwood** and, professionally, the Director of the South Australian Independent Schools Board, **Robert** brings a wealth of church and community leadership to this task. He will represent us well. Our prayerful best wishes will support him.

Clive Ward AM

Clive served Churches of Christ with distinction. His representative presence at ecumenical meetings was appreciated greatly. **Clive** visited each state during his presidential term. He and his wife, **Joan**, are acknowledged as respected and loved leaders. **Robert Leane** expressed our appreciation as his first act after induction. **Clive** thoroughly deserves our deepest appreciation.

—**Ian Allsop**



◦ **Clive Ward and Lindsay Jacobs welcoming each other with a hongi**

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The recent Victorian floods which have swept through North-Eastern Victoria have affected members of our churches in Wangaratta, Bright, Shepparton, Numurkah, Echuca, Yarrawonga and Swan Hill. Damage has varied in amount and our prayerful thoughts and tangible expressions of assistance have been offered.

The Churches of Christ National Disaster Fund was initially established to help vic-

tims of Queensland floods. It has since assisted victims of flood, drought and bushfire. It is our Churches of Christ national appeal for such disasters and is administered through the National Council and the various state conference departments of community care or their equivalent. Contributions can be made to this fund which is tax deductible. Send to Churches of Christ National Disaster Fund, 77 Capel St, West Melbourne 3003.

Post-Collegiate Fellowship

CCTC Past Students' Association

Past students of the Glen Iris and Mulgrave campuses form the CCTC-PSA. 550 around the world are kept in contact by means of a six monthly "Club Bulletin". Each mailing about

20 are returned because of movements not notified through the "AC". Past students not receiving the bulletin could up-date their address with Ed Roffey, 21 Walwa

Youth Help Required

Asia Mission Conference

The Asia Mission Conference, being sponsored by the Christian Conference of Asia, will be held in Korea 26 April-2 May, 1994. The Conference is inviting young adults (18-30 years) to serve as stewards. A steward assists in the smooth running of the Conference and contributes to conference room operations and administrative tasks. English is the working

language, but a knowledge of other languages is of great value. Airfares, board and lodging are paid for. Sample application forms are available from the Australian Board of Church Development and Education, 77 Capel St, West Melbourne 3003. Phone (03) 326 8900.

—D.H. Smith
(Executive Director)

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New Church in Grafton

A promising start

The first service of the new Grafton Community Church, NSW (proud to be a Church of Christ) was held on 5 September. Thirty-five attended, including visitors from Lismore and Tamworth.

Average attendance since then has been 25-30 each Sunday—an exciting start for a new church.

Each week the group at Graf-

ton have a Bible study on Tuesday night which 10-12 attend. There is also a prayer group meeting on Friday nights.

The team which initially moved from Tamworth to commence this church are very excited and encouraged. They have seen a real confirmation from God in the immediate growth of the church as they have followed what they believe God has called them to do.

Rocky Quinlivan, the minister, has had some contact with the biker community of Grafton and has even been asked to have a baby dedication service.

Rocky would appreciate any contacts with people whom readers know live in the Grafton area. He can be contacted on (066) 43 1286.

The church is currently supporting Rocky's ministry part-time. The NSW Department of Church Development have agreed to subsidise the Grafton church with a \$150 per week subsidy that commences next year.

The church meets each Sunday at 10 am at the Red Cross Hall (Opposite Coles).

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Log Cabin Lodge

20 Years of Ministry



• Horsing around at the Lodge

Log Cabin Lodge, a Christian youth adventure camp at Creswick, Vic, turned 20 in October.

On, 20 October, 1973 at the home of David Irish, 11 Christians came together to hear the

vision shared by him and Frank Schenk..

Today, Log Cabin Lodge is alive and well on 66 acres of rolling countryside, with two large dams supporting fish and abundant bird life. The ideal

setting for a youth camp, add a hall with kitchen, six log cabins, a chapel and an amenities block and you have it as it is today.

The campsite is used by school groups, churches, youth groups, Scouts, Boys'/Girls' Brigades and a lot more. The main draw-card would have to be its horse riding program, with 18 horses used for trail rides and tuition. The camp also offers fishing, yabbing, swimming in the dam, archery, trampolines, gold panning, billy tea and damper, camp fires, sing-a-longs, chapel services, indoor and outdoors sports, cross country golf, orienteering and volleyball.

The camp offers fully catered, fully programmed camps for up to 80 and this is done with the help of eight staff members.

On 4 December, the committee, staff, past employees, volunteers, campers and friends

will be celebrating together in an afternoon of activities and on evening of fellowship. The celebrations will commence at 2 pm and there will be a spit roast offered for the evening meal. Entry will be by donation.

For more information and bookings phone (053) 45 2756.

—James Gregg

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Church for the Unchurched

Outreach to Northfield

As part of their preparations for Mission '94, The Northfield Outreach Project being undertaken by the Hampstead Gardens, SA, church, Keith Ridge, minister at Hampstead Gardens, and Roger Brown, who will serve as the outreach minister, have conducted trial services in their churches with the goal of a developing a contemporary outreach service that identifies with the "unchurched" of the area.

Starting with some of the principles offered by Bill Hybels (Willow Creek, USA) during his recent visit to Australia, Roger has refined the concept from a "slick" American model for the Australian context, with particular thought being given to the nature of the culture and ethos of the Hillcrest-Northfield community, the target area for Mission '94.

One of the keys to the outreach will be the decentralisation of the local church, with outreach services taking place in a community hall rather than at the church. Keith says, "We see a real need to identify with the community, and instead of expecting them to come to us, we will do as Jesus did and go

to the people, expressing the message in the language, culture and community life of the people."

The services include positive secular music and songs that are life affirming, drama that touches such real-life situations as conflict in marriage, ethics, parent-child relationships and friendship building and utilising the skills of the unchurched in such roles as puppet plays and announcements of community events and conclude with a short and easy-to-follow gospel message.

Keith added, "We are not about presenting an appealing model of church culture of choruses, prayers and sacraments to people who have had little or no experience of Christ or the church. Rather we wish to simply point out that Jesus Christ is already there in their community and we can help them to develop their faith in him."

At Hampstead Gardens in July and, more recently, at the Dulwich-Rose Park church, where he is currently serving, Roger prepared and presented trial services to gauge the impact and learn from the experiments.

It was encouraging to see the Hampstead Gardens church comfortably full for the evening service with a number of people coming to the church for the first time.

"Imagine what can be achieved when these service take place in a non-threatening environment such as the local hall!" Roger commented.

The two services have highlighted the tension that exists when we separate our traditional baggage of church culture from the simple, life-relevant gospel of Jesus Christ, expressing it in the reality of modern life.

Currently Hampstead Gardens is seeking the support of churches and individuals to help sponsor Roger's salary for next year's mission. The mission is a faith project with the church believing in the principle that "money will follow a mission".

The church embarked on a fund-raising program for 1993 in preparation for next year, and their target is close to being achieved. Roger will be commissioned as the outreach minister for the Northfield Outreach Project at a special service at Hampstead Gardens on 13 February 1994.



• Children absorbed by the puppet play at Hampstead Gardens' outreach service

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From "Little Glory" to Great Glory

Williamstown celebrates 100 Years



• The finale showing some of the cast in 1890s costumes. Minister Robin Mitchell is on the far left, standing next to Bob Bain. The musicians are Cathy Venning, Anne Mitchell, Kym Venning and Nic Arnold and the conductor is Lyn Venning

A specially built small galvanised iron shed which became fondly known as "Little Glory", was erected 100 years ago on land owned by Rudolph Otto Messner in the little village of Williamstown, SA (population 250). The new church held its opening celebrations on 27 August 1893, led by well-known "church planter" in South Australia, Thomas Jefferson Gore.

A stone building erected on new land in 1900, added to in 1906, 1926, and again in 1958, continues to be the place of worship. The church has owned two manses, the first, built entirely by voluntary labour in 1953 and later sold, the second built next door to the church in 1982.

Williamstown, 48 km north-east of Adelaide, lies at the lower end of the Barossa Valley. The present population is 850.

The Williamstown church held their centenary celebrations during the weekend of 27-29 August. On the actual "birthday" of the church, Friday, the first segment of the celebrations was an informal evening led by Robert (Bob) Bain in a "time of reminiscing". Don McDonald, co-au-

thor of *Williamstown Church of Christ: A Commemorative Book 1893-1993*, gave a historical overview of 100 years, gleaned from his research through 92 volumes of *The Australian Christian* and other historical records.

One of the highlights of the weekend was a musical production presented through

mime, singing and drama in the Williamstown Institute on the Saturday evening. Lyn Venning envisaged the concept of the musical months before practices began. Lyn was the musical director, leading the cast that also included people from the Kersbrook church. Anne Mitchell and three young adult musicians provided the full accompaniment. Glen Venning controlled the stage lighting. The theme of the musical was "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow", which led the audience to consider life as it was in the 1890s, then the 1940s, followed by the present day, finishing off with a futuristic presentation of what the next century may bring.

Sunday was a special day of worship, reminiscing, lunching and a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon. 200 shared in a hot lunch al fresco. At the close of lunch two of the oldest visitors present, Jean Mewett and Doug Lane, members in earlier years, cut the centenary cake. Soloist was Will Philp, and duetists were Jenny and Norma Ross and Will and Melva Philp. The PSA guest speaker

was SA Conference President Marj Dredge. Her topic took us through a historical journey of how Churches of Christ began and why we are who we are.

People travelled from near and far to attend the celebrations. Greetings came from many previous members including Rod and Jenny Tippet, Les and Dorothy Armstrong, now living in Queensland. Both couples were in ministry at the church years ago.

Robin Mitchell and his wife Anne will have served in ministry at Williamstown for over 13 years when he and Anne shift to a new ministry at Cheltenham, SA, mid-1994. Robin and Anne's daughter Varia returned home from Austria in time for the celebrations. Varia worked in various parts of Europe for over two years in mission with Operation Mobilisation.

The 63-page centenary book is still available for \$10 including postage. Copies are available from Bob Bain, PO Box 61, Williamstown 5351.

—Don and Lori McDonald

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Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Dinosaurs and Creation

To the Editor,

The film review on *Jurassic Park* ("AC" 2 October) accepted without question the evolutionary time scale of millions of years for the age of the earth, and that dinosaurs died out 65 million years ago.

However the Bible indicates that man and dinosaurs coexisted. In Glen Rose, Texas, USA, imprints of dinosaurs and men have been found together in the same rock strata. Apparently, the man was tracking the dinosaur across the swamp.

Rock paintings in the Sahara Desert depict hunters spearing dinosaurs. South American Indians have pictures of men riding on pterodactyls on their stoneware.

The Bible also describes a dinosaur in Job 40. Many cultures have stories of men and "dragons" (eg St George and the dragon).

It is therefore obvious that man has observed dinosaurs first hand.

Darwinism is a theory, it is not scientific fact. Many scientific laws and findings refute evolution. I refer to Gregor Mendel's genetic laws, the second law of thermodynamics, and the science of palaeontology.

It's time Darwinism/evolution was seen for what it is, a fallacious theory on the origin of species.

From a theological perspective, evolution cannot be accommodated into the Biblical account on origins. According to the Bible, death and sin did not happen until Adam sinned. Yet according to Darwinism, death and suffering took place for million of years before man evolved.

Also in Luke's Gospel (chapter 3), the author traces the lineage of Jesus Christ back to the first man Adam—"the son of God".

Even allowing for generation gaps, the age of the earth indicated would be in the region of thousands of years, certainly not millions of years!

The film *Jurassic Park* offers Christians the chance to present the truth on the matter of creation to a world besotted by fallacious Darwinism. So let's get busy!

—A. Barron
(Grovedale, Vic)

Horsham an Accepting Church

To the Editor,

In the light of media statements that members of the group associated with the recent exorcism at Antwerp are meeting with the church at Horsham, Vic, I offer the following:

One Saturday evening in about April this year Pastor Ian Hunt received a phone call from John Reichenbach asking if he and his family would be welcome at our church. They had been rejected by their own church and were unwelcome at others. Ian and I agreed that they would be welcome on the understanding that this is God's church. If he accepts us as we are, by his grace, we have no right to refuse people entry. The church people welcomed the group warmly giving care, prayer and practical support. This support was greatly appreciated.

In a statement read during the morning services following the court case, we thanked the church people for their care and encouraged them to continue their personal support for the group.

However, we also said that our welcome and pastoral care does not imply that we as a church approve of, agree with, condone, or can tolerate, the ideas, and actions, which led to Mrs Vollmer's tragic death.

There are many lessons to be learned. It is our prayer that, with God's help, our whole church will grow in its love, humility and understanding as we care for these people.

—Harvey A.L. Clark
(Minister, for the elders,
Horsham, Vic)

Ministry Appointments

To the Editor,

A recent archaeological find in the Middle East has revealed

a previously unknown text which reads:

"And Jesus went and placed the following advertisement in the *Capernaum Fishermen's Gazette*:

Wanted—Potential Apostles to join the Master in building great churches around the world.

Applicants must be:

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- able to work in a team situation
- motivational public speakers

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Capernaum."

This text seems to be telling us that we have wasted our time creating Conference Ministry Departments where ministry accreditation, placement, standard conditions of employment, church accountability and ministry pastoral care have been established. It seems that

"enterprise bargaining" and "open market" employment of ministry is the way we should work with ministers making themselves available to the highest bidder.

It is therefore good to see that an increasing number of churches are now advertising for ministers through your pages (which is also good for your magazine's revenue!) thus by-passing the conference network and resorting to the time honoured secular approach to employment.

Ministers however, need to realise that by dealing direct with "independent" churches, they divorce themselves from the expertise and guidance of the wider church, represented by the Ministry Departments.

I personally feel that churches advertising for applicants is not conducive to the spiritual dimension of a "call to ministry".

—Keith Ridge
(Hampstead Gardens, SA)

Letters to a Travelling Companion

Christian Ads

Dear Daniel,

Thank you for your continued correspondence. You expressed, in your last letter, your consternation regarding some of the "Christian commercials" that appear at various times on television. I find myself having to agree with you!

Although there have been some notable exceptions, it seems that a significant number of Christian advertisements on television are full of religious jargon that means very little to anyone but those who are well and truly "churched". These ads serve only to provide a warm fuzzy feeling in the hearts of Christian people and do very little to proclaim an inspiring message to those viewers who most need to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

I personally believe, if Christian organisations are spending money purchasing advertising time on television, that time should be used to maximum effect by helping viewers, who otherwise would not have the chance, to discover the relevance of the Gospel message for their experience of life. This must be done through language and imagery that is appropriate for all Australians, not just those who are familiar with church culture.

Perhaps, Daniel, it would be a good idea if you and I joined with our friends and wrote to the various Christian media organisations, encouraging them to be a little more "mission orientated" in their approach to advertising.

Until next time, regards,
Pastor Sait

Letters to the Editor

Fate or Luck?

To the Editor,

Recently, a 24 year-old mother and her little girl were standing quite safely near a cliff edge at Mount Victoria when one stumbled and they grabbed each other which resulted in both stumbling and they fell to their death.

Was this awful event God's doing! Did he decide in his wisdom that this was what should be the fate of these two and the awful destiny of the father and son to be suddenly bereaved in the middle of a family holiday! Or was it just plain bad luck?

What does God's word say? We say "Where the Bible speaks".

What does it say then? Let's see: "Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favour to the men of skill; but time and chance happen to them all. For man does not know his time. Like fish which are taken in an evil net, and like birds which are caught in a snare, so the sons of men are snared at an evil time, when it suddenly falls upon them." Ecc. 9:11-12 RSV. —Rex Morris (North Katoomba, NSW)

"The Enemy Within"

To the Editor,

I feel compelled to write to you regarding the article "The Neglected Dimension of Spiritual Warfare" by R.N. Hawkins ("AC" 2 October).

How truly refreshing to read his comments regarding the battle not with the "enemy" but indeed with our "old nature".

It has answered so many of my own questions regarding the problems that exist with many who claim the name of Christ—yet fail to truly overcome the things of this world.

Yes, Satan certainly does claim many a victory—as we all succumb to his temptations at times, but how much more do we, by lack of willpower and discipline, allow our old nature to rule our decision-making, and indeed our lives.

I congratulate the author on his clarity and also, obviously,

his ability to find the truth through God's word and to inform the church at large.

May we, who are God's chosen ones, take up the challenge offered to correctly teach, understand and obey what Christ taught us through the Scriptures.

Thank you Ray Hawkins, for such a timely and appropriate message to many churches who are indeed questioning the power of Satan—you have shown us that our attention needs to turn to allowing Christ to rule and reign, not only in our hearts, but our souls. Amen! —Jenny Illingworth (Manifold Heights, Vic)

"Building the Kingdom of God"

To the Editor,

I was surprised to see my article "Rebellion ... or is it something else" appearing so long after I had submitted it to the "AC". Much water has flowed under the bridge since then.

That article was the first of a series in which I sought to address some of the strategic issues that face us as Churches of Christ. This article of about 18 months ago, together with other concerns have led us to some important action within the Queensland Conference.

First, a Strategic Planning Summit was called with wide representation from across the Conference to address the present situation. Out of that Summit came a vision statement, an outline of core values and a list of key target areas for action.

Church splits and arguments have happened from time to time for a long time now, and nothing I write or do will ever stop that. I was trying to get us to start looking beyond some of the particular instances I quoted to look for a vision of the Kingdom of God.

From the Strategic Planning Summit came the recognition of the need for growth in spiritual maturity as the greatest need to be addressed. Close behind it was a concern about the local leadership of the churches.

We have been called by Christ to be about the business of spreading the good news of God's love and forgiveness, of new life in him. But it seems to me we spend so much of our time in protecting our little power-bases in our little churches when our society needs the message of the gospel to reawaken us to concerns about people in their pain and helplessness. In a society filled with corruption, the concept of Christian values has disappeared. We cry louder about any suggestion of threat to local autonomy than we do about the need to care for the helpless and the distressed.

Parochialism is rife—instead of focussing on building local autonomous parishes we need to cooperate together to build the Kingdom of God. Cooperation can build far better than competition can ever build. If we are in competition it is with the Devil and his helpers.

—Donald E Stewart (Bundamba, Qld)

"No" to Stothard

To the Editor,

In reply to Ken Stothard's letter ("AC" 16 October):

No, being selective in our use of Scripture is neither weak nor illogical, we all do it. Jesus turned to the prophets, not to the law, even though the laws in Leviticus are given as commands of God. Paul invoked Abraham as the model of faith, not Moses the law-giver.

No, to raise questions about the virgin birth does not lead to disbelief in the resurrection. The New Testament's witness to the latter far outweighs its evidence for the former. Read Mark. Read John. Read Paul. Furthermore, the Christians' experience of their risen Lord makes the church the community of the resurrection, rather than the community of the virgin birth. I bet my life on the living God who raised Jesus from the dead.

No, morality is not based on doctrine. What morality is established by the doctrine of the virgin birth? Morality is based on the character of God and Jesus Christ.

Paul enjoins his readers to forgive one another because God in Christ has forgiven them, not because of a doctrine of the atonement.

Yes, to think "Consistently and Christianly" about Jesus Christ is one of the church's perennial tasks, but no, Ken's is not the only Christology that may be defended.

—Ronald Graham (Johnston, Iowa, USA)

Handclapping for the first coming of Messiah.

To the Editor,

The Psalmist's prophecy "I will be exalted among the Gentiles" follows the well known words "Be still and know that I am God" (Psa. 46:10). This is apposite with the "all peoples" of Psa. 47:1: "O clap your hands all peoples; shout to God with the voice of joy".

Israel is pictured hand-clapping for the first coming of Messiah and the coming kingdom of God. Although Israel since rejected a dead and risen Saviour, the prophecy pictures all nations singing a skilful song of universal and melodious praise, Gentiles included.

The Matthew 10 mission to Israel was primarily to avoid Gentiles and Samaritans, but was later expanded to include Gentiles because as Matthew says (21:42-43) the Jews rejected "the chief corner stone," and the Kingdom was taken from them. However, Matt. 10:23 implies a continuing mission to Israel alongside the mission to Gentiles.

Are we confusing issues with our handclapping, that from Psa. 47:1, Jews properly relate exclusively to the first coming of the Messiah, and what proper mission is there to Israel in our Kingdom thinking today?

—W.E. Hoffman (Paradise Point, Qld)

"Come and Help Us"

To the Editor,

We, the Christians of Dallas, would like to alert your readers to a growing need in the

Continued on page 13

Media Review

In this issue we feature material by people from, or about, Churches of Christ.

Music

A Time to Change

Caringbah Church of Christ Worship and Music team (Radical Productions) \$10.

A Time to Change has the words "Australian Worship" on the cover of the cassette. Brett White has written all 10 songs on the cassette, which have been performed by the Caringbah, NSW, worship and music team, including members of the groups "Soul Street Gospel" and "Naked Flame".

The idea of recording material that is relevant to Australians today is very commendable. The style of modern worship music will not suit all our readers. There is a need for this type of material in relevant worship today. The lack of good Australian material is very evident when looking for music and worship songs that can be used in churches today. Unfortunately, only the words of five of the 10 songs are included on the cassette cover.

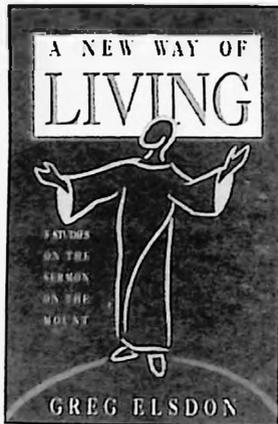
Brett acknowledges that they have used inferior recording equipment in his accompanying letter. A better crisper sound and possibly a better mix of instruments could make the words clearer. An interesting project that should be applauded.

Personally the numbers "Chance", "His Eyes", "Out Of This World" and "Thanks" were the tracks I enjoyed most. I found some of the words very interesting especially those of "Out of This World". The cassette is available from Brett White at Radical Productions, PO Box 664, Miranda 228. Phone (02) 526 1702. Fax (02) 526 1987. Arrangements can be made with Brett to use these songs in your local church worship situation.

—CRA

Books

A New Way of Living



by Greg Elsdon (Vital Publications) \$5.50

First-hand knowledge of Greg Elsdon's passion for Matthew 5-7 whetted my appetite to look at this new study series. I wondered how Greg would condense so much background knowledge and inspired insight into one thin volume. A book that is designed to provoke good study group interaction over a mere five sessions cannot afford to be too wordy.

Those pursuing this study will not be disappointed. Greg's teaching skills are to the fore. He breaks the Sermon into five manageable

portions, whets the appetite with just enough background to invite further exploration, then provides the equipment to go hunting.

The premise that the best commentary on the Sermon on the Mount is the rest of Matthew's gospel is a significant part of that equipment. My hunch is that groups involved in this study will find themselves quickly absorbed in doing their own research and making their own applications as they proceed. They will find themselves enticed beyond mere information gathering to reflection and action. Indeed, Greg's discussion questions on the theme of "apply" are not merely tacked to the end of each chapter,

but sprinkled liberally throughout the text.

Depending on the group, the study series promises to live up to its title in a disturbing fashion. Readers will discover how the Sermon on the Mount was never just sanctified idealism. It has always been the blueprint for life.

—Dennis Ryle

Harvest: The Idea For Our Time



by Don Smith (Vital Publications) \$12

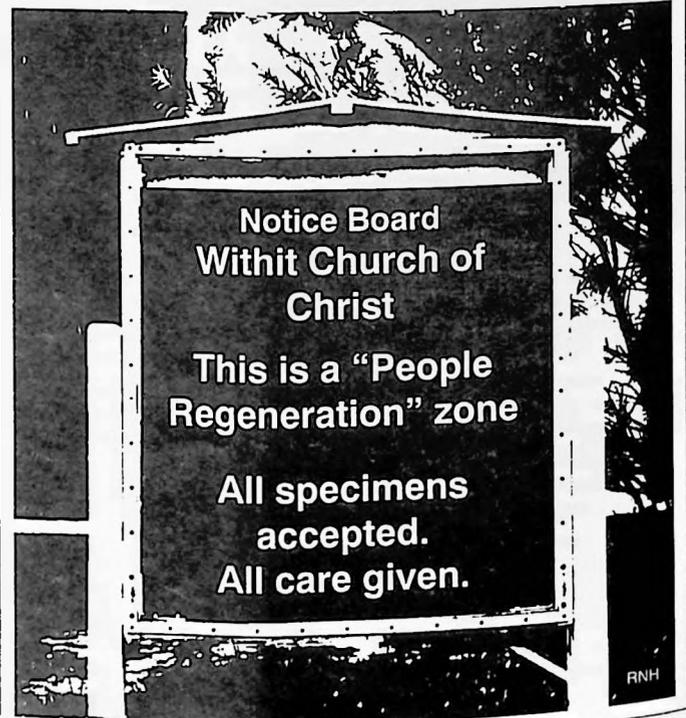
Don Smith calls his new book *Harvest*, drawing our attention to many New Testament passages with the "harvest theme", and noting especially that today, as in Jesus' day, "the fields are white unto harvest". The only problem is finding contemporary ways of reaping it with enough reapers with the "know how" and commitment to do the job.

Don sets out to "relate our heritage as Churches of Christ to the contemporary situation". He sees in our historic emphasis on cooperation with other Christians and

our historic commitment to evangelism, keys to our destiny in the Third Millennium.

An age of rapid change, and thus of bewilderment and confusion, nevertheless offers new opportunities to be the people whom God has called us into existence to be. Don suggests that our destiny should not be with the so called "liberals" or "conservatives" nor in "aping" the mainline churches, but in shaping our own future as we apply the best of our heritage to the new and changing society, with "harvest" as our commitment. In his final longer chapter entitled "Centrepoint" he gives us some suggested directions for doing this.

In an appendix, Herb Miller writes on "Evangelism in the Restoration Tradition". His three main points are 1. Where have

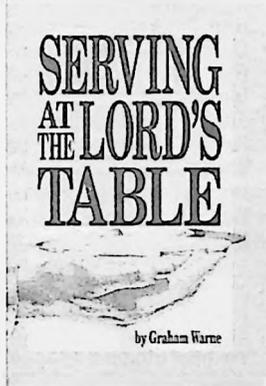


Media Review

we been? 2. Where are we now? 3. Where are we headed? Don Smith's *Harvest* sets out to answer these questions. Unless we already have all of the answers we had better read and study and discuss *Harvest*.
—Gordon Stirling

Copies are available from the Australian Board of Church Development & Education, 77 Capel St, West Melbourne 3003. Phone (03) 326 8900 for \$12 including postage.

Serving at the Lord's Table



by Graham J. Warne (Kenmore Christian College) \$6 posted

Presiding at the Lord's Table is always a daunting task, even for those with many years of experience behind them.

This little book (80 pages) derives from a background of practical experience in ministry and College teaching. It is written both for young Christians presiding for the first time and for more experienced presidents wishing to revise their approach to this most important Christian sacrament.

Written in four sections, the book first examines the background and significance of the Lord's Supper. The writer then discusses the role of the President, and offers practical advice on preparation, style of presentation and choice of prayers and music. He provides a useful list of references for further reading and considers briefly some pointers for good reading. The book concludes with 10 examples of communion services for specific occasions, for different age groups and on particular themes.

The book is well organised, is simply and clearly written, and fulfils its very practical purpose. It is useful for individual study and would be invaluable to the leader of a group of inexperienced presidents.

Graham Warne had a background in education and ministry before being called to lecture at Kenmore Christian College. At a time when our services are becoming less formal, and often less educative, his book draws attention to the need for careful preparation and presentation on the part of leaders in this most important aspect of our worship.

Available from Kenmore Christian College, PO Box 55, Kenmore 4069 or phone (07) 378 7633 for \$5 (\$6 posted).

—Helen Trudgian

Restoring Faith in Management



by Ian Allsop (CollinsDove) \$14.95.

Ian Allsop has been relating the concepts of management theory to the Christian church for many years. This book is the results of his years of personal experience and his studies which have resulted in him earning a Master of Business Administration and in him currently working to complete a PhD thesis. Ian looks at the relationship between management and Christian beliefs and suggests that in the actual process of management faith and personal meaning can emerge. He believes, and argues that management can be a deeply Christian process in this relatively small (79 pages) book.

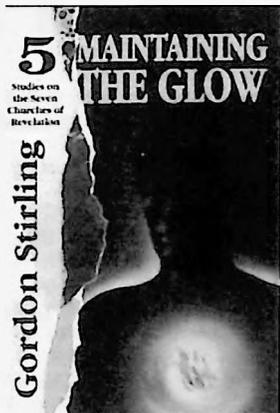
Ian outlines the purpose of this book: "The approach I am taking interprets the actual process of management as an exercise from which and in which faith and personal meaning can emerge. This is a book about the enjoyment and discovery of meaning in and through management. It raises issues of theological thought and management process and explores how many theological and biblical concepts are highly relevant to modern management. This is not a book about applied Christian ethics in a management environment." The seven chapters look at various aspects of management and also of Christian theology. In the final chapter on change and renewal, Ian looks at four different behavioural types of leaders (the cultural maintainer, the cultural reformer, the cultural adaptor and the cultural creator) and looks at how these types can influence the management of a local church. It is material that we can all reflect upon.

The style of this book is very familiar to anyone who knows Ian. It is written from his experience and it reflects his personality and beliefs that he has been sharing among Churches of Christ in a leadership role for many years. I was also pleased to read and look at management from a Christian perspective and not have everything argued from an economic rationalist position (this seems to have taken over all economic theory and management practice today and Christian theology would raise very serious questions about its basic understandings of humans).

Interestingly, CollinsDove have released this book not only through Christian bookshops but also through secular bookshops and large department chains. It will be interesting to see how well it sells in these venues as faith jostles with the world.

—CRA

Maintaining the Glow: 5 Studies on the Seven Churches of Revelation



by Gordon Stirling (Vital Publications) \$6

'As the years pass, many Christians find themselves going through the motions, keeping up their commitments and living by the standards, but with little life and zest in their Christianity ... They may ask themselves, "Is there a mid-life crisis in Christianity as well as in the rest of life?" ... Is there any way of getting something of the original glow back?'

With this introduction Gordon approaches a book of the Scriptures that many find both compelling and incomprehensible. In five studies

he leads us through the imagery and meaning of the first four chapters of Revelation. Yet it is not just a Bible study that leaves us untouched. Gordon has the disturbing habit of asking very relevant and probing questions such as: "Is persecution a good thing?", "Worldliness was once considered to be one of the greatest sins of Christians. We don't hear much about it now. Why?", "What do you understand by a successful church?", "What part should feelings play in our Christian life?" and "What can we, as individuals, do to ensure that we are really worshipping God, rather than just going through the ritual or letting our minds stay in neutral or merely enjoying the religious entertainment?"

I thoroughly recommend this book for anyone wanting to "Maintain the Glow", or any who want to understand the message of the early chapters of Revelation a little better.

Available from Vital Publications, c/o PO Box 629, Mulgrave North 3170, for \$6 plus postage.

—NDP

Happenings

A study of the costs of supporting a missionary from North America in 1990 reveals that direct costs were \$29,526, while indirect costs were \$43,000.

The Care for Girls Program currently under way in Beni Suef (Upper Egypt) is unusual in that it is the only church-related project that publicly combats the practice of female genital mutilation. The three-year program was launched in 1992 by the Coptic Orthodox Church and it uses a variety of media to bring about a change in oppressive attitudes toward women in Egypt, particularly with female "circumcision". The "circumcision" of young girls is an ancient tradition that reflects the position of women in Egyptian society. It is practised by both Muslims and Christians and inflicts not only physical injury, but also often seriously damages the mental health of the victims.

Britain's Anglican and Catholic bishops have issued a rare joint statement restating their opposition to the legalisation of euthanasia. "There is a distinction between deliberate killing and the shortening of life through the administration of drugs," they said. The bishops also said that decisions of whether treatment should be withheld or withdrawn is an "area requiring fine judgement". They also stated that doctors' primary duties were to ensure that patients are kept well and informed about their treatment.

The world's longest ever sermon was recently preached at the Emmanuel Pentecostal Church in Darford, Kent. The 127-hour sermon was preached in 19-hour stretches by Roy Warren. His preaching marathon helped him learn about suffering for the faith as he contended with mouth ulcers, a couple of nose bleeds and various aches and pains. The fruit of

his labour was one conversion, much local curiosity and a renewed interest in prayer and scripture in the local congregation.

Two recently published Bibles have won awards in the Best Israeli Book Contest for 1993. The winning entries were two editions of the Hebrew Bible, one bound with an olive wood cover, and the other bound in leather. Both editions were published by the Bible Society in Israel. This is the first time any governmental organisation has given such credit to a book containing the New Testament.

The Anglican Church in the Diocese of Sydney has written to all members of the NSW Parliament urging them carefully to consider the proposed Protection of Children From Indecent Images Bill. The Private Members Bill was introduced by Dr Marlene Goldsmith MP, and is due to go before Parliament this session. The Bill seeks to have visual images, deemed to be indecent, displayed in such a way that they are not visible to children. Pornographic magazines and videos would have front covers masked or sealed.

The US Supreme Court ruled on 11 June that followers of Santeria, an Afro-Catholic religion, have a legal right to practice ritualistic animal sacrifice.

Members of the Innaloo Uniting Church, Perth, WA, have taken a special group of local residents into their hearts. The church, in response to a request from the North Metropolitan Health Service, runs a mobile rehabilitation program for people with psychiatric disabilities. Twice a week the 18-35 year-olds go to the church hall from hostel and independent living accommodation. They spend the day working with occupational therapists and church volunteers on life and

recreational skills and go on outings.

The *New International Version* of the Bible is now available in speciality Bibles for every age group. Zondervan Publishing House has eight versions aimed at various age groups, each of which has study helps included. Since it was released in 1978, the NIV has sold more than 90 million copies.

Government authorities in Vietnam announced in mid-August that they are willing to return church-owned lands that were confiscated after the 1975 Communist takeover of South Vietnam. However, confirmed reports from sources recently travelling in Vietnam said the church groups must first produce deeds of ownership.

Following her seven-year term as world leader of the Salvation Army, General Eva Burrows is now domiciled in Melbourne. She has now been appointed to the Board of Ansva Australia Insurance Ltd. She regards the appointment as totally consistent with her lifetime interest and concern for social issues.

The 5th International Youth Congress on Evangelism sponsored by the World Methodist Church is being held in Hamburg, Germany 1-8 August 1994. The conference will bring together leading practitioners in all areas of the faith with a major emphasis on holistic evangelism from an international perspective. Details of the conference and a group travel experience (which includes 7 days in Israel, a bus tour of Europe and a weekend experience in Taizé) can be obtained from Rev. Ken Anderson, PO Box 1944, Adelaide 5001. Phone (08) 271 7066 or Rev John Mavor, UC National Mission and Evangelism, PO Box E266, St James 2000. Phone (02) 287 0900.

The first Interfaith National Training Program on Sexual Assault is being held 10-12 November at St Stephen's Anglican Church Conference Centre, 360 Church St, Richmond, Vic. The conference brings religious and secular communities together to respond to sexual assault and other forms of violence in the Christian family, including issues of clergy sexual misconduct. Only a very limited number of places are available. Details from Helen Last on (03) 349 2195 or (03) 347 3698 (AH).

A midnight bomb blast recently blew a small hole in the front of the Tripoli Baptist Church in Lebanon, shattering windows in the church and other buildings. Muslim extremists are suspected of triggering the blast, which occurred right after the national "Love Lebanon" evangelistic campaign. The campaign featured Christian street meetings, public preaching and personal evangelism in all major cities.

Rev Dr Chris Reynolds is to be the new Principal of the Pacific College for Evangelism commencing in January 1994. After five years, Dr Alan Walker is retiring. Dr Alan Walker said: "The Pacific College is delighted that Dr Chris Reynolds has accepted the invitation to become Principal. He brings spiritual and academic abilities which will lead the College forward in Australia and the Pacific region." For four years Dr Reynolds has been minister of the Uniting Church in Mayfield, Newcastle, where he established an outreach program among young adults. The Pacific College with Dr Reynolds' leadership is offering strong and exciting teaching programs in evangelism.

Anglican Archbishop Ian George of Adelaide has warned that if the church does not recognise diversity in fami-

lies, it will simply fail to remain relevant to the community. According to *Southern Cross* the NSW Anglican magazine, the Archbishop said that, "families remain the best place for the nurture of children and the companionship of adults". "But families," said Bishop George, "are under terrific stress today, from unemployment, poverty and changes in gender roles". The Archbishop called for greater funding for marriage education and greater parity in subsidies between child-care alternatives.

Some 17 years ago, SIM built a hospital 400 km south of Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa in Soddo, the major city serving the Wolaita people. Recently, the Ethiopian Government took over the hospital, the medical institution to 2 million yet only 60 of 200 beds are in use. SIM has now contracted with the Ethiopian Government to commence the much needed surgical service and has made the costs for all the surgery, surgical equipment and refurbishing the wards, a SIMAID Project.

A group of almost 50 including 18 non-Aboriginals took part in a horseback trek from Balcanona to Oraparinna, north of Wilpena Pound, in the Flinders Ranges. Nights were spent under the stars and Dreamtime stories and a mixture of music were shared around the fire each night. The trek began as a desire of a small group of Adnyamathantha people to spend some time in their own country. The idea was taken up by the SA Uniting Church covenanting and reconciliation programs and organised by the original group of Adnyamathantha people. They rode through some beautiful country and enjoyed the enthusiasm of the Aboriginal people as they shared their country.

Continued from page 9

northern and western suburbs of Melbourne. Muslim immigrants have been settling in these areas in ever-increasing numbers, often in high concentrations in cheaper housing areas. These people have had little opportunity to hear the gospel in their own country, but even here in Melbourne they will not come to Christ without a commitment from the Christian community to reach them.

In the neighbourhood of Dallas, 27.4% of residents claimed adherence to Islam in the 1991 Census (up from 18% in 1986), with the dominant migrant group being from Turkey.

One strategy to reach migrants has been to set aside full-time Christian workers for the task. But the number of "home missionaries" involved in this ministry will not be enough to accomplish the objective of establishing worshipping congregations among the main language and cultural groups. For one thing, home missionaries have trouble convincing churches of the urgency and necessity of their work for raising financial support.

The experience of the British Evangelical Missionary Alliance in recent years suggests that what is needed are "tent-making" home missionaries—people who sense the call of God to reach out to Muslims, receive appropriate training for the task (there are a number of part-time cross-cultural training courses available in Melbourne now), and while carrying out their occupations (preferably part-time), live among Muslim communities with the aim of sharing the gospel. Hence these people are largely self-funding, not needing full financial support from churches. They could either buy or rent their own house in the target community. They would receive prayer backing from their originating home church, as well as from the local church in their new location. They could take advantage of the evening classes available to learn the language of the target group.

We believe there are families living in Melbourne whom God has been preparing for this ministry. They might have already had cross-cultural experience as missionaries or professionals working overseas. They might have had Bible College training and taken an interest in Muslim evangelism. They may have seriously considered missionary service, but circumstances have kept them at home. The churches of Dallas would like to hear from anyone who wishes to enquire about this kind of ministry

—Peter Clark and
Jim Houston

(Pastoral Coordinator,
Dallas Life Centre,
phone (03) 302 2402;
St Mary Magdalene's
Anglican Church,
phone (03) 309 3634)

Land Rights

To the Editor,

What a surprise to read in the "AC" 2 October that Christian leaders support the "native land title claims".

"This land is God's land, We claim it for the Lord" goes the song. That is the song which is sung all through the Bible. God claims to be the title holder to the whole earth and everything (including people) are his. The only people to whom he has given "land title" is the descendants of Abraham. Gen. 17:8, 35:12 and Josh. 1:2-4 are some of the places proclaiming Israel's right to all the land from the Mediterranean Sea to the river Euphrates but most people do not recognise that right. Whenever they worshipped other gods, other nations overran and occupied their land until they turned back to the one and only God.

History tells us that Spanish, Dutch, Portuguese, French, and Eastern Asian nations all visited the coasts but made no attempts to settle here. Why? Because God loved the Aboriginal people and did not want them to be introduced to idol worship from these countries. He chose a nation which would bring the gospel of Jesus to them.

An Aboriginal speaker said

recently, "The government spends \$13 million a year on Aboriginal people—but they don't spend it right." True! If just one of those millions was channelled through our FAB many more Aboriginal people would hear that this world is not our home. Aboriginal land title rights do not exist in actual fact. God is the final authority in all matters of human rights and his Word will be the final "law" no matter who says differently.

—E A Barton
(Port Lincoln, SA)

"Sinful World"?

To the Editor,

I find myself reacting rather strongly to the claim which appeared in an article in the "AC" 2 October, when Neil Marsden wrote: "We live in a sinful and hateful world that's gone completely mad". If he sees the world that way, I feel dreadfully sorry for him. I don't!

Living in a small country town, I know scores of ordinary decent people who sincerely give many hours a week to work for the St John Ambulance, Bushfire Brigade, local Cubs, children's sport, local Show, etc.

It is not a sinful and hateful world, but a world where much goodwill and generous giving and sharing can be found. I believe the Marsden attitude to our friends and neighbours is quite contrary to that which Jesus displayed as he moved among people. His attitude was to acknowledge goodness and goodwill wherever he could and many of his parables lifted up the ordinary relationships among people as illustrations of "God among us".

I thank God for the world I live in—a world where his Spirit is active in encouraging goodness and hope across the whole face of the earth.

—Alan Cant
(Bindoon, WA)

God or Luck

To the Editor,

Stephen Curkpatrick ("AC" 16 October) has misunderstood my criticism. Viewed from a biblical standpoint his first sen-

tence is self-contradictory. It is inherently impossible to argue for luck and unequivocally against fatalism, for the one implies the other. For the Christian, God and luck are mutually exclusive.

The doctrines of creation and providence leave no room for luck. To suggest that they do is to make God less than omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent. To posit luck is to render God finite. If there is another power in the universe operating in its own sphere of reference, then God's infinitude evaporates.

We must consider the fact that the Bible is essentially monistic—despite obvious second agents, there is only one ultimate power in the universe. When Stephen seeks to establish the reality of bad luck, he is caught up willy-nilly in an irreconcilable dualism in the manner of pagan philosophers like Plato.

Having set up luck and free-will as non-negotiable, Stephen is apparently horror-struck by all forms of determinism. Apart from noting the obvious determinism involved in the doctrine of Impersonal Fate to which his concept of luck inexorably leads, the fact is that all thinking Christians are determinists to some degree.

The assumption behind the teaching about creation and the preservation of the world is that God has a plan and that he has both the will and the power to fulfil that plan (e.g. Isa. 46:9-11, Eph. 1:11). If God is forced into impotent wishful thinking by chance, free-will or whatever, then he is not the God who is revealed to us in the Bible.

—Ken Stothard
(Essendon, Vic)

[Edited to fit word limits on this material—Editor]

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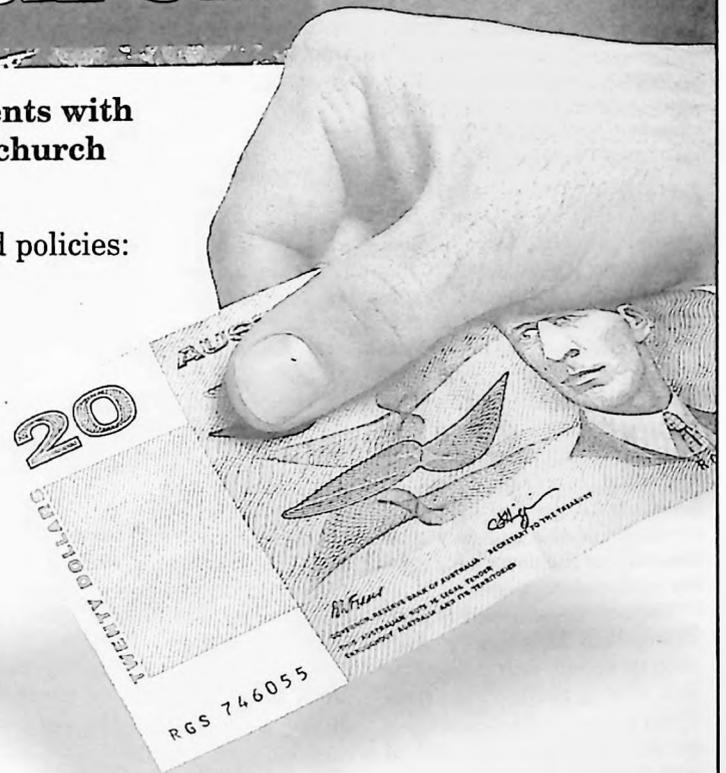
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8 Clive Street, West Perth 6005. Phone: (09) 321 6291
157 Ann Street, Brisbane 4000. Phone: (07) 221 8449

Caring For Kiddies

Making better use of the facilities

Recently the Launceston, Tas, church office was relocated from the rear of the building to a position in the foyer—much more convenient for everyone.

As a result, the creche moved into the former office area and is now a most attractive room in which to care for the small children who come to morning

and evening services and to the "Yummies" (young mums) meetings each fortnight.

Shelves have been erected and toys and equipment put into place, equipment which previously could not be used in the corner of the foyer that was euphemistically called "the Creche".



• The new creche

Becoming Multinational

Belmore church developments

The character of the Belmore, NSW, church is becoming quite multinational. Although meetings may be conducted for both Korean and Indian groups, these are part of the regular church, with the aim of seeing us as one people in Christ.

The Wednesday Playgroup continues to provide a great time for all; it also provides good contacts for the church and is also multinational.

English classes are proving very helpful to those who at-

tend, with Shirley Field devoting a large amount of time to organising the classes.

Recently special times have been shared with Dorothy Holstein, including her sharing at the CWF anniversary.

Kids' Church has been held over the last two school terms for children from Kindergarten to Year 6. This has been important in encouraging a number of younger children we now have attending.

—Elma Bowser



• Playgroup

...we DON'T want

Billy Idol

or

Dame Joan Sutherland

But if you are musical read on.

Launceston Church of Christ will appoint a Music Director in 1994. A part-time position with great conditions.

The right person will want to work in a ministry team situation and use ministry skills in addition to musical ability.

Please contact Craig Spaulding on (003)265272

Church of Christ Belconnen ACT Youth Minister—Part-Time

Expressions of Interest are invited for a part-time Youth Minister appointment.

Part of the mission of the Belconnen Church of Christ is to lead young people into Christian Commitment.

Our vision is to disciple young people and encourage development of skills for leadership and service.

Expressions of Interest should include your experience and your strengths which will enable you to work with the church in its vision for youth and young adults.

Further information, including selection criteria, may be obtained from:

T. Leach
(06) 254 3254 AH

Please Note: Additional part-time employment may also be available.

Written expressions of interest should be forwarded by 22 November 1993 to

Belconnen Youth Ministry
28 Davis Street
Weetangera ACT 2614

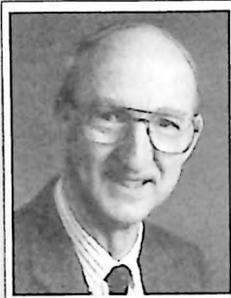
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"Here, without the possibility of question, is the most challenging missionary frontier of our time."

—Leslie Newbiggin
(world missionary statesman and leader)
from *Can the West be Converted?*

Can The West Be Won?



This is also our question. Australian young people, children and adults daily face false values and ideas. Our Harvest task is enormous. Yet the battle is not without encouragements. Peter Kaldor describes

the '90s as a time when people are looking for 'Strength to Cope'. Everywhere we see new responses to the Gospel. Victorian-Tasmanian churches are establishing firm growth patterns. Our churches are engaged in teaching Christian values and faith. The Department supports this Harvest task through its field services and church planting projects. This is a decade for vision, taking risks and shaping bold new plans. Join us in intercession. We urgently need your financial support in a difficult deficit situation.

New Ethnic Outreach



Church planting under Dieu Tang's leadership to reach Chinese people in Melbourne's Western Suburbs started in February. This is the fourth Department sponsored project to reach

Chinese people. An evangelistic service was held in September at the time of the Moon Festival, with eighty people attending the Sunshine church. New contacts were made. There are growing opportunities for faith commitments. Hobart has a growing Hmong church where Department help is sought.

Church Planting Starts With Youth



Anji Barker and her husband, Ashley, commenced a church planting venture at Springvale in July. They work among seventy young people and their family networks, many with refugee backgrounds,

who may be described as part of Australia's urban poor. Anji and Ashley have a commitment to share the Gospel and are living out their faith with their home open to all comers. Anji's social work studies are being directly applied in the community. Her work with young women and families are part of this ministry. Anji and Ashley greatly need your prayer and financial support.

A Bold Plan



Les Stewart has had a lifelong commitment to youth work. In October he headed up a leadership training course for the Department's Adventure Committee. Fourteen poten-

tial leaders were invited to participate in courses from Christian commitment to planning a bushwalk and navigation. This bold plan has future strategic importance. It is just one part of the Department's work in Victoria-Tasmania among children, youth and adults. Every area of our work needs constantly to be renewed and reconceived. The Harvest vision is our motivation.

"The mission of the church needs constantly to be renewed and re-conceived." —David Bosch

International Year of Indigenous Peoples



John Smith, founder of God's Squad and minister at St Martin's Community Church (Carlton, Vic), was an average parson's kid. But events have drastically reshaped his life. He now works with everyone from outlaw bikers to academics, business people and street kids.



Opinions and viewpoints in issues of the Pamphlet Club are the authors', and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.

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c/o PO Box 629

Mulgrave North 3170

Supplement to *The Australian Christian*

6 November 1993

John Smith

Pamphlet Club • 385

As this special year for raising consciousness of the nature and plight of the world's indigenous peoples swiftly comes to an end, I wonder how seriously it has been taken by the Christian community at large.

Lethargy

There is a certain lethargy regarding this topic for a number of reasons.

The dominance of economic rationalism militates against serious reflection on anything but the issue of money and employment. Of course, under such circumstances there is little sympathy for indigenous peoples' relationship to the land, which is seen as threatening to the nation's economy. Carefully orchestrated and blatantly dishonest attacks on the High Court Mabo decision by State Premiers, have exploited the fact that our economy will suffer further if justice is afforded to them. Fears of investment withdrawal at such a time of economic uncertainty vastly outweighs the more complex issues of history and justice, for all but the most committed. At such a time as this, we need to be reminded of the biblical proverb:

Righteousness [synonymous with justice in the Hebrew language—doing what's right] exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.

Appalling ignorance as to the true history of attempted genocide, exploitation on remote cattle stations, violence and injustice are back of the basic lethargy in the heart of Christians. I have personal Aboriginal friends who recount childhood memories of mass murders and of cattle trucks occupied by aboriginals in chains en route to virtual slave labour in the outback. Even now, Australia has the highest per capita incarceration rate of indigenous people in the world. A few years ago, I attended a WA prison where 47% of the inmates at the time were aboriginal. Population-wise they constituted less than 2% of the people in that region of Australia. We simply do not know. But the reprehensible fact is—we can know if it is a priority to us. There is enormous documentation available on Australia's "black history", including excellent books on every aspect of Aboriginality covering the history of genocide, brutality and exploitation of our indigenous people. Of course, who you listen to determines what you hear. Few Australians have chosen to go out of their way to sit with the black community and listen to **their** story with an open heart.

"We ask only the chance to pass on our way of life and our love for the Creator to our children and grandchildren."

Harriott Starleaf Gumba—Shinnecock

"Man sometimes thinks he's been elevated to be the controller, the ruler. But he's not. Man's job is not to exploit but oversee, to be a steward. Man has responsibility not power."

Oren Lyons—Onondaga People.

"He finally learned that wisdom comes only when you stop looking for it and start truly living the life the Creator intended for you."

Lella Fisher—Hal People

"But the supreme law of the land is the Great Spirit's not man's law."

Thomas Banyacta—Hopi

"And Thy gentleness has made me great."

David—Tribe of Benjamin (Psalm 18:35)

"The fruit of the Spirit ... is gentleness ..."

Paul—Tribe of Benjamin

"I'm working for the creation. I refuse to take part in its destruction."

Leon Shenandoah-Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy.

"It is no longer good to cry peace. We must act peace. We must live peace."

Leon Shenandoah-Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy.

Justice, merciful love and spirituality are the trinity of divine expectations upon us.

(B) In fact, deep in the hearts of pre-enlightenment peoples lie some tribal universal wisdoms which do not deny Christian revelation. Rather, some of the wisdom of the elders affirms how far from the ancient wisdom of The Book we have drifted and how much modern secular paganism we have taken on board.

Concluding Thoughts

I conclude with a few tribal wisdoms which should drive us to our knees and to our Bibles:

"Everything I know I learned by listening and watching. Nowadays people learn only out of books instead. Doctors study what man has learned. I pray to understand what man has forgotten."

Vernon Cooper—Lumbee Tribe

"With one mind we address our acknowledgment, respect and gratefulness to all the sacred cycle of life. We humans must remember to be humble and acknowledge the gifts we use so freely in our daily lives."

Audrey Shenandoah—Onondaga People.

"We learned God rules the universe and everything God made is living."

It's a great feeling to talk to God. I know. I did it way up on the mountain. The wind was blowing. It was dark. It was cold. And I stood there and I talked to God."

Matthew King—The Lakota.

"I myself have no power. Real power comes only from the Creator. It's in His hands. But if you're asking about strength, not power, then I can say that the greatest strength is gentleness."

Leon Shenandoah—Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy

Thank God that the Divine attitude is different. "This poor man cried and the Lord inclined His ear unto my cry", says the Psalmist.

There is a widespread fear amongst evangelical and charismatic believers (I am both), that an open approach to such cultures is a denial of our commitment to Jesus and the Christian faith. Words like "pagan", "superstitious", "pre-Australian" and "primitive" swiftly appear on the mental landscape. However, there have been significant shifts in missiology theory and practice over the last couple of decades with respect to attitudes amongst leading evangelicals.

Peace Child and Eternity in their Hearts by Don Richardson are amongst the easy-to-read-and-understand presentations of a much more researched and gracious alternative to the anthropology of both secular humanists, on one hand, and fundamentalist Christians on the other. Excellent scholarly re-assessments of culture and its relationship to the gospel and its propagation have come from the works of such men as Lamin Sanneh—a black, ex-Moslem African, who now holds the prestigious Yale University professorship chair, once occupied by Kenneth Scott Latourette (Author of *The History and Expansion of Christianity*).

Sanneh's book *Translating the Message* (Orbis Publications) challenges many of the misconceptions of Western culture and opens up new dimensions on basic themes of indigenous contributions and initiatives, and the relationship of religious faith to culture.

Leslie Newbigin (*The Gospel and Pluralist Society*, Eerdmans Publications) has further assisted us in understanding the cultural baggage we all carry. How staggering it has been to discover aboriginal tribal corroborrees devoted to the 10 commandments, which corroborrees it is likely were given to them thousands of years before Moses received them in the Desert.

All of this, and a rediscovery of the biblical doctrine of prevenient grace, has changed the thinking of many committed biblical missiologists and opened us to the fact that God speaks truth to all nations, even through the legends and art of vastly different cultures—Paul, when speaking to a crowd in Athens, quotes from a pagan poem written to Zeus the Greek god: "In him we live and move and exist' ... It is as some of your own poets have said, 'We too are his children.'"

No removal from our Christ-centred faith is required.

What is required is a humility to recognise two things:

- Western culture, with its multiple demons of materialism, individualism, rationalism and idolatrous nationalism, is scarcely in a position to call others "primitive" or superstitious.
- It needs to be recognised that many Hebrew and Christian perspectives are more evident in some tribal situations than they are in Western Christianity.

World Views

Amongst such world-views deeply embedded in aboriginal culture, but remarkably absent in our own, to the serious detriment of both the planet and its peoples are:

- A sense of family and tribal unity.
- The significance of children as a rich God-given heritage.
- The sanctity of all life.
- The mystery and wonder of the created order.
- The essential spiritual core of all things, even creation.

According to Paul, Christ is in all things and sustains all things. In Romans 1 he even proposes that all that can be known of God, even God's eternal qualities, are observable in the created order. Whilst we deny pantheism (Nature is God—God is nature), our theism has often been a rationalistic reaction to scientific atheism, presenting God as the watch-maker who created the technical universe. The problem with this is that it doesn't shape up adequately with the new physics, which sees the universe as something strangely purposeful, or the Bible, which sees God in all things and sustaining all things.

To indigenous people there is a sense of the divine in nature, which may be nearer to the psalmist's assertion, "The Heavens declare the glory of God" or Paul's revelation that the whole creation groans for the deliverance which should come through the sons and daughters of God.

Thus the Year of the Indigenous Peoples should remind us of grossly overdue justice and the need for compensation and reparations. It's high time we really paid the rent, since we live off the stolen property (At least Mabo has recognised that undeniable historic reality). After all, we do claim to follow Jesus ... or is it St Paul? ... or is it precedent? ... or is it self interest?

Reynolds of course points out that legal opinion at the highest level of jurisprudence at the time of Captain Cook conceded legal title to indigenous hunter-gatherer civilisations. Our forebears ignored that advice and the conditions requested by the British crown.

Food for Thought

Anyway, if we do claim to follow Jesus here's some relevant food for thought:

(A) All the Law and the prophets can be summed up in two commandments. Jesus said, "Love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength and love your neighbour as yourself". (Not the blokes and blokeses who are like me, but all who have need, according to the Good Samaritan definition.)

Jesus said, "Do to others what you would want them to do to you." If you wouldn't want to be discriminated against, forgotten, robbed or ignored—don't do it to them! No racism, sexism, ethnocentrism, classism or nationalism can stand before such a statement.

Jesus said, "Even pagans love those who do what they want them to do ... but you are to love your enemies and do good to those who do bad to you."

So we are to love God, brethren, neighbour and enemy. We owe a deficit of love and justice to our indigenous people as a high priority.

"What can I bring to the Lord when I come to worship Him?" asks the prophet Micah. (Micah 6:6)

"He has shown you oh man what is right and what the Lord requires of you, to do justly, to love mercifully, to live humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

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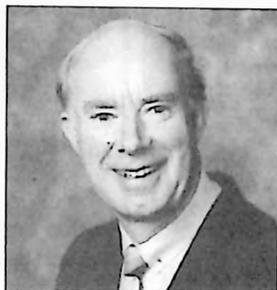
YOUTH ACTIVITIES



GORDON BARR

GORDON BARR has brought to this role a mix of creativity, love for God and a passion for young people that has effectively grown the *youth ministry* of NSW in '93. Gordon's gifts in music, idea sharing & resourcing of youth leaders will be a significant help in a positive future for youth work.

CHURCH PLANTING



BARRY RICE

BARRY RICE is Senior Pastor of the church he planted in 1986 at Manning Valley in Taree—now it has over 200 members! With his passion for the lost and wealth of experience, Barry will work **part-time** establishing new churches in NSW and assisting the *11 new churches begun since 1991*.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & EVANGELISM



ROSS WAKELEY

ROSS WAKELEY will focus on equipping and encouraging local churches to develop as effective mission communities reaching the people. Ross brings enthusiasm and his equipping seminars have proved valuable at a grass-roots level in helping God's kingdom to grow. It's an exciting future!

NEW BEGINNINGS



BYRON BAY

In January '94, **STEPHEN AND DI TEMPLETON** with their three children will commence this new church in the beautiful area of *BYRON BAY*. They move from a successful ministry at Ballarat to a new challenge with a mission—*"anchored to Jesus: geared to the Bay"*. If YOU know of contacts, ring Stephen on (053) 31 3225. **PRAYER support needed.**



GRAFTON

ROCKY AND LEANNE QUINLIVAN felt called of God to plant a new church at *GRAFTON*. With a core group of five people, the church has grown to 38 in just eight weeks! Support from Northern Rivers churches has been a real encouragement. A call to Rocky & Leanne would be appreciated in this pioneering work—ring them on (066) 43 1286.

Churches of Christ in NSW
NEW DIRECTIONS
PO BOX 140, Carlingford 2118

We invite you to be a part of these exciting new directions. Please send your donation to ...

Classifieds

DEATHS

LUNN (SCANTLEBURY) Evelyn. Passed away peacefully on 12 October 1993. Loved wife of Stewart, mother of Beverley and Stephen Dobie, Nanna of Jared, Aaron (dec) and Sarah. Loving sister of Florrie Chiswell, Alice Berthelsen, Allan, Joyce Masterton and Myrie Riley. Now absent from the body, Evelyn is present with her Lord.

STOKIE (ROBBINS) Alice Muriel on October 17 at The Avenue Hospital. Much loved wife of George (dec). Loved mother of Dorothy (Greatbatch), Don and Jeanne (Vandersluys). Mother-in-law and friend of Keith, Linda, Julie and Bill. Loving Nanna of Sheena, Vernon, Mark, Kim, Ruth, Meaghan, Chris, Shaun and Monique. Great Nan of Amanda, Eden, Kieran, Jordan, Alexandra and Rebecca. Loved sister of Wilbur. Reunited with Dad.

IN MEMORIAM

TULLY, Russell John 29.10.92. Always remembered with love. His wife Eunice and family. "In heavenly love abiding."

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beaches etc. Very reasonable rates. Vacancies include Dec-Feb period. Free brochure available. Phone (03) 755 1787 (AH) or 696 3828 (AH). Fax (03) 820 8510. Write to 29 Seabreeze Ave, Ferry Creek 3786.

Albury—Minister

The Albury Church of Christ is seeking expression of interest from qualified minister(s) to serve in the capacity of Minister at the church. The fellowship numbers approximately 120, and therefore requires a minister who is able to grasp the vision of increasing the congregational size above this number. The position would ideally suit a gifted pastoral minister, with administrative capabilities also being a requirement. The church has an active youth and Sunday school ministry, cell groups and also has a local Opportunity Shop. The church would seek to appoint a minister any time in the next 18 months.

For additional information please write to:

The Eldership
Albury Church of Christ
524 David Street
Albury 2640

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News of the Port Lincoln People's Church and the Berean Church.

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Conference Centre
263 Melbourne Street
North Adelaide 5006

New Groups Sought

church planting initiatives



• Ashley and Anji Barker and Stephen Wong with Vic-Tas DMED chairman, Dean Phelan

Ashley and Anji Barker and Stephen Wong presented their visions for new church planting initiatives to the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development on 16 September. Stephen Wong is currently a lecturer in Asian Studies at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and plans to develop a new multicultural outreach from the Camberwell, Vic, church in 1994. This will have a particular reference to people with an Asian background. He also hopes to establish a Chinese ministry. Stephen commences a part-time preaching ministry with the Camberwell church in October. He plans further theological studies at the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave, in 1994.

The significance of Chinese immigration and population movement in the Pacific rim area was noted in a mission strategy paper published recently.

In a different vein, Ashley and Anji Barker are working in the Springvale area. They have established a youth group under the previous auspices of Youth For Christ. The group includes a diversity of ethnic mix. Vietnamese, Cambodians, Cook Islanders, Maoris, Bosnians, Somalis, Afghans and Greeks are among the young people involved. Ashley and Anji have a vision to plant a church among this group and their family networks. The project is being assisted financially by the Department and the Springvale church.

The Board of Management,
Faculty,
and Students of the

Churches of Christ Theological College

extend to you a cordial invitation to attend the

1993 GRADUATION SERVICE

Speaker: Principal Greg Elsdon

and the

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of

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442 Auburn Road Auburn
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An offering will be taken to defray costs.
Car park entrance is from Woodburn Road.

New Statistics Available

Resource for better planning

A continuing stream of statistical information from the 1991 census is available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Latest information available tells us that our national population has grown by 8% since the 1986 census to 16.8 million. The population is aging with people over 65 increasing by 0.7%. There are 1% fewer children under the age of 15 than in 1986. Our multicultural diversity continues. Of the overseas born, the proportion of those born in Asia has now reached 18.3%. In 1971 it was 6.5%. 62% of those employed travel to work in cars, with a mere 10% using public transport.

Of special interest to congregations are the new **Census Counts for Small Areas**. This series contains final counts of persons and dwellings in statistical local areas. Information is available on small areas down to 200 households. The material is called **Basic Community Profiles**. Youth profiles are available for Tas, ACT, WA, and SA. A range of information is also available on Australian

families. This could be useful for churches committed to a better understanding of families in the **1994 Year of the Family Program**. The 1992 Family Survey examines the characteristics of families and the nature of family support. It looks at a family's needs, its responsibilities, and ability to cope in the face of changing and often limited resources. A visit to a Bureau Office in capital cities or a telephone inquiry for detailed information available could be useful as local churches plan their ministry strategy in 1994 and beyond.

—Don Smith

(Australian Board of Church Development and Education)

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Good News for the Games

Bible Society's plans

In anticipation of the Sydney 2000 Olympics, the Bible Society in Australia is preparing to take the Bible to the Games.

"With so many athletes, spectators and media personnel gathering in Sydney from all over the world we have a great opportunity to present God's message," the Bible Society's General Secretary, Rev Philip Oliver said. "With the help of Bible Societies from all over the world, the project will be a multicultural and multilingual effort." The Bible Society has always looked upon the production and distribution of Bibles as a priority. This is in keeping with the spirit of the Games and the Society's vision for 2000. For more information about the Bible Society's plans, contact the national office on (06) 248 5188 or the Sydney office on (02) 267 6862.

Reach the Unchurched

Dianella's mini-mission

Dianella's mission is to reach the unchurched. On 10 October, as part of their community awareness, the Dianella, WA, church ventured into a mini-mission. The guest artist was Steve Grace, one of Australia's foremost Gospel singers, supported by Rose Farrow and her band, Vicki Meyers and Steve Merchant. Steve and Rose gave their testimonies. Each person who entered the hall was given a new pamphlet (just prepared) outlining our church's program, our beliefs, and an invitation to attend our church if not in a regular church home. Also included was an invitation to attend "Christianity Explained" for the next six weeks, which was opened to all, and an outline of our services planned to Christmas.

A tremendous amount of work went into this mission, the whole church helping in some way or another. The congregation gathered for prayer as a group before the mission. The community hall in Morley was hired. Approximately 650 attended the mini-mission. It was a great night, nine committed their lives to Christ. Three of those were from our own young people's group.

This was also a venture in faith for our congregation, costs being high we still didn't believe tickets should be sold, so instead an offering was taken up, any money left after costs to be forwarded to the earthquake victims in India.

—Lynette Armstrong

Broadcasting the Seeds

Radio Alta Mira launched in Adelaide

The Premier of South Australia, Lyn Arnold, showed an inherently sympathetic attitude to the aims of the new Christian-based radio service in Adelaide when he officially launched FM station Alta Mira on 3 October.

Speaking to a large crowd of supporters of the venture at its studio in suburban Kensington, Mr Arnold referred repeatedly to Christ's parable of the sower.

The Premier used the term "broadcasting the seeds" to describe the fundamental ministry of the new station, 107.9 FM. He showed, too, an appreciation of a point that was stressed throughout the long drawn-out campaign to secure the necessary licence from the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal. The point was that quality secular music would be programmed alongside Christian songs.

Writing after the launching, Roger Brown, co-minister of the Dulwich/Rose Park United Parish, stressed that the best approach for the churches to use the media was to broadcast "good news" within the secu-

lar culture, rather than have an exclusive program only for Christian ears.

"Alta Mira" means being on watch from a high place.
—Jack Ludbrook

How Can I Help?

Sponsoring the work

Here's how you can help in a very practical way in Mareeba, Qld. Murray and Narelle Thomson conclude their ministry at Gladstone, Qld, at the end of 1993. In response to God's challenge, Murray is returning to Mareeba to minister beginning March, 1994.

Murray and Narelle and the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Christian Fellowship are stepping out in faith. On hearing the great news that the Thomsons answered the call to Mareeba, a couple pledged to support them by giving \$10 a month. If there were 40 such couples or churches making a similar commitment, this would be a wonderful answer to prayer.

We need people to pray.

Can you help? Contact Hazel Morris, 113 Fernvale Road, Tarragindi 4121 Phone (07) 848 9466.

109th year of Ministry

Lismore celebrations

A 20-year veteran of Lifeline was the guest speaker when

the Lismore, NSW, church celebrated its 109th year of ministry over the weekend 15-17 October. Maurice Hodgson, a Churches of Christ minister since 1962, was the speaker for several events over the weekend.

Maurice Hodgson was the director of Wollongong Lifeline from 1972 to 1985 and then became the executive officer of Australian National Lifeline from 1985 to 1992. He is now the NSW Conference Secretary.

He spoke at a men's dinner, a family celebration dinner and at the 109th anniversary service on Sunday.

Also featured in the Sunday service was Gordon Barr, a contemporary Christian singer, recording artist and state youth worker.

The minister at Lismore, Ian Phillips, said the church sought to practice simple down-to-earth uncluttered Christianity.

"That has been the philosophy of our congregation in Lismore for more than a century, and that philosophy still guides us as we approach the 21st century," he said.

"We see ourselves as a congregation which has the family at heart. There are all sorts of families today, and those families are struggling with pressures that families have never known before. Our aim is to bring real hope to hurting families."

The present church was opened in 1922 and is situated on the corner of Keen and Magellan Streets. Fire destroyed the first church building in Conway Street.

The church also operates a hall in Goonellabah.

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Faith of our Fathers

Families of faith



• Joe Thomas, third in a great family tradition, baptises his daughter Melissa.

Three fathers baptised their children in a moving service at Werribee, Vic, church recently. The congregation and visitors gathered around the outdoor baptistry and sheltered from the spring rain under umbrellas to watch. Minister Peter Lyne baptised two adults, Dollous Li, Celia Jelbart, and then his sons Ben and Daniel. Then Wayne baptised his son, Shane Pilkington. Kayleen and Melissa Thomas were baptised by their father, Joe.

Before the baptisms, the seven candidates spoke to the congregation about their growth to faith, and the young people talked about their up-

bringing in Christian families and gave testimony to the faith of their parents.

For the Thomas family, the service had particular significance. Among those present was Don Thomas, who, in 1926, gave his life to Christ during a Paternoster tent mission at Balwyn, Vic. Following the mission, J.E. Thomas, the first minister of the Balwyn church, baptised his son Don, who was then 11 years old.

Later Don became a minister, and in 1961 baptised his son Joe, then nine years old, at the Frankston, Vic, church. 32 years later a family tradition now extends to the fourth generation.

Ooh, Aah, Wow!

Aladdin sighted in Capel Street

Dateline 19 September, 1993

A group of young people and their parents, assembled outside the Church of Christ offices in Capel St, North Melbourne, were startled today when two well-known figures from the most recent Disney adventure scurried through their midst.

The group was preparing to head off to the DMED Youth 1 Camp—Ooh Aah Wow, The Power of God—at Camp Aca-cia, Halls Gap, when every-one's hero "Aladdin" appeared, being chased by the evil and dastardly "Jafar". The sighting was brief as the pair quickly disappeared from view, Aladdin managing to avoid the terrible clutches of

Jafar with his winged feet, eventually taking refuge, by sheer coincidence, also in Halls Gap.

Aladdin became a familiar character over the course of the camp as, unable to defeat the evil power of Jafar through his own strength, he enlisted the help of the campers. Study leader James Pearce from the Strathmore church, enabled Aladdin and the young people to discover that the power of God is the only weapon effective against the evil forces of Aladdin's, and our own, world.

Numbers were a little short of what might have been expected, but even so the camp was undoubtedly a success—as through the creative leadership of director Rohan Waters, supported by his enthusiastic leadership team, all of the activities (including the studies, as the above report demonstrates) were memorable, relevant and challenging, as well as being entertaining. Perhaps when word gets out about the quality of this year's camp we can expect more enrolments in 1994.

Another fantastic DMED youth camp which has demonstrated to yet another bunch of our young people, through faith in action, the power of God in our church—Ooh, Aah, Wow! —Andrew Waters

In the church service which followed, the seven baptised were welcomed into the fellowship with handshakes, kisses and hugs. Then, as a reminder of the role of a Christian as servant, they waited on the other members of the church with communion.

The congregation and family and friends shared a barbecue lunch together after the service. —Bronwen Hickman

Tarralla Christian Retirement Village

(Owned and operated by Croydon Church of Christ Inc.)

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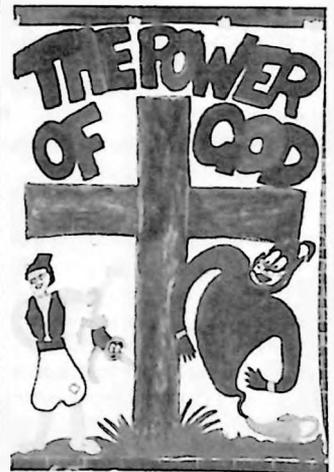
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• A reminder of the only effective weapon

Mission Is More Than A Word

Development at Aldinga

"If the local church is a mission outpost, then the members of that church must be missionaries." So went the conversation I had with Dave and Liz Reynolds just a few weeks ago. Dave and Liz are the ministry team of the new church at Aldinga, SA.

From its very beginning, this was the model planned for the church in the area south of Adelaide. It was never going to be easy, yet, in 18 months a group of 40 now meets regularly, a leadership group (Board) has been established and gifts within the congregation have been discovered and released.

Most of all, a style of worship and a spirit of warm openness and acceptance of people means that people coming to the services cannot help but sense that this ministry not only belongs to the people, it is owned by the people.

From the very beginning, the services have been planned for people who have not been church members or heard the good news. So, the language is simple and the worship experience relaxed and open and accepting.

One of the new members said recently, "What I like about this church is you can come as you are." This church lets people be themselves.

Recently, after an absence of some months, I was able to get back to a Sunday evening service. The overwhelming change I felt was that the worship, fellowship, presentation and spirit belonged to the people. It was theirs—not something imposed. People coming to the services for the first time are now moving into a fellowship of people who know who they are, and more important, know the kind of church they want to be.

The worship is relaxed, interactive, simple and family orientated. Contrary to what some people think, a lot more

thought and work is often needed to develop the spirit of informality than its traditional alternative.

The attitude of the group is one of unconditional love and acceptance. Grace is the operative word and meeting human need is the target. A mother who has found a Church home said recently, "This church is helping me cope with life."

The statistics reflect a steady consolidation of members and involvement in the worship and administrative life of the congregation. Of the group now meeting for worship, more than 50% of the people are new to church life, or are people who decided to give the church another go.

In the next weeks, a third baptism is planned and a fourth is to follow. All of these have been men between 35 and 45 years of age. Last Sunday, another family, new to the Church and with whom Liz has been working, came to the service for the first time and more important, felt at home.

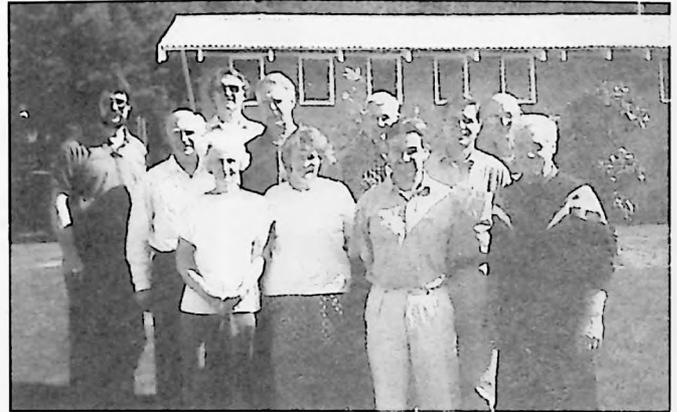
In December, the congregation will seek to establish a morning service and free Sunday evening for other creative bridge-building experiences. Next year, the congregation will move into another stage of its life, but now the difference is that they are established and on the way to being the church they want to be.

I have been greatly impressed by the contributions members have made to the services; a copy of the minutes of a recent leaders' meeting that I happened to receive reflected a striving for excellence many established congregations could well consider.

Dave Reynolds said, "It has not been an easy road and we still have a way to go." But I suspect that if they were to start again, they would go down the same road because there is no other way for churches that want to be mission outposts.

Camp Seaview Planning

Campsite developments



• Some of the local committee office bearers: Malcolm Orr, secretary (front left) and Ian Cumine, chairman (front right)

An intensive phase of development is about to commence at Camp Seaview, Bicheno, Tas. A joint meeting of the Tasmanian-based management committee, camp managers Graham and Marion Spaulding, and Department of Mission, Education and Development members Ray Drayton and Don Smith, was held at Bicheno on 25 September. Agreements were reached to immediately proceed with fitting out family

units in the recently constructed centre and bring other related projects to completion. The project is under the supervision of Colin Orr. It is anticipated that new units will be available by January. The work has been assisted by a \$60,000 grant from the Tasmanian Government. The centre is being well used and should continue to attract new business with the completion of the units and other related facilities.

Of course, what is beginning to happen on Sunday at worship is a echoed in the down to earth involvement in the wider life of the community by Liz and Dave. Not only are they associated with needs of people, they have become actively involved in a number of care-giving groups in a way that has earned the respect of community leaders in the southern districts. More important, this willingness to be involved in the community has started to create the kind of trust that comes when what we say on Sundays flows on into what we do on Mondays.

For South Australia's new church, mission is more than a word ... it is a way of life!

The Church at Aldinga is a project financed by the Hindmarsh Church Trust and

commenced by the initiative of the Church Development and Education Group.

If you want further information contact Dave on (085) 565958.

—Keith Horne

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Nowra Invaded

Getting things into focus



• Some of the service personnel at Nowra's "Services Service"

Not really, but it makes a great eye-catching heading!

Recently the Nowra, NSW, church has been trying to focus their services, especially the evening services, on meeting people.

Over the last couple of months we have hosted a Week of Evangelism with 10 NSW College students. They taught 20+ Scripture lessons at Bomaderry High School, led two ISCF groups, took five Scripture team-teaching classes at Illaroo Primary, and knocked on about 600 doors completing some 264 surveys. They also led and preached at all the services on 29 August.

The surveys had some very interesting results that we are beginning to address. One such result was that 118 people said that church was irrelevant.

Following the Week of Evangelism the evening services were special to encourage more people to come. Andrew Walsh and Denielle Knight lead a service in song, testimonies and short messages of encouragement. We then had a great time with Gordon Barr sharing in music and message.

Following that we held a Services service with all service personnel invited to wear uniforms. The new chaplain from HMAS Creswell, Barry Yesberg, (second from right)

formerly Church of Christ minister in WA, shared with us the special and often unique needs of the military personnel and families, giving us ideas of how we can care for and minister to them. The photo shows six men who are in the church (plus one visitor) and are currently serving with the Navy or RAAF at HMAS Creswell or Albatross.

Recently we also had Graham Baggs, the chaplain at Bomaderry High come and share with us on "peer pressure". This was not only for the young but also the adults as we too are influenced by our peers.

As Churches all over Australia, we need to make sure we care for the chaplains in our area. Whether industrial, school, sport, prison, or military, these people are on the front-line of ministry, and they and their families need our support. They need to be included in church activities and to know they have somewhere to call their church home.

Three have been welcomed into the membership at Nowra and more have asked to do likewise.

At present the minister, Clinton Wardle, is taking classes on "Discovering Church Membership". These are excellent studies on what being a member of a church entails.

The future looks bright!

Training for Young Leaders

Planning for the future

Fourteen young men and women were recently offered training for adventure activities by the Victorian based Adventure Committee of the Department of Mission, Education and Development. The basic course consists of two series of lectures and two field experiences at Lysterfield Lake and the Grampians Mountains. The course will lead to more advanced training to equip these potential leaders for future leadership in Department sponsored activities.

The recruitment of these new leaders is part of the Department's long-term planning in youth leadership.

The Adventure Committee conducts canoeing, ski touring, bushwalking, cycling and rock climbing activities for young

people and adults. Regular club activities are provided in most areas.

The basic course provides training in the aims and purposes of adventure activities, preparation for leadership of bushwalking activities, personal commitment and navigation.

Pictured here is Mike Folland (left) minister of The Patch church and a previous chairman of the Adventure Committee. Mike led the session on commitment.

The course was planned by Les Stewart, a foundation member of the committee since 1969 and an enthusiastic participant in the current program. Les returned from a Bible Society bike ride to Canberra to lead the program.



• Mike Folland with the leadership trainees

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Applications close 30 November

Visit of Lyndsay and Lorraine Jacobs

Churches of Christ World Convention

During August and September Lyndsay and Lorraine Jacobs visited Australia. Lyndsay and Lorraine are joint General Secretaries of the World Convention of Churches of Christ. They are New Zealanders who are now working out of Nashville, Tennessee, USA.

Whilst they were in Australia they were able to attend and bring a message or greetings to the National Ministers' Seminar, Knoxfield, Vic, church, National Conference, ACWF luncheon and conference, Churches of Christ Theological College Mulgrave, three of the Canberra, ACT, churches, Wollongong, NSW, church and the NSW Churches of Christ Theological College at Carlingford.

During National Conference, the Australian Committee of World Convention arranged a lunchtime meeting for those interested in World Convention. They reported on their work so far and the contacts they have been making with the various streams of our

churches in the US and their effort to widen World Convention to as many countries as possible. They told the meeting that we now have Churches of Christ affiliation in over 125 countries.

For their visit to Sydney, Lyndsay and Lorraine were accompanied by Ron and Dot Brooker (Ron is secretary of the Australian Committee for World Convention). They were able to inspect the various centres it is anticipated will be used for World Convention in Sydney in 2000. They were extremely pleased with the facilities available at the Darling Harbour Convention Centre.

At a meeting with the Australian committee they reported details in hand for the next World Convention, which is to be held at Calgary, Canada 31 August-4 September 1996.

An Australian "Mailing List" for the Calgary Convention is now open and there are already 120 on the list.

For any information on

Norma Hall

A true pioneer

Norma Hall was a true pioneer, a matriarch of women in ministry, who stated at the Women's Conference address in 1971: "I thank God not that I may be considered as a woman who dared, but that God dared to call me." Norma passed away on the 24 September, 1993, at the Castlemaine Hospital, after her health failed rapidly due to cancer. Norma's strength and fortitude throughout her illness was an inspiration to everyone. Appreciation is extended to Peter Bradley for taking the funeral service at the Harcourt, Vic, church.

Norma was a school teacher in her early years. In 1961 she enrolled at the Alberta Bible College at Calgary, Canada, and upon graduation in 1965 participated in two ministries. Then in 1970 Norma returned to Australia and had ministries at Warracknabeal-Brim (Vic), Elizabeth (SA), Surrey Hills (Vic), Carnegie (Vic) and chaplaincy with the Victorian Churches of Christ Homes. In April 1992, Norma retired to

her unit in Castlemaine, but unfortunately was only there for a short time before she had an operation for a tumour. It was wonderful that her friend Susie Spenst came out from Calgary to be with Norma for the last three weeks of her life.

A number of the female ministers ministering in Melbourne meet recently and share their stories of the significant way Norma had motivated, influenced and challenged them in ministry. Norma often encouraged others by saying "I will do all I can by helping you do what I cannot do, you have the gifts, the opportunities and the future, go and do it". Norma led the way in keeping in touch, and making sure we reached out to each other.

She was also very generous financially, helping others go to America to research the adult singles ministry area. Anne Spoelder and Cheryl Johnson acknowledge the enormous contribution Norma made to their lives, particularly in this area. Norma was always supporting, encouraging and challenging women to march on in their desire to be involved in local church ministry.

She is greatly missed, and we praise God for the incredible contribution she made to us all. Norma we salute you, a true pioneer who answered the call of God and in so doing nurtured others into ministry.

—Cheryl Johnson

Executive Assistant (Full-time)

Churches of Christ Department of Community Care
(Salary \$26,650 pa negotiable according to experience and qualifications)

The appointee will be personal secretary to the Executive Director with additional responsibilities of providing secretarial assistance to the Business Operations Manager and other senior staff as required. An ability to work as part of a team is essential. It is necessary to have a comprehensive knowledge of computer applications, in particular word processing (Word Perfect) and an up-to-date knowledge of modern filing systems. Shorthand skills will be an advantage. Practical telephone skills, including the ability to project warmth and helpfulness, are essential. It will be expected that the Executive Assistant will have good organisational skills, a logical mind, demonstrate initiative and be highly motivated. A knowledge of Churches of Christ will be an advantage. The person appointed will be expected to be committed to the principles and ethos of the Christian faith.

Enquiries to Mrs Val Bush, (03) 326 8977. Applications close 30 November 1993. Applications, including a minimum of two referees, in writing to:

Executive Director
Community Care
77 Capel Street
West Melbourne 3003

World Convention or about joining the mailing list contact Ron Brooker, Secretary AC/WCCC, St Helier Rd, The Gurdies 3984. Phone (059) 97 6227, fax (059) 97 6404.

E.T. Handasyde

A tribute

With sadness, we learned of the passing of Ted Handasyde on 30 September, at the age of 61. Ted died of a heart attack in his home at Kilsyth.

So much could be said about Ted's life. We remember him for his generosity and support in the work of the church at Bayswater, Vic, for his zeal for Harvest Thanksgiving services and his generosity by bringing along cases of apples. We also remember his practical help with ground maintenance at the church and the use of his truck

on special occasions, and for his love for the work of the Gideons.

With his love for his orchard and many other interests, above all, we remember him for his love for the things of the Lord. For a long time he has had health problems, but now he has found perfect healing and joy in the presence of the Lord.

To Eunice, Stephen, Craig, and Jenny, and the family at large, we extend to you our sincere sympathy.

—Reg Combridge

Acceptance

Being brothers and sisters in Christ

"I never knew what the Bible meant when it spoke about brothers and sisters ..."

These were the words of Dr David Kang on his final Sunday with the Preston, Vic, church on 26 September.

Although coming from Korea where a great Christian revival has been taking place, David and his wife became Christians after moving to Australia and attended a Church of Christ in Sydney. When David left his wife and two children in Sydney to upgrade his medical qualifications at PANCH, he wasted no time in finding out where the local Church of Christ was. That was about six months ago. It would be easy to think that a young Asian man might feel a little out of place in our congregation. Before long, however, David was

making friends and found himself being invited to someone's home for a meal or a cuppa. His friendships developed to such an extent that when his study was complete, it was with some sadness that he left us to return to Sydney.

His final words to us were that through his involvement in the church he had now discovered what the Bible meant about being brothers and sisters. The degree of love and trust that he sensed amongst us has left a deep impression upon him.

David has now returned safely to his family in Sydney. We, however, have the never-ending challenge to be a congregation that anyone can enter and sense the acceptance and love of God himself.

—Steve Blackett

35 YEARS

Years of service acknowledged

Mr Howard Trezise was recently acknowledged for his active service of over 35 years to the Mount Clear Church of Christ. This took place during their recent 130th Anniversary

celebrations, in which Mr John Morris, Church Secretary, presented Mr Trezise with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Howard has served as Elder, Deacon, Secretary, Treasurer and Sunday School Superintendent during these 35 years. He also represented Mount Clear on the Dawson Street Board for many years, at a time when the Mount Clear church did not have its own Board. He and his wife, Iris, are still active in the life of the Church, although this is the first year for some time that Mr Trezise has not accepted re-nomination to the Board.

—Dale White

Christian Fellowship Association Annual Meeting of Subscribers and Agents

Tuesday, 23 November 1993, at the Swanston Street, Church of Christ, Melbourne
Lunch 12 noon-2 pm
Includes recognition of CFA agents

Speaker: Trevor H. Giles, Executive Director, Department of Community Care
Cost \$8 per person (non agent)

RSVP essential by Monday, 15 November 1993. Phone Val (03) 326 8977

Diamond Wedding

Mavis and Bill Campbell



• Mavis and Bill Campbell cutting the cake

Recently Mavis (84) & Bill (83) Campbell of the Berri, SA, church celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary. Both arrived in Berri in 1920 and were married in the Berri church by Pastor W.N. Bartlett on 30 September 1933 (Pastor Bartlett unable to attend celebrations because of sickness).

Mavis was baptised and received into membership at Berri in 1924 and Bill in 1927. Mavis was appointed an organist in 1928 and is still playing for services. Both taught Sunday School at Berri, Winkie and Monash, Bill being Superintendent of Winkie for many years, where they transported children to Winkie in open buckboard.

Bill helped with building of the Berri church camp at Barmera, served on committee until 1989, as well as being care-

takers for three and a half years. Mavis was secretary and later Officer of Girls' Brigade for 19 years, a deaconess for many years. Bill was on the Officers Board for many years, and an Elder from 1975 to 1989.

Mavis and Bill have three children, 15 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Both are heavily involved in the community: Berri Senior Citizens' Club, Cottage Homes etc. In 1985, Bill was chosen as Berri District Council's Citizen of the Year and Rotary Paul Harris Fellow. Bill worked his plumbing business at Glossop until his son Ian took over.

The highlight of the celebrations was when pastor Jack Manallack made a surprise visit by bus from Melbourne. Also attending was pastor Peter and Hennie DeWildt.

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Bambu Church Born

Bambu Village, 25 July 1993, 9.30 am.



• Baptisms in the river

A group of people walk away from the village through the bush toward the river. After 45 minutes walk they come to the place that has been prepared for the baptismal service. There are 18, mainly young, people who are ready to be baptised. This is the fruit of the work and witness of Pastor Anderson Tabi and his wife Joyce, who have been working in the area for the last 15 months.

The work started in the centre of Jimmy Stephens' Nagriamel area. However the response came from the same people who had welcomed Pastor Samuel Waen and Roger Bawden back in 1988. Political divisions stopped progress of the Gospel then. Now those people have moved back to their own customary land at Bambu, Vanuatu, and they still want to go ahead with God. They set aside an area in the village for a church building and a pastor's house. The latter was completed in June. The

worship centre is yet to be built but the church has started.

The 18 candidates were baptised by Pastors Anderson and Darren Tabi. (Darren was on mid-year break from Banmatmat Bible College. He is the son of Bill Bule, the Conference Secretary.) August Ben was the main speaker at the service. The witnesses on the occasion were August and the people from the small village of Tefroma where he now lives; Allen Cox and Darren from town; the people of Bambu and a few people from the villages round about who still live in the old custom ways and dress with only a loin cloth.

After the baptisms the group walked back to the village where lunch was prepared. After that communion was held for the first time. Then Allen Cox showed the film *Jesus* and Lyall Muller arrived back from a combined service in the Kole area in time to give a closing challenge.

Life in the Midst of Death

Funerals and baptisms in Fiji

Early this year I went to a couple of Indian Hindu funerals. One was for my neighbour.

Hindu funerals are a fairly depressing attempt to see (as the Hindu's believe) the deceased loved one off into the cycle they know as reincarnation. After the funeral service the men take the body of the deceased to the crematorium where it is placed on top of a large pile of wood. The body is burned and everyone goes home until the next morning when they return to collect all the ash. A small portion of the ash is placed in a tray and left in the room of the deceased overnight. The family then look at

the tray of ash to see what kind of imprint is in it, for example horse, bird, insect, cow, human etc. The imprint will indicate what kind of creature the deceased has become.

The rest of the ash is thrown into the sea at Suva Point on the outgoing tide amid prayers and singing, that is the end of the person as they had been known.

In July another event of a more positive nature came our way. It was the baptism of five Indian people who had previously been Hindu. We all met early on Sunday morning, 25 July, at the place it was agreed would be the best location for the baptisms and the first communion service of the Churches of Christ in Fiji. The place was Suva Point. It was a great irony to all of us present that day that in the same place where the Hindu people buried their dead we buried five in baptism and God had raised them into new life.

The lives of the five new Christians stood that day as a glorious witness to God in the midst of a place, which had previously represented only death.

I guess that's why the apostle Paul wrote statements like, "Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

—Peter Clegg (Fiji)

With these three powerful pictures—people dying to the old life and rising to walk in new life with Christ, people proclaiming the Lord's death until he comes again and the *Jesus* film used around the world to bring so many to Christ—all seen in one day, it is no wonder that some of the old people there were heard to say, "Next time we will be baptised."

Pray that those people will go on with the Lord and that the others who are searching will make a firm stand for the Lord Jesus Christ.

—Lyall Muller

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Growing Spiritually

Spirit of Community

David Cohen

Often we are bombarded with so much information it's difficult to know what to believe. As a teenager I discovered a growing uneasiness with my peer group's sceptical view of the church and God. Sometimes I found myself wanting to shout out, "That's not what it's like!" Here was a generation taking something from any source they could lay their hands on in order to pursue purpose and meaning in life, while the church was somehow being left behind in the dust.

As I reflect on my friends' attitudes, and even those of many people I meet today, there continues to be an individualistic disposition in which one

takes whatever one can to fulfil a need which is exclusively self-serving. Growing spiritually as a Christian requires us to be totally self-giving in our attitude to God and others, not totally self-gratifying. The top priority is to devote our lives to significant relationships with Jesus and others. These relationships are to engulf our whole being. We are to be spiritual, not simply do spiritual exercises.

People's search for spirituality is ostensibly individualistic, both in Christian and non-Christian contexts. I believe there is a need to rediscover our sense of spirituality within the context of the group, to see ourselves as spiritual beings in

close relationship with other spiritual beings. In reading the Bible we see a myriad of examples where people discovering God and a personal sense of spirituality blossomed in a group where self could embrace community.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in his book *Life Together*, says "The community of the Spirit is the fellowship of those who are called by Christ ... in the community of the Spirit there shines the bright love of service, agape." Let us remember that we are not alone on our travels; God intended us to be brothers and sisters on a journey of faith and spirituality.

Thinking back to my experiences as a teenager, I saw a

group of young people yearning for a sense of belonging and a sense of purpose in life. Our God has provided a context for discovering our spirituality in community to satisfy this need.

The question of course is, "Are we willing to take the risk and embark on such a journey together, or will we be left in the dust?"

The example of community between Father, Son and Holy Spirit will inspire us to grow together spiritually, as we continue to worship him, serving with the love he has shared with us.

May we experience spirituality which strives for and maintains community.

A Church ABC

Having inner-suburb characteristics, Fairfield is an outer suburb located about one hour west of Sydney. Fairfield has a large percentage of migrants with the four main language groups being Spanish, Vietnamese, Arabic and Italian.

The Fairfield Spanish church began as an outreach of the Fairfield church. Initially, they tried to be integrated with the parent church, but the language and cultural differences created barriers and problems. Thus it was seen that they needed to become independent, to develop their own identity and, if necessary, make their own mistakes. The Wylies (Debbie and Phil) came to work with the Spanish folk as a step of faith, having been turned down for overseas mission service.

The church began with two families and turned 3 years old in September. All meetings are conducted in Spanish, which meant that the Wylies had to learn the language before they could minister effectively. All

of the church folk come from Spanish-speaking backgrounds, representing nations such as Bolivia, Chile and Argentina.

The differing cultural expectations between Anglo-Saxon and the Spanish-speaking Australians can be a problem. One situation in which this is evi-



Focus on Fairfield Spanish

About 50 now attend the services, with the church having prayer meetings, general bible study groups and women's study groups.

Having an Australian pastor is an advantage, helping with the unity and integration of the different ethnic groups represented, with their different expectations and backgrounds. The need to learn the language, however, has been a difficulty that had to be overcome, and even now Phil is in Costa Rica studying Spanish so that he might be better equipped for the ministry.

dent is that Chilean people will never tell the truth if it will hurt someone; they'll tell a white lie. A strength, which can sometimes seem a little frustrating, is the great emphasis on relationships, rather than on programs. This can cause problems since the program will not start till everyone has arrived, and with the close ties, they know who is and who isn't coming. This emphasis also makes it difficult to plan more than two weeks in advance. However, it does mean that people find a real sense of welcome and acceptance. The relational em-

phasis also means that the people are willing to sit and talk at length, making evangelism easier, but it can make going on, progressing with the work, more difficult.

A significant aim the church has is to make the fellowship a more cohesive group by teaching them more about Churches of Christ (most come from Apostolic Catholic backgrounds). Another aim is to increase their bible knowledge so that they may grow and teach each other. A further dream is to plant another Spanish-speaking church in the Liverpool area of Sydney, and they are constantly looking for people (English or Spanish-speaking) who feel a call to help with the outreach.

The church would appreciate prayer as the next generation will not be Spanish speakers, and so the church will move away from being an ethnic church. As part of this, the church wishes to be thought of simply as part of the church doing God's work in another language.

Songs of Praise—Per Ardua Ad Astra

Viney Longthorp

The 21 November (11 am) edition of a popular program of hymn-singing, "Songs of Praise", viewed each week on ABC-TV, will present a special theme. It is special on account of the setting and the occasion; it marks the 50th anniversary of the bombing of the German dams, the Moehne, the Eder, and the Sorpe by a special squadron of the RAF. The commemoration service will be held in the very hangar at the Scampton airbase in Norfolk, where the "Dam Busters" were based. The service will be attended by thousands of visitors, veterans, and present-day air crews.

Special Squadron 617 was formed during the early days of World War II for the express purpose of destroying specific enemy targets which were vital to their war effort. In his forward to Paul Brickhill's book, *The Dam Busters*, Lord Tedder, a top RAF commander, expressed the hope that the "maximum effect" would be achieved by this air strike using "minimum effort", that is, that the greatest disruption be inflicted on the enemy with the lowest possible casualties.

The story of the "dam busting" is one of breathtaking heroism and the brilliant use of technology. In proportion to the numbers committed to this operation, the losses were heavy. These boys—and boys they were, average age 24 years—certainly exemplified

the motto of the RAF, "Through difficulty to the stars".

Unfortunately, on this occasion the broadcaster has not been able to supply details of the hymns and music to be used in the service. But given the occasion, it should not be difficult for most viewers to anticipate some of the hymns likely to be used. It could add interest to our viewing to compare them with our own ideas as to what is fitting.

The people who will attend will come to remember their dead comrades; many others will come to remember lost sons, fathers, close relatives, and friends. They will come to honour heroes, not to honour war. Such remembrances find their greatest meaning as they are expressed in terms of a faith in God the creator, the one who stands above history yet works within history. A hymn which points up this faith is that favourite hymn of the British people "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind". One wonders will it be used here. Surely the fifth verse in particular mediates a ministry to many:

"Drop Thy still dews of quietness,

Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,

And let our ordered lives confess

The beauty of Thy peace."

If the service used offers a note of confession, the fifth verse of Kipling's well-known

"Recessional" is appropriate:

"For heathen heart that puts her trust

In reeking tube and iron shard ...

Thy mercy on Thy people Lord."

Kipling's words are not redolent of Edwardian imperialism; here is a call for forgiveness in as much as we are possessed of "heathen hearts" when engaged in the acts of war.

Above all, there will be the note of compassion for those who remain to mourn. It is a glib counsel which says that time heals all wounds. This service, like many similar ones, will uphold in prayer those who sorrow still. In the light of these needs, how assuring is to be able to use that wonderful Scottish Psalter which we sing to the tune Crimond, which tells of the strength and compassion which is at the heart of the God of the ages, who is always near at hand in all our experiences.

Regimental music could well be used. Two well-known composers have written music for these very events. William Walton wrote an orchestral suite for the film, "The Battle of Britain", and Eric Coates wrote a march for the film, "The Dam Busters". Significantly, both pieces are imbued with feelings of sorrow, anxiety, and brooding questions. These are

not swaggering, triumphal marches; they invite one to feel a pride in brave men and to reflect on the sacrifices they made. Of interest to our musicians is the fact that these pieces have similar markings in their scores which was a favourite of their mentor, Edward Elgar—Nobly mente—"to be played with nobleness." This indeed befits the purpose of this particular "Songs Of Praise".

Songs of Praise

ABC-TV

Sunday, 21 November
11 am

Presented by
Sally Magnusson

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AFL footballers in attendance including John Longmuir of North
Melbourne. Footballs will be given away.

Proceeds to assist Christian Guest Home Building Program.

Struggling With Revelation

Fay Christensen

Yesterday I decided it would be safer to be a pre-millennialist. Tom and I were translating chapter 9 of Revelation into the Rao language. Exclamations of horror kept breaking from our lips.

There were two reasons for these exclamations. One was that the actual translation was not easy. We had an interesting time finding words for the "mark of God's seal" on the foreheads of God's people. And

what about "crowns of gold" in a culture that has no word for "hat", let alone crown, and does not recognise gold? Then there were "iron breastplate" and "horse-drawn chariots rushing into battle". Whew!

At one point I found myself murmuring to God as I worked, "Why didn't you stop John from putting all these fractions into this book?" (A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues.) "You knew that we

don't think like that here, and we'd have to struggle with it nearly 2000 years later!"

The second reason for our exclamations was the dire nature of what we were translating. Locusts like horses wearing armour, and with stings like scorpions in their tails, and teeth like lions, coming to destroy a third of mankind! Whatever this indicates, taken either literally or figuratively, I don't think I want to be around for it!

Tom and I finished in the afternoon with the relieved recollection that we are in God and he is in us. I'm so glad he's in charge, and helping us, both in translation of his word, and in giving us confidence to move into the unknown future with his peace.

Fay is working with the Churches of Christ mission in Papua New Guinea, translating the Scriptures into the Rao language.

Marsden

Our Potential Gift to God

Neil Marsden

The world can be a rather depressing place, with so much going on under the surface you'd drown if you didn't come up for air once in a while. God never meant it to be this way, the earth was never intended to be a living hell for people. Things have gone so wrong—but that isn't a good enough reason to give up hope.

God is still there, he still cares for us and won't allow us to suffer pointlessly. As they say, God is no one's debtor, rather, we owe him our lives.

Deep inside of us lives the potential to do all he has in mind for us to do so we can present ourselves before him as a gift that can bring glory to his name. We will never be perfect, but God is the goal on which we should set our minds and hearts. It's up to us to turn our in-built potential into action and follow God's will for our lives.

Along with the strength of potential comes the inevitable discouragement of failure; and it's at these times that we may

question our faith or our role we thought God had planned for us. An obstacle—that's all failure is, nothing more, and obstacles can always be overcome, if not always avoided. We have to always trust God and remember that when trust is hardest it's most needed. God is God; we on the other hand are only humans.

What would have happened to the world if people like Paul and Peter decided their God-given mission wasn't God-given after all because of the dangerous and difficult obstacles they encountered? We have to know our limitations and

our strengths. When John the Baptist came and preached the desert of Judea he knew he was there only to prepare the way for Jesus—the Son of God. He had no delusions of grandeur, but he had his God-given goals and the determination to achieve them. "After me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry." (Matt. 3:11)

Perhaps as we go along our chosen path, very little seems to have been achieved, and so we should keep in mind that old saying: the flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today.

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Baptisms

•Celia Jelbart, Dolous Li, Ben Lyne, Daniel Lyne, Shane Pilkington, Kayleen Thomas, Melissa Thomas, Werribee, Vic •Cheryl Soper, Philip Chan, Bowral, NSW •Jonathan Hainsworth, Kalamunda, WA •Penny Yates, Mrs Annette Greaves, Malcolm Cotton, Mrs Muriel Cotton, Michael Richardt, Twyford St, Bundaberg, Qld •Roy & Jenny Breyley, Nowra, NSW •Donna Chang, Carmen & Warren Leighton, Pine Rivers, Qld •Wayne Cullen, Williamstown, Vic •Tim Ferris, Nigel Grebert, Kristen James, Loren Thomas, Esma Davies, Trish McCombe, Tina Ross-Jones, Wayne Menzies, Epping, NSW

Marriages

•Rita Lawson and John Crofts, Dalby, Qld •Jillian Frew-Lord and Tim Brown, Twyford St, Bundaberg, Qld •Carol Gates and Stephen Lawrie, Sharon Webb and Paul Dutton, Balaklava, SA •Margaret Wrigley and Bruce Kemmis, Epping, NSW

Deaths

•Mavis Neuling, Croydon, SA •Mrs Vi Russell, Thornleigh, NSW •Beryl Booth, Tootgarook, Vic •Ivy Smith, Marjory Webb, Balaklava, SA •Minnie Cole, Ashburton, Vic •Clive Lahey, LaTrobe Tce, Geelong, Vic

Changes

CROYDON: Secretary—Margaret Wilson, Unit 2, 29 Jackson Street, Croydon 3136. Phone (03) 725 1785, or church office (03) 723 6500.

WILLIAMSTOWN: Minister—Cheryl Johnson, phone (03) 397 5715 (office), 018 054 423 (mobile).

AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Secretary—R. Clymer, Unit 8, 40-60 Jacksons Road, Mulgrave 3170, phone (03) 701 1887.

RED HILL: Secretary—Thelma Littlejohn, RMB 1376 Mornington-Flinders Road, Red Hill 3937, phone (059) 89 2243.

Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words
Curtis, Vida
(22.9.93) Died at Parkrose Village in her 87th year. Dearly loved wife of Colin and loving mother of Kingsley, Douglas and Lois. Vida

was born at Halbury, SA, and was a member of the Balaklava church. She married Colin in 1936 and they ministered at Yarrowonga, Castlemaine and Hamilton in Victoria, and Bordertown, Glenelg, Edwardstown and Brighton in SA. Vida made a significant contribution to the ministry team as she worked tirelessly and used her singing, leadership and sporting talents as part of her ministry. Many will remember Vida as a cheerful Christian who expressed her love through her actions and provided encouragement to those with whom she worked. Vida left a legacy of love. Eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. "For her to live was Christ and to die is gain." Phil. 1:21.
—Kingsley Curtis

Neuling, Mavis
(8.10.93) Mavis died on the day after celebrating her 79th birthday with husband Jim, their four children and families. Grandson James was absent, but his two telephone calls from Singapore added to the joy of the day. Born Mavis Manning she grew up in a Christian family and in 1938 married Jim Neuling in the Grote Street church. Shortly afterwards they went to England for seven years. Soon after returning to Adelaide in 1948 membership was transferred to Croydon church. In 45 years of Christian service she was loved and respected by all who knew her.
—Win Sulley

Selwood, Ronald William
(23.9.93) In January, 1945, Ron and Vivian Selwood came to Ararat, Vic, to set up a pastrycook and tea room business, having been brought up in Colac. Ron served with the RAAF for five years. His 48 years of membership with the Ararat church saw him constantly involved in his Lord's work, as a teacher, administrator, elder, and pianist. Ron had a love of gardening, especially orchids. Five children came into the family. Two died in early childhood and Kenneth was killed in an accident whilst training at the College of the Bible in 1967. A memorial service was conducted by past minister Bert Stevens. Sympathy goes to Vivian, Robin and Vivian (Mrs Moore), Murray and Nola (Mrs Firth). —Frank Gason.
Souness, Richard Alexander
(18.8.93) Dick died suddenly in Caloundra. His life for his Lord reached out in many and varied directions, being involved in all aspects of church life. Dick and his wife, Nancy, transferred to Hurstville, NSW, from the City Temple church in March 1959. Over subsequent years he served as elder,

Tas

LAUNCESTON (C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) CWF speakers: Cec Neville, 8 September on his work as a chaplain, Bill Howard (Bible Soc.) 13 October ... Vision Sunday on 19 September ... Nancy Hays home after surgery ... Natalie Hays interviewed on her service in Europe with Operation Mobilisation ... 2 more "Christianity Explained" courses being held ... Church elections held this month ... 17 October, over 200 at am services & 299 at pm (highest ever evening attendance), "Adoration" & our own young people provided music ... Fellowship visit to Caveside much enjoyed ... 11 Bethel students presented with certificates.

WA

SCARBOROUGH (Nigel Merrick, Raye & Mike Halseby) At basketball presentation many parents present, Rob Adams speaker, testimony by Raye Halseby ... Rod Cohen inducted as elder ... Young folk organised great quiz night ... October mission month shared with Leroy Randall, Malcolm Smith (Teen Challenge), Avon Moyle (FAB) & Dick McLellan (Language Recordings) ... Get together luncheon with Helen & Ian Allen (WEC, Sydney).

assistant secretary, secretary, treasurer, auditor and librarian. In January 1982, he was instrumental in the formation of the Young-at-Heart group to provide fellowship and concern for retired members. For over 24 years he was a member of the Preacher's Provident Fund Board, nine years as chairman. Dick has certainly enhanced our lives by his ministry.
—Jim Ashley

Thatcher, Beatrice Ethel
(1.10.93) Beatie died suddenly, at the Williamstown Hospital after a very short illness. Beatie was one of nine children and spent most of her life around the Williamstown, Vic, area. Church provided many opportunities to express her faith through CWF Bible study, CFA representative and many other activities. She loved flowers and every Sunday the church would come alive with the beauty of "Beatie's flowers". Beatie had a wonderful sense of humour and a strong moral fibre that directed all her thoughts and actions throughout her life. Christian sympathy is offered to husband Ern, sons Peter and John, and to all the Thatcher family.
—Cheryl Johnson

KALAMUNDA (David Shalley, Paul Sanders) World Mission Week (17-24 October). "Vision 2000" guest speaker Dr Fred Magbanua, FEBC international minister at large. Special events include coffee morning & men's breakfast ... Family services held during school holidays, "Kids of Cross" taking part in a celebration of Christ ... Norm & Jill Shanhan home after time in China with Christian Revival Ministries ... Parents & friends enjoyed dinner & entertainment organised by "Axiom" youth group.

FREMANTLE (J. Caporn) Church camp at Busselton enjoyed by 28. Des Plenty making a VCR of that experience ... Rachel Brown welcomed into membership. She was converted & baptised while working in Amsterdam ... Bob Fairman & John Clapp guest preachers when our minister on leave ... A feature on the Ministry Training Centre given by John Clapp, its Registrar. **MAYLANDS (Robert Drown)** Church unanimously confirmed continuance of Robert Drown's ministry beyond December 1993 ... Approval given to Administrative Committee to dispose of manse at suitable time ... Robert & Beryl Drown announced engagement of Jeremy to Sharon Smyth & acceptance of Timothy to train for ministry at Carlingford ... Recent speaker Adrian van Leen (Director, Concerned Christian Growth Ministries). Other preachers Trevor Streeton, Mark Jones & George Eaves.

NSW

NOWRA (Clinton Wardle) Weekend of fun & fellowship at combined Nowra, Callala Bay & Goulburn church family camp ... Karen & Steve Kearns led drama & dance ... Roy & Jenny Breyley baptised ... Margaret Seward, Aaron Little & Ann Hunt welcomed into membership ... New attenders dinner well attended ... Young folk enjoyed Minis Camp ... Home groups studies on elders & deacons leading up to AGM ... Ray & June Dawson home from MMM trip to Solomons. **THORNSHILL (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley, Keith Morgan)** Number of churches on Sydney Harbour north side sharing in Spirit Alive Prayer Vigil 40 days of prayer. Participated in 24 hours of prayer from 8 pm 9 October. Participants rostered on half-hourly basis. Another vigil 1 November ... Keith Morgan, associate minister, will conclude at end of year. He has been with us five years, portion as a Carlingford student ... Mrs Vi Russell, member for over 40 years, passed away at age 82.

Church News

TWEED HEADS (Richard Oakes, Paul Hodgson) 10 received into fellowship in last two months ... Trivia Night, arranged by "Girls Night Out" raised over \$900 ... Dorothy Holstein speaker at morning service & showed video of her work in India at night ... Corazon, musical group from Dawson St, Ballarat, in Tweed for week, played at schools, youth group & church services ... Keith Farmer speaker at both services 3 October ... Richard & Janet on holidays.

EPPING (David Moyes, Lester Sutton) September witnessed another exciting "Spring Celebrations" month with guest speakers Dr Alan Walker, Rick Lewis, Russell Powell (2GB) & Dr G.D. James ... Sunday School hosted successful "Hey! Hey! It's Sunday School" anniversary ... Monthly prayer breakfasts commenced with average of 30 ... Two new recent ministries commenced—mothers with teenagers & mothers with young children.

Old

DALBY (A.C. Ochse, S.L. Colyer) We are seeking to establish a youth group for Year 11 onwards ... Barbecue held for younger youth group & parents ... Primary boys & dads had day of fun in Toowoomba gokart racing ... Young people had "Around Australia Weekend" spending time & activities on three properties in 30 hours. Main base was a shearing shed ... Dedication service for Damon Perry.

TWYFORD ST, BUNDABERG (Paul Scully) Church rejoicing with baptisms & new members ... Rewarding junior youth camp with 35 children ... Wally & Grace Pohle celebration 50th wedding anniversary ... Missionary Convention held at church with several other churches ... Michael Bennett sharing on evangelism at church working on evangelism at church workshop ... Derek James Bike for Bibles from Townsville to Brisbane.

PINE RIVERS (Neale Proellocks, Ian Todd) Three baptisms, two commitments recently ... 90 enjoyed family camp at Camp Cal. Geoff Fletcher guest speaker ... AGM & planning meeting held 17 October where we discussed plan of outreach for future years ... Ladies AGM held 21 October ... Marriage Enrichment seminar with Brian & Joan White 22-24 October ... Sunday School team teaching has been a great success this year.

SA

CROYDON Persistent ill health caused Keith Miller to end his ministry four months early. Visiting

speakers doing a fine job until Russell Mountford takes up a half-time appointment in new year ... A bus outing to Monarto & Murray Bridge provided great opportunity for fellowship ... Church elder Win Sulley conducted funeral service of much loved Mavis Neuling.

VICTOR HARBOR (Don Wesley) Have had visits from New Connexions who presented a musical & also the Covenant Players who took the evening service in music & drama ... Don Wesley has returned from the 11 day ride with Bikes for Bibles. Don said the team rode 1400 km in all, averaging 140 km a day, with only one rest day in Swan Hill.

HAPPY VALLEY (Russell Allison) Family camp at Victor Harbor October long weekend ... Basketball tea & service well attended. Sue Page & Kathy Riessen organised puppet show ... Church dinner very successful. Theme "Do you remember when?" ... Reynella Retirement Group appreciative of large print hymn books ... Working bee to finish paving ... Youth group went to 36's match.

DULWICH/ROSE PARK UNITED (Roger Brown, Rob Williams) Church awaits start in February of ministry of Dr Garry Harris for a term of five years. Garry, whose writings have become familiar to "AC" readers in recent months, trained at C of C College in NSW. He did further study in USA & had ministries in NSW & Victoria ... Roger Brown completes 11 years ministry at end of January.

MUNDULLA (J. Main) John & Valerie Main applying for Fiji work permit ... 55 attend family service. Special mention of baby twins Asher & Courtney Wiese & baby Joshua Hunt ... 50+ attended Saturday woolshed venue family night. John & Valerie Main's contribution of their Indian & family experiences brought a refreshing dimension ... \$160 donated to COCOA for Indian earthquake victims.

BALAKLAVA (Graham Lawrie) 116th church anniversary, challenging address from Sonny Pillay ... Ivy Smith & Marjory Webb, recently deceased, each in membership for over 60 years ... McPharlin's barn, scene for combined pre-wedding party for Carol & Stephen Lawrie & Sharon & Paul Dutton ... Rob Parker & Richard Webb to speak on Balaklava's behalf in "Visits to Northern Conference Churches" ... Support being given to local school chaplaincy in 1994 ... Pleasing success for Outreach Group with witness at show ... Team visited Whyalla for mission & encouragement.

Vic

BELLARINE PENINSULA (Glen Stibbe) During the year a house church commenced at the manse every second & fourth Sunday evening, a prayer group Monday mornings & a Bible study Tuesday evenings ... Spring service "New Life" followed by luncheon well attended ... CWF garage sale over \$500 ... Some members went north for winter, good to be welcoming them back.

BAYSWATER (R. Combridge) Ministry of Les Dewberry appreciated during minister's holidays ... Encouraged in missions through visits of Pastor Benjamin Tiwari (India), Joy Ham (Nepal) & George & Wendy Elliott (Wycliffe Bible Translators) ... Church saddened by sudden death of Ted Handasyde, who until recent times had been a faithful & loved member for many years. Our sympathy to the family ... Temple Day 17 October special speaker Allan Webb (Swanston St) challenged & inspired us.

SPRINGVALE (John Carmichael) Successful Mission Focus week with Wycliffe, August. 1992/93 mission target of \$8355 achieved. \$11,000 pledged for 1993/94 ... El Salvadorian Mission Elim Church now using buildings with Spanish service ... John Smith, God's Squad, speaker at men's fellowship. Over 50 present ... 15 continuing Bethel studies ... 52 families enrolled in multicultural Playgroup ... Church supporting new Urban Neighbourhood of Hope outreach with DMED.

TOOTGAROOK (M. Glezendanner) Church celebrated 42nd anniversary with guest speaker Greg McCracken (newly inducted chaplain for Dromana School) & magnificent 60 voice SPIC choir. A very special day ... Several ladies attended Bayside Conference. Bayside supports Banmatmat ... CWF appreciated visit of Lynette Leach, field officer DMED ... 23 members & friends enjoyed bus trip to Dandenongs, arranged by Wal McGregor who acted as coach captain & driver.

NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn) 90th church anniversary successful. Celebrations commenced with barbecue & social Friday night. Worship service Max Gowty (Conf. Pres) speaker & Liz Tilson (East Keilor) soloist. Lunch followed & then PSA & cutting of birthday cake by two longest serving members. Many former members present, including Don & Claire Stevens (FAB WA) ... Tuesday & Wednesday display & illustrated lecture by Aust. Institute of Archaeology in church hall.

ASHBURTON (Iris Lawson) Creative Hands craft group successful venture ... AGM saw board re-elected ... Members returned aprons & trousers with donations based on waist measurement for Kensington, \$300 raised ... Andrew Stelling & Kim Pierpoint, D. Brooker & K. Barton guest speakers ... Members joined in Thanksgiving Service for Minnie Cole who died aged almost 102 ... CWF enjoyed Viney Longthorp's presentation of Mozart's music ... Bible School Anniversary on theme of The Psalms with children participating ... Several members seriously ill.

ESSENDON (Ken Stothard) Ken Stothard's term extended to December 1996 ... Three fellowship dinners during year, winter Christmas dinner being shared with Nth Essendon, Strathmore & East Keilor—\$1218 raised for CCTC ... Garage sale in October proved a success ... Looking forward to carols night 5 December (with Christmas hamper appeal) ... All Nations Christian Fellowship meeting three times weekly at church ... Some older members still attend despite failing health.

LATROBETCE, GEELONG (Glen Wegner) Tea & social began weekend of celebration for 136th anniversary with Alan Baker guest speaker on 17 October ... \$1152 received for welfare work. Cake made by Colin Grieve enjoyed at morning tea ... \$524 received for Christian Education in Schools when 52 ladies & eight men celebrated CWF's 79th birthday with music & comedy ... Clive Lahey passed away after long illness.

The Bible Society in Australia South Australia

The present Director in South Australia will retire in mid 1994.

Therefore applications are invited for the position.

Intending applicants are advised that detailed information will be available from the office of The Bible Society, 133 Rundle Mall, Adelaide SA 5000 [(08) 223 3833] from 8 November. Applications marked 'Confidential' should be addressed to The Chairman, Bible Society State Council, at the above address.

Applications will close on 17 December.

CCTC Spring Festival

A hit with many

The Mayor of Waverley, Cr Pat Cotton, opened the festival and was impressed with her tour of the College. The local council now knows more about the Churches of Christ Theological College in its community than before.

2 October was a warm day and a busy one. Mostly the crowds were local residents, some of whom initially came along to see how their children had performed in the school's art competition.

Some of these families enjoyed the festival so much, however, that they stayed on for a good part of the day. There was a lot to see, from the high quality stalls with goods for sale, the demonstrations going on in the art and craft rooms to the art display of the work of the local school children.

The group of buskers, H (with 2 R's) with their mandolins, button accordions and guitar were a hit, as also was the sausage sizzle, hosted by Graeme Chapman.

The College community lounge was extremely busy too, as the tireless staff in the kitchen, led by Eileen Chapman, dished up an unend-

ing supply of scones and pancakes, served with tea or coffee.

Perhaps the highlight of the occasion was the auction of the three personally signed Pro Hart prints. The high tech lecture theatre, transformed with a wonderful display of first class pottery and paintings, by two well known Victorian artists, was used for display and for the auction. Thanks to David Leach, auctioneer—the framed prints raised over \$1300.

It is the aim of all involved to make the CCTC Spring Festival a Churches of Christ annual highlight, not just a community occasion. A date has already been set down for the next Spring Festival, 7-8 October, 1994.

—Betty Bantow



• Art auction at the Spring Festival

The Last Word

Encouragement is oxygen to the soul.

—George M Adams

Panting and perspiring, two cyclists on a tandem bicycle at last got to the top of a steep hill.

"That was a stiff climb," said the first. "It certainly was," replied the second. "And if I hadn't kept the brake on, we would have slid down backward."

★★★★★

Youngster in church watching people putting money in the collection plate, "Don't pay for me, Dad. Remember I'm still under five."

★★★★★

What bird is always out of breath? A puffin.

★★★★★

What are librarians? Shelf-employed people.

★★★★★

What's the difference between a gardener and a billiards player?

One minds his peas and the other minds his cues.

★★★★★

Some people are confirmed television addicts. I have friends who turned on their radio the other night by mistake and thought they had gone blind.

★★★★★

Two children were looking at a modern painting in the art gallery.

"Let's run," said one, "before they say we did it."

★★★★★

Preacher's child to a friend while watching a game, "My parents know all about God. They've got a book on him!"

★★★★★

Young child to grandparent: "Gran, can you please make a noise like a frog?"

Grandmother: "What on earth for?"

Child: "Because dad says he's in for a fortune when you croak."

★★★★★



"Do you have a window seat?"



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