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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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Federal Aborigines Board

Victim?

Vision?

Venture?



Pages 14-16

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Annual Offering Day

21 March, 1993

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Guest Editorial

Sitting in Darkness or Walking in Light?

Neil Galbraith

I have just written a sermon on Matthew's use of the prophecy of Isaiah 9:1-2 (Matt 4:12-17) and in particular his belief that the coming of Jesus to settle in Galilee was a fulfilment of that prophecy. It struck me that there is a very telling lesson here for us today.

Isaiah predicted that, at the time when Messiah was to come, people would be sitting in "darkness", and what's more, "in the region of the shadow of death". In other words, their ignorance of the truth about God had virtually destroyed any hope they might have had. The prophet suggests that the coming of Messiah would bring a great new light, he would reveal for them the truth about God. He would show them the way to God, and he would show them how to live for God. And it seems that many were ready to discover these new truths, but not all.

Jesus came to Capernaum on this occasion soon after being rejected and thrown out of his own town of Nazareth. It seems that while most of Galilee was prepared to listen to this new teacher with his radical message they were not. They were like creatures who live all their lives under a rock in the darkness and when confronted with the light scurry for cover. For centuries they believed that they were right and they were afraid that they might have to change their attitudes in response to Jesus' message.

It's a sad story because these folk preferred to remain in the darkness and in the region of the shadow of death instead of becoming part of the Kingdom of God. In their rejection of Jesus they denied themselves not only the miracle of eternal life but also the opportunity to have a great new way of life there and then. The people of Nazareth chose to reject the truth and scurried back under their rocks.

So when I looked at all this I felt a great wave of sadness come over me, for we live at a time when many Christians are in danger of having the same attitudes as the people of Nazareth. The incredible proliferation of Christian denominations is a



monumental testimony to the fact that very few people are prepared to accept that there might be another way of looking at things or they may need to change their attitudes.

Churches of Christ came into existence because a few brave souls were prepared to venture out from under the rocks of traditional denominationalism and search for the real meaning of Christianity. For many years we have enjoyed the freedom of living and worshipping with-

out the inhibiting traditions of the many other communities of faith, but we must stop for a moment and take stock of our position.

Are we becoming yet another denomination which has developed structures that inhibit true freedom in Christ? Are we so afraid of change that we're gradually burying ourselves under another rock? Have our attitudes towards initiative and creativity made us blind to the miracles we could experience if we were open to them? In our desire to remain true to the "essential witness" of Churches of Christ have we in fact isolated ourselves from the rest of the Christian world or, even worse, the lost sheep of this world?

Every now and then a conference, a church, a college, or even an individual from within our association of churches climbs out from under their rock and initiates a new and creative idea. Maybe it's a good idea, maybe it's not so good, but invariably we find a small but vocal group of opponents who express their disapproval on the grounds that "this is not the way we do things". I feel very sad for these folk, for in many ways they are sitting in darkness and perilously close to the region of the shadow of death and I for one wouldn't like to take that risk.

Matthew had a great cause for celebration when Jesus came to Capernaum. It enabled him to be changed from a social outcast into a disciple of Christ. A small group of Christians had a great cause for celebration when those few brave people formed what we lovingly call the "Resto-

Recapturing Lost Youth

Youth Work At Belconnen



• Belconnen young people on camp

Over the past few years there has been significant growth in youth ministry at the Belconnen, ACT, church.

From a small group consisting mainly of members of families the group has grown in numbers and developed into an outreach group with many

diverse areas of ministry.

There are four youth groups and all are led by young adults. The younger groups meet weekly for study, the older groups fortnightly. Each group also has a social/recreational program. It has been exciting and encouraging to see the de-

velopment of faith and commitment by many of the young people. There have been a number of baptisms and personal commitments of faith.

The Sunday evening worship and celebration service each week has been a catalyst in the growth of both numbers and faith. The young people plan the services and participate in all areas of the service, including sermon direction. The services appeal to young people as they deal with issues which they face and grapple with in daily living. A number of students from the University of Canberra and more recently from the Australian Institute of Sport are being reached.

Camping is very popular and as a large group the young adults attend an Easter camp, Canberra camp and Black Stump. Many activities take place as a result of initiative within the group, such things as prayer support, common interest and study groups, and ad hoc recreational activities.

Outreach is also an area where some of the young people are working with other young people from churches within Belconnen. A non-alcoholic night club caters for under 18 year olds every Saturday night. Others have worked with students in university residences.

There is a pastoral care group, which is operated by, and for, young people.

In recent times some have undertaken Discipleship Training Service programs with Youth With A Mission, three have taken a six month Fusion course and two will enter theological college to train for full-time ministry this year.

The Belconnen church recognises there is great potential to further develop the area of ministry with youth and is currently seeking a person to work with the young people as a youth minister, part-time initially with a view to full-time, to further develop the faith and leadership skills of our youth.

ration Movement". Let us work hard today to ensure that our faith remains firmly grounded in the truths that Jesus taught, but let us also work to ensure that the practice of our faith remains dynamic, ever changing to accommodate the needs of a changing and diverse world. Then we too will always have a great cause for celebration for we will continue to be a people who walk in light, in the region of the glory of eternal life.

Nell came from the Berwick, Vic, Regional Church of Christ and trained at the Churches of Christ Theological College at Carlingford, NSW (1982-85). During 1988-89 he completed a Graduate Diploma in Ministry at the Churches of Christ Theological College at Mulgrave, Vic. In July 1992 he completed a six and a half year ministry at Montrose, Vic, and is now ministering at Belmont, Vic. Nell is currently serving as Victorian Vice-President of National Conference. He is married to Jan and has four children.

From Judgement to Hope

Transformation of the Berwick Court House

In late 1992 the Berwick Regional Church of Christ, Vic, initiated an exciting ministry opportunity with the previous State Government to lease the old Berwick Court House and commence a new community based ministry.

The church has already set up a management committee and is seeking local community support to run a drop in centre and eventual crisis intervention program for both young people and their families. The centre plans to open late into the night to attract street kids and homeless young people as well as others who need a refuge to relax and talk.

A pilot program will be operating on Saturday nights with live music, food and other entertainment to attract young people to the old court house. The facilities will include a small kitchen, counselling room and the main court room

complete with drink machine in the old witness box. Future plans include a local crisis mobile phone and network support services with other community agencies.

At the handing over of the keys, Melbourne Tigers Coach Lindsay Gaze was present with previous local member Rob

Jolly to discuss the use of the facility, as the previous Minister for Finance, the Hon. John Harrowfield, presented the keys to Associate Minister Andrew Ball.

Churches who wish to support this unique venture can contact Andrew at the Berwick Church on (03) 702 1011.



• Rob Jolly, Lindsay Gaze and Berwick young people

Tree Cropping at Roelands

A different sort of harvest



Photo courtesy Jon Green

The Federal Aborigines Board owns a valuable farming property at Roelands, 160 km south of Perth, in the south-west of WA. It generates vital income by producing a large annual grapefruit crop and raising beef cattle. The FAB is keen to further utilise the property by growing **Tasmanian Bluegum** (*Eucalyptus Globulus*), for har-

vesting, in the ideal climatic conditions. The trees grow best in country with an annual average rainfall of between 900 mm and 1,000 mm—Roelands has an average 942 mm.

The trees are harvested every 10 years. They are the source of wood fibre from which high quality paper is produced. The WA Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) offers advice on locating crops on a property, planting, harvesting and marketing.

T.E. Rofe Settlement

Grants for further study

Applications for grants to assist with fees and books from the T.E. Rofe Settlement are invited from ministers who are graduates of the Churches of Christ Theological College, Vic, and who are studying at an Australian university. Application Forms are available from CCTC and will close on Friday 12 March 1993.

Italian Outreach Established

Expansion of Coburg's ministry



• (L to R) Don and Topsy Milne, Val Williams (church secretary) and Salvatore Romano

Salvatore Romano has been commissioned to work in the Coburg, Vic, church with special outreach responsibilities to Italian people. Among Salvatore's duties will be preaching in English speaking services and conducting Bible studies and outreach for people with an Italian speaking background. Salvatore joins Don Milne in a newly estab-

lished team ministry. Don Smith, Executive Director of the Department of Mission, Education and Development, led the service of commissioning for Don and Salvatore in their joint ministry on January 10. The project expands activities aimed at reaching Melbourne's diverse population and establishes a new model of cooperation and ministry.

CALM is keen to establish tree farming in the area around Roelands and has already offered the Board every assistance. With facilities at the nearby port of Bunbury, it is relatively easy to supply the huge market for high quality wood fibre overseas.

The FAB would be very pleased to hear from people within our Australian churches who may care to specifically donate towards the cost of establishing an "Agro-Forestry"

program at Roelands. It is a practical way of maintaining agricultural production, restoring damaged eco-systems and even conserving native vegetation, as well as being an excellent source of income for the ongoing work of the Federal Aborigines Board 10 and 20 years hence.

Anyone interested to know more about involvement in tree planting at Roelands is asked to contact the FAB office (PO Box 1199, Wangara 6065).

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Kidsmin Changes

New Kidsmin personnel



• James Pearce

James Pearce, minister Strathmore, Vic, has been appointed as chairperson of Kidsmin (Ministry with Children Committee, Victoria). He follows David Brooker who has given excellent leadership to this committee since its inception. James is a graduate of the Churches of Christ Theological College, Vic, and tutors for the Evangelical Theological Association. He enjoys working with children, teaching Sunday School and Religious Education at Strathmore Primary School. Last year he led the studies at the Youth One Camp at Halls Gap.

A commissioning service was held for Julie Adam, the new coordinator of Good Companions in Victoria. Julie is an experienced leader who has an understanding of children's work beyond the traditional structure. An ordained minister, part of the team at Surrey Hills, she brings that standard to the work.

Julie succeeds Dot Brooker who retires as Chief Good Companion after giving outstanding service, twelve years as Chief and forty years with the Executive. To recognise Dot's dedicated leadership, a dinner in her honour will be held at Camp Waterman, Monbulk, Vic, on Saturday, March 20 at 7 p.m. The cost is \$15. Past and present leaders, club members, and executive personnel are invited to this function. For further information and replies (by

March 12) contact the Department of Mission, Education and Development on (03) 326 8900.



• Julie Adam

Youth Coordinator Appointed

Changes at Nunawading

Rohan Waters, a secondary teacher and member of the Footscray, Vic, church, has been appointed to the position of youth director at the Nunawading, Vic, church. He will succeed Lynda Smith who has completed a successful five year ministry and has helped develop the youth work to its strongest in the history of the church. Rohan has had exten-

GOLDEN BARGAINS PROVIDE SILVER LINING

Community Care op shop relocates



• Jan Petherbridge—very pleased with recent stock.

Relocating the Golden Bargains opportunity shop from a self contained local shopping area to a busy main road has resulted in a silver lining for its sponsors, the Department of Community Care (Vic/Tas). The increased browsing and sales activity, with the higher

income, has kept volunteer staff busy and in high spirits. The shop is located in 307A Buckley Street, Essendon. Due to its success, there is a constant demand for suitable clothes, furniture and other re-saleable items. Please phone Ron Mill on 478 3561 to arrange pick up.

sive experience as a leader at DMED camps and has coordinated many outdoor camp-

ing activities. He will also be pursuing some part-time studies at CCTC (Mulgrave).

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When A Church Plateaus

Responding Creatively

The Nunawading, Vic, church, from the mid 1970s to the mid 1980s had enjoyed gradual and continual growth (of communicants), but in the mid 1980s this pattern stopped and for five years attendances levelled out. It was not hard to identify some of the reasons. Nunawading is a city that is ageing and declining in population. Although we would add 60-70 people to our directory each year, we would lose just as many through transfer, death, roll revision and other factors. The church is also in a suburban setting, with limited space for expansion. The majority of its worshippers were middle-aged or older and the church leaders appreciated that it was time to experiment with some new directions.

Thank God that the slow pattern of growth has recommenced and there are early indications that the church is moving off its plateau. What factors have been involved?

Staff

One of the most significant moves made by the church leaders was to create two part-time positions that organised immediate follow up of first-time visitors with a lay visitation program and to revamp and reorganise the active singles ministry the church had been involved in for many years. Anne Spoelder was appointed to this position and her particular ministry to young adults has had a powerful impact on the constituency and growth of the church.

Another "faith step" was to appoint Mrs Tracey Ware (Carr) as minister in charge of coordinating small groups. Our leaders realised that there are many social groups in the life of the church but these did not function as "growth" or "sharing" groups. Nor were new people being assimilated into

the group life of the church, and the sense of belonging in the congregation was less than adequate. Tracey's program of small group ministries has only been in action 12 months but already it seems to have had a significant impact.

The church has always enjoyed a strong pastoral ministry over the past decade. John Rowe, appointed in 1992 to the position of pastoral director, has emphasised that pastoral care is not only for the congregation but for the community as well. He also developed a stronger level of lay participation in pastoral ministries.

Another significant step forward was the appointment of a staff member to care for Springfield Road, then part of the Nunawading Churches of Christ. Immediately that appointment was made the congregation began to grow and eventually requested its independence and will have its first full-time ministry for more than 15 years in 1993.

In 1988 the church appointed a specialist youth worker, who was not required to fulfil other pastoral or preaching responsibilities in the church life. Lynda Smith, soon to retire from that position, has brought the youth work up to its strongest point.

Worship

Nunawading always enjoyed excellence in worship but had a formal approach to morning worship and a more informal approach at the evening services. Without a loss of dignity or lay involvement, the ministry team has built on that foundation, allowing for more experiential response in worship and has broadened the range of musical involvement. Even the times of worship were regarded as important and the two morning services are placed in time slots that seem to have maximised attendance (9 and 10.15 am).

Facilities

A decade ago the chapel was expanded and now that extra space has been fully utilised. The church hall (and it looked

Looking Backward and Forward

The Spirit Moving At Cairns Church Of Christ



• Bruce Warwick baptising Merrilyn Amoretti

A common observation by visitors to Cairns Church of Christ is "The Spirit is surely moving amongst the church".

With enthusiastic singing, constructive prayer and a multitude of 'items' from flute and guitar duets to puppet shows, it is self-evident that the capacity hall is joyful and thirsty to praise our Lord. 1992 was rewarding. There was a double baptism in December, and an exciting concert with "Endless Praise", standing room only! We also had a very good result for our World Vision 40-Hour Famine and we raised \$1800 for Bannatmat Bible College, Vanuatu, by delivering telephone books. We gave a super presentation of carols and the Christmas message at a local shopping centre, and there was a call for "extra chairs" at our Christmas day service.

1993 promises to be more challenging and we pray fulfilling—our banner this year reads, "Move with the Vision". We will be hosting "Churches of Christ Northern Convention 1993", and with a dynamic and forward thinking team of elders, board members, ministry leaders and energetic church members there will be many exciting opportunities to worship and to reach out to the people of Cairns. Although they are reluctant to accept acknowledgment, it should be noted that we are led from the front by our caring minister and multi talented wife—Bruce and Cheryl Warwick.

We pray many members of Churches of Christ will visit us in June for the convention, and share with us as we move with the vision.

See you here!

like a drab church hall!) was refurbished into a function room and now that is an attractive alternative venue for worship. Extra car parking space has been made available by demolishing a tennis court and by using the backyard of an adjoining house which was purchased some years ago.

A plateaued church is not a church that necessarily has become lethargic or is seeking to

preserve the status quo. The plateau may be a normal response to what is happening demographically in the local community but may also be a challenge for the leaders to consider new approaches to staff, worship and outreach. A plateau is not a disaster or an excuse for a loss of morale. It is a challenge to the church to think of new ways of relating to its community. —Ted Keating

New Principal

Greg Elsdon inducted



• Greg Elsdon being prayed for at his induction

The Nunawading, Vic, church hosted the induction of Greg Elsdon as Principal of CCTC, Vic, on Sunday, 7 February. This service also incorporated a segment led by Jonathan Moore, student president, in which he challenged the college community at the beginning of a new year.

Members of the college community, representatives from departments, conferences, colleges and churches joined with supporters and friends of CCTC as well as family and personal friends of the Elsdons, forming a congregation of 300 that spanned his ministries and teenage years. All forgot the heat and responded with enthusiasm and an almost tangible wave of commitment to the exciting task of theological education and preparation for ministry.

Positive, strong statements endorsing Greg's appointment have come from all parts of our national and state conferences. Lyn McCredden (Vice-Chairperson of the Board) and Clive Ward (National Conference President) spoke of a widespread respect for Greg's scholarship, teaching ability, warm

relationship with the churches and his exciting vision of his task as Principal.

"It would be true to say that my commitment to theological education results directly from my own experience as a student. My understanding of God, my relationship with God, had been enriched beyond imaginings. I wanted to be part of this energising process for the rest of my life; but I had no idea how it would happen. I used to look with utter amazement at fellow students who endured these classes only as a means to an end. I simply couldn't understand what was wrong with them. I often felt like grabbing their wrists to see if there was a pulse! To me it was so simple, and yet so profound and compelling.

In the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth God's intention for human life had been revealed. In Jesus we see, with unprecedented and unparalleled clarity, what it means to be bearers of the image of God—to be truly human. Through faith, we are invited to participate with Jesus Christ in this newness of life, to allow our way of life to be trans-

Australia Day Honours

Gwen Faulkner

Eileen Peach



After 18 years at the Canberra Senior Citizens Centre in Turner, ACT, Gwen Faulkner, a member of Ainslie church, retired last March. Gwen was supervisor and welfare officer of the centre. She was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for services to Canberra's senior citizens community.

She was very highly regarded by her peers, known as a dedicated, selfless worker and an effective advocate for the elderly. She says that great progress has been made in the ACT in the number of services and units being provided for aged persons.

Ainslie church serves the aged community with its Creative Living Centre, operating every second Monday afternoon. —Beth Butler



For 40 years service to the community in the area of music Eileen Peach also received an OAM this year. She began as a schoolgirl playing duets with her sister. From there her contributions grew, playing for both community and church functions. Some of these include 30 years as pianist for the Salvation Army Home League, playing in a dance band for 14 years and playing for all services in the church at Southport, Qld for 14 years. Currently, Eileen lives at Lady Small Haven retirement village on the Gold Coast and plays for many of the Social Service department facilities on the Gold Coast.

Ed Fisher

William Edward (Ed) Fisher from Mundulla, SA, also received an OAM for services to the community. An article with details will be in the next issue.

formed by a vital encounter with him."

Greg has already inspired confidence amongst faculty, staff and students. Although he is officially on study leave

until June in order to complete his doctorate, he has exercised strong and wise leadership in significant areas of college life. We look forward to having Greg back with us soon.

Visiting Canberra? Stay with a Church Family

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

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

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Advance bookings appreciated

Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Women and Men in Christ's Church.

To the editor,

The words "May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven", of the Lord's Prayer, came to mind as I read Henry Harding's letter "Today's Ungodliness" ("AC", 6 February). As I understand the hope of eternal life with God, there are no male/female divisions in heaven, then also on earth to accord with Christ's prayer. Unfortunately, Mr Harding is not alone in his views that Paul is speaking to Christian women today, and that "women must be in submission as the Law says". Paul was speaking to people within the culture of the day (which was very patriarchal indeed). For didn't Paul also say "you are not under law but under grace" (Rom. 6:14)? Read Gal. 3:26-28 and note that Paul calls believing men and women "God's sons" and in this way includes both as "one in Christ".

Further, I find it incongruous that some accept the 2nd story of creation in Gen. 2 as the actual creation acts of God. This story suggests that God created "on the run". Consider: a man is created before sustenance is available; he is alone and thus unable to procreate; this man looks for a mate among birds and animals (try and picture that!); and woman is made from man as a solution to inadequate planning.

How much more sensible the beautiful first creation story, Genesis 1:26-31, especially v.27, "So God created human beings making them to be like himself. He created them male and female". Both are like God and thus are equal as most men treat them today. As John 1:12 says, "Believers are God's children", to which I say, "Amen".

—David Allison
(Black Rock, Vic)

"The Parable of the Tobacco Tree"

To the editor,

B. McIntyre ("AC" 6 Jan) confirmed there are 6-8 varieties

of weed-like mustard plant from his Botanical sources, and plucked out *Nicotiana glauca* as "the mustard tree" referred to in the parable. Sorry, but *Nicotiana glauca* is a species of wild tobacco shrub which has its origins in the Americas. There is no mustard tree. *Brassica (sinapis) nigra* or *alba* is assumed to be the most likely plant referred to in the parable. Both grow to approximately one metre high and spread prolifically. So we are back to "The parable of the mustard-weed", but certainly not B. McIntyre's parable of the tobacco tree!

If Ron Braun ("AC" 6 Jan) had read my article "Eternal Life, We're In It" more carefully he would have noted that a continuum between present and future experience of eternal life permeated the article.

—Stephen Curkpatrick
(Brighton, SA)

More on Kirkby-In-Furness

To the Editor,

William Robinson, born in Paradise, in the Furness area, became the Principal of the Churches of Christ theological college at Selly Oak, as well as editor for some years of the church paper. He was a renowned scholar and wrote a number of books and was general editor of another publication. He was also responsible for a small booklet on Holy Communion, and held to a high view of the church.

Some years ago a majority of British churches associated with us voted to become part of the United Reformed Church. Those that didn't, remained independent—the ones referred to in H.E. Heyward's letter ("AC" 19 December). They were uncooperative churches and forgot the strong call for unity which dominated the thoughts of the Campbells and others who established our work in the UK and USA. Recent articles have given an impression that churches in Britain seeking help are the only "true" churches of our movement in that country, but that is hardly factual. —Bruce Burn
(Morwell, Vic)

Reader's Digest and WCC

To the Editor,

I am saddened by the *Reader's Digest* article about the World Council of Churches. It appears to me to be so biased and grossly misrepresentative that it comes under the category of "bearing false witness". It is deeply offensive to the many who, out of deep commitment to Christ and his church, seek to witness to the essential oneness of his church and its mission of redemption and renewal in today's world.

Every point made by the *Reader's Digest* article can be seen in the light of a different and favourable perspective, none of which has been reported in their article.

I believe that it is the credibility of the *Reader's Digest* and those who accept such bias

which is now at stake, and that the church of Jesus Christ, under his lordship, will withstand this new form of persecution.

—Ian E. Allsop
(National Conference Secretary)

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Letters from Tertius

What? No Confession!

To the Editor,

My mate from St Chad's accepted our invitation to our Sunday morning church anniversary service and he and his wife came to lunch afterwards. He was fulsome in his praise of our singing, of our lay participation and of our friendliness.

I said, "Thanks for the bouquets, but what about the bricks?" He was reluctant but eventually opened up. He wasn't sure about the little communion glasses. For him they were a long way from the single cup of the Upper Room. I mentioned hygiene and germs. He said that the wine itself is antiseptic. I said, "The sort we use isn't!"

But his main criticism was that there was no act of confession and no prayers for forgiveness before communion. Obviously these pre-communion prayers were very important to him. I mumbled something about confession and forgiveness being a private matter between an individual and his God.

But it left me wondering why in Churches of Christ we don't make some act of confession and seek forgiveness before the Lord's Supper. I can only conclude that we don't feel the need for it. After all we are not terrible sinners. We don't steal and murder. We don't beat our wives and commit adultery. We don't blaspheme and cheat our neighbours. We are probably guilty of plenty of sins of omission and sins of temperament, but they don't weigh very heavily on us.

But the more I think about it the more sure I become that in remembering the Christ who died to save us from our sins, we should find time somewhere in the service to say "Sorry!" to God and to accept, gratefully, his forgiveness.

I think I remember Jesus saying something about putting things right with our brother and sister before coming to the altar. Perhaps before we come to the table we should not only put things right with one another, but also with our God.

—Tertius

Indian Crisis

Real Fears and Issues to be Faced

Having returned in mid December from a visit to India, I would like to urge *The Australian Christian* readers to pray for all who are suffering because of the recent riots caused by the destruction of the mosque at Ayodhya in north India, by militant Hindus.

"The 6th December" was on the lips of many people, as much foreboding and dread was felt as the day approached. As it happened, their fears were justified. An uneasy pall fell over even Daund, a town of 60,000 in Maharashtra State, where our mission hospital is situated.

On 8 December there was a "bandh"—shops and schools were closed in all the towns and villages. As we made our way out for a final visit to Shrigonda where our girls' boarding home and farm is, the closed doors and empty streets said it all.

On 9 December we boarded the express train from Madras which was to take us to Bombay, only to find that after a journey of one hour, an announcement at Pune station said that the train would go no further. Dr and Mrs Kolhatkar were kind to us, and we managed to get on a flight to Bombay that night.

The army and the State Reserve Police were controlling the city, and the airport was full to overflowing, as planes had been cancelled or delayed. We had to wait 36 hours to secure a flight, and at night heard distant shooting and shouting. Reports regarding the death toll vary, but many hundreds have lost their lives.

Almost no news was heard until early January, when a TV report said that Bombay was burning.

People's livelihood and all institutional activities are affected by such disruption, as cities and towns close down. Old hatreds and fears are re-

kindled in communities where, usually, people harmoniously co-exist. The Christians, who form one of the minority groups, also feel uncertain, as this kind of militant action tends to shake the foundation of India's secular democracy.

It is easy for visitors who can leave, and who after a few hours of travel in a plane can feel secure and distant back at home. But for those who live in such a divergent society, major issues have to be faced daily, real fears overcome, and faith tested.

—Edda Thomas

The Lighthouse

Following the Lord

While in Madang, Papua New Guinea, recently I stayed in a place situated opposite a huge lighthouse. It was a very modern structure built to resemble a candle and, like most lighthouses these days, was electrically powered.

Each evening, at sun set, we noticed the continuous rotation of its powerful beam. Constant and penetrating, it cut through the darkness guiding, warning and giving direction for safe passage to those who would obey its message.

One evening a strong wind sprang up. The waves buffeted the shore and the salt spray showered the lighthouse. Though the wind blew a gale, the lighthouse stood firm and its light never faltered.

It occurred to me that the Lord is our lighthouse, and his word, the Bible, is the light that guides us. As it says in Psalm 119:105, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path". God's word, like the light, is powerful, constant and penetrating as it directs, guides and warns us.

Amid the storms of life God's word stands firm and never falters (1 Peter 1:25, "but the word of the Lord stands forever"). To progress safely through the many reefs we need to obey this light so we don't

run aground and become shipwrecked.

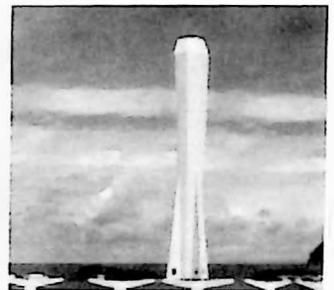
What are some of the reefs in our lives? Jealousy, of material possessions, of physical appearances or of our partner. Envy, when someone gets an honour we wanted or lives a life style that we would like. Idolatry, as we often unknowingly worship money, pleasure; even a person can become an idol if they take the place of God. False teaching can creep into our Christian lives unnoticed tossing us about like waves in a storm while wrong motives drive us against the rocks.

Although we start with good intentions, sometimes we falter and become shipwrecked. The story of Peter (Matt. 14:25-32), who set off to walk across the water to Jesus, shows that when we are apprehensive about the troubles around us we must remember that our Lord is the only one who can help. We must look to him.

Even though the lighthouse warns us of the dangers that are there, it does not force us to go in the right direction. We must choose. So too, the Lord does not force his word upon us. It is up to us to study his word, accept and obey it. The choice is ours.

I praise the Lord that when we do choose to follow him, he, like the lighthouse, stands firm. His light (the Bible) is trustworthy and he is ever faithful.

—Pam Hine,
Churches of Christ, PNG



• The Lighthouse

Lick a stamp and save this girl's life

In one of the worst slum areas in the city of Fortaleza, Brazil, you will find a very needy four-year old living with her parents, brother and sister. If you went into Cintia's home you would be shocked to find that there are no hygienic facilities and they lack the minimum of life's necessities. If you lick a stamp TODAY and send in this coupon you can provide Cintia with nutritious meals, health care, and an education, for just \$25/month. Founded in 1938, Christian Children's Fund is one of the world's largest child care organisations caring for more than 650,000 children in developing countries, regardless of race, sex or religious beliefs. CCF guarantees at least 80c in every dollar directly benefits your child & their community. Sponsorship is tax deductible.

Yes I want to sponsor a child like Cintia. Enclosed is my (please circle) cheque / money order for my first sponsorship gift of \$25 or please debit my Bankcard / Mastercard / Visa

Signed _____
Expiry Date ____ / ____

First Name _____ Surname _____

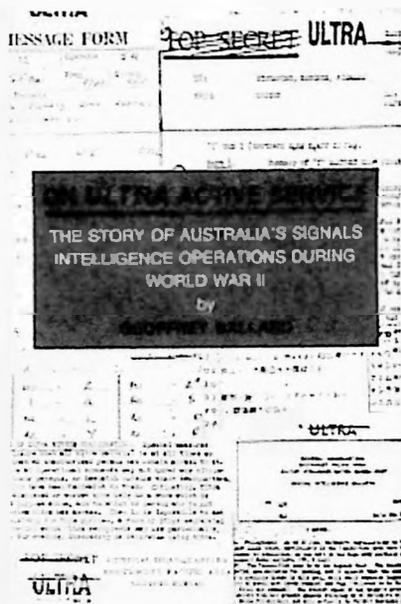
Address _____

P/C _____ Ph (____) _____

Christian Children's Fund
159 Kent Street SYDNEY 2000
FREEPHONE 008 023 600 CNLS/2.93



Books



ON ULTRA ACTIVE SERVICE

by Geoffrey Ballard.
(Spectrum Publications) \$50.

Feeling the need for the activities of the Australian Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) to be made public, following the release of previously secret information, and especially since a succession of books began to appear covering British and American efforts in the same field, Geoffrey Ballard has provided us with a fascinating record of the activities of his and other units engaged in top secret intelligence, perhaps the most ab-

sorbing aspect of military service. I have found the volume to be most informative and for this reason, this review has been long delayed to enable detailed study of its contents.

It was of great interest to note the author's comments concerning many of the places visited which had scriptural significance. This was during the early part of his overseas tour of duty in Palestine, Greece, Crete and Egypt. Very early in his record he speaks of his visit to Bethlehem, and his feelings as he realised that "the hopes and fears of all the years" were centred in Jesus Christ whose supposed birthplace is marked by a silver star set into a nearby rock. But for him the wonder was to know that Christ was born "somewhere" in this little grey town on the hill, rather than in any supposed spot of man's making.

This is not a theological treatise, but an historical, biographical history that is very often humorous, sometimes earthy, very true to life as it was in those difficult days and it is presented in intimate detail. I could easily identify with many of the experiences recounted such as enlistment, allotment to unit, managing military clothing and customs, and the moving overseas on the very same ship as he, our beloved *Queen Mary*, to serve, as he did later, in the Pacific campaign.

In his foreword to the book, Brian Howe, a lifelong friend of the author, present Minister for Health and Deputy Prime Minister in the Federal government and formerly a Methodist minister, describes the book as "authentic history-full of people and their judgements. If it is our business to "make history", it is also our business to learn from history. Geoffrey Ballard has made this more possible because of his very thorough account of the SIGINT organisation."

A very readable volume, of great value to any Australian historian.

If unavailable from ordinary bookshops it could be obtainable from the author, G Ballard, 22 Prospect Rd, Rosanna 3084.

—Paul Payne

MY LIFE

by Harold Bischoff (Self published) \$5.

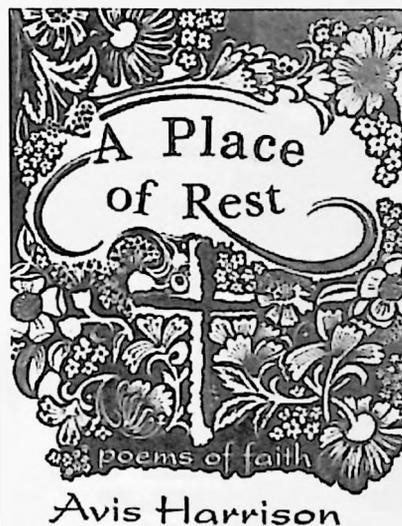
Harold Bischoff has completed 61 years of ministry within Churches of Christ and in specialised ministries. Several of his

friends and family had suggested to him that he write about his experiences. He was finally persuaded (threatened?) to put his memories onto paper and the family arranged to have it printed. On the front cover Harold notes that this booklet is for his family and friends and demand has been such that he has had to have extra copies printed.

Harold tells of his early life in Queensland, his call to ministry, training at the then College of the Bible at Glen Iris and his subsequent ministries in partnership with his wife Muriel. Harold tells of his ministries in churches in both Victoria and New Zealand, ministries with the New Zealand Council for Christian Education and the Bible Society, and as the National Secretary for the Associated Churches of Christ in New Zealand. He shares some of the insights he has in the life of churches, some of the humorous incidents and some of the joys of ministry. The final pages include the texts of three sermons preached in the last couple of years at Frankston that reflect Harold's testimony of faith in God.

A very interesting and informative book of a life spent in God's service that is interesting to read and informative and will definitely be of interest to all his family and friends. Available for \$5 from Harold Bischoff at 5 Netherbrae Rd, Frankston 3199. (Phone (03) 789 6265).

—CRA



A PLACE OF REST
by Avis Harrison (self published) \$6.95 (plus postage).

Avis Harrison has written this book of poems in response to the new life she experiences through her faith in Jesus. She starts with simple happenings in her life and in the world around her and then reflects on her beliefs and the biblical basis for her faith. Topics include "This Land", "Sunset", "My Heart" and "In the Beginning".

Already many of her friends and acquaintances have been helped by her writing, which

would have general inspirational appeal to many Christians. The book is attractive and well-produced and can be obtained from the writer for \$6.95 plus postage. Contact Mrs Avis Harrison at 5 Glassenbury St, Goolwa Beach 5214.

—BMW

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People

God is Greater than Any Problem I Have

Overcoming Special Difficulties

On 6 December, five people were baptised at the Werribee Church of Christ, Vic, by Graeme Batley. They were John and Mandy Burnside, Luke Marr, Peter Kelly and Les Fieldhouse. For Luke Marr this baptism was another wonderful stepping stone in his life.

Luke was born in Sri Lanka around 1975-78 and was found as an abandoned baby. Named Premadrandra, probably by a hospital, he was taken to the Kandy orphanage. Following his discovery by an Australian woman in the "back room", (a baby was usually allocated to the "back room" if it was considered the chances of survival were not good, so that the rice ration could be given to someone with a better chance of survival.) Luke was transferred to a nutrition centre in Colombo which is sponsored by a group of Australians known as Inter-Country Families Association (IFA). The children there are cared for medically and emotionally, photos often showing them eating Nestlé's baby food. From here, many of the chil-

dren are adopted by approved overseas families who offer them love, a family and a second chance at life.

Luke was adopted at the end of 1977 by an Australian family. He thrived as the youngest of four children, with two sisters, a brother, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins. By the age of seven, he could swim like a fish, play cricket, cope with school, had an advanced vocabulary and was one of the youngest members of the New Connexion Singers. He had always shown great appreciation of music and had excellent rhythm and voice.

A major turning point came into Luke's life, when he was admitted to hospital in March 1983 for a relatively minor operation. Following surgery he suffered a cardiac arrest. He was resuscitated but was left with severe brain damage, affecting him both physically and mentally.

Luke has experienced physical and emotional pain, spent months in hospitals and institutions and years attending

special rehabilitation centres and schools. He has had to re-learn everything, yet he still remembers his life before this happened. He has experienced family break-up, rejection, death of a friend, separation, people's attitudes and broken relationships. He has also had to deal with the dozens of problems that any teenager faces, questions concerning his Sri Lankan origins and further questions concerning this event in his life that has left him an athetoid quadriplegic, intellectually disabled and an epileptic.

But the beautiful thing about Luke is his wonderful courage, his beautiful smile and laugh, his readiness to forgive, his sense of humour and his faith. His belief in a loving Heavenly Father just shines through in every situation. He loves Jesus

with his whole heart and people find themselves drawn to him. He gives out love and that love is returned a hundredfold.

Luke has learnt to walk again, only using his wheelchair on exceptional occasions, and to do many things that the medical experts said he would never be able to do. He attends Heathdale Christian College part-time and lives with his mother and sister.

When Luke decided he wanted to be baptised, he knew exactly what he was doing. It was his way of saying, "Thank you God for all the wonderful miracles you have done in my life. I want to live totally for you now and always". The door hanger he chose for his bedroom sums up this wonderful positive attitude to life. It reads, "God is greater than any problem I have." —Pauline Chauh



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Services

7.00 p.m.

Gospel Celebration

Wednesday

1.15-1.45 p.m.

Lunchtime Service

For further enquiries, please ring (03) 663 3884



• Graeme Batley baptising Luke Marr

An Invitation

from Brian Kidd, Chairperson,
Department of Community Care

to join with the residents of Fred Combridge House,
their relatives and friends,
staff and the members of the department
in celebrating the official opening
by Mr F. Combridge
of the new extensions and upgrading of
Fred Combridge House,
1A Campbell Grove, Northcote
Sunday, 14 March 1993, at 3 pm

Happenings

Increasing numbers of Fulani Muslims in West Africa are becoming Christians. Christian Reformed missionaries report that more than 1,000 ex-Muslims are now Christians in Sierra Leone, with the first Fulani converts being baptised in Mali and Guinea in the last few years. Former Koranic teachers in Nigeria, in spite of persecution, are baptising their followers as Christians and starting churches.

The national liturgical music convention "New Song in an Ancient Land" is being held in Melbourne 18-23 April. The opening event will take place on the banks of the Yarra River. There are over 50 presenters from Australia and overseas participating in this convention. 26 workshops are being offered each day as well as special sessions dealing with topics such as "Enculturation" and "Aboriginal Rites and the Christian Liturgy". A specially commissioned song cycle inspired by the theme has been written by Christopher Willcock. A choral festival involving choirs from all over Australia will be included in the convention. Information can be obtained from Michael Wood (Director), NLMC, PO Box 112, Ashburton 3147.

The March Happening marks the 20th year celebration of the Youth Happening in Victoria. 5,000 young people from Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania are expected to attend the Youth For Christ happening 19-21 March. Happening is a youth festival with six rock concerts and a series of forums with speakers from across Australia and which features contemporary Christian artists. This year's lineup includes Steve Grace, Rod Davies and Band, Merelyn Watson and Third Degree, Les Price, Next of Kin and Equity. Speakers include Robert Coyle from Youth Dimension and Richard Brohier from Youth For Christ. For details contact YFC on (03) 877 3844.

Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze, the former Soviet foreign minister and ally of Mikhail Gorbachev, announced, in late November, that he had become a Christian. Shevardnadze told a national radio audience that he was baptised at a Georgian Orthodox cathedral. Russian President Boris Yeltsin made a similar move earlier in 1992, in what some believe may have been a bid

to shore up his national popularity.

Just 3 evangelistic advertisements placed in leading periodicals in Andhra Pradesh, India, 12 months ago attracted a huge 29,508 responses. The ads were organised by AMG-India (Advancing the Ministries of the Gospel). They now plan to place ads in North Indian periodicals read by over 150 million Hindu speaking people.

In order to cut down inefficiencies and duplication in responding to major world disasters, over 50 evangelical Christian mission and relief agencies have joined to form the Rapid Response to Major Disasters network. The network, whose members include Africa Inland Mission, Tear Fund, Overseas Missionary Fellowship and World Vision, aims to ensure that within hours of a tragedy, agencies will be able to coordinate immediate action.

"The Church that Meets in the Home" is an Australian conference for those interested in exploring the growing phenomenon of the home church. It is being held in Canberra

over Easter (9-12 April) at the Trinity Christian School in Wanniasa. Special guests will be Robert and Julia Banks and Howard Snyder. The conference will provide a chance to discuss this phenomenon in Australian church life and hear how existing home churches, within Australia and around the world, are developing. Details from Jill Crisp, 28 Rafferty St, Chapman 2611, phone (06) 288 2561.

The Christian Council of Norway was established on 14 December by six of Norway's largest Christian religious communities. Membership is open to all Christian communities in Norway. The new council will replace the Norwegian Council of Evangelical Churches and Congregations. The six founding members are The Church of Norway (Lutheran), The Roman Catholic Church, The Baptist Union of Norway, the United Methodist Church in Norway, the Norwegian Salvation Army and the Mission Covenant Church of Norway.

A majority of British members of parliament are in favour of separating the Church of England from government. Criticism of the Conservative government policies in recent years by church leaders has led to calls for the separation. At present, changes in the church's policy require approval by parliament.

Pakistani Christian, Chand Barkat, was "acquitted with honour" on 24 January of charges against him by a business rival, who claimed he had committed blasphemy against the prophet Mohammed. Barkat was imprisoned for 15 months without bail in Karachi. Had he been convicted he would have been subject to mandatory execution under the Pakistan Penal Code.

An illiterate Egyptian Christian working in Saudi Arabia has been sentenced to 7 years in prison and 1,000 lashes for allegedly reading a section of the Koran which fails to list Mohammed among the prophets of God. The Egyptian is a member of the Coptic Orthodox Church.

1994 Calendar Photographs Wanted!

The Federal Literature Department invites readers to forward colour transparencies or slides for possible inclusion in the very popular Churches of Christ calendar. Photographs are needed from all states and territories of Australia and from PNG and Vanuatu.

Please forward slides to
Secretary, Mrs I Small
c/o PO Box 629, Mulgrave North 3170
by 19 March 1993

Criteria for selection include photographic excellence, variety of subject matter and the church year.

A Tribute to Gordon and Leslie Stirling

Saturday March 6 7.30 pm
Boronia Church of Christ
Light Supper
All Welcome

R.S.V.P. Sunday February 28
Lola Wardle (03) 729 8237
Church Office (03) 762 1277

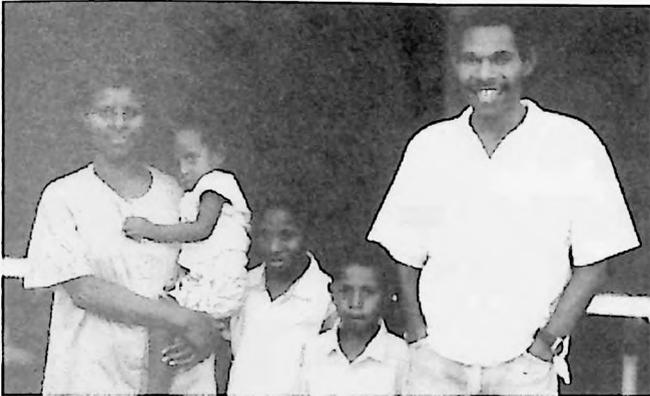


**Church Anniversary
Sunday March 7,
10 am.**

Speaker—Keith Milne

Great Things

Expectations of God and ourselves



• Yabru Jerry and family

It was our privilege recently to witness the graduation of Yabru Jerry at the Christian Leaders' Training College, near Mt Hagen, Papua New Guinea. Yabru received a Diploma of Theology after four years of study. He has been supported and encouraged by the Churches of Christ Conference in PNG. Some financial assistance for his studies was also provided by the Australian Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board.

A slogan displayed at the college says "Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God". I find that whilst these two statements should not be separated from each other we often dwell on one without the other.

It is sometimes easy to expect great things from God when we consider our own lives and know that he will meet our every need and dare to hope that he will fulfil our desires. However, we often limit the power of God in our lives and in the lives of others by forgetting that for him all things are possible. We then find it hard to look beyond human expectations into the realm of the truly great and awesome things that God can achieve.

If we are expecting great things from God we will not be disappointed, and we will, therefore, be motivated by love for him to attempt great things for him. Conversely, we will only be able to achieve great things for God, if we are ex-

Tribute to Rabbi Brasch

Spirited Australian brings harmony to politics and religion



• Rabbi Brasch at the Northside Community Church

Distinguished Australian author and scholar, Rabbi Dr. Rudi Brasch, O.B.E. A.O., was the special guest at the Northside Community Church, Crows Nest, N.S.W. Also participating in the program were federal members, John Howard and Ted Mack, and state member, Philip Smiles. Senior minister of the Northside Church and 2CH talkback host, Jay Bacik, said,

"Rabbi Brasch brought a breadth of understanding of faith and reconciliation that united us together in the things that we believe in common as Jews and Christians. He also helped us to see that a future Australia needed to be less focused on the political parties and more directed to the needs of people. It was a great service of unity and vision for our community."

pecting great things from him. We can only serve him effectively in the power that he gives us, so, without him, our attempts at great things will fail.

Yabru has now returned to his home village, near Bunapas, where he will be involved in church leadership and minis-

try in the community. Thank God with us for his joy in the Lord and pray for him and his family as he puts his learning into practice. Pray that he, and all of us as God's people, will expect great things from God and attempt great things for God.
—Helen Nolan

AC for Print Handicapped

Volunteers Needed

We are anxious to make *The Australian Christian* available to the print handicapped in our churches. We have several people already waiting to receive such a service.

We are looking for volunteers who can help us provide this service. If you (or preferably a group) are able to help in reading articles from *The Australian Christian* onto tape we would appreciate hearing from you.

We are looking, initially, at

sending a monthly tape to those around Australia who would make use of such a service. The tape would consist of selected articles read from that month's issues. Volunteers would help with both the reading of articles onto tape, the copying of cassettes and dispatching to readers. It would not be necessary for those assisting to be resident in Victoria.

If you are able to help in this way please contact Chris Ambrose on (03) 379 1219.

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13–21 March 1993—24 hours

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Blackburn North Baptist church
cnr Springfield and Middleborough Rds

Bring christian radio to a hurting city, by your prayer,
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Contact Bruce Upton, Triple Seven
Communications Inc. P.O. Box 117 Glen
Waverley, 3150. Ph. (03) 560 1700

Federal Aborigines Board—From Vision to Venture

Victim? Mission societies are “doing it tough” as Australia’s economy is in recession. At such times it’s natural to go into “survival mode”. In survival orientation things can stand still.

The FAB has come through a hard year—offerings have dropped leaving the board with no option but to cut back, reduce some allowances—even contemplate closing a church.

We’ve become preoccupied with survival.



We need a pastor

Vision

The FAB has a vision—a number of goals which God has inspired us to trust him for.

This vision is centred on:

- growth and development of strong Aboriginal churches and church leaders
- training church service workers
- discipleship and teaching programs
- providing worship opportunities in culturally relevant ways.

That’s the Vision

In recent years the Federal Aborigines Board has:

- established an aged care program
- planted churches
- commenced short-term training programs
- boosted the outreach ministry using caravans in Victoria and Western Australia.



Carnarvon Hostel



Site of Port Hedland Church

The FAB wants to:

- Place a field worker in Adelaide
 - Place pastors in Melbourne and Morwell
Canberra
Sydney’s western suburbs
 - Place another missionary couple at the aged care facility in Carnarvon
 - assist the Port Hedland church and the church in Wagga Wagga to erect their own chapels
 - relocate the facilities in Tamworth to more effectively reach the Aboriginal population.
- Must we remain victims—merely surviving???

Thank God the answer is NO!

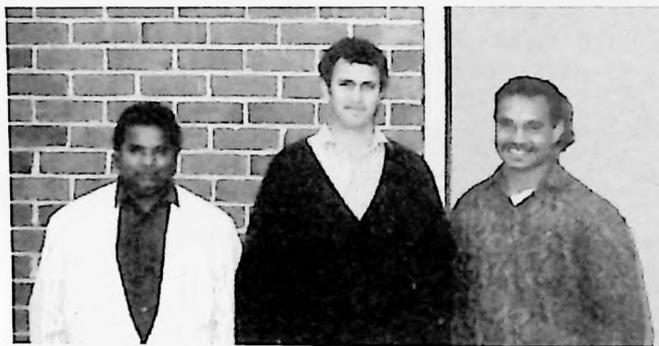
What Turns Vision into Venture?

Stewart Dinnen—world missionary statesman says,
“The key is in God’s people becoming committed
Intercessory Prayers”—taking responsibility for the spiritual condition of others.

Moses did it (Exod. 32:32)

Paul did it (Rom. 9:3)

Jesus did it (Heb. 7:25).



By your **prayer** and your giving you can

Make Things Happen

The FAB invites you to “share its vision and become a venturer”.

Will you pray, give, intercede on behalf of

Federal Aborigines Board

Please generously support the work of the FAB so that it won’t be a victim, but a venturer.

Annual Offering—21 March

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

FAB, PO Box 1199 Wangara, WA, 6065.

Parables and the Art of "Making Strange"

Art has been aptly described as the technique of "making strange" in order to develop new horizons of awareness*. It is an attempt to remove what the poets Coleridge and Shelley called the "film or veil of familiarity" which we inevitably gain in our perspective of the world around us.

Like effective art, the parables of Jesus tend to remove this film of familiarity by "making strange" our world, so that we might perceive new horizons and possibilities. They evoke a familiar world only to negate its familiarity to us. They begin to affirm our sphere of "normality" only to subvert it. The parables show us what the presence of the Kingdom is like, often in the most surprising and striking ways.

A man discovers some treasure, buries it again, and buys that field. There is doubt as to the finder's "moral right" to the treasure in the first place. In discontinuity with traditional treasure narratives, in which "finding is the last act", the parable shows that finding the Kingdom is the first act—which is grace. It is not contingent on anything we have done, or intend to do, to justify the wonderful find. In an misleading sketch of the Kingdom as pragmatic acquisition, a merchant buys an exquisite pearl which

he cannot afford to keep. A "foolish shepherd jeopardises the safety of his flock in a mountain wilderness to find one lost sheep, in a metaphor of mission which risks the "security" of the flock and demonstrates the intrinsic vulnerability of all such mission. A man fails to go through his front gate to his neighbour in need only to discover the gate can become an unbridgeable chasm.

A dishonest rogue is used to demonstrate decisive risk in the face of a crisis, which undercuts cautious oral prudence as a response to the crisis of the Kingdom's presence. When the weakest member of society, a widow, overcomes the most powerful member, a judge, the parable demonstrates that justice in the new community will prevail against the odds even as an "audacious widow" prevails in a patriarchal society. The Kingdom is described as leaven, the ancient symbol of corruption, signalling a termination of insider-outsider categories for the Kingdom, which is, ironically, recognised and received by "the corrupt"—those who were proscribed by orthodox religious society to be moral outcasts, the same proscription perpetuating their behaviour and status. Indeed William Blake later wrote, and Rumpole often quotes—"Brothels [are built] with the

bricks of religion". The parables constantly "make strange" the world of the listener in order that we might perceive the Kingdom breaking into the familiar expectations and conventions of ordinary life. They constantly subvert the way we think things are or should be. Whether the person listening to the parables is prepared to accept the subversive world revealed in them or not, is another matter. Receptiveness to the life and presence of the Kingdom is contingent on recognising that our own unquestioned perceptions of life, with their veil of familiarity, are broken apart by such parables.

This is a world of strangeness where beggars are hosted at banquets, and delinquent prodigals are thrown a party, where "weakness" conceals strength, where those who work for one hour are paid the same as those who work all day, and "righteousness" is made meaningless, even in sacred places, and where the "enemy" turns out to be a compassionate friend. This is a world where the Kingdom is revealed!

The presence of this Kingdom necessarily "makes strange" the world of the listener, a world which we constantly seek to found on predictability and justify through our unquestioned perceptions and conventions.

The sheer unpredictability of the parables, where the familiar is made strange, and where stable, seemingly predictable, narratives break into a world in which the unusual overturns the familiar, is a world of grace. Indeed, the parables are so weighted with grace for the outcast, prodigal, exploited, and lost, they rupture the secure familiarity and deadly predictability of our collective inhibitions. But without the familiar being ruptured, the ordinary made strange, and our predictable world made unpredictable by the presence of the Kingdom in human life, there can be no genuine experience of ameliorating grace.

—Stephen Curkpatrick

*The phrase "making strange" comes from Russian linguist, Viktor Shklovsky, and "finding is the first act" from N.T. scholar, John Crossan.

"Country and Western"

Vic-Tas CWF Project '93

Hawthorn State College
Wednesday, 17 March 1993, 7.30 pm
Adults \$5 Students \$2.50

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Proceeds to work of Teen Challenge

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CAIRNS

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Classifieds

Crossword

BIRTHS

JONES (HUTCHISON) Brendan and Sharon are thrilled to announce the arrival of Luke Philip on 7.1.93, a little brother for Samuel.

ENGAGEMENTS

MARR—GREAR The engagement is announced of Jennifer, elder daughter of David Marr of Adelaide and Pauline Chauhi of Melbourne, to Jonathan, youngest son of Barry and Barbara Grear of Adelaide. Love and best wishes always.

PIPER—MORRIS Geoff and Wendy Piper of Holt, ACT, and Ian and Caroline Morris of Hawker, ACT, have great pleasure in announcing the engagement of Ruth and Charlie.

WRIGLEY—KEMMIS Janice and Colin Wrigley (of Epping, NSW) are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Margie, to Bruce, son of Joan and Graham Kemmis of Epping.

IN MEMORIAM

SIMMONS Helen (February 15, 1985). "Our love for you will always keep, It cannot fade it lies too deep, Forever in our hearts to keep". — Mum, Dad and Judith.

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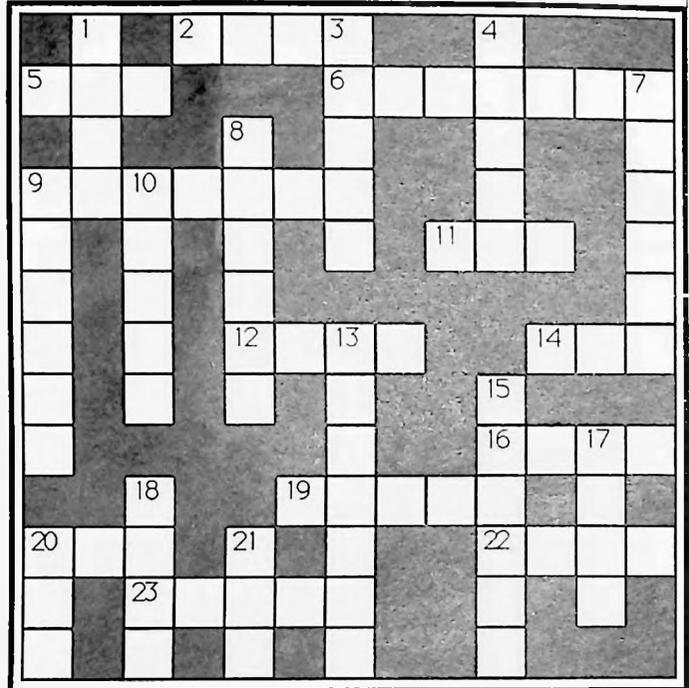
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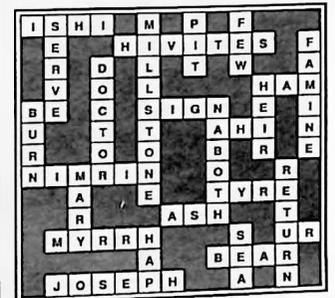
- 2 Idol at Sinai
- 5 Spin a ___ (Isa 59:5)
- 6 Where Lysanias was ruler (Luke 3:1)
- 9 A teller of God's word
- 11 Colour of the sky in Matthew 16
- 12 Yoke is ___ (Matt 11)
- 14 Form of "to be" (John 1:1)
- 16 The last word
- 19 Joshua sent them to Jericho
- 20 How many lights did God make?
- 22 Can be caught in a trap (Job 18)
- 23 God's unmerited favour.

Down

- 1 Response to God in Revelation 14
- 3 One of three that remain (1 Cor 13:13)
- 4 Onesimus was one
- 7 Priestly garments

- 8 City with a strong tower (Jdg 9)
- 9 Communication with God
- 10 God is the maker of this (Job 9)
- 13 Saul watched him die
- 15 Samaritan women are compared to cows from here (Amos 4)
- 17 Gaal was his son (Jdg 9)
- 18 Animals under the table
- 20 Melted in a furnace (Ezek 22)
- 21 Burnt on the altar (Lev 4)

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History

A VITAL PUBLICATION

The "Jubilee Pictorial History of Churches of Christ in Australasia" could justifiably be called the most significant book produced by Churches of Christ in Australia, was compiled and edited by A. B. Maston, and was published in 1903. As Mr. Maston wrote in his preface, "The event which gave rise to the idea of such a publication as it is now before the reader was the Jubilee of the cause of Primitive Christianity in Victoria. But it occurred to me that this date fairly represented the Jubilee of our work in Australasia, and that a splendid opportunity presented itself of gathering together the great leading facts of our Movement and placing them in this permanent form".

It contains a short history to 1903 of nearly every Church of Christ congregation in every

State of Australia, and in New Zealand, together with notes on numerous pioneer members, and a section on Foreign Missionary work among Australasian churches. The book is also deliberately a pictorial history, the illustrations intended to be a leading feature, and contains hundreds of high quality photographs of church buildings, church groups, Officers Boards, ministers and pioneer members, many printed from full-page and half-page blocks. Hence the full name: "Jubilee Pictorial History of Churches of Christ in Australasia". It is a most remarkable book, and it would be virtually impossible, for various reasons, to produce a comparable history of our churches today. In size alone it is a formidable book, measuring 32 by 26 by 3.5 cm.

Maston's method with this book was to obtain the help

and co-operation of one or two key people in each state and in New Zealand and for them to gather reports and material to be passed on to him as Editor (he was entirely responsible for the church and individual histories in Victoria) All this involved a tremendous amount of correspondence and editorial work, and here is a short extract from an original letter to one of his contacts: "I have received two more reports ... I hope that you will get the rest and send them on as soon as you can, as I want to get the book out at once, if at all ... Don't delay the reports, please, a single day longer than you can help ... P.S. I have now nine reports all from N.S.W. This may be all, but I think there are one or two more."

In the "Life of A.B. Maston" by G.P. Pittman (1909) this book has been described as a monument to the energy and patience of the manager of the Austral Company, "The most ambitious effort in the way of publications was undoubtedly the 'Jubilee History of Churches of Christ in Australasia', published in 1903. This handsome

volume of 424 pages involved an immense amount of labour on the part of A.B. Maston, and he threw himself into the work of producing it with his usual energy. When we remember that the work comprises the history of about 280 churches, with a sketch of the career of each, and pen-portraits of hundreds of individual members, besides the preparation of over 700 illustrative blocks, some idea of the magnitude of the work will be obtained".

This book is now an old book as the twentieth century nears its end, but because of this, an increasingly valuable one from an historical point of view. Consequently, I am anxious, as is our National Historical Society, to obtain copies in good order, to add to our Archives. If you have a copy that would now be of more value to us than to you personally, would you consider making a gift of it to our Historical Records? I use this book frequently for the many enquiries I receive about the early history of Churches of Christ in Australia.

—Ken. W. Barton,
Victorian Church Historian

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A Woman's Place in Timothy

On 1 Tim. 2:11-14

The main theme of these epistles is concerned chiefly about two threats to the life of the Church. One is false teaching. The other is persecution: 'All who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted' (2 Tim. 3:12). And that makes him very sensitive to the impression the Church gives to those outside who have the power to launch persecution. Prayers should be offered for 'all in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life' (1 Tim. 2:2). Christians should be 'submissive to rulers and authorities' (Tit. 3:1). The minister of the local congregation, 'must be well thought of

by outsiders' (1 Tim. 3:7). Not a very heroic stance, perhaps, but you can see why the advice was given.

In that kind of insecure situation, the Christian Church was not going to launch social reforms for which it was not ready itself and which would be misunderstood outside. Therefore slaves are to be submissive to their masters, 'so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour' (Tit. 2:9-10, see also 1 Tim 6:12). Women likewise are to learn 'to be sensible, chaste, domestic, kind and submissive to their husbands, that the word of God may not be discredited' (Tit. 2:5). Although the author uses rather suspect theological ar-

guments why women should not teach, we may suppose that the position of the Church in society had something to do with it.

Women have a role in the Church, and that is teaching other women. The older women are to be examples to the younger women (Tit 2:35). The author does not say so explicitly, but it is likely that men teaching younger women would have been just as great a transgression of the social conventions as women teaching men. The more we try to see the teaching of these epistles in context, the more difficult it is to think that the author would have given exactly the same advice today.

In the present case I would judge that the principle the letters to Timothy and Titus are putting before us is that our conduct should commend the gospel to those outside and not hinder it. Today restricting the ministry of women is much more likely to discredit Christianity than to recommend it.

—Roger Tomes

Reform November 1992

Roger Tomes is Old Testament lecturer at Northern College and writes on Scripture passages for *Reform* the magazine of the United Reform Church. The United Reform Church consists of some Presbyterian and Congregational Churches and most of the Churches of Christ in the United Kingdom.

Changing Cultural Values

We are all products of our environment. Our cultural values are shaped by the family we were born into, its socioeconomic grouping and its religious, educational and political affiliations.

People whose only experience is within hierarchical and authoritarian structures are more inclined to accept these structures as the norm. Those who have experienced egalitarian and democratic structures, likewise. When modern business organisations were set up, about 100 years ago, they uncritically adopted the structure of the two most influential organisations of the time: the armed forces and the traditional church—both hierarchical and authoritarian.

Hierarchical and authoritarian business structures remained unchallenged until well after WW II, when organisational psychologists began to research more effective ways of organising work. They discovered that people are more productive when they know their job is worthwhile, they work in teams and have au-

Bruce McIntosh

tonomy in decision making. These concepts are behind the self-managing work teams that I have been involved in setting up. On the world scene, Australia is late in adopting these practices. See Tom Peters most recent book *Liberation Management*, particularly the chapter "Beyond Hierarchies."

As people begin to accept these changes in their work life, they also expect other social structures to change, including churches. This is already happening, with many within the traditional hierarchical, authoritarian churches questioning those structures, eg Barbara Darling's article "Women in the Pulpit", *Sunday Age*, 20 December 1992.

Churches of Christ have a great opportunity to demonstrate to Christians facing these changes how participative decision making works, having practised these concepts in our churches, in varying degrees, for over 150 years.

To do this well we need to revisit our own roots, and re-discover what it is we have to offer the wider church. I am not advocating a smugness that asserts we have restored the New Testament Church, nor a sectarianism that claims we alone are right, but a confidence that our practices are valid New Testament concepts and are relevant for our society.

So let us promote our movement as truly participative, and continue to resist introducing into our churches practices which are hierarchical and authoritarian, particularly now that society itself is adopting team-based participation.

Bruce McIntosh has spent 24 years in personnel work, after 11 years in ministry. He is the Manager of Human Resources for the Shire of Lilydale, Vic. Bruce provides the professional commentary on self-managing work teams in a recently released video series entitled A New Way of Working, produced for Australian and overseas distribution, and featured in The Age on 5 December, 1992. Bruce belongs to the Upper Yarra Fellowship. Those Inter-

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The Virgin Birth

Ken Stothard

Ronald Graham's article on the virgin birth of Jesus ("AC", 19.12.92) is nothing if not stimulating. However, I detect a sceptical note that calls for comment since the faith of some may well be disturbed. (Over 30 years ago I remember Dr Soper and others of his vintage and views pouring scorn on the virgin birth and contributing to the exodus of thousands from the Methodist Church in England. His own blend of liberalism, socialism and pacifism in the event proved a poor substitute for a mature Christian faith based on the word of God (cf. Rom. 10:17).) It is often not acknowledged, as it should be, that the biblical doctrines are ultimately all of a piece, and the laws of logic require that if one doctrine is rejected (e.g. the virgin birth) then there is no reason why all others (e.g. the resurrection) should not be also (cf. 1 Cor. 15). The scissors and paste approach of the critics sits ill with the ordinary occupant of the pew as this century has amply demonstrated.

As Ron implies, if we are looking for evidence, the silence of Mark, John and Paul is of little help, though it is worth noting that nothing they say would suggest in the slightest that the virgin birth is false. Rather it coheres powerfully with their general doctrine.

Regarding the witness of Matthew, apart from recognising that its primary significance is contemporary, Isaiah 7:14 as prophecy involves retrospection rather than prediction. What I mean is that, according to the Jewish-Christian scholar Alfred Edersheim, Isaiah 7:14 was never considered as a prediction of the coming Messiah among the Jews,

in sharp contrast to, say, Micah 5:2 which figured clearly in their thinking, as Matthew 2:5-6 and John 7:42 demonstrate. In other words the conclusion must be drawn that the reason why Matthew referred back to Isaiah's prophecy was that he was prompted by the reality of the virgin birth itself which had thrown light on what had hitherto been an obscure passage of the OT (cf. Luke 24: 44-5). Far from manufacturing myth or midrash, Matthew was simply filling in the details of the picture for his Jewish readers.

Apart from its corroboration of Matthew, Luke's teaching of the virgin birth is significant on two counts. First, he was a doctor and the miracle must have appeared singularly impressive to him even if he lacked the scientific knowledge that is available today. Second, he was a meticulous researcher (1:1-4) and acknowledged as such by many modern scholars. To deny the virgin birth then is to discredit him in three areas—as a doctor, a researcher and as a witness. If he erred substantially at this point he can be safely dismissed as too credulous and uncritical to be a reliable guide anywhere else. The whole of his Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles immediately come under grave suspicion.

Ron's reference to 'the secret weapon of his (Jesus') virgin birth' I find rather odd. Surely the fact that Jesus as one 'born of woman' (Gal. 4:4) was a true human being (cf. e.g. Job 15:14) which necessitated his enduring all the trials and temptations common to people in a sinful world. I find it difficult to conceive how his virgin birth as such could have been of any help to him (unless it is held that it rid him of the burden of

original sin). On the other hand, it clearly testified to his preexistence and more importantly to his role as the Second Adam (cf. Luke 3:38, 1 Cor. 15:45-49, Heb. 10:5) (Incidentally, I note that Ron makes no mention of this passage from 1 Corinthians which is surely as suggestive of an underlying belief in the virgin birth as Galatians 4:4. See also John 3:31). To attempt to answer all Ron's questions in detail would require too much space. Suffice it to say first, however, that I thought it was com-

Ron's reference to 'the secret weapon of his virgin birth' I find rather odd

monly accepted nowadays that Jesus' reluctance to declare himself openly as **M e s s i a h** stemmed not

from his personal doubts about his identity but from fear of the many false, especially political and militaristic conceptions that were current in his time. Jewish concern lay with deliverance from their enemies, the Romans, while Jesus was preoccupied with a much greater one—deliverance from sin and the power of the devil. Next, I fail to perceive the immediate relevance of Luke 2:52. Again surely the point is that Jesus was at once a true Jew and a true human being (cf. Gal. 4:4). When we reflect how, traditionally, the Church has tended to emphasise the deity to the virtual evaporation of the humanity of Jesus (Docetism) this is of vital importance.

Ron's concern with chromosomes I find rather exaggerated. Cannot the Creator who brought all chromosomes into being in the first place manage without the help of a man when it comes to the virgin birth? We might as well ask him for whom nothing is impossible (Luke 1:37), 'Cannot he who created the mouth speak' (Psa. 94:9, cf. Ex. 4:11)? As I see it, the virgin

birth testifies to both the deity and the humanity of Jesus. He was, as John affirmed, the Word made (become) flesh (1:14). But while Christ's deity does not consist in the biological facts of his conception, it is a conclusion that can be drawn from them as it can from the fact of his resurrection (eg Acts 2:24-36). This point becomes all the more important when we consider the issue from the viewpoint of Jesus himself. If he was truly human, then as Luke 2:52 indicates he had to grow in his knowledge of God just as we do and in his understanding of his own identity. Unless we credit him with omniscient intuition or with a heavenly telephone line we are forced to infer that he used the normal sources of information that we use. In his case the OT was paramount as the NT makes abundantly plain, but the help his mother gave him would have been invaluable. So while the virgin birth is not related causatively to his moral superiority, we can say yet again, that it witnesses to his identity as the Saviour sent from heaven (cf. Isa. 49:5, John 6:57, etc.). To conclude an all too brief glance at aspects of the virgin birth we can say for certain that the Roman Catholic Church's failure to declare the doctrine infallible notwithstanding, it is an indispensable part of the biblical tradition that in the providence of God we have inherited. To abandon it is logically to jettison the faith as we know it, and it is scarcely surprising that this is borne out by both history and experience. When the virgin birth is denied almost inevitably the status of the God—Man as the only Saviour of sinful men and women declines.

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Two British Masterpieces

Viney Longthorp

The ABC FM's Sunday morning program, "For the God Who Sings" is now well established in its new and earlier time-slot of 6 am to 8 am. Each week, Kay McLennan's "Early Risers" enjoy a two-hour offering of some of the finest music ever penned for use in many Christian traditions of worship across the centuries. On Sunday, February 28, to mark the first Sunday in Lent, two works will be presented—or rather, parts of two works. They are Handel's "Messiah" and Edward Elgar's "The Apostles." These works share British origins. Handel

was an expatriate Saxon who became the "El Supremo" of the Baroque style in Britain. Elgar was arguably the greatest of all British composers. He was born in 1857 close to Thomas Hardy's "Wessex" region. His style is the quintessence of all that is English.

"Messiah" needs no introduction, but it is worth remembering that it is as appropriate for Easter worship as it is for Christmas celebrations. The music describing Christ's trial and crucifixion is deeply moving. Handel is reputed to have shed tears when composing the music for the passage "He was

despised and rejected..." The performance, by the ensemble known as "The Sixteen", uses the same vocal and instrumental forces as Handel used at its premiere in Dublin in 1742. The rendition has a vitality which never falters. Elgar's "Apostles" by comparison is little known. It consists of episodes from the Gospel narratives depicting the relationships of the Twelve with their Master. Elgar's writing, by contrast with Handel's, uses a large choir and orchestra. Further, where Handel's writing is disciplined and formal, Elgar offers a lush tone with a structure

that is, at times, almost wayward. But we are here far removed from that confident Edwardian spirit of "Pomp and Circumstance". This is the music of the West Country Cathedrals and Westminster Abbey. There are many moments evoking deeply moving insights and expressions of rare seriousness into the minds of those "young men" (as Elgar thought of them) who accepted the call at Galilee and who worked through their destinies with that of their Lord. That divine drama which was Easter has never been so powerfully presented in musical terms as here.

Comment

Truth, Lies and Attitude

Neil Marsden

Despite the modern notion of "get fun or get out" and the Western world's fascination with exterior pleasure and feeling good "all the time" it's amazing just how many people are unhappy. The world screams for everyone to have a really good time, but the world is full of sadness. The world has it wrong again. It's not outside influences that makes us happy or sad but our perception and our attitudes towards them.

When Stephen was about to be stoned, he didn't look at the angry men and get angry himself, he looked to Heaven, saw Jesus, and was happy. It was his attitude that protected him from painful feelings. It didn't matter to him that his life was about to be ended by an angry mob, all that mattered to him was his Lord in Heaven. It was

his attitude that influenced the way he viewed things.

It's wrong to say that we should never feel anger. Suppressing anger is simply lying to ourselves. We have to admit to our feelings, to be true to our heart, but not to let them control us.

I'm sure Stephen was terrified, but all feelings of revenge weren't suppressed—they simply weren't there. It takes practice and a lot of work, but all the feelings we grow up with and see around us can be taken away. We can learn to be in control! When we are honest with ourselves, then we can heal the pain inside us. In telling ourselves the truth we control our own feelings without suppressing anything!

Take, for instance, a story of a man who went to work every day and bought a paper from a

small stall. The man would always show complete courtesy, yet the owner of the stall would always be rude in return, no matter how polite the man was. An onlooker asked the man, "Why are you so polite to him?" The man replied "Why should I let him control how I act and feel? I can make my own mind up about that!"

How often is it we unknowingly allow others to control how we feel? Probably quite a lot. Our attitude to ourselves,

to others and to God is the real determinant of happiness. If we choose to be happy, we will be. If we choose to love we will, but if we choose to be unhappy it will happen. It's not always outside influences and circumstances that make us happy or sad: but our reaction to them.

"You can not prevent the birds of sorrow from flying over your head, but you can prevent them from building nests in your hair."

—Chinese Proverb.

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Membership in the Local Church

Ray Hawkins

Almost weekly we are invited to join a variety of clubs.

Clubs are there, primarily, for the benefit of the members. There are privileges available which are renewable year by year simply by paying the dues.

In most clubs there are simple rules to follow but a man or a woman would not be harangued on such subjects as holiness, truth, prayer, reconciliation, stewardship and forgiveness. That would soon empty the club. No wonder clubs are so popular, they do not disturb anyone.

How different it is in the church.

If it is true to its charter, the local church seeks members without seductive offers, nor insistence upon receiving special privileges. In fact the church comes along with a quite disturbing set of priorities incumbent upon membership.

Church membership begins with a complete reorientation of a person's life. New ownership precedes membership. Jesus becomes Saviour and Lord and that person becomes aware of a new realm and responsibility for life and living.

The local church is established to carry out the commands of the Master. Membership is not the receiving of benefits (though they are there) but of giving benefit to others. It is not making God a personal slave but of becoming one for God. Perhaps that is why the Christian faith is always a minority movement.

The Bible sets out a number of principles that govern a Christian's lifestyle. It is within the membership of the local church that they are best demonstrated and encouraged.

There is the one tenth principle of stewardship. That is the expression of dependency upon God by the giving to him a tithe of personal income. It is a testimony of faith that says, God is able to stretch my nine tenths more than I can stretch the ten tenths.

There is the one seventh principle. That is believing that God can enable you to achieve in six days as much or more than you can do in seven. For you set aside a seventh of your week as an expression of faith in the sustaining, recreating and worshipping principle of God for his people.

Then there is the primary principle. That is expressed so uncompromisingly in Matthew 6:33. Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these (listed in previous verses) things will be added unto you.

Some Christians try to make a hierarchy of things. God first, family, church, business, school, sport etc. Such a structure might appear noble and good but it is vain. All that is required is God first. When he is the sum total, then he will give you the wisdom to know what is to take the second spot (there is no third spot) in your Christian walk.

Membership means a person is subject to being told to consider "moving on". What organisation in its right mind wants to get rid of members. The local church does. It is constantly presenting to its people the challenges of a wider work that may take the best of its team away. Imagine asking the members to consider leaving family, friends and fellowship to serve some in degraded people in an unpronounceable place. Then to turn around and ask those who stay, to pray, give, write and support such pioneers. Perhaps that is one reason why the supplementary rolls in churches can be quite large.

Membership is more than anything else an interlocking of lives. For some this is a delight. For others it is threatening. The privileges of redemption are bound up in the burden of ministry and mission. To enjoy all the spiritual bless-

ings is to be grasping the burden of servanthood. The joy for Jesus lay on the other side of humiliation and the cross. It is the same for his disciples. No burden, no blessing. No cross, no joy.

That is why it is worthwhile to realise we are fellow warriors in a spiritual warfare. Each has a responsibility for their comrade for should they be breached, others are threatened. The quality of commitment is seen in the warfare, not in clapping hands to a bouncy chorus. Associated with the warrior concept is that of each member as a "medic". By the grace of God we have those resources for the soul and spirit that can comfort, strengthen, refresh and even heal the wounded saint.

From a Biblical perspective there is no lovelier term than family. God is Father, we are brothers and sisters. That means we share the same "blood line" and name. We are interlocked and are called upon to safeguard and honour the family name by respecting and loving and caring for each other. That is what we express when we take the Communion

emblems and sit and drink together. Some treat lightly the concept of membership. There are leaders who equate conversion with membership in the local congregation. Such concepts have a negative impact upon the local church.

Membership is for those willing to be identified with the principles and practices of that local church. Anyone can worship with, enjoy fellowship and socialise with the church without taking out membership. Any number of reasons for this can be given. Membership however, is for those convinced that this is where God wants them to be "boots and all". That is why the local church does not badger, bribe, or blackmail a believer into membership. Such a decision must rest in the heart of the person as an act of faith and a commitment to Jesus.

That is why membership is not the commitment of a believer to a privilege. It is the privilege of the believer to express his or her commitment in membership to the cause of Christ in and through the local church. This should be expected to last so long as they or that church remains true to the word of God, and is fulfilling its mandate from Jesus.

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What Are Friends For?

L.W. Marshman

What has barbecue sausages and chops got to do with making friends?

Recently my wife has been quite indisposed. Imagine my surprise when late one morning our relatively new Catholic neighbours knocked on the back fence and handed over two beautifully prepared meals of barbecue sausages and chops with all the trimmings.

Gratefully I acknowledged their remark, "What are friends for?" That set me thinking, as usual. Well what are friends for? On the surface it is relatively easy to explain but, when we scratch the surface of friendships, there is more to it than barbecue sausages. In fact, many Christian believers find the matter of friendship somewhat difficult to establish.

Of course our very loyalty to Christ and our Christian principles make most of us somewhat anxious not to form friendships which are unworthy. We have no desire to harm our Christian profession by our associations which may bring

it into some discredit. We have no desire to place ourselves in positions of temptation by friendships which do not share our high ideals. But, if we follow that concept strictly, there is the possibility that it may narrow down our friendships and, to some extent, even isolate us.

It should, of course, be fairly understood that there is really no such thing as a private life for the Christian. Our Christian virtues will no doubt be observed by some of our friends, which makes it imperative for us to endeavour to be so like Christ as to be friends of all. I suppose it can be said that we form friendships in order to enrich our own lives,

but, after all, it seems that our Lord's motive for friendship was the opposite, that he may enrich the lives of others. So the principle is patently obvious, if we wish to have friends we must be friendly.

It is within our capacity to demonstrate at all times a healthy friendly compassion and indeed perhaps an intense interest in others to the extent that the most promising outcome of our friendship ultimately may be the saving of one soul for Christ, helping someone to gain an interest in an eternal inheritance.

We often have conversations with our friends in our homes and in the community and we

know their thoughts about politics, social life and morality. Our friends may even have grand ideas about the principles of living but do we know what our friends think about Jesus. Or conversely perhaps, do our friends know what we think about Jesus. It's quite a sobering thought, and just a bit soul searching to say the least.

"What a friend we have in Jesus" takes on a new and expanded meaning when we share that friendship with our friends whether they be "in Christ" or outside the circle of church membership. My wife was accustomed to sitting at the electric organ playing "What a friend we have in Jesus" and I formed the congregation with my best vocal chords. She cannot play any more but the memories remain and will remain. In summing up it needs to be said that there needs to be no limit to our friendships so long as our friendship with Jesus is reflected in our relationships.

• L.W. Marshman attends our Victor Harbor, SA, church.

**Well what are friends for?
On the surface it is relatively easy to explain but, when we scratch the surface of friendships, there is more to it than barbecue sausages.**

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by Tertius
Illustrated by Daniel Changer

Changes

TAREE: Secretary—Miss Kathie Bullock, 4 Hillcrest Close, Taree NSW 2430.

Baptisms

•Chris French, Elizabeth Henderson, Ainslie, ACT •Denise & Alan Spence, Garry Grierson, Christine Harrop, Swan Hill, Vic •Scott Thomson, Hobart City, Tas •Kim Revell, Cherie Furlong, Ian Hall, Jan Hall, Amanda Heath, Joanna Wilson, Dale Pope, Sherelle Amy, Castlemaine, Vic •Naomi Beale, Cathy Kempster, Modbury, SA •Kylie Roberts, Belconnen, ACT •Randel Willcockson, Mark Foley, Broken Hill, NSW •Cathy Walsh, Shannon Hunt, Ern Crutchley, Doug Meyers, Marj Meyers, Goolwa, SA •Josie Lee, Heidi Long, Zultan Kovacs, Semaphore, SA

Marriages

•Jean Meithwizen to Des Jones, Ormond, Vic •Rebecca Dahl to Brett Cottam, Swan Hill, Vic

Deaths

•Cliff Ennor, Joyce Thorpe, Ormond, Vic •Hilda Cockroft, Edward (Dook) Hampson, Swan Hill, Vic •Mrs Elsie Clark, Hobart City, Tas •Paddy Dowker, Carnarvon, WA •Brian Brownbill, Bayswater, Vic •Edward (Ted) Potter, Fremantle, WA •Mrs Iris Franklin, Launceston, Tas •Alan Bond, Dandenong, Vic

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BUSINESS OPERATIONS MANAGER AAFA or ACA

Vic-Tas Churches of Christ Department of Community Care

The department is seeking an appropriately qualified person who will accept a leadership role in the senior management of the organisation. A demonstrated capacity to show initiative in the management and control of finance as well as a creative imagination to generate new sources of income is expected of this position.

A willingness to understand the ethos of Churches of Christ and work within the structures of the Conference as set down in the constitution of the Churches of Christ Department of Community Care.

Community Care provides supportive accommodation and services to elderly persons through independent living, hostels and nursing homes. It also conducts a youth accommodation program and welfare relief services. Recently it commenced an accommodation and support program for people with intellectual disabilities. The Department operates five opportunity shops, which support the aged care and relief programs. This is a rapidly growing organisation that is strongly committed to improving existing services and expanding into new spheres.

The successful applicant must have tertiary qualifications in accounting. Business management qualifications and financial management experience in the commercial sphere is preferred. Experience in computers including spreadsheet and accounting applications is necessary. The Department uses Lotus 123 spreadsheets and ACCPAC accounting package.

Applications in writing, including two referees, addressed to—

T. H. Giles
Executive Director
77 Capel Street
West Melbourne 3003
Phone (03) 326 8977
Fax (03) 329 9557

Applications close 26 February 1993

For further information contact Val Bush on above number

Churches of Christ in Queensland
Department of Church Development and Education
Invites applications for the position of an

Executive Director

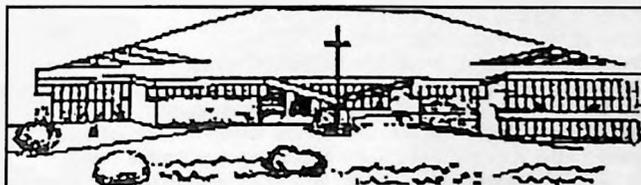
The successful applicant will:

- have proven ability in the areas of administration and pastoral ministry.
- be able to provide effective leadership to the Department in its work with churches.

The Department has major responsibility in the areas of church growth and development, evangelism, including church planting, youth and Christian education. It also oversees the operation of three campsites in Queensland and publishes "The Christian Echo", the official monthly magazine of Churches of Christ in Queensland. The appointment is for five years from January 1994. The salary package will be aligned to that of a 4th year minister.

Applications with curriculum vitae should be forwarded by 29 March 1993 to:

Alan Hermann
Churches of Christ in Queensland D.C.D.E.
P O Box 411
Kenmore 4069



Wollongong Church of Christ
seeks the services of a
Youth Minister/Director

The successful applicant will—

1. be an aggressive personal evangelist;
2. have a track record of working with large groups of youth;
3. exhibit a positive, outgoing personality;
4. have a theology compatible with our Bible believing/positive thinking church.

Commencement date—1 June, 1993.

Wollongong Church has 800 to 1000 in Sunday services meeting in a new \$3 million complex.

Contact — Barry McMurtrie,
Church of Christ Centre,
Figtree NSW 2525.
Ph. (042) 26 5022.

Obituaries

BROWNBILL, Brian

Born 7.7.40, Brian met Jesus face-to-face 11.1.93. Much loved by all, meticulous car-maintainer for many, and servant to all. Brian's quiet but positive faith was, at the same time, an encouragement and a challenge. He inaugurated and managed a tape ministry which he both operated and serviced for all who desired the blessing of his special ministry. A man of both love and action, he served quietly his Lord and Church family. His endurance of suffering without complaint was a wonderful testimony of and to his faith in his Lord. What great joy when we meet again. —LCH

CHIPPERFIELD, Stanley Henry (27.1.93) Stan, a household name in his time, passed away just two days after his 83rd birthday. He suffered poor health since a leg amputation, a result of a car accident some three years earlier. The service was a tribute to the deep regard and love in which people held him. Stan joined the church as a boy at North Richmond where he later met and married Gladys Makrell. They had two children, Don and Joyce (Mrs Furrer). For decades, "Chip", as he was affectionately called, prepared children's choirs for Sunday School anniversaries at North Richmond, Wattle Park, Surrey Hills and Camberwell. Stan had a fine tenor voice. He was also a member of the board, Sunday School Superintendent and leader of the Explorer Boys' Club for 10 years. He ordered his whole life on the basis of firmly-held Christian convictions. A friend of long standing said at his service "Chip lived a rounded life and gave everything he had."

—Viney Longthorp

CLARK, Frederick George

(1.12.92) Born Terror's Creek, Dayboro, Queensland in 1900, Fred quietly passed away as he sat in his parked car with his wife in the Wynnum shopping centre. After school at Yandina, Fred worked in the timber and sugar industry throughout the state, eventually settling in Brisbane. Married to Helena Lederhose in 1926, they made their home in Wynnum North. They were blessed with five children, 15 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren. Both made their decision for Christ in 1930 at the Hinrichson mission, became members of the Wynnum church. Fred served as a deacon, treasurer for 23 years, on the service roster and in maintenance work. He was a quiet man, a loved father, a respected Christian gentleman who loved his Lord and church. We thank God for the privilege of knowing

Tas

HOBART CITY (J. Weston, G. Hush) Number of youth involved in intensive training workshops on topical issues ... G. Hush & "No Alibi" performed at several concerts past two months, including two in McDonald's car park ... New windows, door & toilets installed in annex as part of upgrading for greater usage ... Oldest member, Mrs Elsie Clark, died in January aged 98 ... Errol Gilbert appointed acting minister at Midway Point. **LAUNCESTON (C. Spaulding, D. Tobler)** Attendances well maintained during holiday period with visitors from all states ... Tony & Lynette Armstrong farewelled to take up ministry in Dianella, WA ... All auxiliaries resuming this month ... Jim McLennan residing permanently in Norwood Haven home. **CAVESIDE (John & Colleen Harrison)** Ulverstone church choir presented cantata "A Song Unending" ... Good attendances at special Christmas services ... Home fellowship groups led services during December ... Malcolm Ashdown, Col Heier, Chris Peart & Wayne Kerrison brought messages whilst Harrisons in WA.

him. Charles Cole conducted a memorial service before an overflow congregation. At the graveside interment family friend John Sheriff preached the eulogy.

—W.A. Mortensen, elder

CLARK (FORDHAM) Ruby

(1.1.93) Born 1911. Early life spent Flemington. Committed life to Christ North Melbourne church 1929. Discipleship lasted 63 years. Married Stan Fordham North Melbourne 1937. Became members Moreland 1938, Oakleigh 1950. Ruby served as Sunday School teacher, deaconess and C.W.F. secretary, vice-president and president. Her devotional talks to C.W.F. groups and church services always inspiring. Ruby's radiant Christian life exhibited strong faith, love, warm hospitality, loyal and enthusiastic church membership, humility and capability in service. Three years of widowhood ended with marriage to life-long friend Gordon Clark, 1990. Couple became members Bayswater 1991. Death came peacefully at home after a brief illness. Crowded thanksgiving service paid worthy tribute to a gracious Christian lady. Sympathy expressed to Gordon, daughter and son-in-law Glenys and Bob Reaby and family and daughter Joy McNab and family and members of Gordon's family. —L.S. Dewberry

Church News

NSW

FAIRFIELD (Clive Berrick) Clive & Helen commenced ministry 1 Feb, coming from Whitebridge, NSW ... Ted Bjorem farewelled after ministry of eight years, now serving interim ministry at Doonside. Sympathy extended to Julie & Ted on loss of Julie's mother in January ... Members undertook massive restoration of manse which had not been used for years for arrival of Clive & Helen ... Carols by candlelight program on church lawns. **TWEED HEADS (Richard Oakes)** Church building & hall recarpeted & new modern stackable pews installed ... Home groups meeting together in February one day or one night each week to share Christian Life & Service seminar with Richard ... Church awaits arrival of Paul & Donna Hodgson on 28 February, Paul as youth minister. They have just completed several weeks in US ... Bob Treadwell & Graham Lawrie elected as new elders. **TAREE (Peter Wallis)** Our minister & his wife have returned from holidays ... We are indebted to Rev R. Trigger & Rev Edwin Lee for their assistance during our minister's absence ... R. Merry has been thanked for his many years of service as secretary. Kathie Bullock is now secretary & Mrs Elizabeth Donoghue is treasurer. Neither Mr Merry or M. Pullen sought re-election.

SA

DULWICH/ROSE PARK (Roger Brown, Rob Williams) At family service large group of members, young & old, performed mimed presentation of "Matthew's Parable", expanded paraphrase by Roger Brown of Luke 5 & Matt. 9 stories, movement coordinator Colette Williams ... Popular innovation at earlier January service when six hymns from old Methodist Hymnbook were sung, followed by several more nominated afterwards. **MODBURY (D. Hamilton)** Christmas saw large attendances all services ... 20 December new Fooks-Higges cantata "We're Here to Welcome Jesus". Excellent presentation by choir. Evening local talent Christmas celebration ... 7 February two services began 9 & 10.30 am to cater for larger attendances ... 14 February baptism & leader's dedication service. 10.30 am Richard & Linda Tolosi (YWAM) now serving in Indonesia. **GOOLWA (Roger Risson)** Children's Bible Adventure week well attended ... John Mathieson & singing group from Blackwood gave items at evening gospel service, Ken Collins (Victor Harbor) was speaker ... John Phelps (State Director of Bible Society) visited to

explain handwritten Bible project ... Inter-church Lenten Bible study groups held weekly in homes. **MILANG (Grant & Julie Simpson)** Milang delighted to share ministry of Grant & Julie Simpson with three churches in newly formed Southern Churches Circuit ... Kids' Klub back in action, also Friendship Club, prayer groups & CWF ... Illness of Hazel Webster, George Hutchesson & John Yelland causing concern ... Flooding of local area caused hardship to many ... Hopes of having church painted during year ... Mrs Tuffin donated serviceable fridge to church.

WA

DALKEITH RD, NEDLANDS (B.K. Ryall, J. Ashton, R. Price) Record attendances at Advent services (average 106) & Christmas Day (171) ... Club 4 vacation children's program one of the best, 30 leaders & 165 children (average) ... Rob Price accepted as supervised ministry student for year ... Outdoor Australia Day service with picnic/BBQ held. Theme—an appreciation of Aboriginal heritage & spirituality ... Extra giving enabled hall to be repainted ... Planned giving program underway. **CARNARVON** Kevin O'Brien & wife Jillian have visited Carnarvon with view to future ministry ... Those taking preaching responsibilities currently are Ken Birch, Ken Moore, John Doubikin, Alan Day & Bert Holtham ... Ken & Shirley Birch have conducted a John McArthur teaching video series & just commenced a marriage enrichment series ... young adults group meeting weekly for fellowship. **FREMANTLE (John Capom)** On 31 January chairman of board inducted John Capom into the ministry. Welcome given to John, Kaye & their three children—the first family in the manse since early 1971. Luncheon after the service ... Jack Sewell, a former minister, conducted funeral of Ted Potter, long-time member & deacon ... 7 pm services resumed.

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The following wording could be used in your will:

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Church News

Vic

TOOTGAROOK (M. Giezendanner) Holiday attendances good ... Guestspeaker Ian Allsop, 3 Jan, much appreciated ... Some members in hospital for surgery, need special prayer ... Open Door commenced for 1993 with special Australia Day celebration, devotion by Val Best appealed to all with patriotic fervour to pray for peace & healing in land. Community singing with special guest artists enjoyed by 78 ... KYB commenced meeting weekly.

ORMOND (G.O. Stibbe) Meeting for "ongoing" church work ... Ruth Hood, tremendous service over 44 years, farewelled before moving to Cheltenham ... Kindergarten children presented "Christmas Story" before packed church ... Sean & Johanna Bainbridge completed student ministry. Jim & Bev Larkham replace them February ... Bible school good start with more children ... Bible study groups recommenced ... \$60,000 received Simaid ... Farewell planned Glen & Betty Stibbe 14 Feb.

SWAN HILL (Lindsay Mayes, Tim Green) A number of children from church attending Christian Primary School which opened in Swan Hill on 3 Feb ... Four baptisms late December ... Church board & elders retreat at Koraleigh in Feb ... Nine young people begin tertiary education this year ... Church saddened at passing of long standing members Hilda Cockroft & Edward (Dook) Hampson.

CASTLEMAINE (P. Haylock) Bus ministry in operation following gift of a bus ... Video ministry a blessing to shut-ins ... Church board operating on a committee structure ... Successful missionary Sunday held ... Church family camp planned for late March at Halls Gap ... Building committee progressing with plans for new church.

MAIDSTONE (Wes Rodgers) Children's Sunday invited Elim Church to share services & lunch ... Tottenham Baptists shared carols & Christmas service ... Barry & Maureen Jenkins visited ... Thanksgiving offering \$2,010 including \$250 from mini-stall led by Audrey Grant ... Congratulations to Clarice West—80 years ... Arthur Lewis hospitalised ... Most sick people improving ... Sausage sizzle held ... Visiting speakers George Warren (Conf. Pres.) & Carl Lee.

BAYSWATER (R.C. Combridge) The officers' board has planned several "very special speaker" weekends for 1993 as a challenge to, & a growth opportunity for, the church ... Youth group now largest for many years with unsaved friends of members coming along ...

Pledged faith-giving introduced in lieu of fund-raising program for the building fund for 1993. Results from promises most encouraging.

PRESTON (S. Blacket) Steve Blacket commenced student ministry. Steve & wife Bev with children Nathaniel & Melissa welcomed into fellowship at special service conducted by elder Colin Johnson on 7 Feb. Church luncheon followed ... Kids Club recommenced after Christmas break—going well.

DANDENONG (Graeme Foon) Family camp to be held 19–21 February at Monbulk ... Playgroup now holding two sessions Wednesday

& Friday mornings ... Church to host Australian Church Women this year ... World Day of Prayer 5 March at 10 am ... Church saddened by the death of Alan Bond ... Small groups recommencing ... CWF holding mini-market at church complex 13 March.

MOUNT CLEAR (Dale White) January evening services conducted for the first time with an average attendance of 56. Previously joined with other churches ... Christmas day offering raised \$505 for COCOA ... Appreciation expressed to John Harrison for four years service producing our church paper. New editor

Tom Dik ... Dedication services held for babies Kelly McMillan & Timothy Gracie ... Half night of prayer continuing each Friday.



ON YOUR OWN, YOU'RE NOT ALONE

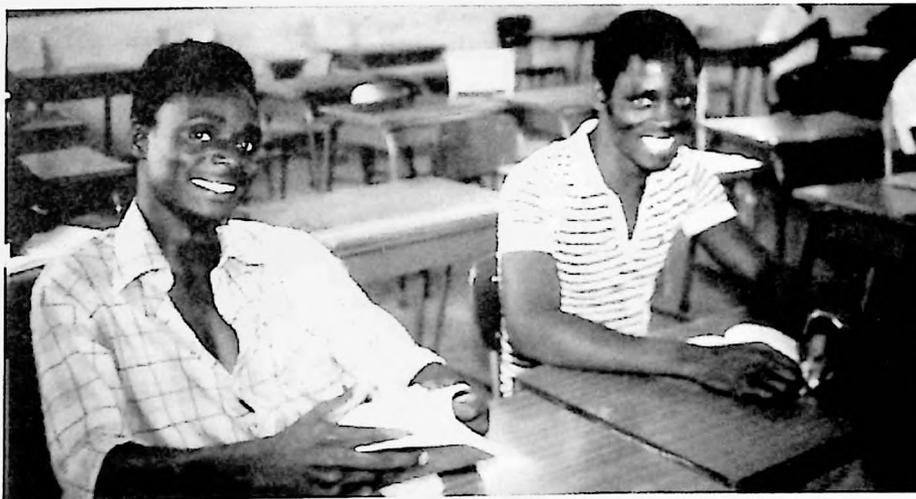
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WHO IS TERTIUS?

To the Editor,

Who is Tertius? Where is he?

That we may now commend him.

Tantalising in obscurity.

'Tis surely time to unmask him.

That he might reveal-ed be

So why all the mystery?

Is it kind, or is it fair,

To keep us in suspension?

Grinding teeth and tearing hair

So great is all the tension.

Keeping us in dull despair

Till with us the truth you share.

—an anonymous long-time subscriber.

(We are publishing Life of Tertius which will reveal all in the middle of March. We are making a special offer to subscribers in this issue (see page 24) to purchase a copy now. We ask all buyers of the book not to reveal the identity of Tertius until all copies are sold!! —Editor)

The Last Word

There are three things that only God knows; the beginning of things, the cause of things, and the end of things.

—Welsh proverb

A person on holiday in Los Angeles booked in at one of the leading hotels. He spoke to the person on the desk and asked: "I'm a bit of an athlete and I like to go jogging. What would be the best time to go out on the roads? There are so many cars in this city I would not like to be run over."

"Well," said the person on the desk. "I think Sunday morning early, the Protestants are all in bed and the Catholics are all at Mass. You should be alright then."

The following Sunday the traveller went jogging and was run over by a Seventh Day Adventist!

I don't know if we'll ever get a cure for poverty, but the way taxes and prices are going up, we've got a sure cure for wealth!

A salesperson in a show store was trying to persuade a customer that a certain pair of shoes fitted.

"These shoes are too narrow and too pointed," said the customer.

Replied the salesperson, "But they are wearing narrow pointed shoes this season".

"That may be," reported the suffering patron, "but I'm still wearing last season's feet".

"Do you believe in the survival of the fittest?" "I don't believe in the survival of anyone. I'm an undertaker."

Sunday School teacher: "Why would it be wrong to cut off a cat's tail?"

Student: "The Bible says, 'What God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.'"



Scholler

"GIVE 'EM HEAVEN, DEAR!"



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