

National Journal
of Churches of
Christ in Australia

Vol. 96 • No. 21

4 December 1993

Registered by Australia Post
Publication No. VAR 0761

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Dressing up the Gospel



Photograph courtesy of The Island Church



- Boston Movement** —page 5
- Christmas Bowl** —page 4
- Christmas Songs** —page 17
- Gay** —page 15
- Good Legal Samaritans** —page 6
- Leadership Roles** —page 18
- SA Church Women** —page 9
- Summer Camps** —page 24
- Taree Ministry Centre** —page 5

Managing Editor: Chris Ambrose
Assistant: Nigel Pegram

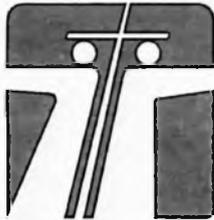
Issue	Deadline
18 December	10 December
5 February	27 January
19 February	10 February

Address for All Correspondence
(including subscription payments)
PO Box 101
North Essendon 3041
Telephone (03) 379 1219
Fax (03) 379 0015



Member publication of the
Australasian
Religious Press
Association

National logo of
Churches of
Christ In
Australia



"The Australian Christian" is published by the Board of Management of the Australian Christian, a Department of the National Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia.
Keith Aird, Chairman (SA)
Don Burdett, Secretary (ACT)
Lindsay Mott, Treasurer (VIC)
John Batchler (Tas)
Jim Deutschmann (Qld)
Steve Downie (NSW)
Allen Smyth (WA)

Printing by New Litho Pty Ltd
63 Sunbury Crescent
Surrey Hills 3127

Responsibility for electoral material is accepted by Chris Ambrose,
3 Hamlyn St, Essendon 3040

This publication is indexed in the
Australasian Religion Index

ISSN 0004-8852

Advertising Rates
Displayed: \$5 per column
centimetre

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

Knowing What's Important

CCTC graduation and ordination

In his address to CCTC graduates, Principal Greg Elsdon said that it was important for ministers to determine what is central to their task. It was so easy, he said to be seduced by less than ultimate concerns. Taking his cue from Phil. 1:1-11, he commented, "My prayer for you is that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment—so that you may discover, endorse and be committed to the things of ultimate significance—so that you may, in the pursuance of your call, persist in getting to the heart of the matter." And what is this ultimate concern? "It is nothing else than participation in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the good news that God is for us, not against us, and that in Jesus Christ we have the opportunity to discover and enjoy life as it was intended."

Greg Elsdon was featured speaker at the Graduation service at Blackman Hall, Hawthorn, on Friday evening 19 November. Students received a variety of awards. Those awarded a Certificate in Christian Studies were Johanna Bainbridge, Simon Trebilcock, Belinda Willcocks, Lynton Willcocks and Clarence Yek. An Associate Diploma in Christian Studies was awarded to Peter Hunt. Cathy Matthews and Tricia Moore qualified for an Associate Diploma in Pastoral Care. An Associate Diploma in Lay Ministry was awarded to Ruth May. Michelle Martine and David Rees graduated with a Diploma in Theological Studies. The Diploma in Ministry was awarded to Paul Bauer, Jim Larkham,

Carl Lee, Jonathan Moore, Ray Ollerton, Liz Reynolds and Robyn Walsh. Sean Bainbridge was presented with a Diploma in Ministry (Missiology).

Merryl Blair, who will join the faculty part-time in 1994, coordinated the music. The college was fortunate to have as musicians for the evening, Beryl Condick (piano), Leigh Verity and Michael Turner (trumpet) and Helen Barnett (saxophone). The trio of Kendra Boyd, Lisa Hugo and Michelle Martine entranced those present with two pieces, "Friends Will be Friends Forever" and "Amazing Grace". Gwenda Rogers coordinated the flower arrangements, Graeme and Pat Hillbig organised the ushering, Stan McCredden supervised the baby-sitting and Hazel Thornton created and supplied the banners. Geoff Clarke hovered around the hall as official photographer.

In the ordination service that followed, led with warmth and dignity by Robert Leane, five graduates were ordained. These were Sean Bainbridge (Applecross, WA), Jim Larkham (Darwin, NT), Jonathan Moore (Ormond, Vic), Liz Reynolds (Aldinga, SA) and Robyn Walsh (Henley Beach, SA). Ordinants for the service were Terry McCredden, Alan Fletcher, Betty Mitchell, Joy Bromley and Mavis Peet. The ordination prayer was offered by Neil Galbraith, Vic-Tas Conference President, and Chris Sharpe sang "Holy Spirit Come", while the ordinands were kneeling. Later in the evening, supper was provided for the graduates, their families and friends, in the CCTC lounge by the Ormond Church.



• Sean Bainbridge, Jim Larkham, Jonathan Moore, Liz Reynolds and Robyn Walsh being ordained

Something to Sing About

"Psalty's Camping Adventure"



• The cast, tired after the climb, sitting around the fire

The Werribee, Vic, church was full to overflowing for a production of "Psalty's Camping Adventure" on 24 October.

Treasure and Pirates

South Tamworth's vacation club

A very successful outreach program to children in the South Tamworth, NSW, area was held in the first week of the Octoberschool holidays. About 30 children attended along with eight leaders and helpers.

The theme for the week was "Treasure and Pirates", with the church and hall being decorated appropriately. The wordless Bible was used to tell the children about God's love and forgiveness.

Activities for each day were geared around the pirate theme and the colour from the wordless Bible. The children really enjoyed each day's activities, which included coming dressed-up as pirates one day.

Ann Barnett, our minister's wife, read each day from *Treasures in the Snow*, with other leaders organising the choruses, Bible teaching from the wordless Bible, games, memory verse and craft.

At the end of the week, the leaders were very pleased and happy with the response, but exhausted, and the children



• Two of the pirates

wanted to know if the Vacation Club would be on again the following week. One family is now attending the church because of the contact made with their child.

People were standing up at the back, and kids sat on the floor at the front.

The show was about a group of kids going camping. They started off all excited; as they walked along they sang songs like "Climbing the Mountain". Then one of the kids got a rash from poison ivy, and two others got lost when they went looking for firewood and wandered off the path. Later, back at the camp, the kids were sitting around the campfire toasting marshmallows and singing "On a Starry Night ... My father made the universe, And everything it holds". One of the kids wanted a night-light

and Farley the firefly came along to be the light.

When the dog, Blooper, found the lost pair, Farley the firefly led the way back to safety. The show ended with Psalty, the singing song-book, and all the kids, singing "All through the day, all through the night, dwell in his promises, walk in his light."

The show, which has about 10 songs in it, had 30 young people in the cast, each one a star. "It was good," a group of youngsters said afterwards. "We got to know a lot of kids and made new friends."

(report compiled by some of the young cast members)

Through The Ages

Giving thanks



• Some of the cast of "Through The Ages"

A cast of 50 presented a nostalgia program entitled "Through the Ages" to celebrate the 130th anniversary of the church at Mount Clear, Vic. This live production, which attracted an audience of around 250 to a local theatre, incorporated selections of fashion, music and history from the last 130 years, as well as some recollections from long-term members. "Through The Ages" was organised by 23-year-old Pam Sutcliffe and choreographed by Bronwyn Booth.

Many others assisted to ensure the success of the show, which highlighted periods of world history alongside the

story of the Mount Clear church.

Other activities for the day included an anniversary worship service attended by 230 and a fully-catered luncheon. The day concluded with an exciting gospel celebration service which featured local youth choir "Oracle", an energetic worship time, and a message from Philip Stevens (past minister at Mt Clear). This special day provided an opportunity for the congregation to give thanks to God for his faithfulness in the past, confident that he has great plans for their future!

—Dale White

International Award

(A Christmas Bowl story)

The international campaign to End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism, which the Christmas Bowl has assisted from the beginning, is ending its first term by winning the 1993 Anti-Slavery Award. This citation, recognising the pioneering work done by ECPAT, has come from London-based Anti-Slavery International, the world's oldest human rights organisation.

The issues raised by ECPAT have caught the attention of the international community. Governments and international bodies such as UNICEF, and the World Tourism Organisation have been made aware of the unacceptable violation of children within Asian tourism.

In Australia, ECPAT con-

cerns have received a good response. Federal legislation relating to Australian sex offenders is now being drafted.

Australian church agencies have joined as well. The Churches of Christ Christian Women's Fellowship have played an important role.

The work of ECPAT is not done. Over the next three years, the campaign will focus on legislative reform, research, community education and increased networking needed to liberate the half a million Asian children caught up in prostitution.

For suggestions, ideas and information contact the Australian Council of Churches on (03) 650 6811.

—Caesar D'Mello

Cry of Joy

Christmas Bowl at work in Africa

In May, Program Development Officer with World Christian Action, Gwen Willis, toured Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique and Lesotho. In each country she was overwhelmed by the response of the people; gratitude for the assistance of the churches and the government of Australia during the devastating famine of 1992.

While Gwen was at Chikwana, south-south-west of Blantyre in Southern Malawi, she witnessed the supplementary feeding program for under fives.

"A group of at least 50-60 women gathered with their children for the regular children's feeding program. When we arrived, the women had set the wood for the fire, put the huge pot on the wood and were filling it with water. The fire was lit, the water heated and finally the nutritional dried food, comprised of dried fish and spices, was added. Two of the women stirred the pot with very long sticks and as they did, the women gathered around and began singing.

The singing increased in fervour and volume accompanied by the "Iilta" or cry of joy. It was heart-stirring to hear, and I wondered what they had to be joyful about considering the very difficult times through which they were going. I asked Blessings Msusa, the feeding program coordinator, what the

women were singing about. She replied that they were expressing their joy and gratitude for what others from around the world had done for them in providing food, clothing and seeds to help them through the disastrous months of drought."

Gwen described the population of all four countries as resilient.

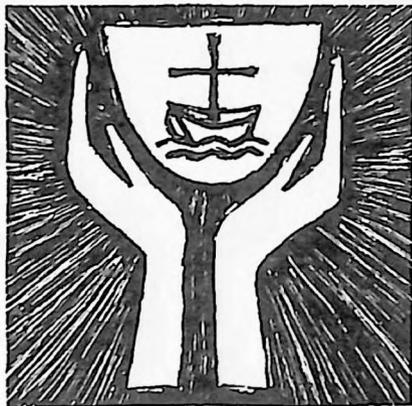
"Even though they have been through such a traumatic experience", she said. "With the grain which has been supplied by the various drought programs, people have planted their crops again and are growing vegetables. Some of the governments had decreed that farmers should give preference to growing maize as it is a fast growing 'cash crop'. That was taken up to the detriment of the population, for when drought struck these crops were not able to withstand it. The Christian Councils now encourage people to grow their hardier traditional crops such as cassava, sorghum, sweet potato and millet."

One of the most encouraging things Gwen said she encountered in each of the countries was the willingness of the people to work, to help themselves and not expect outside organisations and others to do everything for them. Even the children did not want to be recipients all the time but work towards their own rehabilitation.

LIVING GOD'S FAMILY

THE CHRISTMAS BOWL

Christian families giving to the World family through the Christmas Bowl Appeal.



"Last year the Australian churches were able to help us in southern Africa tremendously thanks to the Christmas Bowl Appeal. Your support is much appreciated."

Desmond Tutu
Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town

TO GIVE A DONATION OR FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CHURCH OR RING 008 025 101
AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES



SWANSTON STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Melbourne
(cnr Swanston &
Little Lonsdale Streets)

Sunday
9.00 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Worship & Communion
Services
Gospel Celebration

7.00 p.m.

Wednesday
1.15-1.45 p.m.

Lunchtime Service

For further enquiries, please ring (03) 663 3884

More than Getting Wet

Baptisms at Kyneton



• Esher and Graham Morgan, Kerryn Shearman and Jason Sundblom

The first baptisms in a number of years occurred on 31 October at the Kyneton, Vic, church. Kerryn Shearman, Esther and Graham Morgan and Jason Sundblom were baptised as part of a special morning service that was both challenging and inspiring as we were reminded that baptism was much more than simply getting wet. Extra seating was necessary to accommodate the visitors, some coming from Adelaide to participate in the joy of the serv-

ice. Following morning tea with the congregation, the families of those who were baptised shared a barbecue lunch together in the local gardens.

Kyneton has been greatly encouraged by the baptisms, especially as the four are all young adults. Whilst the church is, like many, facing financial difficulties in these difficult times, there is a sense that God is doing something special here, and we are looking forward to the future. —Nigel Pegram

Information on Sect

Brisbane/Sydney/Melbourne Church of Christ

Recently the Queensland Conference hosted an information evening on "The Boston Movement". This was held in the chapel on the site of the Kenmore Christian College and it was filled to capacity. The main reason for doing this was the amount of media publicity this "sect", who call themselves locally "The Brisbane Church of Christ" had been receiving and the number of telephone calls and enquiries the Conference Office had received from concerned church members.

The guest speaker for the evening was Adrian van Leen from Concerned Christians

Growth Ministries in Western Australia. Adrian was joined on a question panel by Cyril Muller, University of Queensland Chaplain, and they were able to field the many questions concerning the operations of the group.

The evening was recorded on video and cassette and copies are available for purchase from the Queensland Conference office at a cost of \$24 for videos and \$6 for cassette. Enquiries may be directed to PO Box 469, Kenmore 4069.

As far as we are aware, the group operates in most, if not all, Australian capital cities, usually naming itself af-

Taree Ministry Centre

Country college facility

1994 will usher in an exciting new era for churches in country NSW. For the first time since the NSW College was established in 1942, country people will be able to attend college night lectures while still living at home (We are classifying Wollongong as "city"). Country churches will be able to "send" people to college for ministry training without losing them to the city.

This will all be made possible by the establishment of additional College Ministry Centres. The NSW College plans to start one new Ministry Centre every year. The first of these will be at Taree, on the mid-north coast.

Members of country churches who have long wanted to deepen their grasp of Scripture through part-time study will be able to do so. If they live within two hours' drive of a Ministry Centre, they will be able to attend night lectures once or twice a week.

One of the greatest benefits will be to country churches who find that they lose some of their most gifted and active members to the city when they go to college. This often leaves a vacuum that may take years to fill. In future, students will not have to leave their home church while gaining their training.

The coordinator/lecturer of the new Ministry Centre at Taree will be Alex Wilson. Alex



• Alex Wilson

came from a background of engineering and accountancy. He graduated with honours from the NSW College in 1983, having completed a Bachelor of Divinity degree at the same time. He has since completed a Graduate Diploma in Ministry and plans further studies for next year. Alex brings to the position practical experience gained during ministries at Ballarat and Albury. He and his wife Ruth, together with children Talitha and Caleb, will be moving to Taree in December. He will commence with the College on 1 January 1994.

Any enquiries about the courses offering in 1994 could be directed to the Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College, PO Box 140, Carlingford 2118 Phone (02) 630 7533.

ter the city in which it is found, hence "Brisbane

Church of Christ".

—Edi

YOUR ONE STOP CHRISTIAN TELECOM SHOP

CHRISTIAN TELECOMS
INTERNATIONAL

- MOBILE PHONES
- PAGERS
- PHONES SYSTEMS
- FAX MACHINES
- ANSWERING MACHINES & TELEPHONES

1ST FLOOR, 1-3 EXETER RD
(CNR MAROONDAH HWY)
CROYDON NORTH 3136
(03) 727 2977

Telecom
MobileNet

Correction



The above photo is of Mavis and Bill Campbell cutting the cake at their Diamond Wedding celebrations. In the 6 November issue we ran a story about their involvement in the Berri, SA, church. Unfortunately, at the time we had problems with our scanners and, in having to work outside the of-

fice to put the issue together, we inadvertently mixed up two photographs of people cutting cakes. The photo we ran with the story on Mavis and Bill Campbell was actually Doug Lane and Mrs Mewitt cutting the Williamstown, SA, centenary cake. We apologise for the error.

Good Legal Samaritans

Legal Help Available

In the Central West of NSW you really don't have to look too hard to find a family doing it tough.

Particularly in the rural areas, there are so many problems facing the men or women on the land that the skills they need to keep their properties sustainable is a full-time job in itself.

While there are many avenues open to help the land holders fight technical problems in the areas of agriculture and conservation, there aren't too many avenues open to people in real financial difficulties who need legal help.

A good Samaritan and practising lawyer made his way to

Orange for just that purpose—to provide free legal help for anyone in difficulties, e.g. those facing imminent bankruptcy. He was Sydney lawyer Michael Kirkpatrick and he was able to take with him NSW Official Receiver George Caddy and four staff.

Their aim was to provide help and to give free financial advice while establishing a reservoir of volunteers and professionals who would complement rural counsellors.

Because of Michael Kirkpatrick's links with the Northside Community Church of Christ, Sydney, his first move in making the trip to Orange was to contact Graham Mann

Vision 93 Dinner

777 FM

Triple Seven Communications, whose aim is to run a Christian radio station in Melbourne, recently held its first dinner. Organisers were encouraged by the 160 guests who attended to give their support to the 777 team and hear its vision for the future.

Special guests included one of Australia's best known communicators, Mal Garvin, Rev Tom Stokes, compere Rowan Forster and recording artist Roma.

With more than 25 years in the radio industry, Mal Garvin spoke of his concern about continuing problems in Australian society and how Christians have a responsibility towards others and the growth of this nation. He challenged the audience as to the price they were

prepared to pay to see a change—especially as 75% of Australians called themselves "Christians".

Tom Stokes said a Melbourne Christian radio station was an incredible opportunity to share God's word through the airwaves. He urged people to join 777 as it needs 10,000 members.

Bruce Upton, Triple Seven's General manager, said 777 was a journey of faith especially for the three-month test broadcast in 1994.

Among the needs are a new office, a studio for the test broadcast, \$30,000 for immediate equipment needs and \$25,000 to meet other demands.

Details of Triple Seven's program and support can be obtained by phoning (03) 560 1700.

of the Church of Christ there, who set up a meeting in the building so that those seeking help could do so. A public lecture on debt management was presented, a video on how to handle aspects of insolvency was shown and time was devoted to answering the audience's questions.

Michael Kirkpatrick was also able to speak with solicitors

from local law firms and as a result a voluntary counselling and legal referral service has been set up in Orange. Volunteer solicitors make themselves available every Tuesday evening at the Orange Neighbourhood Centre.

Michael Kirkpatrick and his party moved on to other areas of the state to continue their quest to help those in need.

Tarralla Christian Retirement Village

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

New Units Available—Stage Two

Stage One—Waiting List Open

- Independent lifestyle free from maintenance worries
- Located within 500 m of Croydon, Vic, city centre
- 24-hour security/health alarm system
- Organised social activities and outings
- Large recreation centre
- Caring management

Cheapest in metropolitan area

Inspection Invited

276-280 Dorset Road, Croydon 3136

Enquiries to managers, Bill and Joan Green
on (03) 723 6500

Midway Point Celebrates

Second year in new facilities



• Errol Gilbert (centre, minister) with some study group participants

The Midway Point, Tas, congregation celebrated the completion of two years in their new facilities on 28 November. The Covenant Players participated in a special service to mark the occasion.

Members have also been active in enhancing the property and grounds. The core group of members are encouraged by

new attenders. Planning for 1994 includes a door-knock, leaflet distribution, a community survey and the commencement of special seeker services.

Small group studies are also a regular part of the church's program.

Midway Point works in conjunction with the Hobart congregation.

Southern Bayside Conference

Annual CWF meeting

The annual Vic-Tas CWF Southern Bayside Conference was held at Chelsea on 29 September, with an attendance of 48 representing six of the seven churches. Mrs Jean Whitelock of Chelsea presided and led the devotional segment, Mrs Millie Greatorex led in a prayer for missions, Mrs Barbara Pitts delighted with her solos, and the guest speaker was Mrs Sheila Wilken, Director of

Counselling Services at Syndal Baptist Counselling Centre. She gave a positive address based on Psalm 37.

They continue to support Banmatmat Bible College in Vanuatu. Our project over a two year period, is to provide a lawn mower for the college. This year we have forwarded \$550 to the Overseas Mission Board as the first instalment and \$40 for sweets for the staff and students and their families at Christmas. —May Taylor

Ink'n'Image

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

BUCKINGHAM MEMORIAL CENTRE

Self-catering camp site
38 Lockwood Road,
Belgrave Heights
Accommodation for 60
Large recreational hall
Low tariff
Small groups welcome
Enquiries: Jack Edwards
(03) 568 1825

30th Tas CWF Camp

Memorable anniversary

43 ladies attended the 30th Tas CWF Camp held at Camp Seaview, Bicheno at the end of September. They enjoyed delicious fare provided by managers Graeme and Marion Spaulding, including healthy salads, fresh fruit, pavs and cream puffs.

Lady Mollie Foot, surrounded by foundation campers, cut the anniversary cake.

Joan Holwill (Director of Women's Ministries Baptist Union of Tas) led studies on "The Unchanging God" and on Saturday afternoon shared some of the fruits of her study of the New Age Movement. Her presentation and extensive preparation were greatly appreciated. As a group exercise, we were challenged to rewrite Psalm 23 in modern terms.

Song leader June Younger and pianist Margaret Howard enthusiastically led us in some great praise sessions.

Ruth Edge compered the Saturday night program based on the theme "Sunday School Days". Some "interesting" and humorous occasions were re-enacted! Colleen Harrison miraculously restored some decorum and presented a devotional segment to conclude the evening.

Tas President, June Younger, presided over the communion service which climaxed a very happy and worthwhile weekend.

Camp offering of \$225 will provide copies of Every Day with Jesus devotional booklets for missionaries.

—Lyn Birtwistle

Playgroup Outreach

Positive messages

The church at Port Fairy, Vic, has a very active playgroup, which is meeting a real need in the community.

On a recent field visit, Lynette Leach (Field Director, Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development) led a Positive Parenting seminar, and had informal discussions with playgroup parents.

The Portland church arranged three seminars on the same theme, Positive Parenting, which involves communication (not criticism), consequences (not punishment), and confidence (not perfection).

Both churches attracted people from the community to these events, highlighting the need for churches to offer positive support to families.



• Playgroup at Port Fairy

Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Aboriginals and God

To the Editor,

Don Bone's opinions ("AC" 20 November) regarding the European settlement of Australia are cause for considerable sadness. The injustice that Aboriginal Australians have experienced during the last 200 years is horrific. However to describe such action as the judgement of God is not only a feeble excuse for the atrocities committed against Aboriginals, it is also a terrible indictment upon the character of God. How do we expect Aboriginals to respond to a God who has supposedly inflicted them with such misery and devastation?

—Steve Blacket
(Preston, Vic)

Sound Doctrine Essential

To the Editor,

Nigel Mann ("AC" 20 November) urges us to "keep the faith—not the dogma" and tends to denigrate Christian doctrine and "past experiences and expressions". How ridiculous such teaching is! How can a "community of faith" be built on a solid foundation of doctrine.

Is this neglect of the basic teachings of Christianity the reason for our rapid trend to charismatic services which appeal to immediate mass emotionalism which are centred around music and songs with little meaning or content?

Jesus enjoined the church thus: "Teach them to obey all that I have commanded you". To be Christian is not to join a social club but to be a disciple of Jesus. This surely means as individuals to do simple acts of kindness and mercy, as a corporate church to relieve pain and suffering and as a political body to challenge unjust and un-Christian structures.

These contribute to the doing of God's will and to the fulfilment of the mission of the church. They are based on the sound doctrine and teaching of Jesus.

—Max Collyer
(Boronia, Vic)

Aboriginals and Christians

To the Editor,

I couldn't believe my eyes when I read the letter from Don Bone ("AC" 20 November).

This man was a missionary? God help the church!

I thought we lived in an enlightened age, where Scripture had been examined and re-examined to find the truth about God's will for humankind. I must have been wrong.

Apparently, the indigenous people of Australia are not loved by the God of love. This, in spite of being dispossessed, murdered, poisoned, shot, separated from their parents and their children, driven from their land and exploited mercilessly over 200 years, is all because, I'm told, "our Heavenly Father has seen fit to give the country of Australia to European settlement". And who were the people responsible for these appalling crimes of genocide and dispossession? Christians, that's who! Including, I suspect, members of Churches of Christ. Nominal or practising, it doesn't really matter. Massacre and cultural genocide are pretty permanent, whatever the devoutness of the perpetrators. God's will? God's plan? I think not!

It was not always Christian love that was preached by settlers and missionaries, but the "superiority" of Anglo-European culture. Ethnic language was forbidden, European clothing and food was forced onto these people. All of the best and all of the worst of our "superior" and "Christian" culture. It is happening today! And it appears to be condoned today by "Christians" like Don!

Did the Jesus who loved the Samaritan woman and the Paul who loved the Gentiles really preach and believe this garbage? Not by my interpretation of the Bible.

True, it is the gospel of Jesus Christ that can liberate my indigenous Australian brothers and sisters. It is the gospel preached by Paul and the Apostles. But it is not, I hope, the gospel apparently preached by Don!

When I fill in my Australian Census form, I declare my religion as "Christian", not "Churches of Christ".

There are two reasons why I do this. One is that I believe that the mission of Churches of Christ is the unity of all believers and so denominational names are superfluous. The second is that the theology of people like Don Bone embarrasses me!

But I'll try to love him anyway, just as I will try to love my Koori brothers and sisters, whether they are Christians, or just "Christians", or even just "dreaming" people. I think my God would want me to do that. "Christians are not perfect, just forgiven", I read on a car bumper-sticker recently. Isn't that lucky (oops! wrong word!) for you and me, Don!

—David Allen
(Boronia, Vic)

Church Health Indicator

To the Editor,

G.F. Hewitt in his letter ("AC" 20 November) argues that there is an obscene waste of capital in buildings catering for the same number of members as 10 years ago.

He makes the same mistake as Paul Cameron ("AC" 18 September) and Rob Wilson ("AC" 16 October). Building usage is not the only measure of church health. Baptisms are a much better indicator.

I prefer the suggestions of page 18, "AC" 20 May 1989:

- Churches that have not had 7.5 baptisms in any of the past 10 years are automatically banned from inviting a new minister until a complete review of management practices. No review, no minister.

- Ditto for ministers.

- Churches that have not had

Letters to a Travelling Companion

Winding up the Preacher

Dear Daniel,

Thanks, once again, for your continued correspondence. Prominent in your last letter was the complaint that your minister's sermons are too long and boring. In response to your grievances I have decided to offer you some simple but fool-proof strategies for giving your long winded preacher the wind-up. These have been tested with great effect by my own congregation at those times when I have been guilty of similar pulpit verbosity.

1. Arrange for at least three of your members to set their watch alarms to sound at exactly the 20 minute mark of the sermon.
2. Situate your habitual Sunday morning "snoozers" where your minister can clearly see them throughout his sermon.
3. When you feel the sermon should be concluding, allow your children to crawl noisily around the aisle, make paper gliders out of the pew sheet and tear up the hymn books.
4. Throughout the sermon, make a big thing of looking frequently at your watch or the clock on the wall, shaking your head and muttering as you do.

Finally, if all else fails, try listening to what your minister is saying. He is, after all, preaching God's word for you, however ordinary the packaging might seem. If you come expecting a long boring sermon, that's probably what you'll get. If you come ready to hear God's message for your life, then you will be much more likely to hear it when it is delivered through the fellow behind the pulpit.

Keep writing,
Pastor Salt

Church Women in SA

A year full of activities



• The "mob cap" waitresses

This year has been brimful of activities for women in SA.

Two events coincided with State Conference—the traditional "women's day" at the Grote St church, and the coffee and dessert evening hosted by the Brooklyn Park church. Both were organised by Maureen Webber.

The most recent events were the Women's Camp at Mylor, in the Adelaide Hills, and the country visit at Kersbrook.

The Women's Camp, on the weekend of 22–24 October, was one of the best ever, with studies being led by Sylvia Wilkey of the Bible College of SA. Her discussion topic was based on Hannah's prayer life and how it relates to the women of the 90s. 50% of the campers were

young women. The Saturday evening program was a well-guarded surprise for campers. They were treated to a "restaurant-type" dinner complete with the trimmings and served by appropriately dressed waitresses in "mob caps".

The country visit on 4 November surpassed all expectations. Shirley Burger headed up the task group which brought to 160 women and men, a program of excellence. Three visiting speakers, key leaders in their respective denominations, formed the guest panel. Their topic covered "Women in Action" and the audience was able to pose questions as members tried to relate the topic to their local church.

The guest panel was Gwenda Kerley, Uniting Church and President of the Synod Committee for Fellowships, Carmel O'Grady, President of the Catholic Women's League, and Margaret Pressley, Secretary of Australian Prayer Committee of the Anglican Church. All appreciated the concepts associated with changes in society and the church, which the guest panel presented with integrity. Their problems are also our problems—leadership.

The Kersbrook church worked as a team to prepare the venue, and together with eight women from the circuit church at Williamstown, catered for morning tea and a light luncheon with cool efficiency. Travellers came from 28 churches, including at least seven country churches.

Continued from page 8

a single baptism for 10 years must be automatically sold and the money reinvested for a worthwhile return in baptisms. What a motivation!

• Ministers who have not conducted a single baptism for 10 years must move to a tent maker ministry, i.e., you must earn your income making tents until you score a baptism.

As Paul Potter discovered on his American trip ("AC" 20 November), "The church is the only organisation planned for those that are not yet in it." Baptisms are a much better indicator than building usage of our obtaining Biblical results.

—Malcolm Gray
(Upwey, Vic)

Cricket Chaplaincy

Ministry to the Australian team



• Ian Healy (Australian Wicket-keeper) with Mark Tronson

Dr Mark Tronson, chaplain to the Australian Cricket team, was in Perth for the two days prior to the first test with the cricketers and at the first day's play of the match. He was personally introduced to the new Australian team members by vice-captain Mark Taylor. They thanked him for his letters of encouragement and support and over the two days he had some time in which to speak quietly to several of the team.

On the Wednesday evening prior to the Test, he attended the cricketer's reception and spoke with many of the guests.

One New Zealand television journalist remembered him from the Los Angeles Olympics and London World Cup Men's Hockey when Mark was on special hockey assignment for a Sydney newspaper. He has written five books on hockey.

Mark will be with the Australian team in Brisbane and Sydney, while Rev Barrie Sutton, the Victorian Shield chaplain, will care for the team in Melbourne and Neil Hawke the former test fast bowler and AIS Cricket academy chaplain will care for them in Adelaide.

On 2 December, women and men met at the Grote Street church to enjoy fellowship for the last time for 1993, in a Christmas Get Together. People brought unwrapped gifts for the Community Care Services Christmas Hampers.

Five events during 1993 have kept the women (and men for

some events), "in action" by employing the concept of people working in small task groups with shared leadership for an event, with one person taking the responsibility for leadership. —Lori McDonald

(Editor, *Call*, newsletter for SA Churches of Christ Women)

LMCT
6549

Ken Geyer

SELECT USED CARS

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

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

Media Review

Again, we feature material published by Churches of Christ. All books can be obtained from the Federal Literature Department, c/o PO Box 629 Mulgrave North 3170. Phone (03) 790 1000.



Papers

No. 1. Speaking in Tongues: An Examination of the New Testament Evidence

by Dr N.G. Aubrey

No. 2. Paul's Letter to the Galatians

by Ron Graham (Both published by Vital Publications \$2 each plus postage \$1 each).

For some time the Federal Literature Department of Churches of Christ has looked at publishing material that is longer than The Pamphlet Club length and yet shorter than a booklet/book size. They have decided that if they have suitable manuscripts these will be published in an occasional papers format. Each one will be typeset and then photocopied as demand requires. The first two contributions to the series have been published. There are two other papers in the pipeline for publication some time in 1993.

The first paper is written by Neville Aubrey from New South Wales. He has a lengthy look at the way that tongues (*glossolalia*) is dealt with in the New Testament. As he notes, there are only two writers in the New Testament who discuss this phenomena: Paul and Luke (in Acts). His paper is an examination of what the New Testament has to say on tongues so that the type of questions he raises in relation to the issue in the Introduction can then be dealt with in a reasonably informed manner. Neville does not attempt to answer all the questions, just to look at the biblical material. It is a welcome contribution to this debate.

The second paper, by Ron Graham, is a reworking of the material he presented as a lunchtime series at the Brisbane Federal Conference in 1990. This paper is a brief introduction to Paul's Letter to the Galatians and some of the major issues that Paul deals with in his letter. The material is a revision of his three addresses so that it reads very well and provides an excellent introduction to any person or group who is involved in a more detailed look at Galatians. —CRA

of Christ's death into a common community. This is an excellent study, simple in form, yet able to take us into some deep contemplation of the truths that emerge from the cross. The booklet also has some great worship ideas, which would be very appropriate at Easter. A valuable resource for groups from youth to those that consider themselves mature in the faith. —Paul Scully



Harvest: The Idea For Our Time

by Don Smith (Vital Publications) \$12
Barry McMurtrie gives an accurate description of this book when he says it is "visionary, biblical and stimulating". He goes on to make the following pertinent comments about the book and its author, "Evangelism and a new reforming role for Churches of Christ are the themes of this book. Both spring from our founding ideals. Since coming to office in the 1960s, in a decade of decline and uncertainty about evangelism, Don Smith has challenged us to set new di-

rections. His advocacy of Church Growth strategies, initiatives in church planting, commitment to the emerging larger churches and encouragement of smaller congregations make him the ideal person to speak about the future."

I found the book both enjoyable and challenging. Don has charted a way forward which is both true to the heritage of our founders and relevant to the contemporary situation. He has shown how our restoration (he would prefer the term "reformation") ideals can be combined with the best idea of the church growth writers to give Churches of Christ a uniquely valuable and dynamic role in the future of the Australian church.

This is an honest and penetrating appraisal of where we are as a movement. Don is essentially positive about the future and gives practical suggestions as to how we can maximise our contribution to the advance of Christianity in Australia.

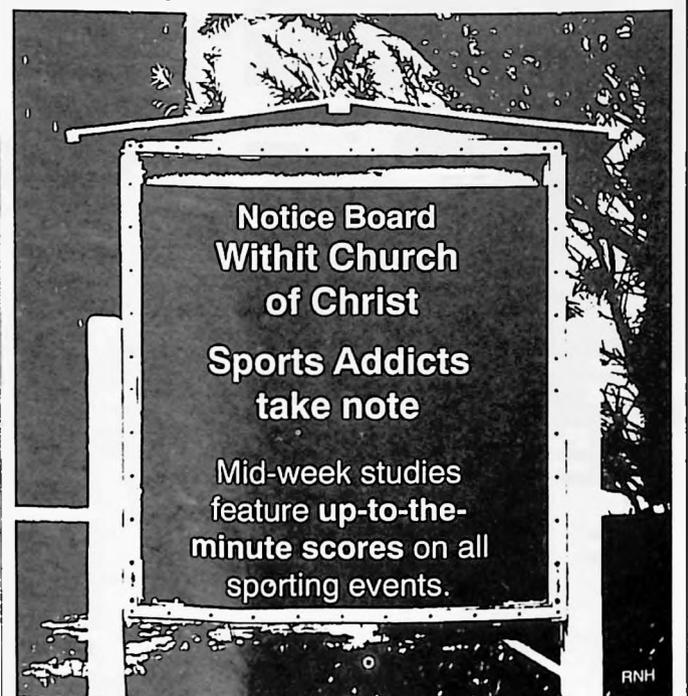
This is a book to be taken seriously. We need to read it, discuss it and also be open to the directions it sets. —Alan Hermann

Books

Journey to the Cross

by Jeff May (Vital Publications) \$5.

The cross is the heart of the gospel, and Jeff May has taken a fresh approach. The first study deals with Jesus' struggle before the cross and relates that to our struggle in life. The consideration of prayer and finding power is very appropriately addressed. The second study is the trial of Jesus. Again, the subject of power in this situation was raised. The issue of using our power in the way of the world or the kingdom of God is a very timely subject for Christians. The third study focusses on Peter and his denial of the Lord. Jeff relates Peter's experience to our own denials of the Lord when we aren't faithful, and how to cope with such experiences. In the final study, Jeff relates the death of Christ to the potential that all peoples can be brought together because



People

Dirty Laundry

Conference President getting involved



• Max and Peter doing the laundry

Max Gowty lived up to his reputation as a practical man when he spent a day recently as a volunteer at Betheden, one of the nursing homes of the Vic-Tas Department of Community Care. Max is chairman of the Board of Directors of the Department, and decided to experience first-hand what it is like to give practical care to older people.

He has volunteered one day at each of the residential care facilities managed by the department. Assisting Max at

Betheden was Peter Bradley. Peter Bradley will work as full-time chaplain within the Department's residential care facilities, commencing 1994.

Peter currently works part-time as chaplain. He has built up an extensive understanding of the pastoral needs of older persons. Peter particularly has worked hard at meeting the spiritual needs of people suffering dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Peter has also developed pastoral support for carers of older persons.

Ron Hewitt Joins NSW College Team

Coordinator of supervised ministry



• Ron Hewitt

The Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College is delighted to announce the appointment of Ron Hewitt as coordinator of supervision from the beginning of 1994. As part of his ministry, Ron will



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

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

Write enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

CSF, PO Box 17,
Anna Bay 2301

Eric Hart

Health difficulties

Since 28 October Eric Hart, former minister and Director of the Queensland Social Service Department, has been critically ill in Westmead Hospital, Sydney, originally with severe systemic infection and a heart condition. His infection resolved, he was moved from the

coronary care unit to rehabilitation.

On 19 November Eric suffered a stroke and is paralysed down his left side. He will not be returning to Shaw House and is awaiting admission to a nursing home.

Until such time, friends who write to Eric should use his daughter Jenny's address: c/o J. Hart, 11 Ardgriffe St, Enfield 2136.

undertake a one day per week appointment as part of the ministry team at Pendle Hill.

At College, Ron will be responsible for the effectiveness of supervision for all students in areas of spiritual development, integration of theory and practice, and practical ministry. For the Carlingford/Teloepa Ministry Centre this will be a direct responsibility. For Wollongong and Manning

Valley Ministry Centres Ron will have overall responsibility for the effectiveness of supervision with the day to day specifics being done by the Ministry Centre coordinators (Carol Preston for Wollongong and Alex Wilson for Manning Valley).

Ron brings great gifts and commitment to this ministry and he will be a great asset to the total work of the college.

SOUTHERN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

PRESENTS

1993 CHRISTMAS IN
SONG

SUNDAY 12th DEC.

AT 7pm

MUSIC DRAMA



"STREETS OF CHRISTMAS"

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY AFFINITY

PLUS

CHRISTMAS SONGS

BY THE CHILDREN AND CHOIR



OFFERING
FOR
CHRISTMAS BOWL APPEAL

ALL WELCOME

IN AUDITORIUM
4 CHESTERVILLE RD CHELTENHAM

Happenings

An Auckland Christian radio station for Pacific Island listeners has begun broadcasting. "UCB (United Christian Broadcasters) Pacific", known as *Reo Atumotu* or "The Voice of the Islands", went to air to coincide with the start of the touch rugby season. *Reo Atumotu* will broadcast live on weekends until next April when it will become fully operational. Most of the music will be "island" music, relevant to young people. It will not be all Christian music necessarily, but it will be clean secular.

The executive secretary of the Bible Society in Burundi was one of the republic's political leaders killed in a military coup in October. Giles Bimazubute, recently appointed deputy speaker of the Parliament, was taken from his home in the early hours of the morning of the uprising and shot dead. Mr Bimazubute, a Roman Catholic, had served the Bible Society since 1987, establishing "Friends of the Bible", a group raising local funds.

Argentinean booksellers are protesting against competition from the ship *Logos II* which carries more than 10,000 Bibles and books in many languages. As a tax-exempt operation, *Logos II* offers literature at prices ordinary Christian booksellers can never meet, the Argentinean Chamber of Protestant Booksellers says. They have seen a big drop in sales since the ship's arrival in La Plata in August. But, says Operation Mobilisation, who operates *Logos II*, the concerns raised usually vanish when the booksellers take part in the ship's operation.

The Israeli Postal Authority has launched a scheme whereby it is possible to send Christmas greeting cards via Bethlehem. A special festive stamp with a panoramic view of Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity has been released. A spe-

cial decorated postal seal with the name of the city of Bethlehem, in Hebrew, English and Arabic, an illustration of the Star of Bethlehem and the words "Holy Land" will be impressed on the stamp. A gold-coloured "Via Bethlehem" sticker will be affixed to each envelope. Each greeting card should be placed in an unstamped addressed envelope, and then all placed in a large envelope together with 60c for each greeting card, payable by cheque made out to the Israeli Postal Authority. The envelope should be sent to Bethlehem Post, PO Box 77777, Bethlehem, Israel (Christmas Cards). The minimum order is 10 greetings cards.

On 14 November, St Augustine's Anglican Church, Unley, SA, held a Pet Sunday in a bid to encourage more people to attend. Apart from dogs and cats, people brought along a turtle, guinea pigs, canaries and mice. 120 normally attend the Sunday service, but on this day the congregation swelled to about 240.

An eminent team from the World Council of Churches will visit Cairns, Darwin, Derby, Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane, Sydney and Uluru, 17 November-2 December to hear the voice of Aboriginal and Islander people in the light of the High Court's decision on Mabo. The team will consist of Bishop Leslie Boseto (Solomon Islands), Mukami McCrum (Kenya), Pablos Santos (The Phil-

ippines), Rev Bob Scott (New Zealand), Brenda Fitzpatrick (WCC's Communication Unit in Australia) and Delphine Stanford (WCC's Program to Combat Racism). The group will meet with members of the Aboriginal community, government and church representatives.

Two Canadian denominations merged into the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada in August. The Missionary Church of Canada had 99 churches and the Evangelical Church of Canada had 46 churches before the merger.

The American television network CBS will screen Catherine Marshall's book *Christy* from January next year. The weekly drama focuses on Christy's search for a purpose in life.

21 November was the first anniversary of the passing of legislation by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia which removed impediments to the ordination of women to the priesthood. The first ordination of women to the priesthood took place in Adelaide on 6 December. There are presently 99 women who are priests in 11 diocese and MOW (The Movement for the Ordination of Women) believes another 15-20 will be ordained in the regular December to March ordination period. It is estimated that 5% of Anglican clergy in Australia are women.

Sydney's Wesley Mission two years ago took

over all commercial radio station 2GB. Revenue for the first 3 months of the current year is on budget and for the first time since 1990 the company recorded an operational profit. A revitalised marketing program, particularly in direct sales, has led 2GB to be currently ranked 4th amongst Sydney commercial radio stations. They are now working on lifting ratings as well as continuing to raise revenue. Wesley Mission has benefited with an increased public awareness of its work and through the raising of charitable funds.

In a small provincial town located in a politically sensitive area on the border of Myanmar (Burma), the Bawm people, who number about 17,000, recently received the first Bible in their own language. The presence of foreigners, staff of the United Bible Societies, was limited to only 4 hours. Started 41 years ago, the translation has progressed through war, drought, flood, two generations of translators, new typefonts for the script, printing in Hong Kong, storage in Chittagong port during the August 1991 cyclone, and impounding as "suspect material" until a few months ago.

During 1993 the Sydney City Mission helped more than 150,000 people in need. Missions beat emergency street patrol assisted over 39,000 homeless and distressed people during the year. The Mission housed 650

homeless men, women and young people and families each night of the year, as well as providing 693,000 meals. Their Mission Training Service trained 7086 unemployed people through 87 different programs placing 4039 participants into employment or further education. Federal and State Government funding provided them with 57.3% of their income with donations, legacies and fees making up the balance.

For the year ended June 1993, records for sales and Bible distribution throughout Australia were broken by the Bible Society. The distribution of Bibles increased to a record 278,363 copies, with the Good News Bible accounting for most of the increase. Audio scriptures have shown substantial growth, primarily due to the Faith Comes by Hearing project, and attained 400% of the level of 5 years ago. The Bible Society is now Australia's leading supplier of Bible Software. 40% of Good News Bible production has been moved from Hong Kong to Victoria.

This year every baseball team in the Australian Baseball League has the services of a Chaplain through Sports & Leisure Ministry's "Baseball Ministry". The Waverley Reds, based in Melbourne, were the last team to approve the appointment of a chaplain. Three of the chaplains hold "chapel services" as in the US Baseball League.

Pontius' Puddle



Freda Morris

An Appreciation

This tribute to Mrs Freda Morris is prompted by her recent retirement as secretary of the Australian Churches of Christ Historical Society. This has been just one of her many activities throughout a life-long association with Churches of Christ. In fact, Freda has been very much the perpetual secretary, having been a secretary in church work for a total of over 50 years, sometimes holding positions concurrently.

At a very early age she was taken to the Northcote, Vic, church Bible School which she attended until she was seven. There was then a move to East Malvern where she joined the Bible School conducted at the

College of the Bible. The school moved to the Gardiner church when its building was opened in 1923. She was baptised in October 1924 by the minister, Horace Kingsbury, and welcomed into church membership. She became active in the Phi Beta Pi Club and was a Sunday School teacher herself for eight years. Freda was married to Keith Morris at Gardiner in February, 1936, by A.R. Main.

Keith's employment took them to Newcastle, NSW, where they attended the Hamilton church for six years. There Freda was Chaplain of the Phi Beta Pi Club, a Sunday School teacher, a member of the Wom-

en's Fellowship, and two of their children, Wendy and John, were born.

A further move brought them back to Melbourne and into membership at Hartwell for four years. Again active in her local church, Freda taught the senior girls of the Sunday School, commenced what became a strong and successful Good Companions' Club and was a member of the CWF. A third child, Susan, was born. The family moved to East Malvern in 1946 and attended the East Malvern church (later renamed Ashburton) which had been commenced in 1942. A fourth child, William, was born in 1948.

Freda became, and still is, an exceptional worker and leader at the Ashburton church, holding office in numerous ways: President of CWF (11 years); Phi Beta Pi Chaplain; Sunday School teacher of senior girls; Kindergarten Superintendent; CWF secretary (13 years); teacher of Religious Education at the nearby Solway Primary School (14 years); Board member (1950 on); Elder (1981 on); church secretary (12 years and continuing in office).

On 1 February, 1986, they had the joy of celebrating their Golden Wedding. After several years of ill health, Keith died on 25 March, 1989.

Freda's interests were wider than the local church and com-



• Freda Morris

munity. The CWF State Executive benefited from her talents and leadership: Assistant Secretary 1966; Secretary 1967-72; President 1977-78; CWF delegate to National Council of Women; CWF delegate to Australian Church Women 1977-1993, being assistant secretary for three years and National Secretary 1981-1983. The Vic-Tas Conference elected Freda a member of the State Executive in 1973; she was the first woman to become a member of the Executive in her own right and served until 1976. In 1977 she was the official CWF representative on the Executive.

Freda Morris has excellent secretarial abilities and skills, and her many years of service are testimony to her devotion and commitment to Christ and the church. All this is true, not least of all, about her work as secretary of our national Historical Society. Freda became a member of the Society's Committee in 1978 and was secretary from 1979 until her retirement in September 1993.

This was a most demanding task. It involved a large amount of correspondence, research for information requested, securing articles for the *Digest* and preparing them for the Editor, correspondence and co-operation with other Societies such as the American Disciples of Christ Historical Society and the Australian Genealogical Society, transcribing recorded interviews and hands-on work in the Society's library. She was also involved in the major task of transferring that library from the College of the Bible to CCTC. All this and more was done most graciously and efficiently. —Ken W. Barton

The Christmas Bowl

In 1994, Christmas Bowl priorities through ecumenical and church partnership include:

- An AIDS education program in Kenya
- Empowering indigenous peoples throughout the world, especially Aboriginal and Islander people
- Women's health and educational programs in Cambodia
- The campaign to End Child Prostitution in Asian tourism (ECPAT)

To give, and for information about other Christmas Bowl work, contact your local parish or the Australian Council of Churches (03) 650 6811.



CHRISTIAN
FILM &
VIDEO

VIDEOS FAMILY ISSUES

We have a large selection of videos for the INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY. Dramas, documentaries, famous speakers, covering topics and situations for children, youth, parent-teen relationships, marriage-enrichment.....Childrens videos from only \$9.95.

Please write or call for more information:-
AUSTRALIAN RELIGIOUS FILM SOCIETY.

Cnr Blenheim Rd & Warwick St
P.O. Box 97 NORTH RYDE. 2113.

☎ (02) 888 2511. 008 226 516

Suppliers of Christian Films and Videos, A.V. equipment, Overhead Projection supplies, Christian History magazine

Helping You, Helping Your Church

When you insure your house or contents with Ansvar or Aware, both you and your church will benefit.

When you commence one of our household policies:

You'll benefit from:

- Dealing with a company that has more than 30 years' experience in insuring homes, cars and churches in Australia
- An inexpensive premium for a quality policy which includes new for old replacement on all contents, including linen and clothing, regardless of age

Your church will benefit with:

- A \$20 donation to help your church, mission or a charity
- If you or your spouse are retrenched we will continue your voluntary giving up to \$500



ANSVAR
INSURANCE FOR NON-DRINKERS



AWARE
INSURANCE FOR CHURCH PEOPLE

We're here for you

Victoria
New South Wales
South Australia
Western Australia
Queensland

20 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000. Phone: (03) 650 9711
419 Church Street, North Parramatta 2151. Phone: (02) 683 4166
202 Glen Osmond Road, Fullarton 5063. Phone: (08) 338 1900
8 Clive Street, West Perth 6005. Phone: (09) 321 6291
157 Ann Street, Brisbane 4000. Phone: (07) 221 8449

Gay

Gordon Stirling

All animals, including *Homo sapiens*, are highly endowed sexually in order to preserve their respective species. Nature's way is for male and female between them to continue the species. And the Creator has thrown in a bonus in that the sex act is enjoyable in its own right as well as ensuring the continuation of life on earth.

Obviously nature did not intend anything but male-female sexual relationships. Anything else is deviant and sometimes in nature there are deviations from the norm with unfortunate consequences, such as in carcinoma and leukemia.

In spite of the claim by some gays that their lifestyle is a perfectly natural sexual orientation, it is clearly deviant. Nature has its own ways of expressing its disapproval of deviant behaviour, as seen in the AIDS epidemic. Likewise, nature visits venereal disease on heterosexual deviants.

Gays have been round for a long time, although homosexuality seems to become more common in nations that are enjoying periods of great affluence accompanied by extensive social change along with high sophistication. The Bible tells of Sodom and Gomorrah, an ancient civilisation of this type. One of these cities has given its name to homosexual activity, "sodomy". Among the ancient Hebrews homosexuality was outlawed and incurred the death penalty (Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13, Deuteronomy 23:18).

Homosexuality was open and widely practised among Greeks and Romans for two centuries BC and in the first AD centuries. So the New Testament inevitably has something to say about it. Some members of the early church were converted homosexuals (See 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10, Galatians 5:19-21, 1 Timothy 1:10). Paul included homosexuality along with many other pagan

behaviour patterns as being characteristic of the former lifestyle of Christians, now set free by the Spirit of God from these things.

I have heard Christians quoting Paul saying that a homosexual cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. He did say that, but he also listed along with homosexuals the following people who likewise cannot inherit the Kingdom (see passages above): people who show hostility, jealous people, people given to anger, selfish people, people who do not relate well with others, judgmental people, greedy people, people who put others down, envious people and people devoted to material things.

However as well as these negatives, the New Testament also counsels the way of unconditional love to everybody, including gays. It is possible for Christians to accept people unconditionally without condoning their behaviour patterns. Christians have a ministry to everybody, including homosexuals. We can accept gays without condoning their sexual preference.

Paul reports that some former homosexuals accepted the power of the living Christ to abandon their sexual preference. But we are not given details as to whether they simply ceased their gay practices or whether they became miraculously heterosexual and thus able to enter normal marriage relationships. But we are committed to proclaiming the power of the living Christ to all people and with confidence to assure homosexuals who want to be free that Christ can set them free. However with the message we must commit ourselves to lifelong support of former homosexuals, no matter what the cost, in the same way that AA offers unconditional support for alcoholics.

I have known personally homosexuals who have made

a Christian commitment and who have trusted God to set them free and have then entered into marriage with heterosexual Christians and found normal marital relationships impossible, either leaving the marriage or staying in the marriage while lapsing into some homosexual practice "on the side". These have been splendid people caught in a relentless trap.

The way is not easy for those conditioned into homosexuality. It is easy enough for some of us glibly to say, "If only they had trusted in the Lord they would have won the victory!" But how many of us trust the Lord that much in overcoming some of our unfortunate ways? How many of us would trust the Lord enough to give what it requires to support a converted homosexual through the lapses and the pain and the disillusionment often experienced?

But most homosexuals do not want to be changed. They are fighting to have their lifestyle accepted as an alternative and valid lifestyle. They argue that they are not homosexual by choice but as the result of their genetic structure. At the moment the experts do not seem to agree about whether some people are born homosexual or whether they become so because of strong psychological conditioning beyond their control. But it is a fact that homosexuality however it is derived is a powerful force.

The homosexual exhibitionism in such events as the Gay Mardi Gras arises from the long history of legal and social repression of gays, and it is their attempt to get acceptance and overcome discrimination. And as citizens of a democratic society they have the same rights that the rest of us have, whatever their sexual alignment, provided that they do not interfere with the rights and well-being of other people, in exercising their sexual preference.

As Christians we believe that responsible heterosexuality is the divine plan of things. But we do not join the "poofster bashers". We do not support any sort of discrimination against gays or anyone else. We do not put on a show of being shocked by deviant behaviour. Rather we try to understand the plight of the homosexual person trapped inside powerful urges, both those who have no desire to be changed and those who would like to go the hard complex way out of their condition. We will accept gays as persons without condoning their sexual orientation. We will support any of them who look to the gospel as a way to freedom. We will be less inclined to quote, "No homosexual shall enter the Kingdom," and more inclined to quote, "Inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these you have done it to me."

Electrical Service

Churches—Domestic
Commercial—Industrial
Installation—Additions
Maintenance—Repairs

Phillip Clayden

(Lic. A Grade Electrical Contractor)
Phone 24 hours 018 368 801

After hours (03) 315 2684

FREE QUOTES

ALL WORK GUARANTEED
24-HOUR EMERGENCY
RESPONSE

Light and Security Systems
Smoke Detectors
Safety Switches (RCDs)
REC 11261

Have you thought of helping

"The Australian Christian"

In its ministry among
Churches of Christ?

Why not include us in your will?
The following wording could be used
in your will:

I give and bequeath \$ (or a percentage of the total estate) to "The Australian Christian", the national journal of Churches of Christ in Australia, absolutely for the use and benefit of the organisation free from all debts, funeral and testamentary expenses.

Thetwin towns of Port and South Hedland are located on the North West coast of Western Australia about half way between Perth and Darwin. Hedland is a mining town based around the iron ore industry.

The church itself is located in South Hedland and began through the work of our Federal Aborigines Board in 1983. The membership is 38 with a mix of Aboriginal and other folk and a Sunday School of 25.

attractive to Aboriginal folk. Their services tend to be more informal, with many of the songs having a country and western feel—this is particularly appropriate since many of the people come from the stations. Rather than keyboards (piano or organ) guitars provide the music and, as a rule, the services are conducted in English (this avoids the problem of the multiplicity of tribal languages that may exist even in a relatively small region.



Part of the reason for the mix is the distance to the nearest Churches of Christ—to the north, 130 km to Marble Bar, and to the south, 900 km to Carnarvon.

As might be expected, isolation is a problem the fellowship faces. The tyranny of distance means that the Hedland church finds it very hard to interact with other conference churches. One thing they do appreciate is the fellowship of people who are passing through, retirees or people on holidays. The church also appreciates the regular visits by the conference president each year.

The Aboriginal component of the fellowship is made up of folk from town plus people who visit from outlying communities (these communities have no church of their own on site, thus the Christian folk in them can be quite isolated from worship and fellowship with a congregation).

Being that the church is an Aboriginal fellowship some find it hard to relate to the differences in their style of worship. Yet, in many ways, this is also their real strength. For whilst they may follow much of the form of Anglo-Saxon worship services, there are some important differences that make their services more

An important part of the church is its caring, relaxed friendly atmosphere, which is aimed at being related to the close family ties that are found in tribal communities, the goal is that people would come to understand the church as their extended family.

The differences between Aboriginal culture and white culture also necessitate different approaches to evangelism. The importance of the family means that outreach often works best in family situations. Tribal elders can cause problems if they oppose Christianity, but many do not because when people become Christian a side-effect is that they also become good community members. A number of issues need to be dealt with when considering the integration of Aboriginal culture with Christianity. Sonny Graham (minister at Hedland) comments that we need to teach them what the Bible has to say and then let them make their own decisions under God. Finally, you can't rush things. Trust is an important part of their society, and it takes time for it to be earned. You have to learn to listen before you have the right to speak. But, whilst it can take time, Sonny comments that the results are usually much more lasting.

GOLDEN WEDDING

RETCHFORD—WEBB Peter and Beril, married 11 December 1943 at Church of Christ Canley Vale, NSW. Love and congratulations from children John and Jeannine, son-in-law John, grandchildren Dwayne, Anthony, Aaron, Daniel, Kelly. Present address: 6 Kelfield St, Toowoomba 4350.

DEATHS

BAKER Freda. October 24, 1993 at Pendle Hill, NSW. Loving wife of Arthur (deceased). Very sadly missed mother and mother-in-law of Ray and Janet, Beverly and Tom (Beaman). Fondly remembered grandmother of Peter and Roslyn, Graham, Tim, Roslyn, Narelle and Chris. Loving great-grandmother of Michael and Heather. In God's loving care. Aged 87.

GREEN Percy, 8 Mortlake Road, Graceville 4075, passed away peacefully on 19 November in Holy Spirit Hospital, aged 87 years. Dearly loved husband of Estelle (nee Sperling). Father, father-in-law, of Ross and Myrtle Green, Lola and Colin Lebeter, and Betty and Kevin Dunn. Grandfather and great-grandfather of their families (nine grandchildren and their spouses, also ten great-grandchildren), all dearly loved.

THOMSON Annie. Suddenly and peacefully on 10 November 1993, aged 92. Loving wife and committed partner of Wilkie (deceased). Loved and loving mother of Lola and Doug (deceased) and Chloris and Maurice. Much loved Grandma of Tim and Julie, Jill and Mike, Rod and Suzie, Caitlyn (deceased), Jenny and Alan, Mandy and Peter, Chris and Joanne. Wonderful Great-Grandma of Michael, Liam, Laura, Steven, James, Roxie, Mia and Gabrielle. A long, fruitful Christian life, now happily with her Lord.

THANKS

SKERMAN Mrs Doris Skerman and the family of the late Raymond Skerman and son Mark, wish to give thanks for floral tributes, and condolences, the Civil Aviation

Looking to the future, the fellowship would like to move to their own premises (currently they hire the Anglican church facilities). They would also like to expand their outreach to the outlying Aboriginal communities and even to the town itself which has a large unchurched population.

Authority, Search and Rescue, Police and the many friends who prayed.

IN MEMORIAM

HAMMOND Eric 27 November 1992. Loving memories of a wonderful father. Marge, Ken and family.

SMITH Jack 14.12.86. In loving remembrance of my husband Jack. "Till the day dawns." —Dorothy.

BUILDERS

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

HOLIDAYS

GRAMPIANS SUNRISE HOLIDAY UNITS Modern FSC, 6 2-BR units, 1 3-BR cottage, games room. Superb views, farm setting with hand fed animals. Suit family holidays, reunions, small group camps or retreats. Speak to Bruce or Marilyn Bertram (053) 56 6300.

HOUSEBOAT "White Heron" 8-berth. Moored at Blanchetown, SA. Phone (08) 365 1153 or (085) 40 5100 or write 7 Gameau Rd, Paradise 5075.

POINT LONSDALE Holiday house. Excellent position. 3 bedrooms. \$200 p.w., \$250 school holidays (not Christmas-January). C.R. Brough (03) 808 2815.

POINT LONSDALE Modern FSC unit, accommodates two. Quiet garden setting. Close beach/shops. Also small on-site van, suit couple only. Reasonable rates both. Phone (052) 52 2763.

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

STRACK REMOVALS

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

Strack Strack
(Proprietor)

Office and Store
45 McIntosh Street
Airport West 3042
Telephone (03) 370 3737
(03) 330 2211
Fax (03) 330 3039
AH (054) 27 0472

"Service since 1907"

Some Songs for Christmas

Viney Longthorp

There is a rumour that Christmas is fast approaching. By now most of the big stores and the malls have switched off the interminable muzak and are regaling shoppers with music to evoke popular images of Christmas.

Thus Bing Crosby again moons for a white Christmas, whilst that celebrated reindeer of the luminous nose, uses his navigational skills to ensure that Santa gets through.

There are, of course, other kinds of music whereby we can celebrate and meditate the meaning of this season of joy,

peace, and goodwill. This year Move Records celebrate 25 years of producing fine music and their current catalogue has some excellent CDs and cassettes of Christmas music. Any one of them would make a fitting Christmas present for the musically inclined. The production in each case is fully professional and the singing is fresh and enthusiastic. A wide variety of tastes is catered for.

- **An Anthology Of Sacred Carols For Classical Guitar** James Sundquist presents some well-know carols such as: "Joy to the World", "Hark the

Herald Angels Sing", "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear", "Adeste Fideles". There are eight other carols as well. (MD 3069, CD \$25.00; MC 3069, cassette \$11.95)

- **Bach Byrd Britten**

—including a ceremony of carols.

The choir of Ormond College offers Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols" and "Five Flower Songs". There is also William Byrd's "Mass for 4 Voices" and J.S. Bach's "Lobet den Herrn". This choir has toured Europe to rave reviews. (MD 3104, CD \$25.00; MC 3104, cassette \$17.95)

- **Carols Of Many Nations**

Sung by the Australian Children's Choir. The carols have been chosen from many different Christian cultures, particularly from those represented in the Australian community. Items include: "Notte Placida", "The Three Drovers", "Bright December Moon", "Angels from the Realms of Glory". (MC 3049, cassette \$11.95)

- **Ding Dong Merrily On High**

The Douglas Lawrence Choristers and the Men of the Ormond Singers present 13 well-loved traditional carols. A bonus is that the recording was made in St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, with its unsurpassed acoustics.

Included are: "Ding Dong Merrily on High", "As With Gladness Men of Old", "Unto Us A Child Is Born", "A Boy is

Born", etc. (MC 3039, cassette \$11.95)

- **15 Favourite Christmas Carols**

A wonderful collection this of carols arranged and conducted by Christopher Willcock. Recorded in St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, it includes the Festival Brass Ensemble, tubular bells and glockenspiel. Some carols are: "While Shepherds Watched", "We Three Kings", "Silent Night", "The Coventry Carol", "Sussex Carol", and many more. (MC 3019, cassette \$11.95)

- **O Come All Ye Faithful**

The Faye Dumont Singers present this excellent collection of well known carols, such as: "Deck the Halls", "O Little Town of Bethlehem", "Children Go Where I Send You", etc. (MC 3053, cassette \$11.95)

- **Sing Round The Year**

18 carols selected and composed by Donald Swann. Performers are Donald Swann himself and a children's choir. Six of the carols are by that modern writer Sydney Carter. There are also marvellous musical settings by Donald Swann of traditional and contemporary material. (MC 3002, cassette \$11.95)

- **We Wish You A Merry Christmas**

The choir of Ormond College presents a varied selection of 22 carols. The conductor is the renowned musician Douglas Lawrence. There are organ interludes from J.S. Bach and Pachelbel. Included in the recording are: "We Wish You A Merry Christmas", "Sans Day Carol", "A Babe is Born I Wys", "In Dulci Jublio", "The Holy and the Ivy", and many more. (MD 3079, CD \$25.00; MC 3079, cassette \$17.95)

Items may be purchased direct from Move Records, PO Box 266, Carlton South 3053 (Phone (03) 497 3105), or from most church bookshops and from all good music stores.

CORRESPONDENCE

BIBLE COLLEGE



Training for Christian service

- Evangelical/Non-denominational
- Start any time

PACIFIC COLLEGE

DIPLOMAS

DEGREES

MASTER'S DEGREES (needs bachelor's degree in any discipline)

DOCTORAL DEGREES

Majors include: Bible, theology, counselling, church ministries, education, cults, archaeology, missions, comparative religion, apologetics and philosophy.

PO Box 475, Glenroy, Victoria 3046
Phone: (03) 354 8941

Les Lawlor says...

Lawlors the White Ant People are experts in the treatment of all kinds of pests—and have been serving South Australia for over 50 years—if you are troubled by pests, call Lawlors.

LAWLORS PTY. LTD.
THE PEST CONTROL PEOPLE
6-10 Henley St., Torrensville
Phone (08) 43 9636



Leadership and the Roles People Play

Bruce Armstrong

In our desire to be a people of the Book, we have often helped ourselves to a biblical term and applied it in a way that has effectively robbed it of its long-term intent. We presently face this problem with the terms "minister", "pastor", "elder" and "deacon".

Not only has this led to an imbalance in decision making, authority and responsibility, it has also led to square pegs in round holes giving up in unconscionable frustration. Further, it now compounds the dilemma and our ability to get past this period of stagnation in our churches.

Our leadership structure and congregational decision-making process has kept us small. The lack of understanding in our churches in both of these areas has meant that what needs to be accomplished by our leaders in our churches for the sake of the Kingdom of God is virtually impossible until we sort it out.

The undisputed primary leaders of the New Testament church for the first 30 years were the apostles. Peter and John were the dominant leaders of the twelve. Peter was found in Jerusalem and then visiting leading churches of the Roman world. John was also in Jerusalem and then Ephesus. Paul arrived on the scene about five years after the start of the church. His was a roving commission of establishing churches in successive missionary tours across Asia Minor, Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean to Rome.

As the work expanded and greater time demands were placed on the apostles there was need for some of the speciality and time-consuming everyday service work to be given to others. These people were selected and were referred to as "deacons" or "ministers". They were

to be answerable to the apostles and to be spiritually sensitive and would apparently concentrate on a given project to relieve the apostles for the wider responsibility. So in Acts 6 we see the appointment of "deacons" or "servants" or "ministers". This took place about four years after the commencement of the church at Pentecost in Jerusalem. Their role was to accomplish a specific task, leaving the overall responsibility of the church to the apostles.

It was only a matter of time before the death of the apostles, through natural causes or martyrdom, would denude the church of its primary leadership. The apostles had had the major establishment responsibilities of the church. Among their tasks was providing the foundation teaching of the church recorded now in the scriptures. As apostles, they also served as evangelists in the community and elders within the church. However, an evangelist was not expected to be an apostle. Likewise an elder was not expected to fulfil the responsibility of an apostle.

The first New Testament church elders begin to appear about a decade after the formation of the church in Jerusalem.

We read of Barnabas and Paul taking a gift from the church in Antioch to the elders in Jerusalem in anticipation of the famine predicted by the prophet Agabus (Acts 11: 27-30). It was not just a phenomenon of Jewish-dominated churches to have "elders" in their leadership. We find elders appearing in churches made up predominantly of Gentiles as well. Paul and Barnabas appointed elders in every newly formed church on the first missionary tour throughout Galatia (Acts 14). There would be no apostles available for these churches and, at the time, no written scriptures. So elders would give the spiritual oversight to these newly converted people.

Titus appointed elders in Crete. Peter wrote his letter mainly to a Gentile audience and in his first letter addressed the "elders" (1 Peter 5:2, 3). Among the criteria used by Paul and Barnabas to assess elders' credibility for their appointment to such a responsible task at such an early stage (on Paul's own advice given to Timothy)

was their ability to hold authority in their own homes (1 Timothy 3:4).

I would suggest, in keeping with the principle of the appointment of deacons in Acts 6, that when these elders in Galatia, Asia Minor or Crete became busy in the overall church work they also appointed deacons as had the church in Jerusalem.

When the Council of Jerusalem considered the question of the inclusion or otherwise of Jewish practices, the apostles and elders conferred together. Acts 15: 6 indicates shared respect and responsibility.

Paul commissioned Titus to appoint elders in every town on Crete c 65 AD.

When Paul wrote, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, to the church in Ephesus about 30 years after Pentecost and just before his own death, he gives us in principle the list of officers that he considers to be the leadership of the church.

Apostles and Prophets

They were foundation officers whose work in founding

L. C. F. Higgins

**Chartered
Accountant**

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

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

FOR A NEW HOLDEN SEE MURRAY ECKERT

OVER 22 YEARS EXPERIENCE
as a master sales consultant.

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

Member of Blackwood
Church of Christ.

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



Claridge Holden

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



the church is now incorporated in the scriptures. From Ephesians 2:20 it would appear that they had served their purpose in the establishment period and are no longer valid officers for occupancy today.

Evangelists

The charter of New Testament evangelists were in "gospel proclamation" (Acts 8:4-8; 11:19-21) but was wider than simply "preaching the Gospel". Their role was to go in and establish the church, setting it up so that it may proceed to function as the church. It appears that evangelists' charter can be much wider than one church or even one area. Their work involves responsibility with the unconverted as well as organising and instructing the church. (This is seen strongly in the traditional missionary role of today.)

Titus and Timothy were each charged by Paul to do the work of an evangelist. This involved preaching the gospel, setting things in order, appointing elders, reproving, rebuking, exhorting and maintaining sound doctrine (2 Timothy 4:5; Titus 1:5).

Pastors and Teachers

Each of the five officers listed by Paul are spelt out in terms of their function. Pastor and teacher are functions of the elder, who was also known as a shepherd, bishop or overseer.

It appears that an elder, from New Testament usage, is primarily located in one church and works largely with the converted.

Present-day Equivalents

Today we refer to our paid staff members as "minister", "pastor" or "reverend". We have a church board of elders and deacons.

"Reverend" is not a biblical term nor a healthy modern-day term, therefore is unwarranted and best not used at all.

"Pastor" is a function, not a title—as it is often used today when we call someone "Pastor Jones". In seeing our minister as the pastor we seem to have

been influenced by our British churches. As such we have made our minister a paid elder. This warrants further examination. I would strongly suggest that our minister should be more than just a paid elder, and that is not a put down of eldership but is certainly limiting the minister's function. Because of this practice, it may help us to understand the pallor of our churches presently. Additional ministry team members may well play the role of a paid elder, or paid Christian education director et al.

"Minister" in the New Testament is a term equivalent in use to the term "deacon". However, if we use it in the manner of the New Testament, as "minister, deacon, servant" it implies being restricted to "serving tables". We use the term "minister" today in a wider sense and I would suggest it is an acceptable designation for a paid ministry leader in our churches.

Care should be taken to differentiate between "professional ministers", who are cloistered, and "missionary ministers", who treat the world as their oyster. Professionals insulate themselves from the real world, serve the converted in the confines of their own church and run a "closed shop". They may be engaged in a number of conference committees but are unrelated to the unchurched Australian culture. Evangelist/missionary ministers are conscious of the unconverted and their responsibility to reach them.

Our present paid solo ministers or ministry team leaders are the equivalent of the New Testament evangelist. As Kennon L. Callahan indicates in *Effective Church Leadership* (Harper and Row), "The day of the professional minister is over, the day of the missionary pastor [evangelist (my insert)] has come." Callahan also warns that "The day of the church culture is over. The day of the mission field has come." Interestingly, such a leader or minister is often known in our American Christian churches as the evangelist.

Implications

The elders, together with the evangelist, should work side by side as the leaders of the local congregation. The elders should give pastoral care, teach, counsel etc. They should be mature adults who can give the lead and make decisions and who are respected in their church, their own households and in the community.

Paid or professional ministers should be evangelists, organising the church in conjunction with the elders. Their qualities as "professionals" should allow them to set the pace in the community, on the platform and in vision casting for the future development of the church. Any paid ministerial staff should be under the minister's direction and work as extension of minister's ministry.

The deacons have the responsibility to see that specific areas of work within the church's life are able to function. Answerable to the elders and evangelist, they should carry set tasks and may have others who work with them to accomplish the desired end. For example a deacon may have the responsibility to organise a missionary weekend, invite approved personnel, arrange displays, advertise etc. Deacons could be elected by the congregation or simply appointed by the elders to fulfil their tasks.

Present-day Boards

The real responsibility for the overall leadership of the church should be in the hands of the evangelist and the elders. They may appoint deacons to carry out the business management of the church, who may keep secretarial and financial records, advise in the handling of the finance because of their expertise, service the buildings, play musical instruments ("a specialist ministry"), record the services and messages etc. The elders, with the evangelist, establish policy and many day-to-day decisions may then be made by the office staff or ministry team in line with those policies, without having to wait for meetings to be convened,

avoiding costly or time consuming delays.

With these elected leaders taking their rightful place, making decisions and giving the lead we move into a much better mode for progress. Congregational government restricts the growth of a church for, as the church begins to grow, it takes greater time to gain full church consultation and majority support and vote. Further, not everyone can be consulted, or costly delays are endured as postal votes etc. are taken. Further, in many matters not everyone is capable of understanding what is at stake and this may lead to domination by the lowest common denominator. Emotional appeals may sway the vote against the sense of carefully weighed values and logic.

The congregation should be consulted and approval sought in such major issues as the appointment of elders, senior staff, land or building acquisition or sale. The vote should be taken after adequate information is given and a reasoned recommendation brought forward by the elders and evangelist. A range of options may be given but then the reasoned decision and choice of the leadership should be put forward. A simple majority of votes should decide the question. Requirements for higher percentage votes such as 75% or 80% in favour may allow a small percentage to torpedo worthwhile advancement.

Maintaining a board of deacons to "run the church" is without scriptural or sound management foundation. The leadership should be in the hands of the elders and evangelist, who seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they interpret the pressures and plan in the light of their mission to reach the unconverted. Leaders must keep their goals clearly in mind and as well need to be sensitive to the rate of understanding and the capacity of their members to cope with change.

• Bruce Armstrong is the senior minister of the Toowoomba, Qld, church.

The Power of Paradigms

Mike Folland

The word "paradigm" has become a bit of a buzzword lately, with particular prominence in Stephen R. Covey's book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. It has come to describe the framework of meaning an individual or group uses to make sense of their environment. Or put more simply, the way they see things.

Whilst the paradigm is useful in making sense of information, the particular paradigm also largely affects the information received. For example, a temper tantrum of a two year old makes some sense in the paradigm of "the terrible twos", however, a blind adherence to this paradigm might result in ignoring more serious behavioural problems.

All church communities operate with a variety of paradigms. Some are helpful and provide stimulus for effective mission and ministry, whilst others are limiting and destructive. Further, what was once a helpful framework for ministry in the past, could now be less relevant to a changed culture.

Hugh Mackay, in *Reinventing Australia*, has described the enormous cultural changes that have occurred in Australia over the last 20 years.

Most of the major social, cultural and political landmarks have dramatically shifted ground. The paradigms have shifted.

What of the church? It would seem self-evident that if the

church wishes to maintain its mission of speaking within the community and to the community, it must also change its paradigms.

I was fortunate enough to be included in the Leadership 2000 program trip to the United States, generously sponsored by Christian Projects.

During this horizon expanding experience, it was fascinating to observe those churches which had effectively changed their paradigms and those which had not.

Those churches which appeared to be healthy had effectively changed the paradigms they used to connect with their community, whilst not losing their roots in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There were examples of churches that had maintained a precious understanding of the Gospel, but had lost their voice in expressing it with meaning. There were also churches that appeared to be professional marketing systems that lacked an integrated spirituality of the Kingdom of God.

The lessons I am continuing to reflect upon centre around this critical balance. What paradigms is our church using to make sense of the Christian faith and express it to our community? What stumbling blocks to healthy growth and are being caused by irrelevant paradigms? What new ways of seeing things should we be considering in order to most effectively live out the Kingdom?

Growing Spiritually

What's The Hurry?

Tom Frazer

I'm in limbo. Well, not in the sense of some deep theological thought, but from the point of view that I'm between "revelations" from God.

Usually I'm at a point in life where I have a gut feeling that God wants me to be where I am at, or I can see in the haze ahead of me the possibilities of directions for the future.

Not so at the moment. I'm between jobs, between houses, and close to turning into another passage of life.

Put another way—I'm unemployed, I have my house on the market, and no-one wants to buy it, and my age means I'll soon be at the next season up (or down) in life.

During my lower moments, I don't like what I see.

During my realistic moments, I see that I stand with

many Australians who either have no job, are not sure where they are at, or who soon will be challenged by the next stage in life, be it birth, mature age, or any in between.

During my moments of truth, I face the fact that there is no reason why God should treat me any different to anyone else. I have not yet found the verse in the Bible that promises a "bed of roses" walk all through life.

My reflective moments allow me to ponder on those times in the past when the only answer was to "put my hand in the hand of the man who stilled the waters" and somehow we (me with him) got through.

During my best moments, I know that what has happened in the past can continue to happen. It won't be the same events, because life changes. It won't

be the same answers, because they'll be different events.

What remains constant is the same hand to hold, the same presence to walk with.

The thing I've still to learn is that it is his pace I have to walk at, I guess that's what causes any frustrations.

During my trusting moments, the conviction comes that real faith comprises a combination of his presence, his pace, and his promise.

During my Biblical moments, I am reminded of the promise Jesus made: "I am with you always". If it is true, it's silly not to experience it at all times.

"They that wait ..." Well, that's another moment.

Tom Frazer has just concluded over three years of ministry employed by the

joint board of the Boort and Pyramid Hill, Vic, churches.



330-350 Frankston-Dandenong Road
Seaford 3198
Phone (03) 786 8679

Managed by
Church of Christ
Frankston

1 and 2 bedroom villas
Motel type lodge suites
Waiting list open

Point that Tongue Elsewhere

Neil Marsden

A commentator on the Holocaust (the Nazi plan to eliminate Jews and others from the face of Europe) once said that the furnaces of the concentration camps didn't start with bricks, but with words, and it was the absence of words, that no one stood up in protest, that allowed those words to turn into bricks.

He's absolutely right of course. The mastery with which Hitler delivered his rhetoric bypassed the common sense of ordinary, but desperate, men and women, who followed him

on the strength of trickery that touched their hearts.

Modern military weapons can end life, and even the world, but since time began words have been able to inflict more pain and hatred than all the wars of history put together. Words and gossip can hurt so much that they can be carried around inside someone for an entire lifetime with no visible damage.

The tongue, in the hands of the trained or untrained, is the world's most dangerous instrument of torture and treason. Satan can use it as a Fifth Col-

umn to penetrate behind our faith—and the faith of others. It can maim quickly, effortlessly, unthinkingly, tearing apart the fabric of cohesion and love as easily as a nuclear weapon's capacity to destroy cities and kill millions of innocent people.

Despite exhortations from the Bible, many people still don't understand the danger. The tongue is just as dangerous inside the church as it is anywhere else—it is not caged by holiness. Christianity does not make gossip, uncaring words and insults harmless; though

you get the feeling some people in the church seem to think so as their words spill forth off unforgiving tongues. Too many people confuse free speech with loose talk.

We have to learn to resist the Devil, curb our tongues, exercise self-control and understand some things are better off left unsaid.

Our power of speech and comprehension shouldn't be squandered on idle, empty, useless talk, but on the important issue of spreading the Word of God. Speech is a gift; not a right—use it well.

Comment

Friend

Pauline Ellis Cramer

I stood perfectly still in the middle of my kitchen. My ears strained to hear some kind of noise from my two-year-old son's room. He'd gone in there for his red, plastic hammer several minutes ago. When a two-year-old is that quiet, I thought, there's bound to be a mess in the making.

I put aside my mixing bowl and headed down the hall. Opening my son's bedroom door, I found the mess I expected. Every toy, crayon, colouring book, and puzzle he owned was tossed to the centre of his room.

"Jim, what have you been doing," I exclaimed.

"No find hammer."

"Look at this mess! Your toys get broken when you throw them and your crayons get lost. Just look at your colouring books all wrinkled and torn."

As I lectured, I jerked toys and puzzle pieces from the floor. I didn't realise how shrill my voice had become until I noticed my son standing with his hands over his ears. I paused and silently stared at him.

He lowered his hands, smiled

broadly and said, "Me friend."

He was sure I'd made a mistake. I must have forgotten he and I were friends. No one would talk that way to a friend.

I took him in my arms and kissed his baby-soft cheeks. "Yes, we are friends. Let's see if we can clean the room together." We put everything away in no time and even found his red, plastic hammer.

My young son had reminded me of what Paul says in Ephesians 4:29—"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

Christ taught us to love one another. As a Christian, I try to apply this command through the ways I communicate with others. I want to be a loving listener and speaker. I try to be an encourager, a comforter, and to express a loving attitude. I try to be a friend.

My attitude changes, however, when I talk to myself. That was a dumb thing to do! Why do I say such silly things? I'd like to do at least one thing right. Is that the way I'd talk to a friend? Never! Shouldn't I be friends with myself?

As I watched my son hammering invisible nails with his red, plastic hammer, I whis-

pered a prayer. "Heavenly Father, I know your promises of love, forgiveness, and power are for me as well as my family, friends, and neighbours. Help me to have friendly thoughts for myself and accept myself as the child you love also."

Pauline Ellis Cramer is a Christian writer living in Challis, Idaho. Reproduced from the Christian Standard with permission

Wanted

Copies of
Austral
Publications

Books, Pamphlets,
Leaflets, etc.

For research/archiving
Extra copies donated to
Historical Society

Contact: Chris Ambrose
The Australian Christian
PO Box 101
Essendon North 3041
Phone (03) 379 1219

Life of Tertius

An Ideal
Christmas Gift
Only \$15

(including postage)

Order from:
The Australian Christian
PO Box 101
North Essendon 3041
Phone (03) 379 1219

Baptisms

•Martin Collett, Rebecca Wilson, Milang/Point Sturt, SA •Ashlee Roediger, Steve Anson, Elaine Wallam, Nigel Blazenby, South Perth, WA •Ida-Adelle Phillips, Maidstone, Vic •Ray & Ann Vine, Darren Speers, Derek Henderson, Dianne Jaeschke, Warwick, WA •Isobel Vellacorte, Fremantle, WA •Maurie Nott, Kalamunda, WA •Norman Tahir, Dalkeith Rd, WA •Aaron Jenkins, Justyn Simmonds, Kadina, SA •Jane Miller, Hobart City, Tas •Val Mitchell, Lorna Holman, Coburg, Vic

Marriages

•Tania Oldenburg and Eric Williams, Narelle Mounsey and Ainslie Grosser, South Perth, WA

Deaths

•Mrs Vera Harvey, Miss Millie Mitchell, Milang/Point Sturt, SA •Gordon Kay, Perth, WA •Mrs Elsie Taylor, Fremantle, WA •Stanley Harris Winch, Wangaratta, Vic •Eunice Ennor, Edna Gundry, Ormond, Vic •Philip Bennett, Anne (Nan) Munro, Loyal Byrne, Mervyn Collins, Ainslie, ACT

Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Baker, Freda

(24.10.93) Freda Phillips married Arthur Baker, a COB graduate, who had recently conducted a mission at the church, in 1928 at Moreland, Vic. They spent their honeymoon in Perth, where Arthur held a mission at Inglewood, with Freda as the soloist. Then commenced 35 years of joint full-time ministry, serving churches at Middle Park and Hartwell, Vic, Prospect, SA, Kingsford, Lismore, Lidcombe/Carramar and Enmore, NSW. During her year as President of the NSW Women's Conference in 1961, Freda visited many metropolitan and country churches. On retirement to Ettalong, Freda became a teacher

in the Over 50s Sunday School and President of the Ladies Fellowship at the Baptist Church. She, with Arthur, moved to the Pendle Hill Retirement Village in 1979, becoming leader of the Friendship Centre at the church, and for the next 10 years used her piano playing talent as musician for sing-a-longs, church services and devotional meetings at Shaw House, Roffey Centre and Ashwood House. At a service of thanksgiving conducted by Allan Rae, tributes were brought by Marj Elsmore (State CWF), Lorna Knight and Doug Harrop. Son Ray and daughter Beverly (Beaman) and families give thanks for this life of devotion to the Lord and service to others.

—Allan Rae

Winch, Stanley Harris

(8.11.93) Stan was born at Richmond in 1914. He was the youngest, with two sisters—Bonnie and Ella. Stan's schooling and early life was centred in Melbourne. He served his apprenticeship as a carpenter. He offered these skills willingly for God's service. His first project, in 1930, was as part of the team that built the Mitcham church in a day. He worked on the E.C. Hinrichsen Memorial Chapel at Woolwich in 1958, in the New Hebrides in 1963-64, Carnarvon in 1965 and at Magnetic Island Youth Camp in 1968. Stan married Maisie Langley in 1937 and they had four children—Valerie, Beryl, Max and Kevin. Maisie was a real partner to Stan up until her death in 1974. Stan married Dorothy Zawila in 1981. They spent five active years together until Stan's health gradually deteriorated and for the last five years he was confined to a wheelchair. Through all this, Stan's faith and his love for Jesus developed and grew. Stan attended Sunday School at Burnley and was baptised at the Camberwell church. For many years he was active in the Albury, NSW, church as treasurer, secretary, Boys Brigade leader and Sunday School teacher. His membership at Wangaratta was transferred from Montrose in 1982.

—CPC

WA

SOUTH PERTH (John Bond, David Stanford) Open House held informative & scenic bus trips ... "Getting to Know You" theme at Women's Fellowship when younger women gave sketches of their experiences. Jan Raymond led ... David Stanford arranged youth camp, speaker David Timms. 50 shared ... Annual meeting November. John Bond shared future vision. Raema Stanford arranged coffee & desert supper ... John Bond evening services subject "Excuses—Excuses God Doesn't Accept".

MERREDIN (David Jolly) Successful quiz night held ... New carpet laid in hall ... Sunday School increasing. New Curriculum implemented ... Young adults (Mingles) active in outreach ... C of C Wheatbelt Fraternal at Bruce Rock, Des Croot speaker ... AGM held. A. West, L. Robertson welcomed to board. Thanks expressed to G. Banks, R. Chapman who stepped down ... D. & R. Chapman attended two day Divine Drama Bible study seminar.

EASTERN HILLS (Maurie Ashworth) Laurie Ashworth in hospital for two weeks ... Successful surgery for Wendy Gregson ... Sausage & Mash games night well attended ... Brenda & Eric Martin guest speakers ... Girls' Brigade centenary celebrations ... Noreen & Heinz Boden welcomed into membership ... Song & Praise evening at Wendy & Alan Gregsons ... Sunday School presenting "It's Cool in the Furnace" at anniversary 21 November.

WARWICK (G. Carslake, B. Eagles, R. Ratcliffe) Kylie Rock won national title Secretarial Student of Year ... Largest Bethel congregational class which commenced with 26 students graduates December ... During seven weeks of school holidays, Summer Celebration planned as feature impact to begin year ... Continues to be many baptisms ... Senior minister completed 20 years of ministry here ... Sue Ratcliffe presenting & producing family musical "The Friendship Company" in December.

PERTH (G. Powell) 103rd church anniversary celebrated 7 November with guest speaker Robin Taylor from Whitfords ministry team & musical items from PCO Chorale ... Those attending Saturday manse house church 13 November were blessed by testimony of Margaret Court (nee Smith), Australia's greatest woman tennis player ... Church saddened by death of Gordon Kay after year-long battle with cancer. Loving sym-

pathy to Mary, Rebecca & Timothy. **FREMANTLE (J. Caporn)** Main event of church's 101st anniversary, 7 November, was evening meal service. Video "shots" of last year's centenary dinner shown. Message by John Caporn on "Redigging the Wells" ... Baptism of Isobel Vellacorte, girl from Salvador ... Bicton UC Choir rendered cantata "The Glory of Christmas" ... Thursday Club for children aged 8-12 commenced ... Death of isolated member Elsie Taylor ... CWF's total "talent money" \$690.

KALAMUNDA (David Shalley, Paul Sanders) World Mission Week time of blessing, challenge & commitment. Faith promise for 1994 totalled \$62,260 ... Program for November & December outreach includes prayer walk through streets, family fun in Stirk Park, outdoor movie & Christmas service in park ... Church helping refugees, providing essentials & assisting them to adjust to Australian life ... People contacted & assisted during year through community outreach program enjoyed lunch & fellowship together.

DALKEITH RD (Barry Ryall, Jenni Ashton, Rob Price) Outreach group organised doorknock to 250 new homes. Visits & information well received ... "Discovery Dinners" used as introduction to small group study sharing program. Four groups followed from initial meeting ... Youth group successful under leadership of forum of young adults with ministry support ... Church School ministering to 80-90 children weekly ... Jenni Ashton concludes successful three year ministry to move into full-time chaplaincy at Bethesda Hospital.

NSW

FAIRFIELD (Clive Berrick) After an enjoyable visit from our Conference President, Laurie Larcombe & his wife Lois, we were clearly informed by a film "Dinosaurs" about the creation story in front of a large group ... The beautiful posters by Kit Goninon clearly advertise & draw new people from the community ... Clive & Helen's Bible study groups & caring for the community are reaping benefits ... Cooperation with Spanish & Vietnamese churches continues.

CHATSWOOD (Ian Alves, Rosalie Rofe) Church continues support for Scripture ministry at Chatswood High School ... Progressive program of "prayer walking" & letter distribution proceeds as community outreach project ... Monthly pre-service teas during summer commence ... Members join in in-

Ormond Church of Christ

A church with a great vision requires the services of a Pianist and/or Organist for our 7 pm services. An ability to play both choruses and hymns and assist in creating both a joyful and worshipful atmosphere is needed.

If you are interested and are able to start on Sunday 5 December, please contact the Elder, Ian McDonald on (03) 557 1257.

Church News

ter-church "Spirit Alive" & "40 Days of Prayer" programs ... Chinese church makes computer available to us ... Chatswood participates in community "Carols in the Park" ... Prayer breakfasts continue.

SA

MILANG/POINT STURT (G. & J. Simpson) Point Sturt enjoyed 138th anniversary service with Victor Harbor choir ... Passing of Vera Harvey brought crowded funeral service at Milang, while another "old-timer", Millie Mitchell buried from chapel at Point Sturt a few days later ... Visitation of every home in Milang during November. Six churches agreeing to involvement. Small gift of note-book & pen to each household along with leaflet listing churches & auxiliaries.

COWANDILLA (R. Mountford) Distribution of 2,000 leaflets with Christmas message to local community ... Steady increase in numbers at Kids Club ... Changes to church constitution passed at recent meeting ... Work being carried out to extend church manse ... Church looking forward to the ministry of Wayne Shepherd, commencing February 1994.

KADINA (Neville Bradley) Educational workshop held for all church leaders & helpers ... Elders & deacons studying course "Effective Eldership" led by Brian Phelps ... Two young men baptised & welcomed into fellowship ... Church met following morning service 14 November to consider "How can we best achieve a sense of Christian Mission within the community" ... Busy Fingers craft held AGM ... BBQ & prize giving held with auto cycle club. Well attended.

ALBERT PARK (David Thompson) David Thompson & Rev Steve Price (Uniting) joint authors of new publication, *Think*, available from religious bookshops for \$8.95 ... Church shared worship services with Royal Park Uniting ... Western Districts rallies top programs ... Nigel Mann, Brighton, SA, student minister, visiting speaker ... Half-day sale, gobble & go nights, Temple Day financially successful ... Hall floor completely restored ... Hollams & Baenisch families & Kay Duffy battling sickness.

VICTOR HARBOR (Don Wesley) More than 80 children at our Sunday School presentation service. Over 200 attended to see children presenting items including singing, playing musical instruments, reading, presenting the creation story & praying ... We welcome back Ruth & Frank May after Ruth's graduation from Mulgrave ... In last two

months we welcomed into membership eight people & witnessed two child dedications.

Tas

HOBART CITY (J. Weston) Howard Paix appointed as youth worker to end of year ... New piano purchased. Fundraising underway to pay off balance. Afternoon CWF organised concert as initial event ... Strategic planning retreat held ... Relatives of Hmong family became Christians following witness in time of illness ... Young people enjoying resurgence of activities for three age ranges ... Jeff Weston preaching on book of Revelation in morning service.

LAUNGESTON (C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) Dedication service for Bridie Coert & Bethany Smith at 9.15 am & Girls' Brigade final parade for the year on 21 November ... Senior Girls' Brigaders held weekend canvas camp at Armstrong's property ... Elders, deacons & spouses held mini-retreat 20 November ... Fellowship service on 21 November at 7 pm had over 200 present.

NUBEENA (C.G. Henderson) Sunday School held colouring-in competition for three age sections. Prizes awarded to winners ... Sunday School practising hard for anniversary to be held 12 December ... Gwen Henderson spent time with family & new grandson in Victoria ... Four attended annual Council meeting at Bicheno ... Halia & Athol Bloomfield represent church at executive meetings held at Ross.

Vic

HARTWELL (Graeme Rogerson) 44 young people & leaders enjoyed youth camp at Marysville ... Gordon Gray (Christian Media Communication design agency) meeting with board & church leaders to improve & promote life of church ... Successful planned giving program led by Ian Cartmel ... Hymn-fest. Great congregational singing, talented support artists, Viney Longthorp comperes ... Church camp, 47 registered plus day visitors at Yarra Junction.

ECHUCA (Arthur Symes) 3 October opening of renovated chapel. Thanks to MMM & local people who volunteered talents & time. Open renovated chapel debt free. Oldest member, Mrs Hannah Morgan (95 years old) cut ribbon. La-el Music Company & Don Smith (DMED) joined us ... John Smith & God's Squad conducted a week long mission in local secondary colleges & various clubs. Has really shaken town for Jesus.

MAIDSTONE (A. McMillan) Church gladly welcomed Ida-Adelle Phillips after her baptism on her 10th birthday ... Many have had operations/sickness. Most now improving ... Officers—Ida Phillips secretary, Tom Hampton treasurer, Faye Freiberg deacon. Short dedication service for officers recently elected ... Maidstone Orange Pickers (MOP) evening services begun ... Brenda & David Dawes (MECO) visiting speakers ... CWF mini-fete raised over \$400.

WEST PRESTON (Chris Field) Investigator Ron Hooper made it out of hospital to join friends at the well attended 17th annual Blind Fellowship service. Items from Fiona Lyle, Laurie Hogg & Carmel Scott were followed by Chris Field's short talk. Afternoon tea was served amidst much chatter before drivers returned guests home.

BORONIA (Keith Milne, Andrew Henley) World Communion Sunday commenced with men's breakfast taking form of *agape* meal, Mike Folland speaker ... "New Testament" singing group at evening service ... Church supported Indian earthquake & Victorian flood appeals ... Annual Kidsmin Festival for area hosted by us ... Musical concert raised \$250 for church funds ... Men's group hosted an afternoon for Adult Day Care members ... Young people at DMED camp, Halls Gap.

NORTH ESSENDON (Mike Ebsensen) Manse sold at auction ... Church packed showbags in hall again. A smaller number this year due to various factors ... Minister to be available for three & a half days per week in lieu of present two days beginning 1994 ... CWF collected groceries, soap & washcloths & visited a theatre in Warburton in Strathmore church bus ... Jim Lycett had eye surgery.

NORTH BALWYN (K. Bowes) Nine former East Kew members welcomed in & becoming an integral part of the fellowship. Young couple also welcomed into membership ... Session on worship led by Keith Bowes for leaders & worshippers ... Sessions with younger marrieds about their needs & those of children in worship & teaching ... Play Group shopping trip raised \$320 for equipment ... Mission weekend 20-21 November with Jeff May, OMB. **CAMBERWELL (Stephen Wong)** At annual meeting elders (Lance Fisher, Viney Longthorp, Spencer Thomas) re-elected. Jean Ryall re-elected as secretary-treasurer ... New minister, Stephen Wong, settling in well ... Attendances at morning service & afternoon alternative worship consistently good ... Don

Smith (DMED) spoke at anniversary service. Guest artists Syndal Baptist Women's Choir ... Jack Whitten back after arm surgery. Phyl Everitt still in nursing home care. **TOOTGAROOK (M. Giezendanner)** Annual business meeting time of praise & thanksgiving for year in all avenues of service within the church & community ... Members & friends enjoyed evening of classical music arranged by Stan Allison ... Annual Mutual Market great success netting \$3000 for ongoing Christian commitments. Thanks to Tom Bryant & his willing band of helpers who work all year for this effort ... CWF very active & committed.

STAWELL (Stephen McElwee) Successful family camp held at Cape Bridgewater with 46 attending. Thank you to all who planned & led ... Appointment of minister's assistant, Jenny McElwee, working eight hours over three days ... Issue of December "Month of Devotions" featuring contributions by members ... Advent evening studies 28 November-19 December ... New building extensions finished this year & will be dedicated soon. **OAKLEIGH (W.J. Edwards)** Keith Milne speaker at 77th anniversary in which Polish Church participated. Anniversary offering \$1700 ... CWF held a hat parade in conjunction with 26 October meeting ... Craft activities numbers increasing. Peter Ponter assisting in this ... Barbara Edwards has undergone knee surgery ... Fran Usher back at church after long illness ... Bob Clymer spoke on 21 November & collected groceries donated to help CCTC students.

BENTLEIGH (Roy Armitage) Doris Skerman received certificate of meritorious service for 42 years as our CFAgent ... Visitors welcomed, especially Paul Bauer, recent speaker ... Roy Armitage reappointed for 1994 ... Some members ill including C. Dahl, T. Winstone & R. Hands ... Membership grieves with Doris Skerman in loss of her son & grandson in ultra-light aircraft accident in Queensland.

ORMOND (Jim Larkham) Jim Larkham will conclude his ministry 12 December & commence with Darwin January 94 ... Jonathan & Tricia Moore commence ministry in February 94. Also assisting Paul Bauer student ... Children's Sunday emphasised at morning service followed by picnic at Hampton ... EWF held progressive luncheon for needy, \$208 raised ... Further cheque of \$4621 sent to SIMAid ... Two specials for EWF art of posy making & craft ... Guest speakers Paul Bauer & Roy Armitage.

Getaways

Summer holiday camps

Registrations are flowing in for the summer holiday camps organised by the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development.

The two getaways for one-parent families at Camp Acacia, Halls Gap, are almost booked out.

The three camps at Banksia in January have attracted a large number of families, who enjoy the relaxed atmosphere in the lake setting.

Girls in Grades 4, 5 and 6 have the opportunity to attend a Girls' Holiday at Camp Waterman, Monbulk.

"Banksia Unplugged" is for young people aged 16 and over. Last year 100 campers had such a wonderful time that the leaders decided to make this year's even bigger and better.

For young teens, aged 12-15, "Airport 94" at Camp Waterman, Monbulk, offers a package where you will go around the world in 200 hours!

In addition to these holidays, there is a bike ride for adventurous people aged 14

and over, cycling from Melbourne to Geelong, the Bellarine Peninsula, the Otways, Ballarat, and returning to Melbourne.

These nine holiday experiences give participants the experience of forming new friends, learning new skills, being refreshed in a different setting, and deepening their spiritual journey. All camps are directed by experienced, qualified and talented leaders.

For further information and registration forms, contact the Department of Mission, Education and Development, on (03) 326 8900.



• DMED staff check registrations

The Last Word

I have never found any way to undo what Christ has done.

—Ben Haden

Why should you always drink from the side of the cup nearest you?

Because if you drink from the other side you'll spill it all over yourself.

"But pastor," lamented the member in for counselling, "whenever we quarrel, my partner becomes historical."

"You mean hysterical."

"No, historical—always digging up my past."

Teacher to student: "I can tell what you had for breakfast this morning."

Student: "What did I have, and how can you tell?"

Teacher: "You had egg, because I can see it around your mouth."

Student: "Hal You're wrong, I had Weetbix this morning, the egg was yesterday."

"I see the police are looking for a man with one eye called Murphy."

"What's the other eye called?"

An elder, a lawyer by profession, stood at the communion table with his concentration focussed on the prayer he was about to deliver. Perhaps he should have kept his mind on the salutation he was about to deliver. "Your Honour ..." he began.

Chuckles, which erupted in the congregation, were quickly disguised as fits of coughing by the bemused worshippers.



"He turned it all into traveller's cheques and took it with him."



A CHRISTMAS GIFT THAT LASTS ALL YEAR

Send "The Australian Christian" to—

Name

Address

Postcode

Church

Amount Enclosed: \$.....

A gift for 1994 costs just \$26

We will send a gift card saying "The Australian Christian" is from—

.....

"The Australian Christian", PO Box 101, North Essendon 3041

Payment can be made by Bankcard, Visa or MasterCard

Please charge my—

Bankcard Visa MasterCard

Card number

.....

Expiry date

Signature