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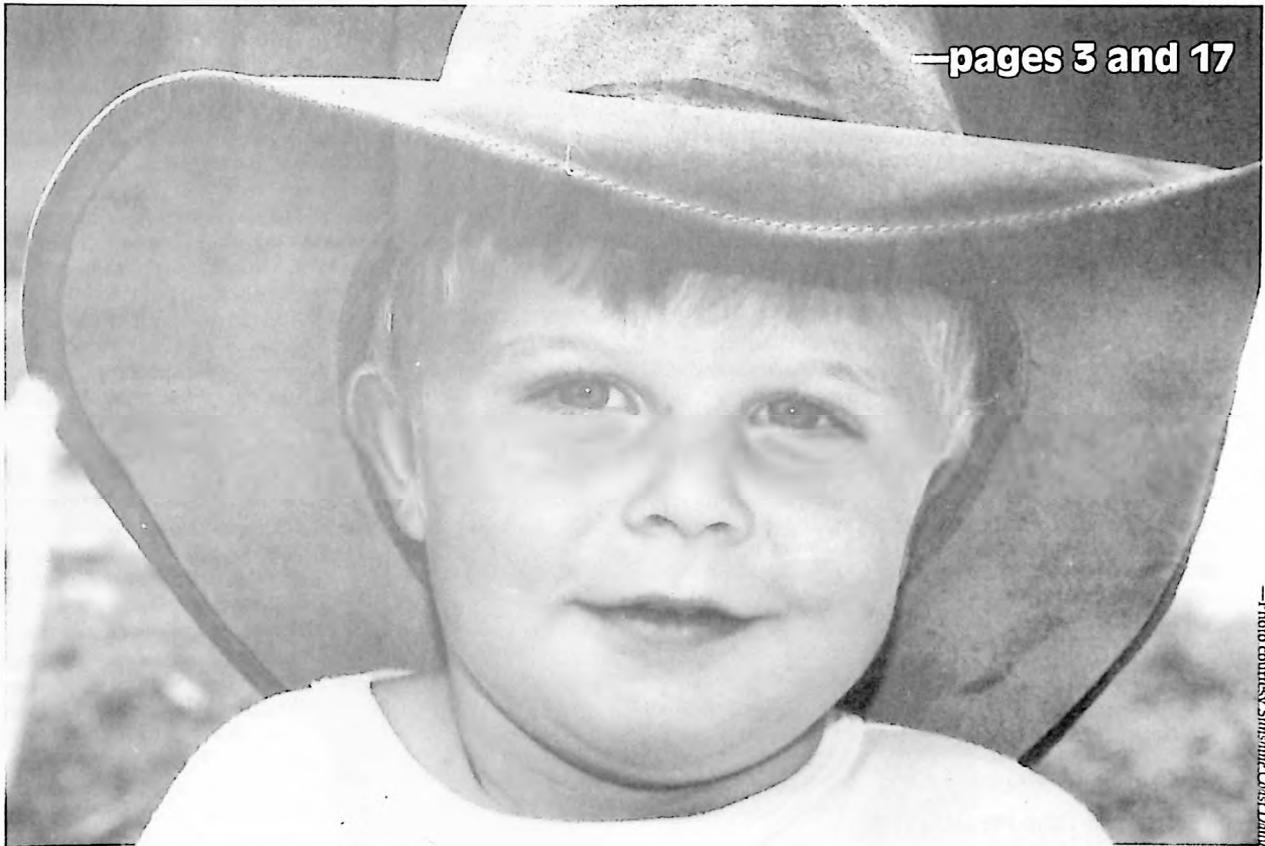
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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

The Outback

—pages 3 and 17



—Photo courtesy, Smiling Cross Daily

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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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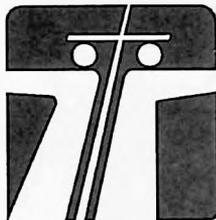
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Guest Editorial

Success! Success!

Kevin Bray

What is success? Gaining entry to the "club" of "senior ministers"? 50 or 100, or ... baptisms a year? As a leader, imparting a "vision" for others in the church to follow?

Who are the really successful people in our society? Alan Bond? (Before or after the Americas Cup, or the 1987 business crash?) Which are the successful churches? (Care to nominate one!)

Why are we mesmerised by numbers? If it's "bums on seats" we want, we could hire Madonna.

I had a Christmas letter from an 81 year-old woman who, with her late husband, are in a real sense my "parents in Christ". Right now, as she struggles to write (and remember) their history, success for her would be a "jolly machine" (typewriter) that would spell and space correctly. No great plaudits for them, as we are wont to measure them, but long lives of faithfulness to their God. Many know of their struggles and their lives have been forever changed by their ministry—communion in homes, Sunday School on the manse verandah, bush picnics and swims for young boys and always a challenge to follow Christ. Thank you Lord!

"Success" for me these past two years has included completing the course work for a Master of International Law. Fascinating stuff, giving a new insight into aspects of human rights. Refugees, care for the environment and international peace and disarmament—everything from Antarctica to Zimbabwe.

How do we who name the name of Christ, claiming him as Lord of everything, measure up in our responses to the hurts and evil we experience every day in our papers and on our television? There are many working in these impossible circumstances for whom success may be no more than knowing that the children they have buried in some hell-hole in Bosnia will suffer no more.

We have friends in rural Queensland who've had nine years of drought. Last year, they sold their miserable little farm, walking away with barely enough to stock a nearby leased property with a few head of cattle. Success? Somehow, they've educated their children, continued a fine Chris-



tian witness in their community, and, miracle of all, retained a sense of humour and their belief in a caring God.

We must beware the heresy of success! You know, the church of well-heeled, upper-middle-class, mostly professional Christians, who, perhaps unaware of the incongruity, really do thank God for their million-dollar-plus church buildings and their fancy homes. He must be pleased with

them, mustn't he? Why else have they got so much? Three full-time ministers, a music director, wall to wall everything, a talk-back radio program, all the latest audio and video gear and lots of "important people" in their congregation. Jesus wept over such people in his time, speaking of fools who build bigger barns.

Then there's Christian family success. Bigger, better homes (and mortgages), cars for everyone over 17, the best possible education for our children, equipping them for a secure job (what a joke) and future prosperity. Not much we need to learn from the materialists, I fear!

"Vision" is "in". Mine's not too good nowadays. I can't see the words on the overhead projector screen at church without my glasses. (Mind you, sometimes it's best to leave them off.) Large corporations spend small fortunes developing, refining and selling their visions. Churches hire consultants or send their leaders away on courses or visits. We now have senior ministers and ministry leaders and ministers-for-just-about-everything-else. We've even got a "year of vision" to make sure we've all seen the same one. They, and we, are expected to have a vision. Fair enough, I'm all for vision, but what you're likely to see depends on where you look. Without a sense of direction, vision will be distorted and misplaced.

Jesus always looked in unexpected places: seeing through the sham of false religiosity; overlooking the prostitute's reputation; seeing the potential in unlikely people; recognising repentance in the crucified thief. His vision was sharp, penetrating and diverse, ever adjusting to new situations.

Yet how successful was he really? We could glibly reply that no-one has been, or will be, more successful. Maybe, but it

Swimming In It

Outback kids have their first surf



Five outback children, who live 50 km from the nearest school and 1,300 km from the coast, took their first swim the ocean this week.

It was an experience these Aramac children would still be dreaming about if not for the compassion of many Sunshine

Coast groups. The community has rallied together to provide temporary, yet greatly appreciated, relief to drought-stricken families in western Queensland. The families have been coming to Caloundra and

enjoying free accommodation, petrol, food and passes to local attractions. For many, it has been the only break they have been afforded from the crippling conditions in years.

One sheep grazing family, Leon and Jane Ashby and their five children, of Aramac, left the Coast yesterday after a 12-day visit, and they could not have been more grateful.

"It's picked our morale up to keep going," Mr Ashby said. "It's been great to get the opportunity. We'd never seen the Queensland coast. We've had a great time—the kids really loved it." The relief appeal was initiated by Camp Cal, a Churches of Christ centre. Other groups and tourist attractions have pitched in to pay for other expenses such as food, petrol and outings.

—Sunshine Coast Daily

Dear "Camp Cal"

We are one family that have just spent a week's holiday in

one of your lovely units (No. 11 Investigators).

You have catered for every one of our needs in "this little homeaway-from-home." It has been a "luxury" holiday for us coming from the country. You have "topped-off" the holiday for us by having Peter and Faye Harris as managers of Camp Cal.

We see this place as providing a quiet and vital ministry to all age groups and people. We came here for "drought relief" and we are leaving refreshed, thanks to you.

It has been such a blessing to be in a Christian environment at the Coast. We are very thankful for your gift of "accommodation" and Zane has been greatly encouraged by Peter's kindness as I have been impressed with Faye's faith in God.

Thank-You.

—Zane and Jo Herrington,
Alisha, Joel and Sam

Continued from page 2

seems to me that the jury is out—that it has to be out again and again for each person. Only as we seek to live lives steeped in "success", as Jesus lived it, can others share in that success too. Have you ever wondered how that most profound image or vision of the Lamb of God squares with our notions of vision, success or power?

As a good friend often reminds me, the gospel is one beggar showing another beggar where to get bread. I pray that your best plans and visions will fail, so that God's might succeed!

❖
Kevin Bray attends the Belconnen church in Canberra. He is a public servant, hockey umpire, Conference Treasurer, "AC" Board member, and Churches of Christ representative on the Commission for International Affairs of the Australian Council of Churches. He hopes to walk in the Himalayas later this year. (He also loves eating crabs!)

Muddying the Waters

Mud mayhem at Mildura



Michael Waters is an earth moving contractor. He is also one of the leaders of Kingdom Kids, a youth group for years 4-6 at the Mildura, Vic, church. This combination led to a youth group program with a difference.

Michael spent a whole afternoon constructing a mound of earth approximately 10 metres high. He then laid a sheet of plastic down one side of the "mountain" and dug a one metre hole at the bottom, which he filled with water. By day's end, he had built the biggest mud slide in living memory.

On the Friday evening, the young people were asked to wear old clothing and proceeded to have the time of their lives, sliding and swilling in mud.

The mudslide attracted wide media attention and featured on the local television news. When asked whether he felt that this was an appropriate activity for Christian young people to be involved in, Michael Waters responded by saying,

"Of course. It's all just good clean fun!"

Announcing Hope

Triple Seven test broadcast

Triple Seven Communication's test broadcast in Melbourne (1 April-26 June) on 89.9FM should demonstrate its commitment to being a caring, community service radio station by developing ties with Christian and community social service organisations across the city to help people struggling with life or facing a crisis. The test broadcast will feature innovative programs, messages and music designed to inform,

entertain, motivate, stimulate and excite. Off-air counselling will also be provided.

The main aim of the project is to reach hurting and broken people in society through a message of hope and friendship. Bruce Upton, Triple Seven's General Manager said: "The Triple Seven team aim to build an audience of integrity. We want to give people hope, not despair; love not hatred; acceptance not rejection."

During the past three years test broadcasts have run for a total of 21 days. They are now undertaking 90 days of broadcasting in one test.

Volunteers have built the studio at the Christian Blind Mission International, 1245 Burke Rd, Kew. Hundreds of volunteer hours have been spent organising the important behind-the-scenes work.

Information during the broadcast will be presented by announcers and packaged around a music format.

The music format will include a carefully screened mix of familiar mainstream hits with relevant contemporary Christian music.

The professional line-up of presenters include Graham Rebbeck, Rowan Forster (breakfast), Tom Stokes (mornings), Mal Prior (afternoons) and Greg Allen (late afternoons).

Care Link and Choice are an integral part of the strategy with the 90 second service announcements run throughout the broadcast.

Care Link is a care and social service information announcement which will help people to know where to go and find assistance, help and advice on a variety of issues. The issues include accommodation, after school care, aged care, AIDS help, child-care, counselling service, craft groups, drug and alcohol abuse, emergency relief, Meals on Wheels, psychiatric services, single parents, women's refuge and unemployment.

Choice will be a challenging, but accessible, series of specially recorded spots dealing with creative ways to deal with conflict. Issues range from anger, breaking down barriers, conflict in friendship, driving, gossip, honesty and integrity, making peace, marriage, money worries, parenting teenagers, personal peace and prejudices, to work frustrations and tired marriages. Other short-length features, communications, social and interpersonal lifestyle responsibilities, and entertaining information will be presented daily.

Happy Valley 15

Time for thanksgiving

The Happy Valley, SA, church celebrated its 15th anniversary on 13 February with an uplifting service attended by 200, including many past members.

Lindsay Dunn, the church's first musician, led the singing and Jan Riessen reviewed some of the church's achievements.

We first met in the Happy Valley Institute, which has since been demolished. We then moved to a local kindergarten. Each week we had to rearrange the kindy chairs and tables for the service and then put them back again afterwards. From there we progressed to the happy Valley Council Chambers, where there was carpet and padded chairs!

Many fundraisers and working bees enabled us to move

into our own building five years ago. The Kilburn church donated their pews, for which we are very grateful.

Russell Allison is in his 10th year of ministry at Happy Valley. He is very involved in the community, including leading Hub Club (for primary school children), taking mid-week services at two local retirement villages and is chaplain at Flinders Medical Centre.

Happy Valley also has two KYB groups, evening Bible studies, playgroup, a coffee, craft & chat group for women, and a youth group that seems to be growing each week! It is very encouraging to see the dedicated leaders of the auxiliaries and we trust that people we contact will come to know Christ. —Lyn Criddle

CAMP REUNION

Stanwell Tops 29 April-1 May

If you attended camps at
Narrabeen-Lake Illawarra or
Bolton Point

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Camp Leader—Jim Henderson

For registration forms see your Church Secretary
or phone John Hunter (02) 451 4187

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- Bachelor of Ministries Degree [4 years]

Some selected subjects are also now available externally (by correspondence), but AUSTUDY assistance is not available for these courses

For further information, write to: PO Box 55 Kenmore, 4069



Rod Tippet
Principal

Australia

Decade in Solidarity with Women

A World Council of Churches' team is visiting Australia to mark the mid-point of the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998). The team will meet heads of member churches to discuss the progress so far, with particular focus on how remaining obstacles may be removed. They will visit Darwin, Alice Springs, Perth, Melbourne and Sydney from 9-18 April. A special service will be held in Sydney, 16 April, at St Anne's Anglican church, (cnr Homebush & Beresford Rds) Strathfield, at 5 pm.

Easter Event

The Mount Waverley-Chadstone, Vic, Inter-Church Council conducts an Easter Event every second year for primary school children. Over 1300 children from 10 primary schools will be presented the Christian message about Easter at Holy Family Roman Catholic hall on 28-30 March. The children are greeted by clowns and hosts and taken through four caves where audio visuals and dioramas present stories from the life of Jesus. European Easter customs are explained and children join in dancing and egg painting. The program is the largest children's event in Waverley and a major outreach program.

Easter Bibles

The Port Adelaide, SA, Central Mission, as part of a job creation program, is producing chocolate Easter Rabbit-Eared Bandicoots (or Bilbies) and selling them. The Port Adelaide Central Mission has incorporated the environmental campaign into its battle to help disadvantaged people in the recession by forming the "Bring Them Back Chocolates" business. The factory is providing employment for nine, most Spanish-speaking newcomers from South America. The chocolate products are aimed at promoting Australia's endangered species, starting with the Easter campaign for the Bilby.

Ministry Team Induction

Facing the challenge

Under the leadership of Graham Long, the Pendle Hill, NSW, church is set to grow and serve the community beyond expectation. Currently, the church is often crowded and has difficulty coping with seating arrangements for all who are regularly coming. On the 13 February, the church was swamped at the induction and commissioning of their a new ministry team, as the building was unable to cope with the 300 strong crowd.

The ministry team includes Ron Hewitt as preacher, Ron Schepis as pastor and Graham Long as senior minister. In the area of crisis ministry, the team includes Carol Young as student, Dianne Lucas, Wendy Parish and Lyn Walsh who are also an integral part of the overall ministry team. In the area of youth ministry, the team consists of Andrew Clark and Andrew Perry, two outstanding students from Carlingford Theological College. In the area of community service and outreach the church has Kerry



• Ron Hewitt, Graham Long, Ron Schepis and Gordon Moyes

Dunn (Community Visitors scheme) and Clayton Dunn (small groups coordinator). In the area of office administration, Robyn Hatherly (office secretary) and Barbara Spencer (Welfare Administrator) are working. In the area of seniors ministry Laurie Thomas and Max Kingham are chaplains to the Aged Care facility at Pendle Hill and are also both part of the elders team of the church.

The teams' induction and commissioning service was led

by Graham Long and the elders, who include John Maiden and Bill Harrison. The Church was also privileged to have Dr Gordon Moyes bring a challenging message. He challenged the church as a whole to have a big vision for a big future as it faces the challenging years ahead. The ministry team were welcomed into the church and, after the service, a morning tea was served to give members an opportunity to meet them.

—Ron Schepis

Looking Ahead

First anniversary for Ourimbah

A newly planted church in NSW, the Ourimbah Community Fellowship, celebrated its first anniversary on 6 March



• Leigh, Linda, Bethany and James Orton, ministering at Ourimbah

this year. The church began as the vision of the church at Wyoming on the Central Coast.

To commemorate the occasion, a thanksgiving service was held at Wyoming on the Sunday evening. After a time of praise, a number of Ourimbah people shared how God has blessed their lives through the ministry of the church. Included in the evening was a review of what God has done in the church's first year of ministry and an outline of the plans for the year ahead. Alan Broom, his wife Denise and their three sons, Daniel, Jonathan and Hadley, were introduced. Alan is in third year at the Carlingford, NSW, college and will receive part of his training for ministry in Ourimbah. The Wyoming

church then reaffirmed their commissioning of the members of the Ourimbah church in the ministry to which God has called them. The evening proved to be very positive and a real encouragement to both churches.

In the first year of ministry, God has brought many people to the door of the church, some visiting, but several have stayed and made a valued contribution to the fellowship. There have also been several first-time contacts with the unchurched.

There are two home study groups operating. An intercession program is running in which some 20 from NSW and interstate are praying regularly for the work at Ourimbah.

Some plans for 1994 include a change of location to the public school hall, a stepping up of evangelistic outreach programs and an increase in prayerfulness.

—Leigh Orton

No Room Inside

Full house at Kenmore Christian College



• Kenmore community, 1994

Kenmore Christian College, Qld, has witnessed a number of exciting new developments in the past few months.

Towards the end of 1993, the College's Diploma and Associate Diplomas were fully accredited through the Queensland Government agency, VETEC. This means that all courses offered by the College (Associate Diploma, Diploma and Degree) are fully accredited and may attract Austudy assistance.

The newly acquired status of these courses has been reflected in the highest number of enrolments of new students for many years. The College now has 28 students enrolled in full-time courses, nine in part-time study, as well as nine undertaking studies externally.

The offering of courses externally is a pilot program, but has met with a positive response. At the present time,

only a limited number of subjects are available for external study and these units do not qualify for Austudy assistance. Nevertheless, the College has found a keen interest in this method of study.

Kenmore Christian College has moved into an entirely new area of training, with the establishment of the Faculty of Human Services. Malcolm Wintle was appointed as Dean of this faculty and commenced duties during 1993. The aim of the faculty is to develop and coordinate training programs for staff working with the Churches of Christ Social Service Department, Qld. The greatest number of staff is in aged care. This year, 51 assistant nurses and personal care assistants have enrolled in the year-long Course in Aged Care. Further developments are in progress for aged care and other

aspects of Social Service. A further development relates to the nature of the college community. In past years, most of the College's students were single and lived on campus in the dormitory. Many of our present students are married and most are accommodated on campus

in family units or small flats. This has left a large area of dormitory space free. The College has made this space available to students undertaking courses at the various universities in the Brisbane area and has filled all vacancies. The result is a "full house"!

Planned Giving

New team to be consultants

A new team of eight program directors to lead planned giving programs in Victoria-Tasmania has been established by the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development. Team members participated in a training program in February, with Ted Keating, a previous Department Field Director.

Ian Cartmel will act as a team coordinator and liaise with the Department as necessary. Team members are already becoming involved in program leadership with churches. The full team is Ron Brooker, Ian

Cartmel, Mike Folland, Neil Galbraith, Robert Hough, Graeme Rogerson, John Sweetman and George Warren. Each member has been actively involved in programs in local churches and will be available to work with churches for consulting and program direction.

Programs in 1993 continued to show strong gains, with an average increase of 20%.

Initial enquiries should be directed to Don Smith of the Department of Mission, Education and Development on (03) 326 8900.



• Planned giving program directors



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Community Minister Box Hill Business District Ecumenical Appointment

The Box Hill Chaplaincy Committee is an autonomous body comprising representatives of business and church, and endorsed by the Box Hill Inter-Church Council. The Committee has supported part-time chaplains in the field over the last five years and now proposes to explore further development of its services to the business community by appointing a half-time Community Minister.

The initial two-year appointment is open to lay or ordained persons. Stipend by negotiation.

For job specification and application form ring Barrie Paul (03) 877 1971.



Applications close 30 April 1994

CARING FOR PEOPLE AT WORK

Developing Ministry

Mareeba news



• Jerry Yabru (far right) with members of the church

After several years without a minister, the Mareeba, Qld, church welcomed Murray Thomson, who commenced ministry on 7 March. Murray and Narelle and family arrived in mid-February, spending time unpacking and getting organised before commencing work.

They have been extremely encouraged by attendances at Club (45) and Sunday School (30), and hope to build on this foundation. There is a lot of work

to be done in helping the church to develop new and existing ministries.

The church also had the opportunity to meet and share a service with Jerry Yabru from the Madang, PNG, church (Jerry is from the first village to which Frank Beale took the gospel as a Churches of Christ worker in PNG). Jerry stayed over on his way through to Lake Nash, NT, where he will be ministering to Aboriginal people for several months. His

interest in cross-cultural mission developed while he was undertaking Bible college training at CLTC in PNG. He has spent time on the *Donnos* and is looking forward to his experi-

ence in Australia. His first challenge was getting through to Normanton with Lyle Morris before the roads were cut by floods!

—Murray Thomson

Women's Ministries

Inaugural conference in WA

With the promise of a very warm day ahead (weather wise), the promise of warm friendly fellowship was also assured for the Inaugural Conference of Women's Ministries, held in the Rivervale Church of Christ on 18 March, 1994.

170 women from country and metropolitan churches enjoyed the President's theme "Reaching out in Ministry", which was highlighted throughout the morning in music, worship, committee reports and from missionaries, who brought greetings of God's faithfulness as they have "reached out to others".

Greg Elsdon, Principal of the Churches of Christ Theological College, Vic, spoke to us on "The Light of the World". His message was both challenging and inspirational.

Roses for Remembrance is an important segment in our program. A rose is placed in the vase for each dear sister who has gone to be with her Lord during the year.

Items of song were presented and enjoyed by all.

Mrs. Shirley Burton is our President again for 1994-95 and has taken as her theme "Growing in Grace".

Her text is from 2 Peter 3:18 "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

After lunch, several electives were held. These were well supported and were found to be very beneficial.

Office bearers for the coming year are: President, Mrs. Shirley Burton; Secretary, Mrs. Betty McIlwraith; Treasurer, Mrs. Bronwyn Patterson

—B. McIlwraith

Opportunity Knocks

New life for old urban church

For over 103 years there has been a Church of Christ in Seven Hills, in Sydney's West. But most of these years have seen the church struggling to survive, with its largest membership ever at only 49, in 1972. The church has had an astounding 34 ministers in its life, including 14 students, which makes an average ministry a little more than 3 years. Over the last 15 years, the church has been viewed as a dying church.

All this is currently changing.

The present pastor at Seven Hills is Max Watson and, together with his wife Christine and their four children, they moved to Seven Hills at the beginning of 1992. Max and

Chris wanted somewhere to live while Max undertook further study for 12 months and Seven Hills wanted someone to run a Sunday morning service. So it was on a preaching only arrangement that began, as Max says, "a very interesting ministry".

In September 1992, while Max was involved in discussions with churches for ministry positions, he was challenged by friends, who were not part of Seven Hills, to stay put and rebuild the church.

Such a challenge took a great deal of praying, thinking and talking through, but after about six weeks, it was announced that Max was staying and a new work would begin.

Fifteen months down the track, the church has doubled in size and continues to grow. Naturally, there are some of the usual programs like Kid's Church and ladies and men's study groups, but the most exciting thing of late is the church Opportunity Shop.

What was, for many years the Churches of Christ Community Care Department Opp Shop, is now the Seven Hills Church of Christ Opp Shop. One of the church elders, John Willis, is acting as manager for the church, and he is working extremely hard, not just at running the shop but building relationships with the people who come in to browse.

The people of the local community are warming to the change and are very interested that the local church is now running the show. The profits



• Max Watson (in wheelchair) and John Willis in Opp Shop

still go towards welfare work of Churches of Christ in the western suburbs of Sydney.

Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to
200 words

Kudos for Jim Longbottom

To the Editor

A week ago it was a privilege to worship with the church at Box Hill, Vic.

At the evening service, Jim Longbottom, the minister, gave a sermon which centred on counselling as given in the book of Job. It was an extremely valuable and down-to-earth address. I am sure that all who heard it at the time appreciated its quality and content. It was from both the head and the heart, as Jim wrestled with the message of God for that day and for this day. Personally, I have the feeling that the same message would have been a blessing and challenge to those who attended the morning meeting.

May Jim find much blessing as he continues his work in time to come.

—Bruce Burn
(Morwell, Vic)

Homosexuality

To the Editor,

Let me clearly state my complete support for Ruth Smalley.

("AC" 19 March) I also wish to refer "Pastor Salt" to Matthew 5:13. Such salt is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot of men. Sheltering under his *nom de plume* he deplores "Gay Bashing" but does not hesitate to indulge in his own "bashing" of the MP who has the conscience and moral courage to stand up, in probably the most difficult arena in the land, for the moral values in which he believes.

There is no doubt that the practice of homosexuality is wrong, and it is time that Christians said so.

"Pastor Salt" says, "They are loved by Christ, therefore equal in all respects to us." I do not doubt that they are loved by Christ, but Jesus said, "Unless you repent you will all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3) God may break his heart over him, even go to the Cross for him, but that will not do him any good while he refuses the will of God and chooses his own preferences.

The irresponsibility that Ruth Smalley refers to is too representative and deserves the condemnation of moral people.

Let us love all people, and abhor what is evil and have the

moral courage to say so. If I seem to be hurling the first stone, let me remind Pastor Salt that Jesus also told the woman, "Go, and do not sin again."

—Allan Clark
(Croydon, Vic)

Homosexuality

To the Editor,

I was not amused at Pastor Salt's letter ("AC" 19 March) in which he found amusement in Fred Nile's valiant effort to stop Clover Moore's homosexual vilification act being passed.

It is a sad state of affairs when Christians are lampooning those who are making great efforts to prevent this country from sinking further and further into a moral decline.

Homosexuality is an abomination in God's sight, the Bible clearly declares God's denunciation of all sexual deviation. Christ died to save us

from our sins. If homosexuals would only realise there is a way of salvation, they can be saved. But while Christians are condoning their sin and tearing down those brave enough to speak out, to proclaim God's laws, the so-called 'gay' people will go on from strength to strength, corrupting our young people and turning our cities into modern Sodoms.

I pray Christ's church will be roused to action.

—Dorothy M. Smith
(Rosebud, Vic)

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Letters to a Travelling Companion

What is a Family?

Dear Daniel,

I was pleased to read in your last letter that your church is undertaking some activities in keeping with the International Year of the Family. Anything that places an emphasis on building closer relationships within family units can only serve to ensure the greater well-being of all people.

I do hope, however, that the International Year of the Family does not pass without a substantial redefinition of what it means to be "family" taking place in the collective mind of our society. Apparently, many people still assume that a "family" must, by definition, consist of mum, dad and a batch of kids. In our society, however, this is becoming less and less the case. Many people, either by choice or circumstance, are now living in households which differ, often greatly, from that which has been assumed is the structure of the "typical" family.

If, as Christian people celebrating the Year of the Family, we adopt and promote by inference such a narrow concept of "family", then we run the risk of excluding from our consideration those whose household structure is not in keeping with our restricted definition. That would be a great shame, because it is often those people who are most in need of the companionship, support and love of the wider household of God.

Hopefully this year, as we celebrate the good that comes from being part of a family, we will also feel a deeper sensitivity and compassion for those whose household experience leaves little to be celebrated.

Regards to your household,
Pastor Salt

Tarralla Christian Retirement Village

(Owned and operated by Croydon Church of Christ)



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Books

Penman

by Alan Nichols (Albatross) \$14.95

Collectors of great Christian biographies will want this one on their shelves. Into his all too short 53 years, David Penman packed a century of effective Christian service.

Alongside him, in it all, was Jean Penman, who in her own right is a remarkable Christian. In crazy Beirut, she would be alone with their children while David was away on his missionary job, never knowing if he would get home alive or whether, if he did, he would find his family alive. The Penmans had fruitful missionary service in Pakistan and Lebanon and David became, in both church and world, one of the best informed persons concerning Islam, the Arab situation and the whole Middle East. The Penmans returned to Australia where David became Principal of the Church Missionary Society Training College. Later, he was to become Assistant Bishop in Melbourne and, finally, for the last five years of his life, Archbishop.

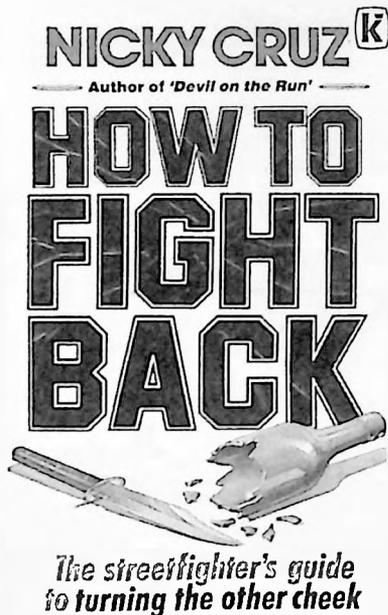
Alan Nichols' style enables the reader to live with David Penman from his early New Zealand days to his later diverse ministries. He shows David to be larger than the evangelical movement of which he was a part and larger than his Anglican church. In a real sense, he belonged to, and ministered to, all of us. The book concludes with an appendix, an address he gave on "A Christian Understanding of Multiculturalism".

The book is worth buying for that address alone. Highly recommended.

—GRS

A Final Warning

How to Fight Back



both by Nicky Cruz (Kingsway) \$11.95 each.

Times Square, the pulsating, noisy junction of 42nd Street and Broadway provides new dimensions and definition to the word sleaze. Every imaginable vice (plus several which hadn't crossed my mind) are available at a price. As we warily strolled up Broadway on a late November Sunday afternoon, contemplating Lloyd Webber's latest offerings and taking care not to stand in anything nasty, or offend anyone nasty, we came across a 1930's style former cinema—complete with foyer, ticket boxes and dress circle. Purely by

chance, we had come across David Wilkerson's Times Square Church. A church which offers hope and empowerment to the lonely, the alienated, the hope-less of a great city which epitomises the very best, and the very worst, aspects of late 20th Century metropolis. These two books by Nicky Cruz, former

street fighter and later Wilkerson's protege, present a particularly US centred Gospel view. The first is both a biography of David Wilkerson, and a vehicle for his vision of hope for a nation and a world where greed, corruption and perversion appear to have the upper hand—in some cases, infiltrating the Church. This is identified as Judgement on a society which has rejected God. But the Times Square Church expresses ministries of compassion and concern, as well as a call for repentance. Worth reading, simply to find out what happened after The Cross and the Switchblade, but also for its confronting and challenging message.

The second book—described in its blurb as a "... manual of spiritual warfare"—recounts episodes where churches and individuals have come under, and resisted, spiritual attack. At times, this book seems to comprise a rather depressing catalogue of sex, Satanism and sickness; but it also contains gems of Christian common-sense and insight. Nicky Cruz is nothing, if not street-wise! Its simple but uplifting conclusion is: "Changing the world is up to you and me, working one-to-one with hurting people who need the real answers that come only from a God who cares".

(Distributed by Christian Marketing Australia)

—Graeme Addicott

China Cry The Nora Lam Story

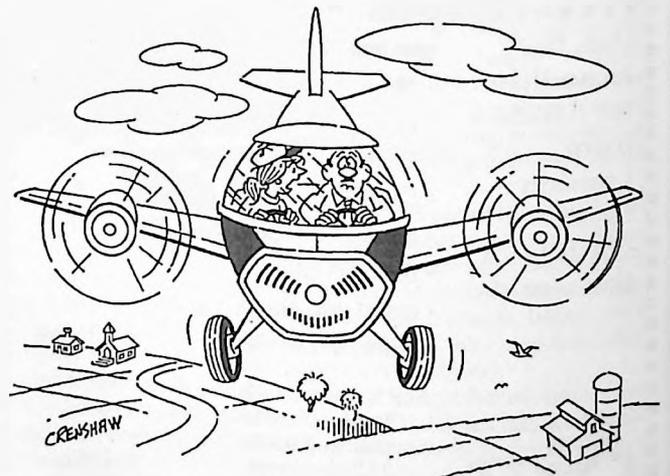
by Nora Lam with Richard Schneider (Word Books) \$12.95

Nora Lam (Sung Neng Yee) has experienced danger and triumph, deprivation and joy. As a child, she endured her own 'long march'. Escaping the invading Japanese army, she fled with her parents from Shanghai to the relative safety of Chungking. Growing up after the 1948 Revolution, she became a teacher at a military school. Married and pregnant, her early association with Christian schools placed her under suspicion as a counter-revolutionary. Under interrogation, Neng Yee realised and expressed her faith. Her subsequent persecution and eventual escape, via Hong Kong, to the USA—where she became an evangelist—make up the remainder of the Nora Lam story.

Written for the gweilo (foreign devils) reader (with more than a hint of outdated Cold War rhetoric), this book—although a good read—lacks authenticity as a reflection of Chinese life and culture. Like chop suey or the dim sim, it is produced for Western consumption.

Nora Lam has done nothing to eliminate the ignorance and stereotypes which pervade Western Christian attitudes and opinions regarding the Centre Kingdom.

—Star Moore/Graeme Addicott



"No. I thought you were the instructor!"

Falling from Grace

Biking the Bible

Three days after Christmas, Max Watson fell from Grace. The tumble left him with a badly broken leg (three toes on each foot broken, one a compound fracture, his coccyx, left fibula and a bad fracture of the tibial plateau in his left leg. It all means he will be lucky to be walking again by later this year.) and Grace—Max's beloved Harley Davidson Sporster—is a twisted mass of parts in the manse garage.

"I tried to avoid a couple of dogs which had got loose and lost control of the bike, so we're both a bit of a mess," he said.

The unconventional minister from Seven Hills Church of Christ is unrepentant.

"I bought my first Honda when I was 16 and I've ridden motorcycles all my life," he said. "It's the only way to travel. And of course, the best motorcycle of all is a Harley."

Max, who fell in love with the paragon of American motorcycles when he was nine,

finally acquired one of his own last year.

"When I first started riding to church or to visit members of the congregation, people would look at me nervously and ask for the minister," he said mischievously. "When I said, 'You're looking at him' the usual response would be: 'Are you fair dinkum?'"

At first, the congregational reaction to the new minister was "a bit difficult", Max said.

"It's a lot better now, though. People have realised I'm just an ordinary person trying to do what I believe is an extraordinary job, not some pious individual who is above everyone else."

Max settled in Seven Hills with his family in 1992. Originally he planned to stay for a year while he finished his theology degree.

"At the end of my first year, some mates of mine outside the church challenged us to stay and rebuild the place into a



• Max Watson and his treasured Harley Davidson

viaible church again," he said. "The church had been here for 103 years, but it was down to a handful of people, so we decided to stay."

Max took the challenge seriously, raising the church's profile in welfare and community work. His congregation has doubled in the past year.

He is also a member of Blacktown's HOG (Harley Owners Group) Club, although fellow bikers took some get-

ting used to a preacher in their ranks (So far he has not had the opportunity to attend any runs or meetings).

"Initially, they were taken aback because I don't fit the image of your typical church minister in a cardigan with buck teeth and not much between the ears," he said. "But I don't fit into the bikie box either."

—Corinne Podger
Photo and article courtesy of the *Blacktown Advocate*

Queen's Award

Exceptional award for Mulgrave member



• Stan McLaren, State President, and Paul Williams, Captain, congratulating Stephen McMillan on the receipt of The Queen's Badge

The Governor of Victoria presented The Queen's Awards to members of The Boys' Brigade at a special ceremony on 3 December, 1993. Among the recipients was Stephen McMillan from the Mulgrave, Vic, church.

Stephen joined The Boys' Brigade in New Zealand with the 8th Wellington Company at the age of eight, in the Brigade's centenary year (1983). At that time, he was worshipping at Trentham church. He moved with his family to Australia in 1985 and continued with the 33rd Vic Boronia Company, where he completed the junior section requirements with a gold level Achievement Award.

When his family moved again, Stephen transferred to 25th Vic Mentone Company where he progressed through

the ranks from Private to reach the level of Sergeant. Along the way, he regularly earned the Best Boy awards each year, for overall excellence and personal application. In 1988, Stephen was baptised by his father, who has been an Officer for over 25 years. His father is currently Victorian Vice-President.

Stephen also attended the Australian Centenary celebrations held at our Theological College (CCTC) at Mulgrave, 1990, and became a foundation member of the new Mulgrave church in 1991.

Stephen particularly enjoys abseiling and caving. Stephen is now enjoying the challenge of being a Warrant Officer, putting back into The Boys' Brigade, and passing on to another generation of boys something of what he has received.

The Boys' Brigade has as its objective the advancement of Christ's kingdom among boys and the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, disci-

pline and self-respect, and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness.

The Queen's Award is only gained after completion of a comprehensive developmental program spanning a number of years. Relatively few boys achieve this award and Stephen is only the third to do so in the Mentone Company's 25 years. He is currently studying at Monash University for the degree Bachelor of Computing (Computer Studies).

Hurstbridge Church of Christ 40th Anniversary of the Chapel

1 May 1994
10.00 am Service

Speaker: Jeff Pugh
Light Lunch

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Spring Gully Ministry

Wally Gibney inducted

This is the day we'd put so much planning into—20 February, 1994. The day has dawned bright and sunny, with the promise of heat to come, in fact a typical Bendigo day. We plan to leave for church at least half an hour earlier than usual, to set up well ahead of the starting time, because today is a special day—the induction of our first minister!

Just a few minutes before leaving the phone rings. Oh no! Has something gone wrong? But no, it's only Max Gowty, on the road from Shepparton, checking for directions to the Spring Gully Hall.

We're the first to arrive, but that's okay, because we have the key this week. Soon the hall is a hive of activity as we put out our sign, set up the drum kit, put out seating and arrange the overhead projector and screen. The band has begun playing, guests have begun arriving, and John and Helen Ford are ready at the door to greet people as they enter.

We have guests from the Bendigo, Swan Hill, Castle-maine and Red Hill churches, as well as from the Bendigo Salvation Army, and the Gideons. Apologies and greetings have been sent by many Bendigo churches (that's one of the problems of holding an induction service at the normal church time).

Like Darwin ("AC" 5 March), we have tried to involve everyone in the service. However no-one's brought a camera. Doug Manderson leads in singing to commence the service, accompanied by our regular band (Annette Peacock—piano,

Max Hosking—saxophone/clarinet, Gordon Bickford—bass, Brian Hosking—drums and Andrew Broad—guitar).

As well as congregational singing, we also have Nina Corlett as guest artist. Nina's first song provokes much thought, with its focus on the journey of life, and our ability to choose to not allow the darkness in. Les Crothers welcomes everyone and gives a brief history of the church, commencing with the first meetings held at Golden Square Secondary College in 1991, then our move to Quarry Hill Community Hall and later Spring Gully Hall.

God led Les Medley to us, as student minister, for two years, and our growth as a church over that time can be seen as we look back to the early days. As we sought God's leading regarding a part-time minister, we were again excited by the way he led us. We had a great response to our advertisement. At this point, Les placed a picture on the overhead, asking if we could spot the minister. Those who know the *Where's Wally?* books were able to see him—in the top right quarter! Les then welcomed Wally, Betty, Christopher and Penny Gibney into membership.

Alan Niven spoke about "Welcoming Strangers" as neighbour and Christ and recalled when he first arrived in Australia how the Gibneys welcomed him.

Alan reminded us that, whilst we were inducting Wally as minister, we are all ministers together. Barry Jenkins continued to involve everyone in the prayer of induction. Presentations made to Wally reinforced our understanding of mutual ministry. The Bickford family present him with a Bible (recognising that all ministry must be based on the word of God), the Sunday School presented invitations to each family's home "to have a meal, spend the night, kick a footy, share in our lives". A directory of Bendigo, and the church contact list was presented by the Misson family, and the Driscoll family presented Wally with a calendar, indicating our desire to plan together. The Broad family then invited Wally to lead in communion.

After the service, a great meal and lots of good conversation and laughter was shared. By the time the dishes were done, the seats packed up, the communion table folded and put away, and the floor swept, we were all ready to head home for a well deserved Sunday afternoon nap!

—Sandra Hosking

Calendar

Old CWF Seminar

Queensland CWF are having a one-day seminar on 16 April at Paradise Country, Beechmont Rd, Nerang. Topics include: Spiritual growth and Bible Study, Being a Christian in Today's World, Reaching out to other Cultures, Tough Love for Children, I've Volunteered—Now What? and This Stress or Distress!!! Cost for the day is \$20, including lunch. Further details from Gloria Flett (076) 65 4130 or Julia Flood (07) 886 6036.

Bible Society Birthday

The Bible Society in Tasmania turns 175 this year and special celebrations are taking place 7–8 May. On 7 May a dinner will be held in Hobart with Dr Noel Vose (Vice-President, Baptist Theological College in WA and former President of the Baptist World Alliance) will be the speaker. He will also speak at a Thanksgiving service on 8 May in St David's Cathedral, Hobart, corresponding with the exact date and location for the first meeting of the Bible Society in Van Diemen's Land in 1819.

Urban Mission

"Reaching Our Cities for God" will provide Australians with an opportunity to learn from the Argentine experience. Gifted Bible teacher and evangelistic strategist, Ed Silvano, will share his insights. Conferences will be in Adelaide (12–14 May), Sydney (19–21 May) and Melbourne (16–17 May). Details from "Reaching our Cities for God, 1 Kent Rd, Surrey Hills 3127. Phone (03) 888 5524 (Sergio).

Anti-Apartheid Speaker

Bishop Peter Storey of South Africa, a leader in the Methodist church and in the campaign against Apartheid, is to visit Australia in June. He will conduct seminars in Victoria, Queensland and lecture at the Pacific College for Evangelism in Sydney. His main task during the visit is to lecture in the two-month course in Modern Evangelism at the Pacific College (30 May–22 July). All enquiries to Dr Alan Walker, Pacific College for Evangelism, 6 Lincluden Place, North Parramatta 2151. Phone (02) 630 0777, fax (02) 630 0678.

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People

Edna Vawser

News has been received of the death of Edna Vawser in India on 27 March, 1994. Edna was a missionary for our Overseas Mission Board in India for many years. Upon her retirement, Edna remained living in India. A full tribute will appear in the next issue of the "AC".

International

Bibles for Iraq

It took eight months for the Iraqi Government to grant the Bible Society in Jordan permission to deliver Bibles to Iraqi churches. In late 1993, Salim Qubain and Nabil Omaish (Bible Society in Jordan) were able to visit 65 churches in 10 cities and villages throughout Iraq. They distributed 15,000 Arabic Bibles, 9,000 Assyrian Bibles and 11,200 Assyrian New Testaments. Distribution plans for 1994 include 10,000 children's Bibles, which are currently being printed, 5000 Arabic Bibles and 15,000 Arabic New Testaments. Permission to take these Scriptures into Iraq has already been granted.

Russian Faith

A comprehensive survey of Russians has revealed that 22% once were atheists, but now believe in God, and nearly one-third of those under 25 have also given up atheism.

Muslim Converts

The number of Muslim converts in England will soon outnumber the number of Muslim immigrants if figures from *The Times* are correct. If the growth in converts continues, and Muslims do not convert to another faith, English converts will outnumber the immigrants within 20 years.

British Church Losses

British churches are losing members at a rate of 1,500 a week, according to the Christian Research Association in the UK. The greatest losses have been seen among the Anglican Church, which has lost 21% of its members since 1975.

New Youth Ministry

A first for Mount Clear

A congregation of over 200 gathered at Mount Clear, Vic, for the induction of James and Robyn Leviston to a part-time youth ministry. James and Robyn have recently moved to Ballarat after they both completed a 3-year Diploma of Missiology at the Bible College of Victoria. Whilst this is their first official appointment, they have been involved in youth work for a number of years, both with street-kids and church-going young people. They have a real desire to see young people become genuine disciples of Jesus.

James and Robyn have always wanted a tent-making ministry, so this part-time appointment (two days per week) suits them well. James in an electrical contractor on the other days of the week, providing flexible hours to fit in with ministry. James and Robyn are new parents and their lovely baby Amy Louise was dedicated on the same day as their induction service.

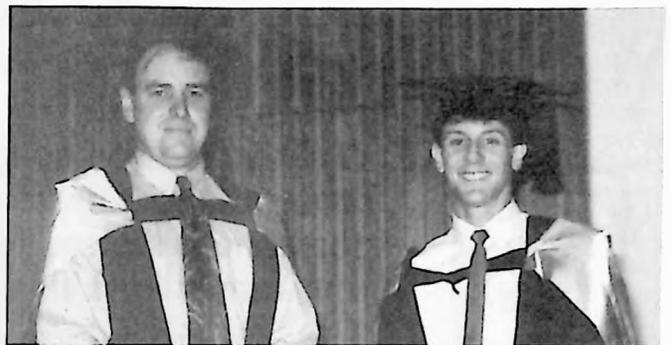
This is the first additional appointment to the salaried staff at Mount Clear in her 130-year history, coming at a time of unprecedented growth (morning worship averaging 140 and evening service 100). James and Robyn join Dale White (Minister) and David Jones (Pastoral Assistant—voluntary) on the ministry team.



• James and Robyn Leviston

First Graduates

First BMin graduates in Queensland



• Geoff Greenaway and Craig Bossie

4 March was a memorable occasion for the colleges associated with the Brisbane consortium of the Australian College of Theology (ACT) (Baptist Theological College of Queensland, Bible College of Queensland and Kenmore Christian College), when the first graduates with their Bachelor of Ministry degree received their awards.

140 were present at the ceremony, held at the Annerley Church of Christ.

Kenmore Christian College presented two graduands,

Geoff Greenaway (left) and Craig Bossie (right). These represented the first in Queensland, and only the second in Australia, to receive an ACT BMin degree. ACT Diplomas and BTh degrees were presented to 11 other candidates.

The presentation ceremony was presided over by Rodney Tippett (Principal, Kenmore Christian College), with awards being presented by Rev Dr John Pryor (Dean, ACT). Rev Dr Peter Ralphs (Bible College of Queensland) brought the occasional address.

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Media Matters

Media Medley

Viney Longthorp

Print—Van Gogh

The Zadok Institute is a voluntary body whose purpose is to promote informed theological reflection on contemporary issues in Australian society and culture. It also seeks to bring Christian perspective into public debate.

Their Zadok Paper Number S66, titled "Vincent Van Gogh—The Failed Evangelical", is devoted entirely to a discussion of Vincent Van Gogh's religious outlook and convictions.

As a young man, Vincent was, for a time, a lay preacher with a fellowship of the Dutch Reformed Church in southern Belgium. But his volatile nature and radical lifestyle did not sit comfortably with his superiors' expectations, so he was gently eased out of this position.

In this paper, Lindsay Farrell, himself an artist of some high repute, points out that though Vincent was unable to express his convictions about the Gospel clearly in words, he went on to eloquently express these same truths in the visual arts.

The paper sets Van Gogh's story "within a Christian framework, acknowledging a creator God and our creation in his image." The author gives an appreciation (via Van Gogh) of the visual arts "both as a window and a mirror for the soul, providing ordinary people with experiences that rumour the transcendent and mirrors the human condition."

Thus, regardless of the actual subject matter, all of Van Gogh's work exude a sense of personal dynamism, which the artist claimed was from God and expressed God. Farrell claims that in the artists' landscape, there are "mystical comments" which point to the transcendent "other".

But Van Gogh was also concerned to depict explicitly religious themes as found in the

Bible. He made a close study of the iconography of the works of Delacroix, Puvis de Chavannes, and Giotto. The interpretation of suffering, as depicted by Giotto, made a deep impression on Van Gogh and, in the last few years of his life, he experimented with this theme. At Remy, during intervals between his final illnesses he painted *The Good Samaritan* and *The Raising of Lazarus*, but he was unable to complete other works in this genre.

This paper makes demands of the reader, but it also has its rewards; it enlarges our appreciation of the role of the artist as he increases our perception of spiritual truths, as well as offering more details about Van Gogh in this regard.

• Further inquiries: Zadok Institute, Locked Bag 23, Kew PO 3101. Phone (03) 816 9367, fax (03) 816 9617.

Television—Songs of Praise

The Songs of Praise program on ABC-TV, 24 April at 11 am, will be full of interest and inspiration for many viewers. The venue will be the West London Mission and will focus on the life and ministry of its director of 57 years, the Reverend Lord Soper. As he celebrates his 90th birthday this year, he certainly deserves a program all to himself! Donald Soper—as he is still better known—is one of Britain's best known and loved "institutions." For years he has preached regularly in the Speaker's Corner of London's Hyde Park. It is said of him that he is one of a handful of living

Christians who have the ability to reach out and touch people at large with matters of Christian faith. He is at once, the preacher, the parliamentarian, and the campaigner for peace.

Among Lord Soper's favourite hymns to be presented are some old friends in our own *Churches of Christ Hymn Book*. There are: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (241); *O Thou, Who Camest from Above* (370); *Love Divine, All loves Excelling* (375). Then we can get to know: *I Think When I Read the Sweet Story of Old ; How Shall I Sing that Majesty; The Lord will come and Not be Slow.*

Radio—Open Learning

On 11 March there commenced on ABC Radio National (in all States) a fascinating Open Learning program under the general title: **Religious Understanding: Revelations, Reason, Belief.** The time of the broadcasts is 11.05 am; there are 13 sessions each lasting 50 minutes. The series ends on 3 June.

The aim of the program is to survey a wide range of religious traditions, especially their experiences of revelation. It also explores ways in which religion produces the great diversity of ways of communicating their truths and insight—via music, liturgy, dance, myths, theology, behaviours, etc.

Interpretations are offered of the cults (Waco, for example), the sects, women's theological issues, the spirituality of the Australian Aborigines and some of the growing religions in modern Australia, such as

Buddhism and Islam. Max Charlesworth discusses the role of the Christian church in the Middle Ages; one session is devoted to the religious significance of the Holocaust, and there is plenty more.

Ian Weeks, program director, says that the development and practice of critical discussion within a religious tradition and an openness to the whole of human experience are central both to a healthy religion and to ways in which we can tell the difference between creative and destructive religion.

This is a timely series, given the changing composition of our social fabric, and the increasing interest in such things as spirituality, meaning in life, and personal fulfilment. The course may give many of us some clues as to ways we can better relate these yearnings to those time-honoured institutions, the "main-line" churches.

• For further information about texts and programs contact: Open Learning Agency of Australia, c/o Dr Ian Weeks, Deakin University, Pigdon Rd, Waurn Ponds 3221. Phone (03) 655 8955. ❖



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IN MEMORIAM

CHALK, Doreen June. Called home to be with her Lord 29.3.87. In our hearts and in our minds she lives forever. Lovingly remembered by husband Graham and all the family.

HINRICHSSEN Olga Anna. Passed to be in His Presence 30.3.93. We give thanks for the selfless life she lived for her Lord and for her family. In loving memory.

—Karen and Graham Page.

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Marsden

Power

Neil Marsden

Since the very beginning, people have wanted to put themselves in God's place. It has been a desire, albeit a bad one, within the confines of free will. If people can make themselves God, they can, in turn, do away with a God they must submit and answer to. Without God, they can do as they please, with a guilt-free conscience. They can submit only to themselves and create their own form of justice that places them in God's place of judgment.

When Satan approached Eve in the Garden of Eden, he said to her "You will not surely die [if you eat the fruit] for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Gen. 3:4-5) So Eve ate of the fruit and gave some to her husband Adam, who was with her, "then the eyes of both of them were opened". (Gen. 3:7)

Ever since that day, humanity has seen the possibilities in absolute power (as we see it) and has sought it with a determination that would be admirable in more godly pursuits. Humanity has even gone to the trouble of creating fictitious gods that fit the desired requirements—one example was the

worship of Aphrodite whose temple fostered prostitution in the name of religion! An obvious God today is money, which people spend their entire lives bowing to and following.

When a totalitarian state is set up, is it any wonder that religion is usually the first thing banned? Anything that can judge the state obviously can't be tolerated by any government that believes it itself must be all powerful. Even in our own "democratic" and "free" society, the theory of evolution is taught with unsubstantiated facts in schools, while creation teaching is totally ignored—except within the confines of occasional Scripture classes which are very rarely compulsory.

Be it subtle or overt, humanity wants self-rule, like children who resent their parents' authority and teaching. People want to shape their own destiny, judge their own actions on their own values and place God down the ladder with kindergarten—something one may have gone to once, but eventually doesn't need for it becomes irrelevant. "Why should I follow God—I can do what I want, when I want and how I want. Why should anyone tell me what to do?" ❖

Pontius' Puddle

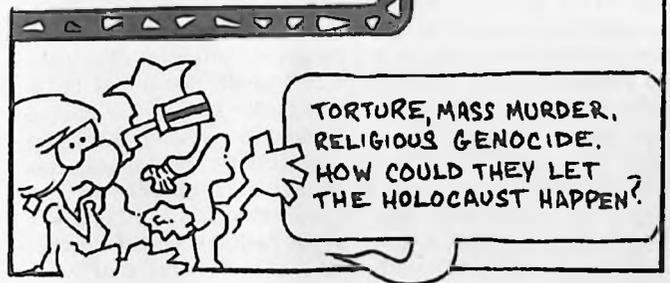
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A.D. 1994



A TEAR FOR BOSNIA

A.D. 2044



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A Church ABC

How do you describe the location of a church that rarely meets as a group, physically, whose services are conducted from week to week by telephone, whose minister travels from family to family via aeroplane rather than motor car? Such is the Outback Church of Christ, officially part of the Queensland conference. The area of ministry covers outback Queensland and parts of outback NSW (with hopes for the future to expand into other states, such as the Kimberley in WA).

Trevor Meares, the minister, earned his pilot's licence in the mid 70s and began to look at ways in which people in the outback might be ministered to, especially those isolated by distance. (Currently, Trevor is part-time with both the Outback and Bongeong churches.)

Thus, a church "on the phone" began in 1987, with one service a week. This has now expanded so that they conduct three services each Sunday involving 18 outback centres, with most of it being learnt as they went along. These centres are usually homes, but have involved groups meeting in person in towns or halls or the like, going to church on the phone. The church supplies hands-free telephones and communion kits to each group so that all are able to participate.

A typical service begins (after linking on a conference call) with the "roll call" where everyone will speak (ensuring all know who is participating with them) and mention items for prayer and praise. Following this is a time of prayer, where a number will pray, making particular mention of the issues mentioned previously. Then some of the members will do the Scripture readings followed by a children's story. Then a member will lead communion. Finally, there is a sermon or discussion/Bible study.

Normally, Trevor would preach the sermon, but they have invited guest speakers, from anywhere in Australia, to participate in the services with them.

Recently, the move has been away from the traditional sermon toward a more interactive study/discussion group, one comment being that with the sermon, they could just listen to a tape. The study/discus-

by gifts from individuals and churches, as many of the members are strongly affected by the recent drought.

One of the real advantages to having church on the phone is it solves the problem of the tyr-

Focus on Outback



• Trevor Meares, camped by a billabong on one of his 6,000 km pastoral visits

sion group, however, allows for interaction between them all, thus providing the interaction and fellowship we who meet in person take for granted. The church is also doing "Christianity Explained" with non-Christian folk, also over the phone.

The work of the church is supported by the members' own offering, and particularly

any of distance. Some would otherwise have to travel up to 250 km on dirt to get to church, and then only have services once or twice a year, often not being their own denomination and often not having communion. The Outback Church provides weekly communion, input, interaction and sharing that even flows over into contact during the week.

The church has quite a mixed congregation ranging from property owners, to townies to itinerant folk. All denominations are represented, adding a real flavour to the group (with such isolation, denomination-ism is seen as a real luxury). The promotion of the church in the outback is by word of mouth.

In the case of an emergency or crisis, a lot of phone counselling is done—but that's how these outback folk are used to operating. For some instances, such as a death, Trevor will fly out to see them. The church doesn't have its own plane, but they have an arrangement with Outback Aviation Mission to use their plane, or they simply hire one.

Once or twice a year, the church organises a camp; the next is on Anzac Day at Longford, 15 hours west of Brisbane. Most will have to travel 9-10 hours to and from the site, but it provides an invaluable opportunity for personal interaction and fellowship. Trevor tries to personally visit each group 4-5 times a year whilst doing a 3-4 day round of an area.

The Outback Church of Christ, a creative response to a characteristic Australian problem. ❖

The Temptation

Desert obedience established your Sonship.

Commitment to the divine will was fortified by the word of God.

Temptation's broken power limped crossward.

As forty gruelling days surpassed Israel's forty years.

And manna became self-sacrificing living bread.

Tormented from the cross as scoffers mocked.

They goaded with the satanic "if".

And called you to relinquish grief for earthly grandeur.

While faithful Jerry flinched at the outrage of a suffering Messiah.

—Carry Harris

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■ **CHIEF JOE** shares his Mi'kmaq peoples' story of Noah's flood. But what puzzled the 17th century Europeans most about the Mi'kmaq was their star names which came from Babylon.



■ **ROSE BUCK**, shares her native Cree tradition concerning Noah's flood collected by Canadian explorer Thompson, long before Christian missionaries reached the area. Flood stories were brought from the Tower of Babel.



■ **BILL BIRD**, from the Wakka tribe, states: "Christian missionaries didn't teach us Aborigines about Creation, the flood, or even some of the law. We already had these things." Bill ends the video with the most important solution to race problems, and shares where Aborigines came from.



■ Many other races appear on this program hosted by **JOHN MACKAY** to make the point: racial strife is not caused by different colours of our skin, but by the common problem of our sin! A tremendous video for taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all cultures.

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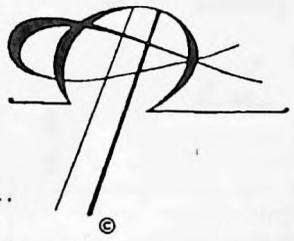
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You are Witnesses of These Things ...

Greg Elsdon

Luke's stories of the resurrection appearances of Jesus are held by many to be the most moving and powerful in all the Gospels. There is good reason for such a judgment. Like Mark and Matthew, yet with significant differences and special emphases, Luke relates the story of how "the women who had come with him from Galilee" (23:55) went to the tomb early on the first day of the week to anoint his body. Despite all that Jesus had previously told them about his death and resurrection (9:21–22), they were perplexed when they discovered that the tomb was unsealed and the body gone. In a state of bewilderment (do you blame them?), they are suddenly confronted by two men in "dazzling clothes" (Mark talks simply of a young "man", while Matthew refers to an "angel of the Lord"). The sudden appearance of these strangers in their luminous outfits did nothing to quell the women's state of anxiety—they fell on their faces in fear. Eventually, the two men addressed Jesus' friends with the question, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

This frightened group of women who had followed him

from Galilee, were the first witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus. We are told that when they shared this good news with the apostles it was dismissed as empty talk, an idle tale. Luke spells it out in unambiguous terms—they (the apostles) simply did not believe what was reported to them.

The story of Jesus' appearance to two of his disciples on the road to Emmaus (24:13–35) is without doubt one of the most moving and powerful stories in the Gospels. Found only in Luke's Gospel, it tells how the risen Jesus walks along the road with them, teaching them about Christ's death as foretold by Moses and the prophets. As readers of the story, we are bemused and frustrated. Why couldn't the disciples see that it was Jesus himself who was walking and talking with them? Then we begin to sense that there is more to seeing the risen Jesus than merely seeing him. It is only as he shared a meal with them that "their eyes were opened and they recognised him." Once the true identity of their fellow traveller was revealed, their whole perspective on life was transformed. They would never be the same again. The experience of resurrection faith had changed them forever.

The reading with which we are primarily concerned here, tells how Jesus finally makes his appearance among the disciples (24:36). Once again, even after the testimony of the

women and the two disciples who met Jesus on the way to Emmaus, the disciples seem totally unprepared for this encounter. They are terrified when they see Jesus. They were not sure what was happening to them. Was this a "spirit" they were seeing? Jesus asks them why they are frightened and invites them to take a good hard look at him; to see for themselves whether he was real or not. But Luke suggests that even this did not resolve their disbelief and wonder.

In response to their continuing unbelief, Jesus himself explained to them how the events of the previous days were the fulfilment of the Scriptures. "Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.'" (24:44) Just as the two disciples on the road to Emmaus had their eyes opened as Jesus broke bread with them, here the disciples and their companions had their minds opened as Jesus taught them from the Scriptures about the meaning of his death and resurrection.

One thing comes through very clearly in the way Luke tells his readers about the resurrection appearances of Jesus. The risen Jesus is no mere resuscitation of the corpse of Jesus who was crucified. It's fine to talk about Jesus' resurrection as being "physical" or "bodily"—but the New Testament is adamant that Jesus was raised by God to a radically new way of life.

It is also clear that the risen Jesus was not immediately recognisable, even to his closest friends. They could walk and talk with him, but fail to recognise him until he broke bread with them. When he appeared

miraculously in their midst, there was something strange and other-worldly about him that they could not figure out.

As Christians, our belief in the resurrection of Jesus must be far more than merely saying we believe in the resuscitation of a corpse. It must be the belief that God has affirmed the life of Jesus by raising him from death and that women and men are invited to participate together with him in that resurrection life.

Luke also suggests that resurrection talk which fails to encompass the call to mission, falls short of resurrection faith. The two are inseparable. Once the disciples had experienced the risen Jesus and heard his teaching, they could no longer be impartial or disinterested spectators. Jesus challenges them by reminding them that they are "witnesses" to the events in which God's will for the world has been unfolded. As witnesses, they are called to proclaim the good news of "repentance and the forgiveness of sins" (24:47) to all nations.

These strange and terrifying experiences no doubt left the disciples feeling somewhat overwhelmed. How could they possibly find the strength and courage necessary to take up such a challenge. The final words of Jesus in Luke's Gospel come in the form of a promise to those who were "witnesses of these things". The disciples are promised that they will be clothed with power from on high.

The book of Acts tells of the arrival of this power on the Day of Pentecost. Indeed, in Acts we read Luke's account of the way in which the disciples, empowered by God's "power from above", set about calling people to repentance and proclaiming the good news of forgiveness to all nations. ❖

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Easter Comment

Forgive Them

Len Butler

The following is an extract from a book of daily readings by Andrew Kuyvenhoven:

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do (Luke 23:34) It was not the sweet hour of prayer. It was the hour when the ugly pain started. His hands were nailed to a cross-beam. His body twitched in ugly pain. The cross was a primitive tool for torturing and killing a criminal. While he was on the cross, Jesus prayed: "Father, forgive" He prayed for his executioners. He didn't scream for help."

The above quotation was written for March 17, St Patrick's Day, when we were given plenty of TV pictures of people drinking green beer and other intoxicants to excess, and making spectacles of themselves. Father, forgive them.

Today there are many people who wear a small symbol of the cross. Some, unthinkingly, wear it as an ornament, a talisman to protect them from evil, a piece of jewellery or a decoration. Father, forgive them.

There are so many groups of people fighting each other for reasons which seem so trivial

and futile. Life is being taken without much concern by ethnic groups and leaving behind so many families and children who need to be cared for by charitable organisations and other countries. Father forgive them. In the city of Melbourne, houses and shops are being destroyed because our brothers and sisters cannot agree on who shall be called Macedonian. The guilty ones appear to have no regard for the property of others. Father forgive them.

Too often the sins of greed and selfishness prevent the re-

lief of poverty in our midst, the helping hand and the kindly word in the name of Jesus Christ. Too often the very young and the very old are overlooked in the fight for a greater share of this world's goods. Too frequently the commitment of Christians is forgotten as they fail to look toward the cross on which the Master hung and prayed for the hangmen (and us)—"Father, forgive them/us for they/we know not what they/we do!" ❖

Len attends our Hartwell, Vic, church.

Comment

Living in Christ Jesus

Dorothy Hartam

Paul, writing to his friend Philemon, says, "I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ." (v. 6)

What does this mean to me—sharing my faith? Do I have anything to share? What do I see God doing in my life? I frequently find that I need to take time to think about this. It is all too easy, I find, to go on from day to day, being busy about so many things and, even though I have my daily quiet time, being perhaps too busy to stop and think whether I really am living "in Christ". To think whether, in fact, there is any actual evidence of God being active in my life.

I thank him that I do find he is constantly blessing me—with provision of all my needs, with guidance for daily living, with strength to face the difficult times and with comfort when that is my need.

Paul's prayer for Philemon was that he might be active in sharing his faith. Do we not often find difficulty in doing this?

"What will they think if I keep talking about Jesus and how he helps me?" we think to ourselves.

It's easy to get up in front of my CWF friends where they are expecting me to talk about Jesus, but out there! But that's what Paul's prayer is, that we may be active in sharing our faith-telling people how we depend on God's grace and mercy, his guidance and blessings.

Then I notice the "so that", the reason Paul gives for this sharing of the faith. "So that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ."

An interesting exercise I have undertaken in recent years has shown me how many "so that's" there are in the Scriptures—always God gives us rea-

sons. Here is another that's maybe a little surprising. Paul doesn't say "so that you will help someone else", not even "so that you will lead others to Christ", but "so that you (I) will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ".

He's saying that, when I share what God does for me, it brings me blessing; helps me to a fuller understanding of who Christ is and what is possible as I live in him.

Let us look at some of the abundance of blessings we, who have Christ, experience. In Christ, we have joy, love, peace that passes human understanding, righteousness that comes by faith, God working in and through us, freedom from fear and anxiety, strength, contentment and hope—so much to share, that we will have a full understanding of all that life in Christ means. ❖

Dorothy attends our Hobart City church.

My Marriage Counsellor

The Lord is our Marriage Counsellor
We shall not waiver.
He makes our union to be "One Flesh".
He leads us into meaningful intimacy,
He revitalises our vows.
He leads us in the way of self-disclosure
for our marriage's sake.

Yea, though we walk through the valley of marital distress
We will not forget each other,
for God has joined us,
His Word and His Spirit encourage us.
God establishes our marriage in the midst
of social upheaval.
He anoints our embracing,
our ecstasy overflows.

Surely faithfulness and tenderness will permeate our relationship all our married life
and we will worship the Lord in His house
Together,
forever.

—R.N. Hawkins

The Cults are Growing—Praise the Lord!?

Adrian van Leen

Some Christians are excited about the continuing growth of cultic groups. They see this as evidence of our Lord's imminent return. Their particular views and interpretations of the "End Times" reduces their perception of the cults to merely one of the "Signs of the Times".

Others see the growth of the cults as a clear evil to be avoided, opposed, or, if possible, eliminated. Such Christians would favour legislation to ban all cultic groups (and perhaps other major religions as well).

Almost a decade ago, the follower of Indian tantric guru, Rajneesh, caused quite a stir in Australia and elsewhere. The efforts of Sheela Silverman, then spokesperson for the movement, helped to further alienate members of this group from everyone else and contributed significantly to the group's ultimate decline.

While travelling around Australia in 1985, I asked seminar groups and churches what people would do if they were in a restaurant or food hall, with every place occupied, except

for one place at their table, and a Rajneesh follower was brought to that place at their table. With virtually no exception, the response was that they would get up and leave.

These attitudes reveal a readiness to label and dismiss those whose views and beliefs are different from our own. Far too many people see the cults as impersonal entities of evil and deception, and ignore the reality of people, individuals, who are members of such groups. Individuals who are loved by God, individuals who have a right to hear the Gospel of God's love and see it in action. We cannot reveal the Gospel of God's love in Christ if we simply reject or avoid those who are members of cultic groups, the occult or extreme Christian fringe groups.

The people in the eastern mystical cults, the western pseudo-Christian cults, the New Age Movement, the Human Potential Movement, the occult and extreme Christian fringe groups are people in need. Most are genuine seekers looking for meaning and truth. Many are idealistic, caring people who want to help others and make the world a better place. The majority put Christians to shame with their zeal

and enthusiasm, their willingness and involvement, their total commitment to, and support of, their cause.

Peter revealed something of what our attitude ought to be in chapter 3, verses 13-17, of his first letter. We should not be afraid of others; we must be ready to suffer for our faith, if God allows that; we must genuinely reverence Jesus Christ as Lord; we should at all times be ready to account for the faith we have—when asked to do so; we should share our faith with gentleness and due respect to others; we ought to behave in such a way that others (including those in the cults) will have to lie in order to speak evil of us.

Paul, in Romans 10:1-3, wrote concerning the Israelites in a way that equally applies to members of most religious and pseudo-religious groups today. His desire was that those people might be saved. Not condemned, run out of town or destroyed. He acknowledged that such people had a zeal for God—as most cult members do today—he knew enough about the others' belief system to be able to state their zeal for God was inadequate and lacked an understanding of God's purposes. Paul's letters, and the records of others, reveal that Paul's concern was genuine enough for him to commit himself to sharing the truth with others (read Romans 9-11).

The people in the cults are ordinary, everyday people—just like the rest of us. We don't need to fear them. They are not the enemy. Most may be deceived, and may inadvertently be passing on deception, but most are well-meaning people who want to serve and please God. If anyone is the enemy, it is Satan, the Adversary, the Father of Lies, the Great Deceiver.

Yes, in dealing with the cults, we are entering front-line enemy territory—Satan's territory in which we may have to face his reluctant soldiers who are not aware that they are on the wrong side. Our opposition to them is not with fire and brimstone or worldly weapons of destruction (Luke 9:51-55; 2 Cor. 10:1-5). Instead, our weapons are sanctified reason and love (Matt. 5:43-48, Rom. 12:14-21, 1 Cor. 14:20, Eph. 4:11-16).

Paul tells us that in some ways the Christian life is like a spiritual battle (Eph. 6:10-20). In applying this analogy to the issue of our front-line confrontation with cults, the occult and extreme Christian fringe groups, we should note that the generals who plan the strategies for winning a battle would never send their youngest recruits to where the fighting is the heaviest. That would be a sure way to lose the battle.

New Christians may enthusiastically want to tackle cult members, perhaps former friends, in their desire to share the truth. However, young Christians especially could find themselves in great difficulty and confusion trying to witness to the cults.

As Christians we do not have to fear members of cultic groups—they, like us, are only human—Satan, the Adversary, has been conquered by Christ and if we are right in our relationship with God, through Jesus Christ, we have a greater power within us than is in the world (see 1 John 4:1-6, 5:1-5).

Yet, while we don't need to be afraid of the cults, we do need to be cautious and careful as we seek to reach out to the members, to share the truth of Christ in a spirit of love. ❖

[In the next couple of articles, we will examine some practical pointers in witnessing to the cults.]



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expenses.

Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Kerrison, Kathleen (Kit) Isabel (3.3.94) Born South Yarra, Vic, 4.12.13. Grew up in South Yarra church with four brothers. Married Jack, October 1940. Moved to Oakleigh, 1960, remaining active and loyal member for the rest of her life. Jack died in 1977. She worked full-time at Herbert Adam's cake shop at Oakleigh until retirement in 1977. She was President of CWFEP over two periods covering 14 years. A practical woman, very involved in all fundraising activities of the church. When she moved to Vermont, she became a volunteer at the Maroondah Hospital kiosk. She loved people, helping many in very practical ways. She showed great courage and faith in God throughout her life. She will be missed by family and her many friends.

—Jack Edwards

Ricketts, Margaret

Marion, SA, was packed to capacity on 21 January to pay tribute to Margaret, who died a few days earlier following a four-and-a-half year battle with cancer. Marg was an amazing lady: blessed with an abundance of common sense, re-

alism and level-headedness, an incredible source of support and encouragement for her husband Brian (minister for Pastoral Care at Marion) and for the hundreds of people who had the privilege of calling her their friend. During the years of her illness, she continued to show care and compassion to those around her, particularly fellow cancer sufferers. During her years of involvement with various churches, she served in many roles, usually in those involving people care and behind-the-scenes support. That was her way. Margaret was far too young (54 years) to have departed from us, but she leaves behind an incalculable array of precious memories both for Brian, her three children (Jenny, Carolyn and Stephen) and those whose lives she touched.

—Graham Agnew

Wright, Oliver Russell

(20.2.94) Russell was born 8.6.29 at Goodwood, SA. He was employed in the glass trade until retirement seven years ago because of ill-health. Baptised through a Hinrichsen mission. Completed two-year course at Adelaide Bible College and used his abilities in

preaching and teaching. He was a member of the board for 33 years, 27 as secretary. Russ married Gwen in 1951 and till the end of his journey they were partners and mates. They had three children—Stephen, Debbie and Sharon. Overflowing Torrensville church shared in a thanksgiving service led by Ron McLean. Hymns were a major part of the service as Russ loved singing. —D. Short

Baptisms

•Elissa Webb, Sue Wakefield, Hartwell, Vic •Melissa Diss, Sharnie Bodilly, Kevin Wyatt, Annette Wyatt, Kristy Wyatt, Amos Sweetman, Joel Sweetman, Sarah Connor, Bendigo, Vic •Norma Hill, Gwen Cook, Diane Gardiner, Shamus Toomey, Elinor Osborne, James Turner, John Squires, Barbie Brown, Hurstville, NSW •Douglas Nankervis, Launceston, Tas •Ian Crowley, Belrose, NSW •Duncan Morris, Colleen Morris, Manifold Heights, Vic •Annette Greber, Daniel Forrest, Tweed Heads, NSW

Personal

Marriages

•Brooke Donnellan and Steve Hollingsworth, Bendigo, Vic •De'arne Howard and Gavin Cole, Manifold Heights, Vic

Deaths

•Mrs E Smith, Maitland, NSW •Mrs Josie Milgate, Echuca, Vic •Jesse Hall, Kalamunda, WA •Oliver Russell Wright, Torrensville, SA •Keith Hurwood, North Essendon, Vic •Hilda Neal, Boronia, Vic •Agnes Bursill, Maryborough, Vic •Greg Phillips Launceston, Tas •Alice Tuckwell, Reg Hudd, Goolwa, SA •Joe Grayules, Manifold Heights, Vic

Changes

ARMSTRONG, Les—34/14 Sovereign Place, Boondall 4034. Phone (07) 265 2606.

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Applications in writing should be made by:
16 May 1994

Church News

NSW

MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins) Karen Walter, church's counsellor, employed two days a week ... Chapel & hall construction commenced ... Special guests—YWAM, Creation Science, Martin family ... K. Pond off to USA & Guatemala for six weeks for Compassion International ... Minister involved in mayoral prayer breakfast.

TAREE (Peter Wallis) Stephen Billingham's condition still causing concern. He is home, but is to return to Sydney later for more treatment ... Jack Harvey is also home, but he & Norma expect to return to Newcastle soon ... Congratulations to Jack & Norma on the safe arrival of a little grandson, parents Rocky & Leanne Quinlivan of Grafton.

HURSTVILLE (Ian Adams) Bob & Marilyn Smith completed three-year ministry in January, 1994. Bob now DCD Director in Queensland ... We welcomed Ian & Julie Adams from Adelaide into ministry at their induction service on 6 February. Large attendance at induction service, guest speaker Ron Hewitt ... Colleen Fletcher welcomed into membership same evening ... Baptisms this year have been Elinor Osborne, James Turner, John Squires & Barbie Brown.

TWEED HEADS (Richard Oakes) Two young people baptised ... Farewell luncheon & presentation for Paul & Donna Hodgson as they move to Blackwood, SA ... Jeanette Nicolle, Kenya, CWF speaker ... GNO visited John Flynn Hospital, Tugun ... Ross Wakeley conducted helpful seminar with Tweed & Murwillumbah leaders & spoke at both services 27 February ... Laurie Larcombe, State Conference President, speaker, 20 May ... Murrah Dixon guest speaker on Israel.

Qld

TWYFORD ST, BUNDABERG (Paul Scully) The CWF friendship morning on 8 March was very well attended & the Easter message was the theme ... Selina Thwaite & Michael Bowen announced their engagement ... The Divine Drama Bible study commenced mid-February, with 35 adults participating in this two-part 30 week series.

MAROOCHYDORE (Geoff Risson) At the annual meeting, decision taken for a name change to Maroochydores Church of Christ, North Buderim ... Commitment made to proceed with the building of a church in the North Buderim area. Design for the proposed building shown to members for scrutiny ... Day Care Centre (Social Services Dept) on adjoining land almost

completed & scheduled to open for business in April.

SA

GOOLWA (Roger Risson) Afternoon rally & evening service held for Southern Districts Conference churches. Victor Harbor choir, our music group, Exalt, & men's singing group gave items. Phil Webber & Roger Risson speakers ... Fund-raising lunch held to help with church bus repairs ... Ladies Fellowship shared Easter Reflections meeting with friends from other church groups. Devonshire tea served ... Bible Overview series studies commenced.

SALISBURY EAST (Will Philp) AGM in March well attended. Key board members re-elected to office ... Harvest Thanksgiving/Temple Day raised magnificent sum to assist church funds ... Our dedicated minister Will and wife Melva willingly supported by board and congregation ... Visitors welcomed regularly, often joining.

Tas

LAUNCESTON (C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) Two confession 6 March and one baptism 13 March ... Eliza Crick won under 12 Australian Soapbox Championship in Adelaide, will represent Australia in America in August ... Church well represented at Annual Convention, Nubeena 12-13 March ... Church voted in favour of relocation to Frederick Street.

Vic

HARTWELL (Graeme Rogerson, Merryll Blair) Christmas celebrations included Advent & family services, Carols by Candlelight, Christmas luncheon at Monbulk for the Friendship Group, program at Gaffney House, Christmas function for women's groups & Playgroup ... Craft & cake stall raised \$1500 plus ... Two young women baptised ... Church luncheon followed by input discussion led by Gordon Gray ... Congratulations & presentation to Merryll Blair as she joins the teaching staff at CCTC.

BENDIGO (John Sweetman) Morning services during January well attended ... Family service held each Sunday night of holidays ... "Boredom Bashers" kids activities held 11-14 January for 8-11 year-olds ... Six baptisms recently including mother, father & daughter, minister's two sons ... Two confessions of faith ... All church groups operating for new year ... Annual meeting held 9 March ... Church rejoicing over completion of church loan ... Two rededications.

ECHUCA (Arthur Symes) A big thank-you to all who took services while pastor & wife on holidays ... Alex Irvine, businessman from Sydney, came & gave talk & showed slides of what Gideons are doing in the Philippines & Hong Kong. It made us think, when they want a Bible so much, we take what we have for granted.

NORTH ESSENDON (Mike Esbensen) Mike Esbensen inducted by Ian Allsop 6 February. Now available 3.5 days/week & has moved into Essendon ... June Follett recovering from bypass surgery ... Val Thompson hospitalised ... "Favourite Hymn" evening, 27 February ... Joint service at Keilor Rd Uniting, 13 March ... Congregation saddened by sudden death of Keith Hurwood, 12 March, after surgery ... Playgroup invited to church picnic 20 March.

PRESTON (Steve Blacket) Steve Blacket received the award for academic achievement at CCTC. Steve is also President of the student committee ... Family night for Boomerang Kids' Club was attended by over 90. All enjoyed the entertainment by Rick the Magician ... CWF joined with West Preston ladies to hear Maureen Daniels, CWF President, speak ... Several members attended the recent seminar with Gordon Moyes.

MAIDSTONE (A. McMillan) Church picnic held ... Western district fellowship tea well attended & addressed by Trevor Giles ... 13 attended Gordon Moyes' motivational address at Camberwell ... Half-yearly business meeting well attended ... New treasurer Stan Phillips ... Interesting visit/talk by Marj Buckingham ... Girls' Club started, but more leaders needed ... Church praying for several sick people. Some recently in hospital. **BORONIA (Kelth Milne, Andrew Henley, Andrew Ratcliff)** 73rd church anniversary saw Conference President Max Gowty & wife Pat in attendance. Max, a former secretary of the church, spoke at am service & at church family luncheon. Evening family service featured Jeanette Drummond & her puppets. Over 300 attended. Special offering for Extended Ministry '94 \$545 ... Church hosted Ministers' Association welcome dinner for new ministers & spouses in our state.

ASCOT VALE (Ross Bourdon) Rowses returned from New Guinea after working as missionaries for 12 months ... Church relocated Half Way House into 4-bedroom home ... Minister's ministry term unanimously extended ... Heath Bourdon severed tendon in foot ... Food ministry and witness to housing

estate progressing well ... Minister's father died suddenly, 11 March, after having a stroke.

MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (G. Illingworth, R Wright) Farewell David & Ruth Curtis to begin studies at BCV, Lilydale ... New sound gear purchased, new name tags, play area extended to outside (concrete covered with artificial grass, pergola with shade cloth), tennis courts now marked for car parking ... Fellowship welcome to Peta Maher ... Hunger Busters meals now prepared in our church each week—97 meals for 31 families then delivered.

MOUNT CLEAR (Dale White, James Leviston, David Jones) James & Robyn Leviston inducted to part-time Youth Ministry, 20 March ... Worship attendances rising—evening services now averaging 100+ ... Successful Church Fair, over 1,000 from community, raised \$2167. Innovations were chariot races and New Faces contest ... Free dinner for new uni students went well. Ministry to international students expanding ... 10 new members during March ... Blessed by visit of Pastor Wilson Bebe & choir from Vanuatu.

WA

APPLECROSS (Sean Bainbridge) New minister Sean Bainbridge & family fitting in nicely. Sean's preaching appreciated, particularly series on "Discipleship: Living as a Christian Today" ... Church auxiliaries running again ... Commissioning service held for Sunday School teachers ... Applecross hosted World Day of Prayer, well over 100 present ... Hosted FAB rally, 90 present ... Many visitors attended past couple of months with a number now calling Applecross "home".

KALAMUNDA (David Shalley, Paul Sanders) Church saddened by death of Jesse, infant son of Steve & Margaret Hall ... Launch of Vision, a Community for Christ, for 1994 & beyond ... Lauchlan Spicer appointed youth pastoral intern ... Steve Hall appointed youth pastor at Kelmscott ... World Day of Prayer service, host church for Kalamunda area ... Axiom youth group camp at Northam. 31 sharing ... Care & Share days began with program centred around theme "care".

FREMANTLE (J. Capom) AGM held after morning service on 13 March. Officers' Board personnel of four elders, one deaconess & three deacons unchanged ... Harvest Thanksgiving goods donated to Life in Focus ... Information & challenge given by Avon Moyle (FAB) appreciated ... Bicton UC choir presented the Easter cantata "Jesus Shall Reign".

PBC Commencement

College year and book launched

8 March was a beautiful cool evening—ideal for the 1994 Perth Bible College Commencement service.

After a brief time of praise, the Chairman, Dr Alan Mitchell, introduced Rev Lindsay Urquhart, the eldest son of the founder of the College. Lindsay is presently serving with Operation Mobilisation in Budapest. He and his wife, Elaine, are involved in an itinerant Bible teaching and counselling ministry in Hungary, the Czech Republic and elsewhere. In launching the new book, *Carment Urquhart and his vision: The Perth Bible Institute*, Lindsay gave special thanks to Irene Spice for her labour of love in preparing it. PBC maintains the same high view of Scripture and the same emphasis on preparing men and women for service at home and abroad.

During the program, various faculty members interviewed all 22 first year students (including seven from Churches of Christ—Lee Sykes (Rivervale), Sarah Soon (Subiaco), Dianne Birch, Peter Dines, Lynette and Andrew Huggins (Nollamara) and Oliver Haynes (Bassendean).

This year's intake has an equal number of men and women and also an equal number of married and single students. It includes two overseas students (one from the People's Republic of

China and the other, also ethnic Chinese, from Singapore) and three interstate students (two from SA and one from Tasmania).

The highlight of the service was the presentation of a Bachelor of Arts (Biblical Studies) degree by Dr David Shalley (Kalamunda) to the College Registrar, Graeme Michie. Over the past three years, Graeme had been studying as an external student of the Pacific College of Graduate Studies. After the presentation, Dr Shalley gave a charge to the incoming students based on Matt 13:52.

Copies of the book *Carment Urquhart and his vision: The Perth Bible Institute* are available from the College, 1 College Court, Karrinyup 6018 for \$20 (posted).



• Dianne Birch (Nollamara) being interviewed by her faculty adviser Mrs Margaret Meers

The Last Word

Real goodness does not attach itself merely to this life—it points to another world.

—Daniel Webster

"I've been asked to get married hundreds of times."

"Who by?"

"My parents."

"I bumped into Joe yesterday."

"Was he pleased to see you?"

"Not really. We were both in our cars at the time."

"I've changed my mind."

"Good. Does your new one work better than the old one?"

A young parent paying a visit to a doctor friend made no attempt to restrain the five-year-old, who was ransacking an adjoining room. But, finally, an extra-loud clatter of bottles did prompt the question: "I hope you don't mind Johnny being in there?"

"No," said the doctor calmly, "he'll be quiet when he gets to the poisons."

Little Billy was left to fix lunch. When his mother returned with a friend, she noticed that he had already strained the tea.

"Did you find the tea strainer?" she asked.

"No, mother, I couldn't, so I used the fly swatter," replied Billy.

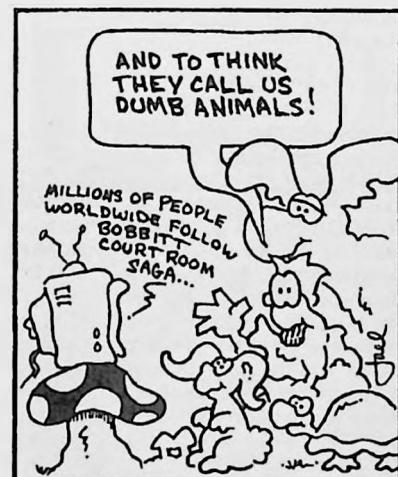
His mother nearly fainted, so Billy hastily added, "Don't get excited Mother. I used an old one."

A layman is someone who lays in bed Sunday morning instead of going to church.

Sunday School teacher: "Now, who decreed that all the world should be taxed?"

Student: "The Government".

Pontius' Puddle



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