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# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

## The Lord and the Land



—page 7

# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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## Guest Editorial

# Christians and Politics

John Forrest

Some Christians are revolted by the concept of being actively involved in the very worldly process of politics. Given what we have let it become in Australia, a battle ground for personal point scoring, selfish ambition, and pursuit of vain glory, this could be considered a perfectly reasonable position and should be respected.

However, all of us are apprehensive about the godless state of the community around us and we all need to give consideration as to what God's expectations are of us in attempting to do something about it, in whatever sphere of influence he may lead.

The New Testament is remarkably silent on direct political comment and this leaves some Christians uncertain about whether they should be involved in politics at all. There are some scriptural injunctions which provide some lead on this dilemma. Jesus himself spoke a lot about a needy world and provides us with sufficient encouragement to exercise the potential to make an impact on the direction of the society around us. In the Sermon on the Mount he declared, "You are the salt of the earth" (Matt 5:13) and, "You are the light of the world. A city which cannot be hidden" (Matt 5:14).

From this, our qualifications to be a witness to the world, in God's strength, are established. Clearly, the great commission itself, from the end of Matthew's gospel, essentially calls us to go into all the world to be his witness. This can also include the Parliaments of our great country.

To fathom more on this matter, it is necessary to understand more about what politics is and be less bemused by it. Politics is really only the expression of our humanness and sometimes, with what the media often portray, really is a good indicator of how imperfect we really are without Christ. The Greek origins of the word *politeow* (πολιτεω) translate to be a citizen and to order one's life and conduct in a certain manner as to habits and principles; as used in Phil 1:27. In an imperfect world without Christ, this is likely to prove to be very selfish and godless.

The process of politics in action has always provided an abiding fascination for me. Put a number of people in a room with an issue and the potential is there for several quite different points of view and so is the capacity for disputation.

Fortunately, Christians are provided with a powerful conflict resolution frame-

work, owing to the unifying love of God and blood of our Lord. However, even with this asset, politics in this imperfect form is often active in our churches because we are yet so inferior this side of heaven.

I was recently asked a very penetrating question from a young person which caused me to consider this in great depth. I was asked which political party Jesus would have joined. Thanking God for the insight that Christ was perfect and we are not, I was able to quickly reply, "None of them for, thankfully, there will be no politics in heaven."

It is an interesting question, however, because, in many ways, history has described Jesus as a very political character. He was vitally concerned about the welfare of the people around him, displayed a wisdom which came only from God in resolving conflict amongst the people who came to him and it must be recognised that the offence which resulted in his crucifixion was a "political" crime. It was his misinterpreted claim of being the King of the Jews which was nailed at the top of his cross.

There are powerful examples of his perfect balance in dealing with political issues in Scripture. He was conscious of the need to promote the work ethic, thereby promoting individual responsibility and accountability. The Bible teaches submission to rulers and masters (1 Peter 2:18) which provide good example today for Christian employees to have respect for their employer. His whole attitude toward the Government of the day was to teach respect and submission and Scripture adds to this view: "Everyone must submit to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established" (Rom 13:1).

Jesus reaction to political issues was always couched in spiritual terms. An example was his response to the Samaritan woman at the well. With a background of a long-standing bitter dispute between Samaritans and Jews on the location of worship (a very political issue), he said that the time would come when worship would neither be offered up on their mountain nor in Jerusalem: "God is spirit and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).

There was also his attitude to paying tax, which is certainly still relevant today.

Continued on page 3

## Improvements at Albury

### Generous support appreciated

The Aboriginal church at Albury, NSW, is thankful that a long-awaited improvement has been completed.

Its old toilet block was situated some distance from the chapel, creating a problem during winter, especially at night.



• Kevin Winch at work

The church members had long had a dream that one day the toilet facilities would be incorporated into the main building.

With the generous financial support of the Victorian CWF, who provided about \$8000, and with the cooperation of several tradesmen, the new facilities have been completed.

The Federal Aborigines Board records its appreciation to the Victorian women and also those who gave of their time and expertise to complete the necessary work.

Michael Katalini (Albury), Howard Stevenson (Dromana, Vic), Jack Clarke and Bob Wallace (Shepparton), Kevin Winch (Wodonga), Keith McGregor (Geelong), Ian Beasley, Jack Henley, Mick Lysons, Tony Stains, Peter Kalajdzic, Ewan McGregor and Neil Keating were all involved in this work.

—AWM

## Making Plans

### Planning at Camp Banksia



New projects are a constant part of camping centre life. Seen here are Russ Pearce (manager), Paul Fry (senior camps' manager), Ray Drayton and Frank Richards reviewing progress and discussing new projects for Camp Banksia on Lake Victoria, East Gippsland, Vic.

Russ Pearce will retire as manager in late 1994, after some

20 years of service to the camp and the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development.

Russ and his wife, Thelma, lost all their possessions in the disastrous bush fire of 15 January, 1978.

The Pearces have lived on site at Banksia continuously since 1974.

### Continued from page 2

"Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." (Matt 22:21) Jesus' whole attitude to social justice was to ensure the disadvantaged were cared for, but in a way which left their self respect intact. The biblical principle of caring for widows, for example, was to leave a little grain in the field for them to collect (Deut 24:19).

At the end of the day, it is of course between every Christian and God how they choose to be involved in politics. My choice was to accept the challenge. Just as Christians are involved in a whole range of secular pursuits, by being involved in the world but not of the world, being salt and light, so it is apt that this should be provided in the Parliament.

It has been refreshing to realise that there are a number of committed colleagues with the same point of view in federal

Parliament. All Christians are concerned about the sick and sorry state of the world. Rampant sin is abounding, sensualism turns the minds and hearts of many into unchecked lust for money and power, secularism attacks biblical principles and denies its supernatural power, scepticism deludes our youth and selfish hedonism by adults has put the basic family unit under great threat. These are the symptoms of godlessness that flourished in Jesus' day. Not much has changed.

These symptoms are also reflected in our Parliaments and, unless checked, the spiral continues. Rather than blame the politicians, whose job it is to reflect the values of the society they represent, a better approach is to seek Christian representation in the Parliaments so that wholesomeness can continue to be promoted.

At least one thing is abundantly clear and that is the need

for fervent prayer for political leadership. The injunction in 1 Tim 2:1-2 leaves no doubt that every Christian has a duty to at least be involved. Only prayer and righteousness will exalt the nation and all Christians are called to do that.

It is the greatest calling of all, to proclaim the good news of the risen Christ. What better message could the Parliaments of this great nation hear?

Of course, our salvation is independent of the parliament and the condition of the world around us, but we should be concerned about every aspect of it, of which the political process is but one.

❖ Before entering Federal Parliament, John Forrest was Secretary and Elder in the Swan Hill, Vic, church. He and his wife Pam, and children Tanya and Anik have been members of the Swan Hill church since they settled there in 1982. John was

a Consulting Civil Engineer with his own practice in Swan Hill and Mildura before entering parliament at the last election as the National Party's candidate for Mallee, representing the Wimmera and Mallee regions of north west Victoria. He had some reservations when requested by the Editor to submit an article on the Church and Politics, not wanting to be seen as using the magazine as a political platform. However, he does have certain convictions about the need for Christians to find opportunities for political expression and this article challenges all Christians to seriously consider their attitude to, and involvement in, the political process.

[This is the first of a number of editorials the Editor has solicited concerning Christians and politics.]

# "LocalView" for Church Outreach

*Helping figure it out*

More and more churches are looking towards the effective use of statistical information to help them in planning their outreach and social service work. The work of church outreach groups will soon become easier and more effective with the help of a new computer mapping service from Telecom.

The service, called **LocalView**, provides a range of full colour, computer-generated maps of all major Australian cities showing specific target areas derived from current ABS census information. Target groups are clearly visible on these maps and areas of need become more clearly defined.

Church outreach groups will be greatly advantaged by this new service. The maps will enable service ministries to match themselves with areas of greatest need. Maps showing areas with the highest percentage of unemployed and elderly people could show where welfare relief is most needed, and areas with a high number of young children could be marked for child care activities.

Service ministries will become more efficient and able to manage their resources even

more effectively. Limited numbers of volunteers can be sent to areas of greatest need, saving time and valuable funds.

Those planning strategies to expand their own communities will be able to use the maps and information to target the areas most likely to be of interest. Groups seeking to recruit more members or collect donations will have a clear picture of the best areas in which to conduct their activities.

The service consists of a set of three maps showing demographic details such as age, family type and income within a 5 km radius of a church location. One difficulty is that often churches purchase statistical information and then do not have the training or skills to use the material effectively. It is recommended that churches interested in the information talk over the whole approach with Christian Media before ordering any of the maps.

LocalView costs \$250 for the three maps, which can be ordered from a variety of types of maps. (Further maps are available at a discount price.) The map gives a view of the density of the particular target group

(such as school children) in census collection areas within a 5 kilometre radius of the location required.

By using the maps and by guidance in the operation of letterbox drops and telephone marketing, new churches or groups could be commenced in an area. Many possibilities could become apparent to anyone with the skills to use such information.

This scheme has been launched for the churches first prior to its major launch to business and community groups. This is an interesting development that should be explored with Christian Media. (Note: at the moment maps are available for all large cities in Australia, but not all country areas are covered yet.)

LocalView will be sold through Christian Media. Anyone interested in further information should contact Gordon Gray on (03) 571 0475.

—Chris Ambrose



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## Calendar

### Aboriginal Christian Convention

The Northern Aboriginal Christian Convention is being held **22-25 September** at Adrian Cotton's farm on the Barron River between Mareeba and Mossman. Jonathon Bates (Halls Creek) is preparing the messages for the weekend. A number of Christians from across the top end and from as far away as Lake Nash (NT) and some from NSW will be attending.

### Arts, Music & Teaching Festival

The Black Stump arts, music and teaching festival, the largest Christian festival in Australia, will be from **30 September-3 October** in Cataract Park, Appin, NSW. Main speakers are Michael Frost, Meryl Correy and Fuzz Kitto. Details from (02) 764 1566.

### Prison Fellowship Conference

Prison Fellowship of Australia National Conference is being held **21-23 October** under the theme "Lord Remember Me". The conference is being held in Croydon, Melbourne. Speakers will look at various aspects of the reconciling ministry of the Lord Jesus to those in prisons. Prison privatisation and other justice initiatives will be a focus. Electives include such topics as "Justice Issues", "Praying for the Ministry" and "How to Conduct a Seminar". Application forms area available from Prison Fellowship, PO Box 369, Ringwood 3134. Phone (03) 879 7246 or fax (03) 879 7187.

### Turkey Sunday

Friends of Turkey have declared **6 November** as "Turkey Sunday". They are asking churches to set aside 15 minutes of the service to learn more about the needs in Turkey and pray and mail Gospel letters into Turkey. Those wanting to be involved in the program should contact Friends of Turkey, PO Box 10154, Adelaide St, Brisbane 4000 or phone (07) 395 0526.

## Remember?

### Tamworth church's history

**Tamworth Church of Christ** celebrated their 40th birthday last year. Countdown has begun towards their 50th. Though to some folk it may seem a little early to think about this milestone, in actual fact, now is the time to commence talking with people, gathering photos and information of the pioneering years of the church at Tamworth, which commenced 22.11.53.

Those early years at Tamworth were exciting years, full of action and zeal. It was a special time of friendship, working and sharing together. A time that we look back on with nostalgia and happy memories.

So many things happened that weren't recorded in the official records of the church, we were so busy with the day to day happenings that time was scarce for this other vital job, recording the history for those who came later.

Now, we are sending out a call for help from those who participated in the early work of the Church at Tamworth, asking them to share their memories of this time, to loan or give us any photos of the church work or people, so that the story can be filled in and our memories refreshed. Some-

times, one bit of information can help jog another's memories; this can rebound bountifully.

There were those who travelled from Newcastle of a Saturday, leaving home about 4.00 am to get to Tamworth at 8.00 am, to commence helping with the building of the new church hall. These willing helpers finished work at approximately 5.00 pm and, after having tea with the Tamworth folk, left on the four-hour trip back to Newcastle, arriving back home very tired but pleased with the day's

events. There were the folk from Inverell church, the church who nurtured the new work with their minister **Ernie McIlhagger**. They travelled down to Tamworth many a Sunday to help encourage the new work.

Unfortunately, the names of many of these helpers are now unknown.

Can you please help us? We would appreciate hearing of anything to do with the Tamworth church over the past 40 years.

Please write to **Mrs Lillian Price (nee Stiles), 19 St Helen Street, Holmesville NSW 2286. Phone (049) 53 2675.**

—L.J. Price

## Vietnamese Leadership

### New team inducted



A new leadership team of elders and deacons at the Richmond, Vic, Vietnamese congregation were inducted by **Don Smith** of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development on 19 June. The two leaders for youth work and

women's ministry also participated in the service. **Nathan Nhan** is the minister. Pictured here is the leadership team following the service.

A second Vietnamese congregation is proposed for the Western suburbs of Melbourne.



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**Lyn Swift**  
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Waramanga 2611  
Phone (062) 88 2050

**Barbara Kennedy**  
6 Sharp Place,  
Melba 2615  
Phone (062) 58 1360

Advance bookings appreciated

## Good News Column

### Giving the Gospel a sporting chance

Sports and Leisure Ministries (SLM) is playing the recession at its own game as SLM National Promotions Coordinator, Noel Mitaxa explains.

Every problem has a solution hidden away inside it and ordinary Australians can unlock the confidence to explore and develop their God-given opportunities.

A great way to do this is through the weekly morale boost of the Good News column, which I am keen to syndicate to newspapers throughout Australia.

It is a great way to communicate God's love for people, as it is a "home-delivered" tract. The column has produced positive feedback from regular churchgoers, as well as from people who would not know which church they most conscientiously avoid.

In 200 words, the column addresses life issues from a

Christian perspective, with an invitation for readers to apply what they gain in order to lift others around them.

The Leader Newspapers in Melbourne have offered a maximum discount purchase price for the space of the column and a five centimetre double-column sponsor's advertisement underneath.

Small businesses can secure prominence at far less outlay by linking with this bulk display-space purchase and reader loyalty will flow to their business even if they participate in a roster with other local businesses.

Sponsors will gain recognition at SLM events such as the Sports Focus Award Dinner and at other sports outreach events. SLM will also make Good News leaflet holders available for shop counters of sponsors, so that customers may take extra copies.

Readers from areas which are not covered by the Leader Newspaper Group may wish to sponsor the column in their local newspapers. Newspaper editors are more than willing to publish material which they view as non-sectarian, punchy and reliable.

Sponsoring the Good News column in a local paper can provide a fresh outreach for a church or minister's fraternal. It may also release them from rostered pressures without restricting their prophetic voice in any local concerns.

The Good News subscription fee enables SLM to target sport (which is the major fascination of Australians) with the Gospel.

Readers who are interested in the proposal should write to SLM, 98 Barrabool Rd, Highton 3216, or phone (052) 44 2464, or Fax (052) 44 3288.

—Noel Mitaxa

## Australia

### SU Resource Unit

Scripture Union Australia has opened a Resources for Ministry Unit, based in Sydney. The unit will deal only with resources published or produced by Scripture Union movements around the world, especially Australia and the UK. Resources to be distributed include books, cassettes, videos, church curriculum materials, Bible guides in English and a number of foreign languages and Person to Person evangelism training kits.

### Ansvar Police Scholarship

Ansvar Insurance has given a scholarship to Senior Sergeant Fielding of the Community Policing Squad at Knox, Vic, to research overseas programs similar to the "Residents at Risk Register" that his group operates. The program involves police visitation and telephone contact in order to offer advice on security measures and give assistance where needed for those who are vulnerable to attack and who quite often live alone.

### Quick and the Dead

Quick and the Dead, formerly Danger UXB are currently producing a CD which will be launched in October. The new album will have the title "Womb" and it is to be launched at the Black Stump Music Festival.

### Hornless Devils

Tasmanian Christians have gained the naming rights to the Tassie Devils National Basketball League team. The Devil's television commentator and Hobart SML coordinator, Don Hanson, (he is a former coach and co-founder of the team) shared a scheme of 100 churches pledging \$20 a week for three years to raise the \$300,000 needed for naming rights, with a group of Christian businessmen. The team management accepted the proposal and their new logo has a dehorned Tasmanian Devil. Court decals will now feature the kneeling White Knight Crusader with the sword of the Spirit and the shield of faith. The deal will gain the equivalent of \$3.4 million of advertising space.

## Hands Across the Water

### Ministry changes

In Ulverstone, Tas, there is great rejoicing over the way the Echuca, Vic, church has cooperated with them in the movement of Arthur and Rosemary Symes to take up ministry in Ulverstone in 1996.

The Ulverstone church has been planning and preparing to return to a "normal" full-time ministry for some time as the church there has gradually grown under the lay ministry of Tom and Ruth Edge. The church approached the Vic-Tas Department of Ministry in mid-1993 and were looking for a starting date in 1996. They were put in touch with Arthur and Rosemary and everything seemed to fall into place well, except that they had already suggested to the Echuca church that they would move on elsewhere at the end of 1994.

We all made this a matter of prayer and the Echuca people graciously extended Arthur's

term by a further year so that the transfer could be made at the time convenient to Ulverstone and to Arthur and Rose-

mary. The Ulverstone folk are indebted to Echuca for their kind consideration in this way.

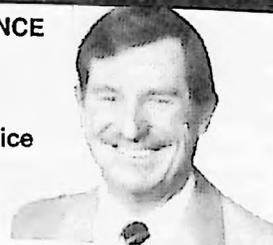
—Tom Edge

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## Blessing the Plough

*Acknowledging dependence on God*

The day dawned fine, the sky was clear and the air was still—a rare occurrence for a mid-winter July Sunday at rural Caveside, Tas (a thunderstorm lashed the area the day before). Sunday, 31 July is the one Sunday in the year when the Caveside Church doors are not opened. For the past four years, the Church of Christ has combined with the Deloraine Anglican Parish for the annual "Blessing of the Plough" service. This service is held prior to the spring ploughing and sowing season. Whilst not normally a part of Churches of Christ tradition, the Caveside members see it as an appropriate occasion to acknowledge their dependence on God and seek his blessing upon the labours of their local farming community.

This year's service was held on the property of Bob and Dot

Taylor (members of the Anglican Church) at South Mole Creek. Almost 70 people gathered in an open implement shed overlooking the rolling hills of Mole Creek, with the snow capped Western Tiers in the background—certainly a beautiful setting in which to worship God. The service was led by Rev Alan Bulmer, Rector of St Mark's, Deloraine. John Harrison, minister of Caveside church, also took part in the service. Archdeacon Ian Booth gave a challenging address based on the 3 "P's" involved in ploughing: preparation, participation and perseverance, relating them to the ploughing of the fields, drawing spiritual parallels in our Christian life.

The centrepiece for the service was a beautiful old double disc plough the Taylors had spent days digging out of soil and blackberries where it had

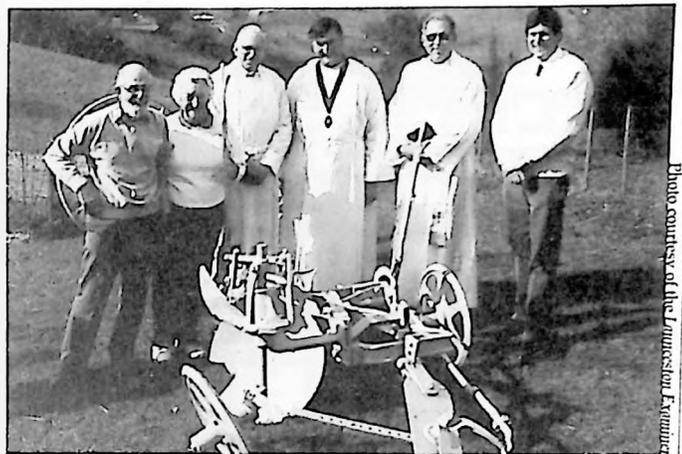


Photo courtesy of the Lumsden Farming

• (L to R) Bob and Dot Taylor, Archdeacon Ian Booth, Lay reader Tony Bowman, Rev Alan Bulmer (Anglican Parish) and John Harrison (minister Caveside)

lain forgotten for many years. They had painted the plough and, although it will never again fulfil its original purpose, it will symbolise the activity in which many in the community and churches are involved.

Following the service, those attending enjoyed a picnic

lunch in the Taylor's garden. Early next year when the harvest is in, the Caveside church has been commissioned to arrange and conduct a service of thanksgiving when the two churches will once again combine in worship.

—John N. Harrison

## Aboriginal Convention

*Mission Milestone*

Almost unheralded, a significant event recently took place in Port Hedland, WA. For a week of meetings, some 500 Aborigines met for worship, teaching and fellowship.

Key leaders from the various regional convention groups decided to experiment this year by holding one combined meeting, just to see what support it would attract.

Reports already in indicate that the week of meetings was a success in every way. It stretched facilities to the limit, yet it brought together Aboriginal Christians from the far north to the south-west of WA, even some from interstate.

Meeting topics centred on the Christian family and Aborigines. Speakers were Frank Johnson, Len Wallam and Sonny Graham.

150 were counselled either for first-time commitments or rededications.

Of significance was the fact that all who gave leadership as speakers, musicians, ministry to women, etc, were people who have served or are currently working for Churches of Christ—and all were Aborigines.

That is a testimony to the ongoing work over the years by missionaries and support by our Australian churches.

The next combined convention is planned for three years time, again in Port Hedland.

—AWM

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## Putting Families First

*Preston's family services*

"Put Your Family First the Last Sunday Each Month" is our logo. Preston, Vic, church's first family service was a great time with grandparents, parents, children and babies enjoying special guest mime clown Steve Bell who gave us plenty to think and laugh about with the theme "Giving and Getting". Steve Blacket spoke on "Amazing

Grace" while the clown entertained the kids in the hall. Frank and Effie from the Greek Fellowship ably assisted our musical team. Morning tea together followed.

Next Family Service will be held Sunday 28 August at 10.30 am, featuring Preston Boomerang Kids Club's famous puppets.

# Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to  
200 words

## Sins in Proportion

To the Editor,

In this column, we seem to be spending a great deal of time and energy on the sin of homosexuality and, indeed, as Christians, on sins like this one—prostitution, promiscuity and the like. However, it is sins such as greed, hunger for power, pride and selfishness that are tearing our world apart—dividing the world into First World, Second World and Third World; bringing countries to their knees and splitting communities and families.

Jesus certainly said, "Go and sin no more," but he also said, "He who is without sin, cast the first stone!"

Following Jesus' example, we are needed to help "sinners", not judge them. Maybe, it would be best for us leave the judging of sin to God and press on with our personal journey, "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith."

—Beth Butler  
(Ainslie, ACT)

## Letter from India

To the Editor,

Greetings from India. Thank you for sending *The Australian Christian* and I do appreciate those who give to make this possible.

I have moved from Herbertpur right across to the eastern side of Uttar Pradesh. Utraula is a predominantly Muslim area. We find all aspects of the work here a big challenge and plenty of opportunities to stretch our faith.

The monsoon has arrived in no uncertain terms in some areas of the country and there are the accompanying floods which are so often the case. Here, however, it hasn't really gotten underway. The deluge in this area is predicted for August.

Community health work in EHA (Emmanuel Hospital Association) is growing and expanding in leaps and bounds. We now have four people to do what I used to try and do alone. I am still itinerant, but only di-

rectly responsible for seven projects in this eastern region instead of the previous 17.

We are greatly encouraged by the calibre of people now available to EHA for this particular type of work and I trust that we will be able to make far-reaching contributions, especially for our rural and urban (slums) poor.

We need prayer, we need wisdom, strength, guidance and blessing on all that we do so that it would count for God.

Here in this remote interior place, the "AC" is a wonderful means of keeping me abreast of people and events back home.

—Dorothy Holstein  
(Utraula, UP, India)

[All our OMB and Aboriginal missionaries, plus significant leaders of the churches with whom the OMB operates, receive airmailed copies. These are paid for by two or three churches and individuals sharing the cost. These copies are very much appreciated. If you can help us finance these copies contact us on (03) 379 1219 —Editor]

## Homosexual Response

To the Editor,

I have been made aware that my recent letter touching on issues of homosexuality cut across a line of letters instigated by a deeply painful personal situation. I primarily wanted to express my disgust at the ABC's double standards in televising the Gay Mardi Gras.

I am not convinced that the Letters to the Editor is a suitable forum for discussing efforts to rethink long-held assumptions on this emotive subject. Neither am I prepared to assume the role of instigator in a debate that is for me peripheral to my current work and irrelevant to my situation.

However, I am quite happy to address issues raised by some of the correspondents. I have, therefore, replied to them direct.

My life is committed to bringing people to a life transforming encounter with Jesus Christ. It is within that context that I continue to re-examine the Scriptures and reconsider long

held assumptions when appropriate. This is my Christian duty (Matt 22:37 and gospel parallels) which I will continue to exercise.

—Dave Reynolds  
(Aldinga Beach, SA)

## False Memory Syndrome

To the Editor,

I was interested in the letter "Survivors or False Memories?" ("AC" 2 July).

Several years ago, a retired bank manager friend and his wife spoke to my wife and me about a traumatic problem they had had over recent years from a married son. It troubled us greatly that a member of such a fine Christian home could make such accusations against his father. We maintain our close friendship with the family and appreciate that there has been quite a change in recent times from the son, even to apologising to his father.

Then, approximately three months ago, another fine Christian couple, where the husband was a top CSIRO scientist, came to share a deep hurt through which they have been passing over recent years. We have been friends for about 30 years and could hardly believe that a member of this family could be manipulated to make such accusations against the father.

Subsequently, we have come to learn that, fairly widely spread throughout Australia and in the USA, some psychologists, through misguided therapy, seem to be determined not only to destroy good parent children relationships by accusing mostly the fathers of child molestation, but create a situation which is threatening the very harmony and trust with the family. This, of course, flows over into the stability of the total church family.

Continued on page 9

## Letters to a Travelling Companion

### Religious Jargon

Dear Daniel,

Thanks for your last letter. Your new Bible study leader is obviously making you think, particularly by using all those big theological words.

Of course, jargon is part of our way of life. Lawyers, medical workers, computer buffs, builders, theologians and the like, all have their own particular sub-language that goes with the profession. When I took my car in to be repaired the other day, the mechanic told me that the problem was with the electro-chemical reactive plates in the current storage unit which were in a state of neutral charge (In other words, my battery was flat). My wife recently attended the doctor with a sore foot only to be told that she was suffering from a retrograde growth in the cuticular region of the first digital prominence on her left foot (She, in fact, had an ingrown toenail).

Such professional jargon can be positively annoying, but it does alert us to avoid using "religious jargon" when talking to others about our faith. Obviously, some Biblical terms are so rich in meaning and tradition that there is simply no other word that expresses their essence, but even in this case, we need to be prepared to explain what the words mean in clear understandable language. If we are to truly make the Gospel available to all people, then it is important that we try very hard to avoid using outmoded language that excludes many from understanding what the faith is all about.

Write again soon,  
—Pastor Salt

## Who is My Neighbour?

### The Church holds hope in Timor

Trucks full of armed soldiers were frequently moving around the streets of Dili, which, with a population of about 150,000, is the main town of East Timor. It is just on 18 years since Indonesia invaded and took over this former Portuguese colony, but the government still sees fit to keep a strong military presence in the island, perhaps 15,000 troops overseeing a population of about 750,000, with military posts every quarter to half a mile in Dili and the country towns.

Dawn and I have close friends in Adelaide who came from East Timor as refugees in 1975. We went to see where they came from and to visit family and friends with whom they had been out of touch for the past 18 years.

Our Sherlock Holmes act worked. We found them, gave them photos and news, took photos and put them back in touch with each other.

The church appeared strong. Unlike predominantly Muslim Indonesia, East Timor is 80% Christian. Most of these are Catholic, although we noticed several Pentecostal church buildings.

We went to a 6 am (!) service at the residence of Bishop Belo,

just 150 yards from our hotel. Our feeling of heroism at worshipping at such an hour was soon dispelled when we found ourselves among 1500 worshippers, standing for the hour-and-a-quarter service in the dirt of the grounds of the residence.

We did not understand most of the content of the service, which the bishop conducted in Tetun, the predominant Timorese language, but we knew when people were praying, when the Bible was being read, when the preaching was coming across strongly and warmly from the bishop and we moved forward with the 1500 to share in communion.

We noticed about 200 of the people surrounding the bishop at the end of the service, kissing his ring with obvious affection.

Just before the conclusion of the service, the bishop gave a brief "pep talk" to the congregation asking that there be no demonstrations at the integration ceremonies, or, if there were, that there be no violence and no flag-tearing. He had been pressured to do this the night before by the military commandant, who visited on two successive evenings. He also said that if the people were careful things would be all right and that they would have freedom.

Military observers occupy a house opposite the bishop's residence and watch everyone who comes and goes from the residence. The bishop runs a very fine line as he seeks to

stand up for his people and also to retain his ability to do that.

As we walked the 200 yards back to our hotel, we talked about the service with a Timorese person whom we had met the day before. When we sought to check our perception of what the bishop was talking about at the end of the service, this person looked around and lowered the voice before replying.

On the Monday morning that person was visited at work by a plain clothes intelligence officer who wanted to know what we had talked about, what he had told us and what we were thinking.

Later on the Sunday, we passed a near suburban church where the congregation was overflowing. We talked to someone who had attended one of the four cathedral services, which was also crowded. The sermon at that service apparently was somewhat Revelation-like, calling on the people to stand firm and promising hope.

We heard that on the Sunday morning at the country town of Ermera, 3,500 had attended worship; the day before, 4,500 worshipped in another town.

Yet many people were fearful. We talked on the streets with several people who were eager to practise their meagre English, but when the conversation approached the prevailing situation they looked around, lowered their voices, or changed the subject.

One exception was a boy of about 18, who asked why Australia did not support their independence. We could hardly

tell him that trade and defence relationships were more important to our country than the freedom and lives of the Timorese! Another young man exclaimed forcefully, "I do not like the Indonesians".

Some, who had graduated from the university, could not get jobs because the jobs were going to Indonesians who were being brought into the country. Such is the transmigration program, that if ever the Indonesians agree to allow the Timorese an act of self-determination, the vote should be so stacked that the majority will say yes to Indonesian rule.

The inability of young people to get jobs seemed to be symptomatic of the grinding poverty of the people.

We spoke to one man who had been at his job for 27 years without a day off, except for a week or two when he was sick. He worked from 6 am to 5 pm, seven days a week, without a break, for about \$2.30 a day and he had nine children, only one of whom was out of school. The cost of living was lower than it is in Australia, but not that low!

One young person, learning English at school, asked if he could come and live with us as his family was too poor to be able to support his schooling.

Our third day in Dili was the 18th anniversary of the "integration" and this was proclaimed by temporary monuments on many of the town's streets. The day before, we talked with a young man on the street in a country town. He said, "Tomorrow is the anni-

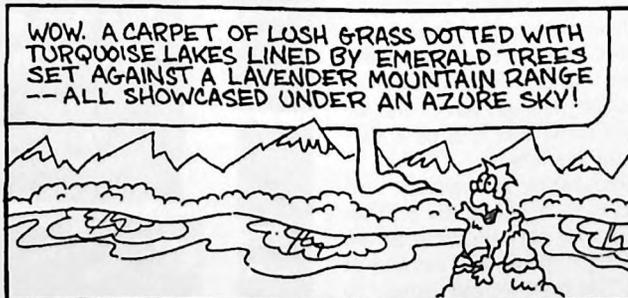
*Continued on page 11*

*Continued from page 8*

However, recently in Melbourne several victims of such accusations, along with a prominent and highly placed psychologist, met together and agreed to form a duly registered organisation to highlight and seek to expose such false manipulations. Plans are afoot to finalise the formation and registration of this society in early September. It will work along the same lines as the parent body in America, The False Memory Syndrome, and the False Memory Society in the UK.

—B.V. Coventry  
(Marion, SA)

### Pontius' Puddle



## Books

### Ballarat Churches of Christ 1859-1993: A History

by Graeme Chapman (CCTC) \$33.

This history, published by CCTC, with the financial assistance of the Federal Literature Department, is an unique publishing event. Graeme, whose *One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism* is the most recent definitive history of Churches of Christ in Australia, has employed his knowledge of Churches of Christ and his skill as an historian to narrate the developing saga of Churches of Christ in Ballarat.

Tentative beginnings in 1859 led to the emergence of a vigorous community of churches, each different in ethos, but all committed to simple New Testament Christianity.

The early pioneers were no plaster saints. They were committed and sometimes angular, contending as much with each other as with outsiders. They gloried in their individuality. A number of the early ministers were superb evangelists/organisers/entrepreneurs, the churches burgeoning under their ministries. Significant lay people have also exerted considerable influence, weaving the texture of those congregations to which they belonged.

While records of the more recent past have been judiciously sanitised, and therefore do not as easily register the important, underlying text, they do at least offer a recitation of events. It will be up to some future historian, comfortably distant from our present, to analyse the sub-text and tell its story without offence.

*Ballarat Churches of Christ* is a good read. It also has an excellent index, which functions as a Who's Who of many state and national identities within Churches of Christ. And there are 28 pages of photographs.

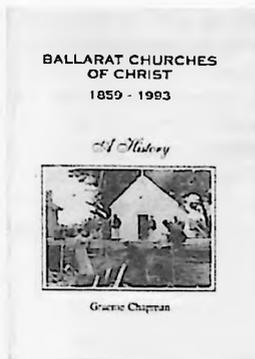
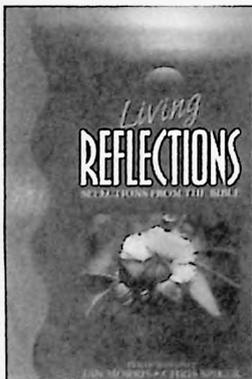
The book of 550 pages, sells for \$33 plus postage (Vic \$6, Tas, NSW, SA, and Qld \$8, WA and NT \$9) A limited run of 100 has been published. To order copies write to Graeme Chapman at CCTC, PO Box 629 Mulgrave North 3170 enclosing a cheque to cover the cost of the book plus appropriate postage.

### Living Reflections Selections from the Bible by David Schubert

Photography by Ian Morris and Chris Spiker (Lutheran Publishing House) \$39.95.

This is another excellent coffee-table devotional book from the Lutheran Publishing House. It would make a most acceptable gift, especially to somebody from overseas. The book contains a selection of passages from the Bible (Good News Version), together with beautiful full-colour photographs of Australia. The Bible quotes were chosen to give an overview of the Bible's message, from the story of creation of the world in Genesis to the vision of the new heaven and new earth in Revelation. Favourite passages have been included plus some that will be a surprise to some readers.

The photography is excellent and covers the vista of Australia and its nature. It is also very pleasing to see such a work produced and printed in Australia. The price would appear to



be high but is very comparable to similar style books in secular bookshops. —CRA

### One Blood 200 Years of Aboriginal Encounter with Christianity: A Story of Hope

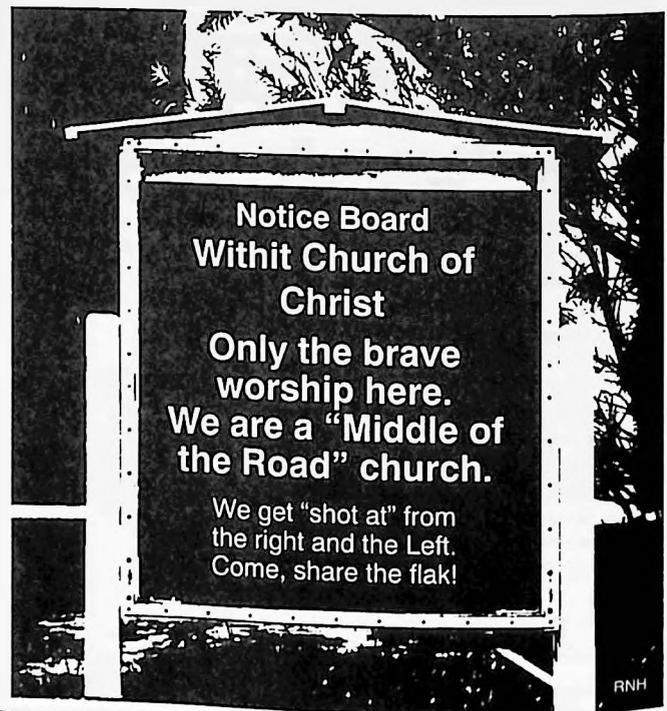
by John Harris (Albatross Book)

This book was published in 1990 and was the Australian Christian Literature Society Christian Book of the Year winner in 1991. It has been sitting on my shelf for some time with the tag "must read" on it. I finally started (and finished its more than 900 pages) during the International Year of Indigenous People. I have heard on the grapevine somewhere that there is a new edition due out very shortly.

This book traces (exhaustively) the encounter of Christians with the Aborigines throughout Australia's history. In many cases this is a very sorry story, whilst for others it is a bright and shining light in the general darkness of relationships of white society with Aborigines. For those involved in any way in the current reconciliation process, this book is a must read that should stimulate all to give justice to Aborigines. I noticed that often those who seemed to have the most effective ministry and relationship with Aborigines seemed to have "prickly" characters that caused them great problems with the rest of white society.

Churches of Christ were a relatively late arrival on the scene, but the comments about them in this book are primarily positive.

John Harris has contributed an excellent historical study that is essential to anyone involved in ministry with Aboriginal people. His personal knowledge (his father was a missionary and he spent many years as a teacher and school principal in Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory) and passion comes through. Highly recommended. —CRA



# World News

Continued from page 9

versary of the integration." I said, "Is that a good thing or a bad thing?" He lowered his voice, even though no-one else was in sight, and said, "Some people are against it". I said, "And some people are for it?" "Yes, some people are for it." I probed just a little further, "Are more people for it or more people against it?" He hesitated before he said, "I have not counted them."

We asked one person how we should pray for East Timor. He said, "For freedom." I asked, "Is that realistic?" He said, "What is the point of being Christian if we do not have hope?" I asked, "How does Bishop Belo feel?" He said, "Hopeful. He has to be."

We were told that all the rooms in our hotel were bugged. Later, as we talked in hushed tones over dinner with another couple of Australians, I mentioned the room bugging. One of the others said, "We know. I am an electronic engineer. I have already found the one in our room." When we returned to our room our air conditioning, controlled from the hotel desk, was not working well, for the third night straight. Dawn loudly voiced her discontent. In two minutes our air conditioner was fine!

A couple who speak Bahasa Indonesian fluently talked of what they called "pop-ups", people who would suddenly appear alongside of them and who seemed to be testing their Bahasa Indonesian abilities.

Although they had been eating each morning in the hotel dining room, the morning after we had a long tete-a-tete with them in the hotel dining room, breakfast was brought to their room, as though the powers-that-be were trying to keep the Australians from fraternising.

On the morning of the "integration" celebrations, a ceremony was held on front of the Governor's office. Hundreds of soldiers and others in uniform paraded, including what we took to be a small Timorese militia, in traditional dress. Across the road, about 100 Timorese stood silently, a number of them in traditional dress, with two holding placards saying, "Get out of Timor". The military were mingling with them, but did not inter-

fere with them while we watched.

The road system in East Timor has been greatly improved since the Indonesians have been in charge. We are told that the schools and hospitals have also been improved. But I remember that Jesus said, "People do not live by bread alone". I also remember a song that asks, "When I needed a neighbour, were you there?"

We are right to be concerned about Rwanda, Somalia, Bosnia and other parts of the world that have needs in horrible proportions. Yet the people of this island, so close to Australia, need our support. They need us as a nation to speak up for them. They need us as churches to pray for them.

—Richard Lawton

## Not Just Disappearing

### Amnesty at work in Colombia

Hildegard Maria Feldmann, a lay missionary from Switzerland, had worked as a nurse and midwife in rural Colombia for seven years when the army killed her in September 1990. She was treating a sick woman when a counter-insurgency army patrol opened fire on the house without warning. Hildegard Feldmann and the owner of the house died instantly. Another resident was killed while trying to flee.

At first, army officials reported that four guerrillas had been killed in combat. When eye-witnesses came forward, they changed their story to say that Hildegard Feldmann had

been treating wounded guerrillas in the house. As is very often the case, official investigators exonerated the army of any responsibility for the murders.

Colombia has the reputation of being one of the most stable democracies in Latin America, with a tradition of civilian government. That Colombia can project an image of stability is largely due to a skilful public relations campaign that attributes most political violence to the drugs mafia or to forces said to be beyond official control.

However, statistics from official and independent sources show that security forces and their paramilitary allies are responsible for most of the political killings. Those responsible are rarely brought to justice.

Colombia has one of the highest murder rates in the world and a growing proportion of these deaths are politically motivated—carried out by both government forces and guerrilla groups.

Politicians, lawyers, trade unionists, teachers, human rights workers—in fact anyone who criticises the govern-

ment—are targets for political killings.

Hildegard Feldmann was only one of over 20,000 killed for political reasons since 1986. Some of these people were killed in combat, but the majority were defenceless peasants, victims of the army's drive to crush Colombia's guerrilla movements.

Church workers are being killed while worshipping, tending the sick or after speaking out for social justice. They are particularly at risk because many work in rural areas where guerrilla groups are active.

Security forces are equipped with broad state of emergency powers and a counter-insurgency strategy based on the presumption that anyone living where guerrillas are active should be treated as an enemy. Anyone working or living in these areas is at risk.

Recent years have seen numerous massacres and "disappearances": 43 "disappeared" from Pueblo Bello, Antioquia, in 1990; 11 peasant farmers massacred in Macaravita, Santander, in 1990; 17 massacred in the village of Los Uvos, Cauca department in 1991; 20 Paez Indians killed in Cauca department in 1991; 13 villagers massacred in Riofrio, Valle de Cauca in 1993. These inci-



• Fr Tiberio de Jesus Fernandez (right)

dents, and hundreds of others like them, have spread terror in rural Colombia.

Amnesty International, a world-wide organisation that works to prevent some of the gravest violations by governments of people's fundamental human rights, has recently launched an international campaign against political killings and "disappearances" in Colombia. The campaign aims to increase awareness of the human rights violations taking place in Colombia and to mobilise people to act.

For further information, contact Amnesty International, 14 Risley St, Richmond 3121. Phone (03) 427 7055, fax (03) 427 1643.

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# BETHESDA HOSPITAL

## "Reflecting God's Love"



### What We Believe...

#### Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide high quality health care, recognising the physical and spiritual needs of the individual, delivered with respect and compassion, reflecting God's love for all.

#### Values

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Professionalism | A demonstration of pride and excellence in the services we offer.                               |
| Respect         | A recognition and acknowledgment of the uniqueness and value of the individual.                 |
| Integrity       | A sincere demonstration of honesty and trust.   |
| Compassion      | An attitude of support which conveys a caring expression of kindness, tolerance and tenderness. |
| Empathy         | An understanding and sharing of another's life experience.                                      |



### Services We Provide...

Bethesda Hospital prides itself on providing a "one-stop" centre for all medical and surgical services, and quality accommodation. These include the following major facilities:

#### Accommodation

The majority of rooms are single; however, shared accommodation is available consisting of double, three or four bed units.

Most have en suites and river views. "Rooms with a view" lounges are available for patients and visitors.

Patient support accommodation is available and patients are accepted for respite care (short-term) when beds are available.

A specially monitored nursing unit, accommodating four patients, and an eleven-bed Day Surgery/Endoscopy Unit completes this beautiful 77-bed facility.

#### Medical/Surgical facility

Three modern theatres in the operating suite cater for a wide range of surgery, including general, gynaecological, plastic, vascular, urological, ENT and dental. Special facilities have also been incorporated within the operating suite to handle advanced endoscopic, orthopaedic and ophthalmological procedures. There is an extensive range of diagnostic services provided at the hospital, including radiography, pathology and endoscopy.

#### Chaplaincy

In accordance with its pronounced Christian principles, Bethesda has incorporated a chapel as an integral part of the hospital's facility, with its chaplain playing a vital role through the provision of 24-hour pastoral support for patients and their families regardless of religious affiliation.

### Who We Are...

Bethesda is an "A" Class Christian Private Hospital, is owned and run by the Churches of Christ in WA.

Bethesda, literally translated, means "House of Mercy" and was the scriptural site of one of Jesus' healing miracles. Today, the modern 77-bed hospital bearing the same name, is the end product of a remarkable journey of faith for its founder, the late Ma:ron Beryl Hill, and those who have journeyed with her during the past 50 years.

Opened on the present site in 1945, Bethesda has gradually grown from a local cottage hospital to a modern well-equipped medical and surgical facility.

Bethesda grew on a rather ad hoc basis until the 1980s, when major decisions had to be made about its future—either a complete redevelopment as an "A" class hospital, or a change of focus to become an aged care complex.

With the decision to rebuild Bethesda, came shifts in the way the hospital was to be operated, due to the introduction of new medical technology and the introduction of Medicare.

Now, with redevelopment, has come increased usage—75 per cent surgical, from all over the Perth metropolitan area, and 25 per cent medical, mainly from nearby districts. Bethesda Hospital, in fact, has become extremely attractive to doctors and surgeons with consulting rooms in all suburbs.

What sets Bethesda apart from other hospitals in our community is the standard of care that each member of staff delivers to their patient. The staff are a closely-knit team of professionals, fully aware of the hospital's Christian principles and are committed to the provision of quality care, encompassing the total needs of all patients.

The Board of Management consists of a variety of people, each with a strong personal Christian commitment and an obvious desire to be part of the overall healing ministry of Bethesda.

For its healing role, Bethesda Hospital is serenely sited. Located high on the Claremont foreshore, overlooking the Swan River's Freshwater Bay, it has a tranquil environment where calm and peace combine with the best of medical practices and accommodation to produce a facility which is the envy of private hospitals throughout the State.

### Where We Are Going?

Because we acknowledge the importance of every staff member's contribution to the health care team, one of Bethesda's immediate plans is to initiate a quality program that will further enhance the standard of care patients receive within our hospital. Over the coming 12 months, there will be continuing education for all members of staff in the art of giving quality care. This will not only benefit our patients, but all our staff, as we endeavour to improve their job satisfaction and empower them within the workplace to do the right things right the first time.

One of the other aims for the future is to develop a program of Benevolent Services. One of the options we are exploring through our Chaplaincy and Extension Services Committee, is the provision of benevolent health care within our local community, our Aboriginal community and/or an overseas third world community. We believe that the financial and health care resources we are privileged to enjoy, should be shared, in connection with our existing Church of Christ aid agencies, with the wider family of God in need.



### What Can You Do To Support Us...

We believe very strongly that, in order for the ministry of Bethesda to be fruitful and meaningful to the people it seeks to serve, we need to have a firm foundation of prayerful support. We do not exist for ourselves, but for God and for the extension of God's Kingdom. It is only through the prayers of our wider church family that our ministry continues to be grounded in Christ and fulfils the goals of our Mission Statement. We do not minister in isolation. Like our neighbouring local church congregations, we minister as part of a whole body that is Churches of Christ in Australia. So, as our sisters and brothers, we would like to encourage you to pray for us.

- Pray for the patients, and families of patients, who are hospitalised in Bethesda, that they might experience God's love through the care they receive and seek to explore the source of that love.
  - Praise God for our physical surroundings.
  - Pray for the staff, that they may be personally empowered to embody the Christian values and mission of our hospital in their interaction with all people.
  - Praise God for the positive sense of community and teamwork that exists between the staff.
  - Pray for the Board of Management and Management Team as they seek to lead the hospital with wisdom and insight into a sometimes complex health care future.
  - Praise God for the variety of skills and gifts present in these people.
  - Pray for the spiritual ministry of the hospital, that there might be many opportunities to bear witness to the power of Jesus Christ through personal interaction and involvement with patient, staff and their families.
  - Praise God for the hospital's recognition of spiritual care as integral to the provision of quality health care.
- "Pray for us, so that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified everywhere."

(2 Thess 3:1)

If you would like to become regular prayer partners and support us in our ministry, we invite you to contact Jenni Ashton, Chaplain, on (09) 384 6311.

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## International

### Bhutan Freedom

After years of persecution, Christians in the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan can now openly preach the Gospel. The change of heart, announced by the King of Bhutan, flies in the face of previous government policy of keeping Christianity out of Bhutan.

### Orthodox Church of God?

For the past three years, the pseudo-Christian sect the Worldwide Church of God (founded by Herbert W. Armstrong) has been moving towards orthodoxy—after 60 years of rejecting basic Christian beliefs. Now the sect appears likely to embrace the doctrine of the Trinity, a view it hitherto dismissed. This “new” perspective is expected to provoke a mass exodus from the group with some predicting it could lose 10–50% of its membership.

### Greek Protestant TV Troubles

Greek authorities have shut down the only Christian television station in the Athens area, prompting an outcry from Protestant leaders. “Hellas 62”, a Trinity Broadcasting System affiliate, ceased broadcasting on 25 May, when electricity to its transmitter was shut off. A Protestant spokesperson alleged that authorities had been pressured by Greek Orthodox leaders to take action. Last year, a confidential government report identified “Hellas 62” as a “national enemy”, along with 29 other Protestant churches and organisations. Meanwhile the broadcasting frequency has been given to another station.

### Haggai Institute Anniversary

The Haggai Institute for Advanced Leadership Training is celebrating its 25th anniversary around the world this year. The Haggai Institute has now trained more than 17,000 graduates (both lay and clergy) from 133 countries. Men and women participants are taught the “how” of communicating the Gospel as well as helpful subjects in training others in evangelism.

## Excitement at Tamo

### Women's convention



There was a feeling of excitement from the first moment we climbed down from the plane.

A hundred women lined up eagerly to shake hands. Some had come by canoe, others had walked for up to three days to be present at the second **Keram Women's Convention**. At the first convention in 1992, 70 women were present. This time a total of 319 were present, car-

rying food and pots for cooking to cover their needs for the next five days.

When the first drum sounded for worship, women could be seen hurrying to the church. Latecomers were forced to stand outside. 319 women fervently praying aloud is an experience never to be forgotten. Joy-filled singing, lots of chatter, lessons in Vanuatu-style

cooking, Bible studies, skits, testimonies, hand crafts, volleyball—the days were packed with activity.

Many shed tears at the challenge to come to “take up their cross and follow Christ”. Expressions of love across cultures came as hugs and gifts of food were exchanged and friendships forged. Eight language groups were represented. One skit involved four from four different countries. People shared themselves with others, many overcoming a lifetime of shyness. The final “item” on the last night's program was a little, toothless lady who stood up to sing. As her old cracked voice faltered, half a dozen young voices took up her song and soon the whole congregation joined in. It was a time for women to encourage each other and a time for women to find more of the reality of God in their lives. The next convention will be held at Chungribu and we expect up to 400 women to attend. —Fay Christensen (Chungribu, PNG)

## Just Another Day

### Diary of a day at Mui

At 6 am, as I lie on the floor on my thin foam mattress, I am woken by a flight of hornbills squawking and flapping on their way to their daytime feeding grounds. I open my eyes, looking up through my mosquito net, to see the soft early morning light and, closer at hand, five hungry mosquitoes buzzing hungrily outside my net.

There is time to pray, as outside the bustle of village life begins.

At 6.30, I plunge out of my net to join the mossies. I visit the outhouse, where more mossies and miscellaneous bugs await me. Back in my one-room house, I begin sorting out books for the day's work. Someone hands me a pot of hot water—I make coffee and eat the cooked banana that also arrives with it, sitting cross-legged on the floor, calling out greetings as people stroll past. A plate of

sago is brought, I eat some and leave some for lunch.

A piece of iron is banged. Assembling my chalk, books and flashcards, I head for the chapel. Young men and women are learning to read Rao. We work for a couple of hours.

Half-hour break: drink and coconut; chat to people. Back inside at 11 with another group, to see if translation done by one dialect is intelligible in this dialect. We work till nearly 3 pm.

Eat a snack of sago, or cucumber or cold sweet potato. Down to the creek to wash and change. Talk to people. Eat our afternoon meal. Prepare myself to preach. At 5 pm, we have devotions for the whole village and I preach. At 6 pm, we come back, light our lamp, someone carries off my pot to heat up for coffee and people start to arrive. Some want to read to me. When they can read a whole story in one book well, they get

the next book. Some ask for help with problems in their Christian lives. Someone outside organises them to come in one by one and we talk and pray together.

At 9.30 pm they decide I am tired and some go back home. A bit of chatter with my neighbours, standing outside under the stars. Then I climb the stairs, close the door, hang up my net, pray with the girl who stays with me in the house and fall into bed! This is my program for two weeks at Mui, PNG, it concludes with an all-night fellowship night before I catch the plane back to Chungribu.

—Fay Christensen

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## People

### People

#### Jim Bakker Released

PTL television ministry founder Jim Bakker was released from prison on 1 July after serving nearly five years for fraud convictions stemming from his handling of ministry funds. He will work at a business in Asheville, North Carolina, and live at a Salvation Army halfway house for several months, then live with his son. A chastened Bakker released a statement saying, "I want to humbly ask forgiveness to those I have offended or hurt in any way by my sin and arrogant lifestyle. I also humbly ask the family of God to forgive me the pain and shame I brought on them and most of all on the name of the Lord."

#### Sports Focus Award

300 attended the Ansva-SLM Sports Focus Award dinner on 27 June. The Sports Focus Award was won jointly by Andrew Gaze (NBL Melbourne Tigers) and Gary Neiwand (world cycling champion). Richmond AFL coach John Northey was recognised as the 1994 Friend of SLM. Brad Wright (formerly a quarterback with the Dallas Cowboys American football team) shared his testimony and 12 people responded to his Gospel invitation.

### International

#### Action Partners

The 90 year-old SUM Fellowship has changed its name to Action Partners to more accurately reflect present realities and future vision. Action Partners already has partnership service agreements with evangelical churches in Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroun, Tchad, Sudan, Zaïre and Egypt. In spite of fierce persecution, the SUM-pioneered Sudanese Church of Christ has grown from 200 to 300,000 in 30 years. SUM's pioneering in Nigeria has resulted in 1.5 million in congregations of the Church of Christ in Nigeria. The Sudan United Mission was formed in 1904 in response to founder Karl Kumm's vision of a chain of mission stations "from the Niger to the Nile".

### Associate State Minister

#### SA appoints Ian Corlett

Churches of Christ in South Australia are delighted to announce the appointment of Ian Corlett as Associate State Minister, commencing early 1995. Ian's job description has a specific focus on the area of church development and it is anticipated that he will work closely with ministers and church leaders to resource local church mission, to facilitate development of local church projects, to give initiative in church planting and to promote opportunities for training in the area of church development. As with all Conference staff positions, his primary goal will be to resource and facilitate the mission and ministry of the local church. He will function as

a "field worker", giving significant blocks of time and energy to specific local projects identified in conjunction with the State Minister, David Brooker, and the Church Development and Education Work Group.

Ian's gifts and abilities, along with his significant experience in ministry with Ascot Vale, Kensington Christian Network, Sunshine and ITIM in Victoria, will give great impetus to the climate of revitalisation and expansion that is emerging amongst our churches, evidenced by some very creative expressions of church and ministry. The churches in South Australia are excited about the contribution Ian, Curley and Rebecca will make to the Conference scene.

The position of Associate State Minister has been vacant during 1993-94, with Brian Phelps filling an interim posi-



tion as Consultant in Church Development and Education during that period. Brian will finish early in 1995 and proper acknowledgment of his wonderful contribution to the life of our churches will then be made.

This is a crucial and exciting time in the history of our churches in SA and we enter the future with hope, confidence and anticipation of some great advances for the Kingdom.

—David Brooker

### Seek and Find

#### Baptism at Bentleigh

Mark had been seeking. Representatives of various sects had spoken with him, but did not meet his need. Then he received a favour through a business transaction and inquired as to the person's church affiliation. As a result, Mark, still seeking, started attending his nearest Church of Christ—Bentleigh, Vic. Just over a year later, he was baptised by student minister, Roy Armitage.

Mark explained to us that he had felt the need for baptism for some time, but during the past year had been diagnosed with cancer. His condition had deteriorated until he was unable to dress himself and was walking with a stick. Since then, with treatment, he has improved greatly and he knows this is due mainly to prayer and the love and caring of his wife, Clare, and the congregation at Bentleigh.

Rejoice with us that Mark, at the age of 80 years, has at last found the answer to his seeking.

—Alma Yewdall

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# Classifieds

## DEATHS

**LEWIS Alfred Frank** Passed away on 28 July at the Repatriation Hospital, Adelaide, after a short illness. Alfred Frank (Frank) the devoted husband of Mary and the late Nettie. Loving father of David and Eileen, Laurel and George (Moore), Milton and Pam, Rosemary and Barry (Modra). Loved grandpa of eight grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. Aged 102 years. Loved and respected by all who knew him.

**PRIME Herb** Passed away 18 July 1994. Loving husband of Mern and father of Gary, Rodney and Janine (dec). Sadly missed by family and friends.

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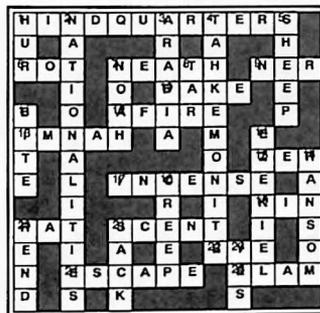
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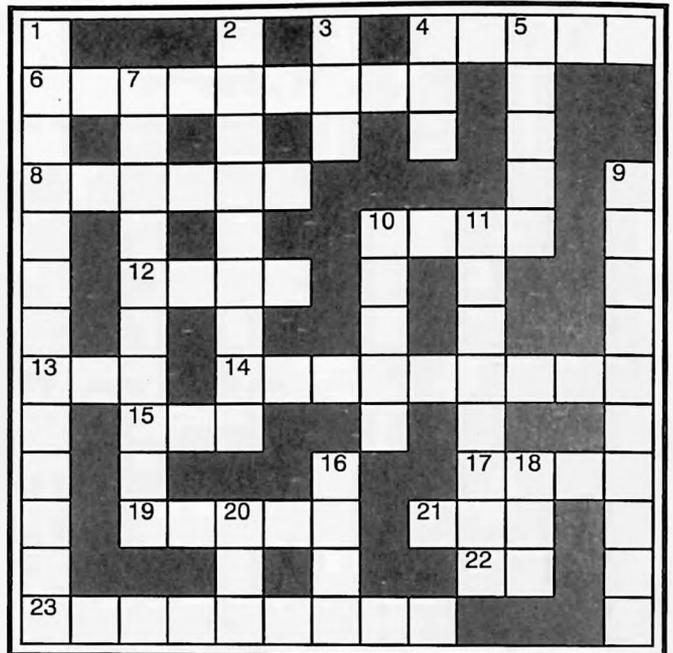
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## July Solution



# Crossword



## ACROSS

- 4 Sin offering achieves this (2 Chron 29)
- 6 Not to be \_\_\_\_\_ with the things of the world (1 Cor 7)
- 8 Tune used in Psalms
- 10 Prophet
- 12 Repository for stolen goods in Genesis
- 13 A guard of David (1 Kings 1)
- 14 Call came from here
- 15 Men from here (2 Sam 10)
- 17 Do not do this when rebuked (Heb 12)
- 19 70 brothers murdered on one of these (Jdg 9)
- 21 Where there are no sheep (Hab 3)

## DOWN

- 22 Common word in Isaiah 28:10
- 23 They attacked the Hamites in their \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Chron 4)
- 1 What the people were when they entered the land (Neh 9)?
- 2 Lips are likened to this in Song of Songs
- 3 A king of Judah
- 4 Done to the plagues (Rev 22)
- 5 Hill in Neh 3
- 7 Tradesmen in Neh 3
- 9 "They have done \_\_\_\_\_ things in Israel" (Jer 29)
- 10 Brother of Jesus
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ in genealogical records (2 Chron 31)
- 16 Used in question in John 16
- 18 City in Ezra 2
- 20 Elijah promised that it would not run out

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## People

### Herb Prime

*A man of genuine warmth and love*

On 21 July, 700 filled the Heysen Chapel in Adelaide, SA, to farewell the passing of a wonderful man who has touched so many lives, **Herb Prime**.

Herbert Spencer Prime was born in May, 1917 at Balaklava, SA. In 1943, Herb married Mern and they had three children, Garry, Rod and Janine (Janine passed away in 1978).

Herb was well known in the northern districts as a lay preacher and, in 1960, he answered the call of God to enter the College of the Bible and full-time ministry.

Herb was unique in Glen Iris as he was a mature age student and family man, and one of the few students who held a marriage licence and witnessed many weddings for fellow students at College.

Herb and Mern shared a part-time ministry at the Bayswater church while Herb was studying and, on his first Sunday in full-time ministry, had the joy

of baptising his daughter Janine.

Following ordination, Herb shared in a three-year ministry at Bayswater, followed by an 11-year ministry at Flinders Park, SA and a five-year ministry with the Strathalbyn, Milang and Point Sturt circuit in SA.

Records are not complete, but what we have of them, show that Herb shared in over 200 weddings, hundreds of funerals and touched so many lives; all of whom declared, "He was my friend".

Eleven years of retirement followed from 1977, where Mern and Herb shared at the Brooklyn Park church. His unflinching love for people saw him continue to speak at many churches and he continued to hold his marriage licence ready for his grand-daughters, of whom he was so proud.

He served as chaplain for Perry Engineering for a number of years and five years as chaplain at Glen Rose Court.

At the funeral service, we shared two hymns, one which was sung at Janine's funeral—"All Things Are Possible To God". The second was "Time of Trumpets" written especially for the jubilee service at Flinders Park, by Herb.

Keith Horne shared a tribute on behalf of his fellow ministers.

Herb was a man who generated warmth and encouragement in any company of people and was respected and appreciated for the genuine con-

cern he had for fellow ministers.

Herb was dogged by ill health for some time. While this may have limited his personal choices, it certainly did not limit his impact as a man of God, with a warm heart and a love for common people.

The prayer of thanksgiving was led by David Brooker. Our benediction closed with the familiar words, "See you later chip potato". —Debbie Short



### Steve Downie

*Mission Without Borders appoints Director.*

Stephen Downie, a Church of Christ minister for 24 years, has been appointed the **Australian Director of Mission Without Borders**, (from 1 August). Mission Without Borders is an international Christian missionary organisation with ministries in China, Albania, Bosnia, Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Ukraine and Moldova. It is a ministry of supplying Bibles,

Christian literature and supporting the practical needs of the local Christians in their work of evangelism in their own country.

Mission Without Borders has a special ministry, known as **Child Rescue International**, to the children of Romanian orphanages caught under the former communist regime. The Mission supports Christians in China with Bibles and training in the growth of House Churches and evangelism.

Steve has had ministries in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales. He has been a member of Conference Executive in NSW and was a foundation member of the Vision and Strategy group that introduced the new model to Conference. His ministry of seven and a half years at Mayfield church concluded on 31 July.

Steve will remain registered as a Church of Christ minister and will continue as an active member of the Board of *The Australian Christian*.



• Steve Downie

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### Gardiner Church of Christ 80th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday 11 September 1994

Communion Service	10.30 am
Light Luncheon	12.30 pm
Informal Service	2.30 pm



**Guest Speaker** Gordon Stirling  
A chance to sing old favourite hymns and enjoy items by soloist Tom Coad.

We look forward to your company to help celebrate this special occasion.

# Here be People

Viney Longthorp

**W**hen does Barry Jones find time to sleep? It is bad enough for an acquaintance with his bed that he is a member of our Federal Parliament, a minister of the crown, Federal President of the Labor Party and a member of literally dozens of committees. But on top of all this, he manages to write a meaningful book.

Now he has published a tome which will probably be regarded as his *magnum opus*. His latest offering, in spanning some 600 pages, is his *Dictionary of World Biography*. In it you will find authoritative accounts of some 8500 people, the kinds of people who have contributed significantly to our life on earth or those people whose notoriety cannot be ignored.

It is all his own work. In his introduction, he acknowledges that it is more than an objective reference book. He admits that it is "opinionated and subjective ... reflecting my interests in philosophy, literature, music, painting, film, sciences and religion". To add to this, a newspaper interviewer said of Barry Jones, "He is funny, affectionate and passionate, but above all he is a rational man". These qualities shine through the Dic-

tionary and make it all the better. As an intellectual, our author is an endangered species of politician, given the nature of our political style, but one hopes that he at least survives as an author, to give us more of the same.

There are at least four good reasons why this book should grace our libraries—personal, church, school, and municipal.

Most obvious of all, it is an excellent piece of resource material. Though it will not replace the standard encyclopedias, it will complement many of their entries. Jones has an engaging style of writing; he is never dull. You sense his deep emotional attachment to many of the people and their work. For instance, he gives Mozart and Mahler almost a page each (as well he should). The assessment he makes of these composer's works is spot on! Again, the article on Tolstoy is a masterpiece of literary appreciation.

The book is so useful because of the author's selection of people. There is a bias to the 20th century. This is no bad thing in so far as this is what most of us want to know about. Feminists will be impressed that women make up many entries. He has kept an eye on current affairs;

thus there are entries on such people as Bill Clinton, Steven Spielberg, Saddam Hussein, F.W. de Klerk, et al. He has thought through the personalities and work of many people of the past. In this he has had the benefit of recent scholarship. For instance, in writing about William Hamilton, the husband of Lord Nelson's mistress, Emma, he has had the benefit of reading Susan Sontag's book, *The Volcano Lover*. Thus our ideas about the hero of Trafalgar will never be the same again!

The Australian content is most complete. Jones' prowess as a cogent precis writer is seen to great advantage in the entry on Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen which is both objective and sympathetic. John Hewson gets a guernsey but Alexander Downer was elected to leadership too late to be included.

Finally, matters of religion are most prominent, as is befitting a former Sunday School teacher in the (then) Methodist Church. The outline of the life of Jesus is most complete—one feels that Barry is well acquainted with the *Westminster Dictionary of the Bible*. He limits himself to historical facts; he omits, as he must, both the teachings and interpretations

of the being of Jesus. Most of the main characters in the Old and the New Testaments are referred to. Modern heroes of the faith are well represented, such as Bonhoeffer, Mother Teresa, Niemoller and Schweitzer. Theologians and leaders find a place: William Temple, Reinhold Niebuhr, Emil Brunner and Paul Tillich. As expected, there are numerous entries on the mystics: John of the Cross, Jakob Boehme and Meister Eckhart.

One of our fine preachers of yesteryear, and a committed bibliophile, Ralph Amos, used to say, when he had found a good book: "Sell your bed and buy it". With a rrp of nearly \$40, this book is a good investment for the refurbishing of the mind and should not require any interruptions to our sleeping arrangements. ❖

## Dictionary of World Biography

Barry Jones  
(Information Australia)  
\$39.95

## Comment

# Paranoia

John McNichol

**R**ecently I was speaking to a politician who commented about the mail that comes into his office. "You know John," he said, "there are a lot of people who are paranoid." From my experience, many of this sort of people are well-meaning and often

churchgoers. To be paranoid means "over suspicious" or "unreasonably distrustful".

In the mail we receive in our office we often detect a similar trend. Letters and literature come to us from well-meaning folk who are convinced that we are witnessing a whole new

surge in the popularity and vitality of evil.

Obscure developments suddenly take on doomsday proportions. Each new day is greeted with suspicious eyes. Often the suspicion is directly aimed at the Labor Party, so that any new bill they intro-

duce is often greeted with a new wave of hysteria. With this in mind, I was challenged when I read in Isaiah "You are not to say, 'It is a conspiracy!' in regard to all that this people call a conspiracy and you are not to

Continued on page 19

# A Church ABC

**A**shburton church (previously East Malvern) is a suburban church located some 11 km south east of Melbourne in a residential area. Like many churches in established suburban areas, Ashburton has moved through a cycle of establishment, growth and then has faced decreasing attendance over a number of years. As such, many of our churches will be able to identify with Ashburton's experiences. Others, hopefully, will be able to plan for their own future with wisdom also gained from Ashburton's experiences. Finally, it may be that some might find ideas and hope from the way in which they are addressing their current situation.

Ashburton grew out of Gardiner church's 25th anniversary, where money was set aside and used to buy land for the new work. In 1940, some women began a Sunday school in homes, which ran for two years before the church itself began, again in a house because of the war. A hall was built in 1953, which was used for services until 1967 when the chapel was constructed.

With its close proximity to the College of the Bible, Ashburton has had the advantage of a lot of student minis-

tries over the years, a contribution for which they are very thankful. But Ashburton also had its innovative side having had women in leadership posi-

ment seemed coincide with the building of the chapel. Of course, this meant that over the years Ashburton experienced declining number and increas-



tions for a goodly number of years—on the board, participating in the plan and as elders. Currently, their minister is also female—Iris Lawson. Ashburton has also had Christians in fellowship since 1968.

Since the heydays, with Sunday school attendances of over 100, average worship attendance is currently about 30, with a significant number of older folk. To a great extent, the changes followed when the children grew up and left home. Married couples and young families in particular could not afford to buy in the area because of the relatively expensive land prices, therefore the young folk moved to the suburban fringe, where the growth cycle which Ashburton experienced many years before was beginning anew. This move-

ing average age of attenders. Ashburton's situation was not helped by the fact that they were not located on a major thoroughfare and so did not have the exposure of other churches in the area.

Ashburton, however, does feel that they have a role to play and a contribution to make in their community. The church runs an elderly citizens companionship centre and are also finding that some of the parents of the original Sunday school scholars are now attending because of their proximity (the church needing to be within walking distance since the buses are not available on Sundays).

The church is also running a craft group for women which a few younger women have been attending.

Sunday school has been replaced with Kids Club for which the children attend for half the service and then leave for their own activities. The Kids Club activities operate around a four-week cycle: the first week there is a story which is acted out in some way in the second week. The third week has some craft work related to the story or theme, with the fourth week being a family service in which the children have some part. Iris is also an RE teacher in the local school which provides contact with other children.

The good stewardship of the Ashburton church is reflected in their sharing their attractive chapel with the Lutheran church, which uses it both for Sunday worship and during the week. The dedication of particularly the older members is a solid foundation, as is their real sense of family. One possible difficulty coming out of this sense of family is that a visitor may feel overwhelmed with the attention, since it would be almost impossible to be an anonymous presence.

Ashburton is certainly not without hope, and is trying to adapt to its changed circumstances and to serve the community in which it lives. ❖

## Continued from page 18

fear what they fear or be in dread of it."

I have been a Canberra watcher for more than 20 years. In the last 10 years the evan-

gelical church in Australia has grown numerically, but has lost credibility, particularly amongst politicians. We often adopt the attitude and techniques of gossip journalists, with all the attention that is

given to cloak and dagger rumours and conspiracies. As a result, our prophetic mantle is threadbare. In many churches there is an undue preoccupation with demonology, eschatology and the New Age movement at the expense of the rich, practical biblical truths. No wonder we see the sensationalism of half-truths when our diet is theological junk food. Let there be no mistake, we are liv-

ing in a day of unmitigated evil. Our culture is velvet-lined with corruption. We see an acceleration in the abandonment of Christian values, occult activity and systemic injustice. But we are in danger of allowing imbalance, imprecision and inconsistency to blunt our effectiveness in challenging these misdevelopments. We are called to be ambassadors for Christ, not investigative reporters. We must stand by our convictions and not be afraid to speak out against injustice and to call sin 'sin'. Network for Christian Values is committed to speaking out and lobbying about those issues where Christian values are being jettisoned, but in a manner that will earn credibility. ❖

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# Rebaptism

Gordon Stirling

I was very friendly with a neighbouring Presbyterian minister. I was showing him over our church property. We came to our beautiful tiled open baptistry with its surround of well kept plants. He was impressed. He said, "Gordon, I'd really like you to baptise me." I replied, "Name the time." He said regretfully, "That would be rebaptism and that's anathema to us."

Paedobaptists believe that until a child is brought into the family of God he or she is outside of God's grace and as baptism is the rite of admission into God's family, infant baptism is necessary. Biblical faith is a prerequisite for baptism. As a baby cannot believe, the faith of the parents is accepted as a substitute. When the child is old enough to have a faith of his or her own, the opportunity is given for confirmation or what was done on his or her behalf as an infant. For 12 centuries, infants were immersed, but during the last 300 years sprinkling or pouring gradually became more convenient. The importance of water is emphasised, but in small quantities. For paedobaptists, this procedure fulfils all of the biblical requirements.

So when Baptists, Churches of Christ or Pentecostals baptise any who were formerly "baptised" as infants, they are accused by paedobaptists of practising rebaptism. If a paedobaptist minister has convictions about the biblical practice of the immersion of penitent believers, and practises it, in some denominations he forfeits his ministry.

In Churches of Christ we have been immersing penitent believers, many of whom were "baptised" as infants, for nearly 200 years. Have we then been guilty of practising rebaptism?

We have always believed that, biblically, the one baptism is the immersion of penitent believers. We have always be-

lieved that baptism is an intelligent response to all that it stands for, and thus requires sufficient age for the understanding required. We have always believed that a response to Jesus Christ is a personal matter and cannot be undertaken by proxy (eg the faith of the parents). We have always believed that a child born into a Christian family is thus born into the family of God and is in the grace of God until he or she is intelligent and responsible enough to make his or her own decision. We have always believed that anything less than immersion robs baptism of its biblical symbolism and dramatic action.

The logic of all this is that we cannot accept paedobaptist practices as fulfilling the biblical requirements for baptism as we understand them.

We respect the integrity and sincerity of fellow Christians who differ from us. We are sure that God blesses the families that in sincerity and commitment to Christ bring their children for what they call "baptism". We understand the strong anti-rebaptism feelings of those who concede that while the immersion of penitent believers is the New Testament norm, nevertheless, the "baptism" of infants on the faith of the parents also fulfils biblical requirements. However, we are committed to proclaiming and practising the immersion of penitent believers as the one biblical baptism. For us it is not rebaptism, but completing what other practices have lacked.

So the question arises, "Is the matter of rebaptism a serious obstacle on the path to Christian union?" The realistic answer is that of course it is. The impediment is not all on one side, but on both.

Most Churches of Christ could not honestly become part of a united church that limited their witness to the fact that the

immersion of penitent believers is the biblical precedent for baptism and that limited their practice of what paedobaptists call rebaptism.

On the other hand paedobaptist churches could not receive Churches of Christ into a united church unless, while free to practise the immersion of penitent believers in their own congregations, they were also committed not to baptise those who were formerly "baptised" as infants.

So while we can worship and work and pray with Christians who differ from us concerning baptism, and while we accept fully the genuineness and quality of their Christianity, we can do no other than follow our convictions believing that the Spirit of God in his way, not ours or theirs, may eventually bring us all to a resolution of the question of Christian baptism.

I will end by "throwing a cat among the pigeons" with the following question. As it appears that the "rebaptism question" will be a stumbling block to Christian union with paedobaptist churches for a long time to come, should we modify our approach to Christian union in the following way? That is, while continuing in conversation with paedobaptist churches, should we be seriously considering again union with our Baptist friends? ❖

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## International

### Other Language Papers

*Bientôt*, a French gospel paper, is edited in England and posted by enthusiastic groups of Christians. Currently it is receiving 200 responses a month. It is provided as a tool for churches to use anywhere in the French-speaking world. Copies are provided free and can be obtained from Derek Cook, Unit 6 Garcia Trading Estate, Canterbury Rd, Worthing BN13 1AL, England. Similar papers are also available in English, German, Indonesian, Portuguese, Punjabi, Spanish, Swahili, Thai and Urdu.

### Iranian Christian Deaths

Three Protestant church leaders in Iran have been killed in the last six months and the fate of three other Iranian Christians is unknown. Mehdi Dibaj, who had been missing since 24 June, was discovered dead on 5 July. Dibaj had served nine years in Iranian prisons on charges of apostasy (converting from Islam to Christianity) and had received three successive death sentences. Rev Tatos Michaelin, chairman of the Council of Protestant Ministers in Iran, disappeared on 29 June. His body was identified on 2 July. He had been shot three times. The first murder was that of Assemblies of God Bishop Haik Hovsepian-Mehrin January.

### Bible for Klingons

As aficionados of "Star Trek" will know, the Klingons were once the mortal enemies of Captain Kirk. But in the new series they're on the side of the goodies and to cement their popularity the Bible is being translated into the official Klingon language. However, the guttural, warrior-like vocabulary has only 2000 words and many Biblical references do not exist in Klingon. For "loaves and fishes", the translators use such words as "grain food" and "water animal".

## Reflection

# Will We Ever Soar?

Pam Hine

One Saturday we took time out from the mission station to go fishing a short distance up river with a PNG National co-worker and his wife, Manis and Ksak. My husband Gary joined the others in fishing while I read and relaxed under a makeshift shelter of sticks and banana leaves which Manis put together. The heat of the midday sun made me sleepy and I lay for a while and slept. After waking and looking up at the clear blue sky for some time, two eagles came into view. As they soared high, high above me in all their majesty, it brought to mind verses of Scripture which speaks about Eagles.

Deuteronomy 32:11: "Like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, and spreads its wings to catch them and carries them on its pin-

ions". Often God is described as an eagle, majestic and powerful, the Lord of all birds, with eagle eyes that penetrate deep into the hearts of all people. Yet, he is also like the eagles who are gentle, protective and committed when caring for their young. They daily fly great distances to gather food and then tear it into small pieces to feed the chicks. But when the time comes the eagle pushes the young out of the nest and teaches it to fly. As the chick plummets to the earth the adult bird dives underneath it and catches it on its back. Then it takes it up and drops it again until it gets the idea to open its wings and flies by itself.

Doesn't it feel like that with ourselves and the Lord sometimes? Often we are thrown into circumstances or situations for which we don't think we have the capabilities. We wonder how we will cope. If at first we don't get the right idea, the Lord is always there to pick us up, take us up and give us courage to try again. Isaiah 40:31 "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles". If we put our full trust in him, spread our wings and lean on him, maybe one day we will soar!

Most people would be familiar with the movie *Beaches* and the theme song "You are the Wind Beneath my Wings". The story concerns two friends who are very opposite in character, appearance and lifestyle, yet each is spurred on by the desire to be like the other. When one dies the other is devastated.

It is easy for us to be carried along by our friends. We go to them for love, encouragement, to let off steam, to be refreshed, to ask for guidance, to cry on a shoulder, etc. Friends are a wonderful blessing and certainly have a special place, but as Christians we often rely on them too much. We forget that Jesus Christ is our best friend.

He is far more qualified and capable of meeting our needs. We should desire to be like him. We should go to him with our hurts, joys, anger, frustrations and questions and then accept his love, guidance, discipline and comfort.

The Lord should be the "Wind Beneath our Wings". Once we have left the nest and learnt to fly, it is only the wind beneath our wings that will sustain us.

I watched the eagles soaring, the heat of the day had gone and the shadows were lengthening. Suddenly six Rainbow Bee-eaters appeared, fluttered on the surface of the water in rapid succession and then played around in the air above me for a short time. These brilliantly coloured birds would have to be my favourites. Slender, fast, yet precise, they dart about catching insects in their long thin beaks. I smiled as I watched them and then became aware of many other bird calls around me. Some close by in the tall reeds, others high in the trees on the opposite side of the river. At the same time, I could still see the eagles soaring a thousand feet above.

Just as there are many and varied species of birds, there are also many, many different Christians.

Some birds will never fly, let alone soar, but they are content to forage around the forest floor in search of grubs and beetles, caring for their mate and raising their chicks as the Lord has appointed them to do. The dumpy little quail is busy in the long grass scurrying around protecting her minute family of chicks. Some, such as the pheasant are regal birds, but can only fly short distances at low levels. Yet they may one day grace the table of royalty. The pigeon seems to flap rapidly and not get far, while the pelican gracefully lifts its huge body up to the heights. The slender brolgas delight with

their dances and the kookaburra adds joy to the day. And oh yes, there are the galahs!

Each has a very different habitat, feeding and nesting pattern, and appearance but they can live in harmony with each other. Each accepts its position in nature's plan.

Are we as accepting of each other? Do we accept our own position in God's plan?

A street sweeper may never be a Billy Graham, but he plays a role in the cleanliness and hygiene of the city. A housewife/mother may never be the Queen, but she has the responsibility to guide and mould her children's lives. A business leader may never be a millionaire, but does supply the needs of a growing family.

Some are called to be missionaries, others are used to witness to a friend or neighbour. God has chosen each of us and uses our different attributes. In accepting our differences we will learn to live in harmony with others, fully aware that every person has their part to play. (1 Peter 3:8.)

Though some of us may never soar to the heights, with the Lord as the "wind beneath our wings" we will be where he wants us in his perfect plan.

Oh, by the way, the Lord blessed us with eight nice fish sufficient for the evening meal for Manis' large family. ❖

*Pam Hine is serving with our Overseas Mission Board in Bunapas, PNG.*

## Think

A reasonably competent and energetic mission development pastor can come into nearly any community on the North American continent and within six to ten months create a new congregation that includes at least two or three or four dozen adults. If this is possible, why cannot the existing congregations in that community reach those same people?

One part of the explanation may be the will to do it. Another may be passivity. A third is that most congregations unknowingly erect what outsiders perceive as barriers.

—Lyle E. Schaller, "44 Steps Up Off the Plateau" in *Net Results* (Distributed by Australian Board of Church Development & Education, 77 Chapel St, West Melbourne 3003.)

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**Changes**

**NUNAWADING: Singles Coordinator**—Ms Anne Spoelder, 13 Clare St, Blackburn Vic 3130. Phone (03) 877 4237.

**Baptisms**

•Peter Stoessinger, Adam Guy, Barbara Davidson, Caroline and Colin Bastick, **Launceston, Tas**  
 •Denise Thirlwell, Donna Hansen, Matt Tomlin, **Engadine, NSW**  
 •Steve Powell, **Morwell, Vic**

**Marriages**

•Stephanie Holmes and Andy Gwynne, Danielle Rudd and Paul Procter, **Engadine, NSW**

**Deaths**

•Vera Sell, **Essendon, Vic** •Miss Mildred Jane Curtis, **Nailsworth, SA** •Ross J. Manning, **Noarlunga Centre, SA**

**Obituaries**

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

**Crosby, M.A.K. (Keith)** (23.7.94) One of the leading laymen in the South Australian churches over the past half century, Keith richly deserved the many tributes paid at a packed memorial service. He served for one term as Conference President and several years as chairman of the then Home Missions Department. He was a member of the management board of the Morialta Protestant Children's Home and later Morialta Trust for 20 years. At Prospect, SA, church he was treasurer, then secretary for 15 years. Transferring to Dulwich with his wife Pauline, Keith was an elder for many years and took part in the formation of the Dulwich/Rose Park United parish. Keith's professional career was as a design engineer with the Adelaide Electric Supply Co which became the Electricity Trust of SA. In retirement, Keith was a volunteer helper at Royal Adelaide Hospital with the "Lavender Lads and Lasses", an organisation founded by Pauline (who died a year ago). The service in Gartrell Church was conducted by Garry Harris. Aspects of Keith's life were spoken about by Keith Horne and his sons David and John, while their sister Ruth read the Scriptures. There are six grandchildren. —JL

**Manning, Ross J.** (27.7.94) Ross, born in 1908, quietly passed away in his sleep. He accepted Christ early and demon-

strated a strong faith and a love for people all his life. He trained for missionary service at the College of the Bible (1927-29) and at Livingstone Missionary Training College, London. Ross went to the Belgian Congo (Zaire) in 1932 with the Regions Beyond Mission and in 1939 married Chris Attwood there. From 1952-60 Ross was in charge of the joint Mission Printing Press and distribution centre. He undertook Bible Society work, becoming the first secretary of the Nigerian Bible Society. Then, as Bible Society consultant for Africa, he travelled in Africa and to the US and Australia. Ross' testimony through all his travels, three military coups and the Biafran war was "The Lord stood by me". Loving sympathy is extended to Chris and family, Beverley and Folke Johanson with Jessica and Niklas; Edwin and Kim and his sister Jean May.

—J.C. Cunningham

**Marsh, Alfred George** (27.7.94) Alf was born on 8 July, 1911 and was carried into the Brunswick, Vic, church as an infant by his parents, George and Mary, who were members. Becoming an integral part of Brunswick's history, Alf was a member until he died. He and his wife, Edith, were married at 5.30 pm on 18.12.37, the first of five weddings conducted by Mr Fisher on that day! They raised two sons, Kevin and Graham. Alf was Secretary of Brunswick church for 45 years and also served as Chairman of the Coburg, Brunswick and Pascoe Vale Regional Board. As well, he took a great interest in Fawkner and Pascoe Vale churches where he taught Sunday School. His example of faith and witness will be sadly missed.

—DRM

**Russell, Emily** (28.7.94) Emily died at Glenrose Court Nursing Home, Glen Ormond in her 92nd year. She had a life-long association with the church, both as an individual and in support of her (late) husband Walter in their ministries in the South Australian churches at Tumby Bay, Prospect, Bordertown, Forestville and Beverley. She was always active in the women's work, supporting conference and committee activities at both State and National levels. She served her Lord and his church with love.

—Lester Russell

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**Tas**

**LAUNCESTON (C Spaulding, D Tobler)** Nineteen Girls' Brigaders & nine leaders held company camp at Deviot 17 July ... 31st Girls' Brigade & Boys Club parade at 10.00 am service. Lunch for members & families to follow ... Dianne Dick spoke at CWF on work in Northern Iraq ... Young people participating in City Mission Winter Sleepout ... Andrew Armstrong involved in motorcycle accident & in hospital ... Mastermans on extended tour of Qld, USA & NZ.

**WA**

**MERREDIN (D. Jolly)** 60 attended Eastern Wheatbelt CWF. Thelma Pyne gave message through flowers ... Neale Fong led exciting Youth Vision workshop with 30 youth leaders. Seven churches represented, some travelling 350 km. Exciting fifth Sunday service, fellowship tea & Gospel service. Mukinbudin Christian School gave two musical items. Offering to Rwanda ... Merredin Mingles entertained seniors with special Friday fun night.

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# Church News

## NSW

**ENGADINE (Ed Holt, Mike Parker)** Church's 30th anniversary (9-10 July) huge success. Kevin Crawford reminded 160 at dinner of beginnings, where help of supporting churches enabled self-sufficiency with land, buildings & full-time minister in five years. Packed hall for concert. Former ministers Graham Warne & Ron Kallmier speakers Sunday. Over 160 at each service. Many former members returned including Charles Dudman (first secretary/elder) & former ministers Steve Thomas & Kevin Simington.

**MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins)** Building near completion. 4 September set for first service ... John & Debbie Grant, students Adelaide College of Ministries, visited ... Ray Minniecon, World Vision, shared about Mabo & church ... Mr & Mrs Doornbos (Wagga), Mr & Mrs P. Grant (Blackwood) welcomed into membership ... Music team from USA took morning service. Their minister, Fred Wilson, preached on fatherhood.

## SA

**GLENELG (Ron Roberts)** Church has had wonderful year with appreciated minister. Church in great heart with warm fellowship of growing numbers attending ... Craft group averaging about 90 ... Happy Days group giving wonderful service ... Recently installed outside building, moving electronic sign with pithy messages ... In the process of distributing 9000 multi-coloured brochures depicting church activities & encouraging community to come & meet us.

**GROTE ST, ADELAIDE (Phillip Anderson)** Wayne Shepherd from Cowandilla Church of Christ inducted our new full-time minister, Phillip Anderson, 17 July. Following the service we held a luncheon which was well-attended by members and visitors ... We have taken the theme "Encouragement" at the moment, with services being held at 10:30 am and 6:00 pm.

**NAILSWORTH (Daryll Telfer)** Walk for Bibles for Russia & picnic Cleland Wildlife Park raised \$875 ... 75th anniversary speaker Jeff May. Thank offering to Heys (MS Doulos), Stones (Cornerstone, Bourke), Gaskins (NEGST Nairobi), Mignon Young (Middle East), Alisa Home (Ivory Coast) ... Bible Sunday featured display of Bibles in various languages, versions & launching Bible Society's "Faith Comes by Hearing" project ... Robert & Shirley Coombe welcomed by transfer.

## Vic

**WARRNAMBOOL (Peter Broadbent)** Olga Mogg farewell to Qld ... David Mason has found employment in Melbourne ... Graeme Mason serving short-term with our mission in Vanuatu & Carter family spending long service serving with Wycliffe in PNG ... Successful Missions Weekend held with Geoff Morrow (Wycliffe) as speaker ... Home groups & worship increasingly fruitful ... Combined youth practising musical play which Chris Watters has written.

**ESSENDON (Ken Stothard)** Cool Yule dinner organised by four churches

(Essendon, East Keilor, North Essendon & Strathmore) realised profit of \$1160, which was presented to Graham Frances, Executive Officer of Care Broadmeadows, on 31 July when he spoke at Essendon ... Church saddened at the passing of Vera Sell on 22 July.

**PRESTON (Steve Blacket)** Boomerang Kids Club resumed after school holidays ... Church roof undergoing repairs ... First Family Service well attended by all ages when mime clown Steve Bell entertained. Student Minister, Steve Blacket, spoke on "Amazing Grace" ... Student Minister, Mike Janssen engaged by church for re-

search and fact-finding on Preston area has compiled report: "Preston: mission field in our own backyard".

**MORWELL (Aif Thistlethwaite)** Combined weekly services with Morwell Baptist Church from 7 August ... Youth service 28 August, evening of modern Christian & secular music ... Girl's Club snow trip 13 August ... Bush walking group growing in numbers ... Youth group & young adults group in formation ... Combined C of C & Baptist concert great success ... Two members attending CCTC & Whitley College ... Great sense of excitement & vision present within church.

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**A Fairly Quiet Day**

**Mareeba News**

So tell me, why are there only 24 hours in one day? How we wish we could slot in a few more without feeling totally exhausted! Our catch-cry up here at Mareeba, Qld, always seems to be, "I'll do it just as soon as I get some spare time".

We actually found some "spare time" last Saturday and finally cleaned out the garden shed after four months here.

That was in between Murray picking up people for the 7 am prayer meeting and taking them home again, running a few messages to the other side of town, taking some people from Hopevale to visit a relative in prison at Lotus Glen (20 minutes drive each way) and picking them up again, as well as fitting in a Country Gospel concert with Dan Vogler, not to mention running after our twins and having most of the neighbourhood kids hanging around the trampoline and basketball courts all day.

Just a fairly quiet day!

It was nice to have two quieter weeks over the school holidays.

We were able to enjoy a few outings with visitors from the Gladstone church as well as a trip to Normanton to see the set-up of the Christian Centre there and spend time talking with Lyle Morris.

Last month, the church put on a

"cubba-murrie" as an outreach event. This is the traditional way of cooking meat and vegetables in a pit in the ground.

Thanks to Vincent Mathieson, the meat was nicely done and the vegetables were all cooked.

The evening was combined with a visit from Allan Bailey who brought his scale model of the Tabernacle and showed the intricacies of its construction and shared the significance of the different elements as well as putting a modern day application to them.

At a recent meeting, the church members decided they wanted to recommence the open-air evangelism amongst the Aboriginal people and also start a weekly prayer meeting at 7 am on Saturday mornings.

It is great to see the Spirit of God moving amongst the people here.

—Murray & Narelle Thomson



• Enjoying the trampoline at Mareeba

**The Last Word**

**Grace is not sought nor brought nor wrought. It is a free gift of almighty God to needy mankind.**

—Billy Graham

A lawyer sent an overdue bill to a client attaching a note which said, "This bill is one year old." By return mail the lawyer had the bill back. To it was attached another note: "Happy Birthday".

★★★★★

"Yesterday I dropped an egg five stories without breaking it."

"How could you do that?"

"I dropped it six stories."

★★★★★

"What do you think of our little town?"

"It's the first cemetery I've ever seen with traffic lights."

★★★★★

"Why do you always fly on planes that have four engines?"

"Because I haven't found any that have five."

★★★★★

A child came to its father and asked: "Daddy, when we sin we get smaller, don't we?"

"No," replied the father. "Why do you ask?"

"Well," exclaimed the child, "the Bible says, 'All have sinned and come short!'"

★★★★★

What's the difference between an elephant and a flea?

An elephant can have fleas, but a flea can't have elephants!

★★★★★

Why is an archaeologist always unsuccessful?

Because their career lies in ruins.

★★★★★

"When I grow up," confided Amy to her uncle, "I'm going to marry the boy next door."

"Why is that?"

"Cos I'm not allowed to cross the road."

★★★★★

Notice on a church noticeboard:

"The bread of life never goes stale."

★★★★★



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