

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

Registered for Australia Post Publication No. VAR 0761

Volume 91, No. 10

June 25, 1988

DADAYA

BUNAM

BOMBAY

DARWIN

ST KILDA

KALAMUNDA

“You will be
witnesses for me.”

WOLLONGONG

ANNERLEY

Acts 1:8

LYONS

DEVONPORT

CHUNGRIBU



SARABETU

BALAKLAVA

SORI

OVERSEAS MISSION ISSUE
OFFERING DAY JULY 3

Managing Editor:
CHRIS AMBROSE

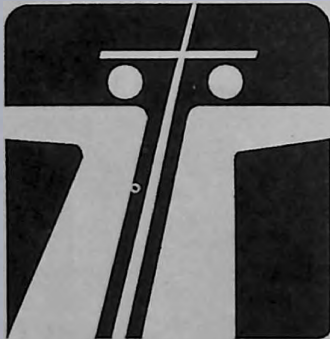
ISSUE	DEADLINE
July 9	June 29
July 23	July 13
August 6	July 27

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subscription payments)

P.O. Box 101,
ESSENDON NORTH, VIC.,
3041

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After hours: (03) 337.8349



National Logo of Churches of
Christ in Australia

"The Australian Christian" is published by the Board of Management of the Australian Christian, a Department of the Federal Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia.

Printing by New Lithographics (Vic.) Pty. Ltd, 63 Sunbury Cres, Surrey Hills, Vic. 3127.

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

ADVERTISING RATES
DISPLAYED

\$4.20 per column centimetre
CLASSIFIEDS
25c each word
(Minimum charge \$8.00)

GUEST EDITORIAL



JESUS, THE JUBILEE AND US

Bruce McIntosh

Bruce McIntosh, an elder at Boronia, Vic., graduated from the College of the Bible in 1957 and ministered at Chadstone and Shepparton churches. He then joined the State Electricity Commission where his present position is Senior Consultant, human resources policy. He is a member of the Australian Institute of Management and the Australian Institute of Training and Development. This article is based on an Australia Day sermon preached at Boronia and Knoxfield. The Implications of Luke 4:16-21

When Jesus preached in his home town he deliberately chose the Isaiah theme of 'the acceptable year of the Lord' (Is 61:1-2). Some biblical scholars claim that Jesus' contemporaries would have recognised that he was referring to the Jubilee Year, which was due around that time. If this is so, Jesus was confronting his people with the implications of an extremely important event.

The Jubilee in Ancient Israel

Moses introduced the Jubilee concept as a social and economic equaliser (Lev 25:8-17). In the Jubilee year, all property sold was to be returned to the original owners or their descendants. People in servitude were to be released. As people only sold their property, and then themselves, as a desperate last resort against poverty and starvation, the Jubilee year ensured the restoration of rights and the means of an independent livelihood. The amazing thing is that while this was the law of Moses, it was ignored, hence Isaiah's, and then Jesus', concern.

The Jubilee and the People of Nazareth

If Jesus' pronouncement was a social and economic statement, and a challenge to his nation to observe the laws of Moses, the Lukan passage should be interpreted like this:

- the good news to the poor means freedom from poverty;*
- the release of captives means the underprivileged have their dignity and freedom restored;*
- those whose sight is restored are able to live an independent life;*
- those oppressed by religious, political and social systems (all can be oppressive) are to be recognised for their real worth.*

No nation likes to be challenged on human rights issues. No wonder they got mad and threw Jesus out of Nazareth.

The Jubilee and Us

This particular Jubilee year was believed to be the one that would bring to an end the current evil age, and restore the Kingdom of David. Hence the preoccupation with questions to Jesus in the gospels on the end of the age, and Jesus' responses with parables on the Kingdom of God.

The most notable of these parables is in Matthew 25, where Jesus explains that when the Son of Man comes he will judge the nations, not on what they believe, but on what they have done to, and for, their people: the hungry fed, the stranger accommodated, the naked clothed, the prisoner supported. Have you noticed how confused Jesus said some religious people would be about their goals? Jesus is saying that if you want to share in God's Jubilee, you had better have practised your own.

The Australian churches have the opportunity to see our bicentennial year as a jubilee year. They might challenge our nation to return further tribal lands and sacred sites to the Koorie people; feed, clothe and house the 2,000,000 living in poverty; end discrimination against migrant people; and restore our foreign aid program to a reasonable level. Our bicentenary would then take on some true worth and become 'an acceptable year of the Lord'.

Further Reading:

- "The Politics of Jesus" by J.H. Yoder (Eerdmans)*
- "Mission in Christ's Way" by L. Newbigin (WCC)*
- "Recent Trends Among Evangelicals" by R. Croucher (Albatross)*
- "A Vision for Australia, Key Issues 4-6" (Albatross)*

Adoration

As a youth I was greatly helped by discovering a prayer pattern based on the word **ACTS**.

- Adoration
- Confession
- Thanksgiving
- Supplication

I had no trouble with **confession**. I could always remember plenty that needed confessing. And it was good to feel forgiven afterwards.

Thanksgiving was easy. Life was full of things that called for gratitude.

Supplication was no trouble. There was no end to the things I wanted God to fix up for me, and no end to the people who could do with someone to pray for them.

But **adoration** had me stumped. I knew what it meant. It meant being filled with wonder at the goodness and greatness of God and his glory. I could get that into one sentence. But that seemed a bit short compared with the rest; and it seemed a bit cursory as far as God was concerned.

That was until I realised that **our limited human language cannot do justice to the glory of God**. So I learned to let my mind dwell on what I know God is, what he has done, and what he is doing.

When our minds are allowed to **wander over God's creation**, his breaking into the world and sharing himself in Jesus, his provision for our salvation, and his action in the world today working for healing and well being, even through people who do not recognise him, then there is **no end to adoration**. And we can adore God in this way **on the run**, even when we are not 'saying our prayers'.

—Gordon Stirling
(Launceston, Tas.)

Baramati Sisters Witness

—Dorothy Geyer

Baramati, India

Recently, in a sharing session of the small Sunday afternoon Women's Fellowship of the Baramati Church, several sisters told of their opportunities to witness to non-Christian neighbours.

Saroj's neighbours asked how she kept calm while a quarrel raged between her little children and a neighbour's children. She told them Jesus helped control her temper.

Malan's neighbours noticed her generosity to many in need. She told them how Jesus cared for the poor, and how he taught her and helped her to follow his example.

Haribai's neighbours are Muslims and Vimelbai's are Hindus, but in times of distress, conflict, sickness, they quite naturally ask Haribai and Vimelbai to pray for them. They have observed that their Christian friends' God answers prayer.

Anwradha has had many opportunities to tell of her remarkable recovery from injuries received in a terrible car smash—in answer to prayer.

Manda's high school teacher colleagues watched the film "Jesus" on television on Christmas day, and afterwards asked her questions about it. "Why," they asked, for instance, "if Jesus was the Son of God, did he let himself be crucified?" Manda wasn't very pleased with her answer, but she had tried at least to explain that he died in our place.

Sarajabi gave up her seat in the bus to a woman with a baby, and had the chance to share the gospel with a young man who said, "You must be a Christian. Only Christians do things like that."

Saraja, who is a retired Bible woman, has also made friends with an old lady who, as a very strict Hindu used to feel defiled by the slightest contact with a Christian. She now comes often to visit and to hear the stories of Jesus.

Pray for your sisters—and brothers—who represent the Living God in Baramati, and pray for a work of God's Spirit in those to whom they witness.



Profit and Loss

'Trading Partners' is the name of a business developed to sell the goods of village craft-workers from third world countries. The profits made go to these people. When mirror bags and cushion covers are imported from the St Mary's project in Ahmedabad in NW India they represent the work of many women from the slum areas of that city of three million.

The Sisters of St Mary began the project in Ahmedabad, but it is now planned and operated by the women who produce the goods for sale. These will be sold

in England, USA, Canada, West Germany, Australia and New Zealand.

11 years after its commencement, Trading Partners is helping 60 village communities in 26 countries, selling such goods as wall hangings, rugs, jewellery and basketware.

Goods can be purchased at 235 Swan St, Richmond, Vic., and 19 Centre Point Arcade, Geelong, Vic. Speakers are also available to bring a selection of goods for sale to your group. Phone (03) 428 7148.

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Pastor Sir Douglas Nicholls

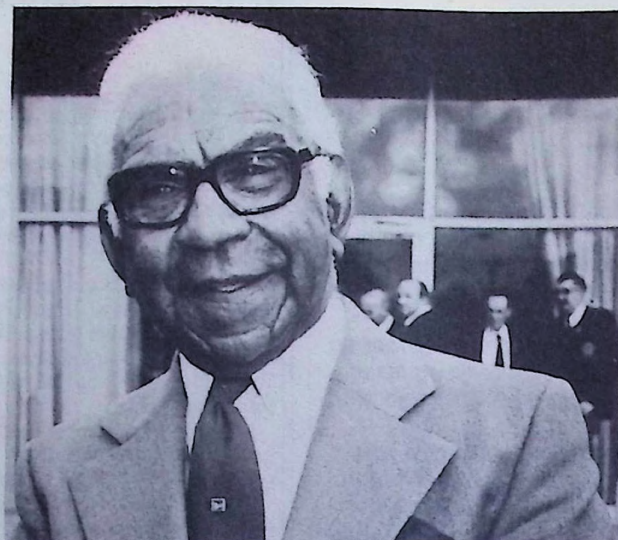
1906-1988

When he was born, the fifth child of Herbert and Florence Nicholls, at Cummeragunja, a NSW Aboriginal station, there was no promise that Douglas Ralph Nicholls would progress any further than the many Aborigines who lived in humpies on the banks of the Murray River. But two things ensured that he did.

Firstly, he became a skilled sportsman in boxing, running and football. As a boxer he toured with a travelling troupe. As a professional runner he won races such as the Nyah and Warmambool gifts. He played Association football with Northcote and League football with Fitzroy as a champion wingman. This made him well-known and appreciated.

Secondly, he claimed Jesus Christ as his Saviour and committed his life to God's service. This happened at Northcote Church of Christ. At his mother's request he went with her to the evening service on July 10, 1932. The minister talked with him after the service and asked if he had ever thought of dedicating his life to Christian service. He hadn't! He came alone to the service on July 17 and there made the decision which was to have unexpected results. He was baptised on July 31.

A training class for young men was conducted and Doug readily joined this. But his whole attitude and aim in life had changed. He wanted to learn, to be useful to Christ and the church. The weekly



session was not enough for him. He attended the manse three or four times a week to receive additional tuition. What compelled him?

There are Bible texts which suggest an answer. Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation." The Master said, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

It seemed Doug was determined not to be ashamed of his decision to become a Christian; determined to live for Christ so that God would be glorified by his life and others would be led to turn to Christ and find in him what Doug himself had found.

The Fitzroy football team was so impressed with Doug's sincerity and consistency that when church parades were arranged at Northcote most of the team attended. Other teams were likewise impressed. After a match between Brighton and Northcote in 1938, Brighton club arranged for the mayor of the city to present Doug with a Bible.

In churches and youth groups of all denominations, in most states, Doug was in constant demand as a speaker. Young people profited from his example and testimony, were caused to think about Christ, and to consider committing themselves to Christian living and ministry. As Governor of South Australia, Doug maintained Christian standards and witness, as evidenced by the fact that at meals, regardless of who was present, he always offered thanksgiving to God.

Doug worked tirelessly for his own people, their recognition, welfare and rightful place as citizens. He did this through the Aborigines Progressive Association in NSW, the Australian Aborigines League and the Aborigines Advancement League in Victoria, and the Federal Council for Aboriginal Advancement. He had much to do with the founding of the Aboriginal church in Gore St, Fitzroy, of which he became the minister under the oversight of the Churches of Christ Aborigines Mission Department.

He organised a hostel for Aboriginal girls. He visited Aboriginal stations, reserves and settlements to investigate conditions and fight for much-needed improvements and justice, and supported land rights movements. His value to the government of Victoria as an adviser in Aboriginal matters was indicated when he was appointed to the Aboriginal Welfare Board of Victoria, and as Director of the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Council.

It was fitting that for his devoted work for others he was honoured with the award of M.B.E., then O.B.E., and finally was knighted—Sir Douglas Nicholls, K.B., O.B.E.

His death occurred at the Mooroopna Hospital on June 4, after a long illness. A state funeral service was conducted at the Aborigines Advancement League Centre on June 10, when fitting tributes were paid to Doug's life by representative citizens from all walks of life. His burial took place at Cummeragunja.

—W.W. Saunders

Rita Roberts Lodge

Not everyone gets a lodge named after them, but that's what happened to Rita Roberts when she was honoured, some years ago, by the giving of her name to Camp Waterman's small group camping centre at Monbulk, Vic.

This honour marked her long service to Good Companions. Now in their jubilee year, Good Companions clubs have contributed \$2,181 towards a goal of \$2,500 to refurbish the Lodge.

Gifts may be sent to Dot Brooker, Dept of Mission, Education and Development, 52 La Trobe St, Melbourne 3000. A



special public function to mark the occasion will be held at Monbulk on October 15. This event will be held in association with the Explorer Jubilee Commemoration Day.

VISITING CANBERRA?

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

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"You shall be my witnesses"



The Batley family

When Jesus sent forth the apostles, they had no theological degrees, no cross-cultural tools, and no Mission Board to support their cause. In those days, there were no MAF planes to bring in their supplies and mail once every two weeks, and as for the pay, well ...

Today, almost 2,000 years later, Jesus is still sending people forth to be His witnesses into their own culture, the near cultures and the distant cultures. All of us have God's unique message to give out wherever we might be.

For the overseas witness, or missionary, the task is daunting. Family is left behind, many friendships that have been built up over the years are irreparably severed, some churches think of the missionaries only infrequently, and the ranks at home close without them.

Settling in overseas for a new family is often far from easy. The climate can be harsh and exhausting, job expectations can take a battering, mastering a new language effectively can take years, and the logic that springs from a different set of premises can appear most baffling to the outsider. For a missionary wife, being mother and teacher to the children adds a new dimension to family relationships.

—Graeme Batley
Samban, PNG

Yes, the missionary who wishes to have more than a superficial ministry needs great discernment and wisdom, as well as confidence in God.

I am still learning about the traditional beliefs and customs of the Botin-speaking people. Their culture is very rich in social values and I try to see beauty in all its aspects.

As you can gather, the culture of these people and their patterns of thinking are very important to me. For in my preaching, teaching, counselling and patrol work, it always helps if I can perceive the knowledge that they have acquired subconsciously since childhood.

I am also learning how to be a communicator on their terms. The Botin people have only limited education, most of the older people, especially the women, have no literary skills, and they think best when truth is expressed in parables. Hence effective work needs very thoughtful preparation if communication is to be clear, concise, and more importantly, memorable.

Many times we missionaries are confronted by completely new ministry situations. Especially during revival, when enthusiasm rides on the crest of the wave, many things that appear can, at first sight, seem spurious. In these instances the missionary is regarded as the authority on religious affairs. Frequently the missionary has never observed such phenomenon before!

Many times we would dearly love to see growth take place more quickly than it does. However, we must be patient and give space for the people to go forward at a pace that will not create disorientation. Papua New Guineans are very profound thinkers and much reliance on the Holy Spirit is needed to enable scriptural truths to imperceptibly seep all the way down. In this sense, the Holy Spirit is the great teacher.

Yet do not be discouraged, being a cross-cultural witness is not without its many rewards and joys. Our rapport with the Botin people has always been excellent and they have done everything possible to endear themselves to us. They have great potential that is being developed, and it is my prayer that in some small way I can work with God as His witness in bringing that potential to maturity.

Call for Charity Tax Review

Everald Compton, a leading Anglican stewardship planner, has called for major change in tax concessions on charitable gifts. He says the \$2 minimum on tax deductibility was set when that

represented one-third of average weekly earnings.

His specific proposals include:

(a) The minimum deduction should be \$100 or more in a year,

to be raised as inflation erodes its value.

(b) The charitable bodies in receipt of gifts would not be set up for the profit or benefit of members. They would include hospitals, some building funds, welfare, overseas aid, RE, research and human rights agencies, marriage guidance, conservation, genuinely charitable trusts and other bodies.

(c) The donor should be allowed to state that the tax saved will be made available directly to the charity instead of the donor.

These proposals arise from observing the abuse of the present system, one which denies deductibility for gifts to many important community projects. He

also cites the corruption by governments since 1936 in granting tax deductions to charities promoted by their friends while ignoring many other, more worthy causes.

He sees changes as necessary to prevent discrimination against small community institutions; and to affect Australian's attitudes regarding our responsibilities to one another, beyond our obligations as taxpayers.

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God's Mission

"My Part In God's Mission" was the theme chosen for the 17th Annual Missionary Convention of the Swanston St Church of Christ in Melbourne, held June 3-5.

Although shorter than previous conventions, it was probably the best attended and the most effective Convention that the church has conducted.

This year's Convention speaker was David Brook, Regional Director for Australia and New Zealand of TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission). Speaking out of a missionary background of 25 years of service in Japan, during which time he was instrumental in planting new churches, David preached a series of simple, but powerful, messages on the theme of The Great Re-mission, The Great Com-mission, The Great O-mission and The Great Sub-mission.

On the final night 16 young people, including two married couples, publicly made that great submission. Among those who responded were students from Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Indonesia and South Africa.

A love offering was received for the 24 adult members and their 16 children who comprise the Swanston St missionary family. A record cash offering of \$30,389 was received. In addition the



annual Faith Promise renewal offering was received. Once again this exceeded all expectations. The target which the Missionary Committee had set was \$150,000. The response of the people was to promise \$181,000 in missionary support over the next 12 months.

Since the Faith Promise offering concept was introduced, just 17 years ago, over \$1,000,000 will have been given to missions! The staggering thing about this phenomenal giving is that the church is still basically a student church, with 50% of its members being non-wage-earners.

Perhaps the key to the amazing response was the way in which the whole convention was saturated in prayer. In the two weeks leading up to the Convention the members were encouraged to use a special prayer guide, based on the promise that 'there can never be a significant outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the mission field unless there is a prior outpouring of the human spirit in preparatory prayer'. The whole Convention period was covered by a chain of prayer, as more than 150 members interceded in half-hourly intervals. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Lord blessed in such a powerful way.

The church at Swanston St has been singularly enriched, realising more clearly than ever that its part in God's mission is missions. The church has committed itself with renewed dedication to the task of sending out labourers into the world.

—A. Webb

**RECOMMEND
THE
CHRISTIAN**

40 years of Girls' Brigade



Pictured with entertainer Rob George at the rally are (L.-R.): Kate Palmer and Jame Langmaid (Blackwood Church of Christ) and Samantha Muller and Zoe Smith (Aldgate Valley Church of Christ)

Members from all metropolitan companies were amongst the 1,000 members, leaders and parents who attended a State Rally at the CRC Hall in Adelaide, on June 3, to acknowledge 40 years of Girls' Brigade in SA. The girls enjoyed a program of singing, clowns, a ventriloquist, magic tricks and stories with an underlying Christian message.

The company at 1st Adelaide (Henley Beach Church of Christ), originally commenced in

1948, presented an item giving thanks for the past and looking to the future.

Brigade caters expertly for the different ages of its members (6-16 years) by dividing into four units. Girls' Brigade members are given the opportunity to broaden their horizons, they learn team spirit and they are introduced to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

To learn more about the features of Girls' Brigade in SA, phone (08) 267 3241.

Pastoral care at Epworth Hospital

In 1980 Tom Verrier was appointed as the first full-time Staff Chaplain at Epworth Hospital, Vic. He developed a team concept and set out to recruit a team of lay volunteers whom he trained in pastoral care. In addition to the volunteer team, the Pastoral Care department has increased in number. The full-time chaplain is Bob Ower, and two part-time chaplains, Gall Pritchard and Bruce Richards, work with him. A volunteer co-ordinator, Joan Coughlan, and a theological student complete the team.

The training course takes 10 weeks, meeting once a week, and incorporates many aspects of pastoral care. These include hospital etiquette, counselling, use of prayer and Bible, as well as work in the areas of grief and loss.

More volunteers are needed for 1989. If you feel a call to this form of ministry Epworth would be glad to hear from you. Another training course will be held commencing in October this year. See the advertisement in this issue for details.

Investment Seminar

Pastor Ted Keating and the Nunawading board of officers have joined with Christian Projects in arranging for top advisers to answer all your questions at a free investment seminar.

Retire/Invest Pty Ltd, leading

authorities on investments, property, bonds etc, will conduct the seminar, suitable for all age groups. All are welcome at Nunawading, Vic, church, 184 Surrey Rd, Blackburn, July 11 at 7.30pm. Supper will be served.

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Explorer Jubilee Plans



Left to right: Lyndsay Smith, Peter Wing Tang and Explorer Chief, Russell Croxford

A small committee of Explorer executive members has been meeting through 1987-1988 to plan the jubilee events. Principal events planned include a Jubilee Dinner to be held at Rembrandt's on September 8 and the Jubilee Commemoration Day at Camp Waterman on October 15. The latter event will be combined with the Good Companions.

Peter Wing Tang has been active in planning for the dinner and is keen to hear from past Explorers, parents and any interested friends who would like to attend.

A good musical program has been arranged. Graham Hyman will be the guest speaker. The program will focus on past, present and future aspects of Explorers and should be a great night for all.

Lyndsay Smith has written a brief history for the occasion. Copies will be available at the dinner. Peter will welcome greetings and ticket reservation requests. Contact him at 280 Highbury Rd, Burwood 3125; phone (03) 288 1613.

Corrections

In the May 28 issue the name of the current Director of Nursing at Bethesda Hospital was incorrectly reported. The Director is Miss Joyce Brand, who is a member at the Warwick, WA, church.

In the report on the WA conference (May 14 issue), there was some confusion with the spelling of the name of the new Conference Secretary, Allen Smyth, and also Allan Pyne.

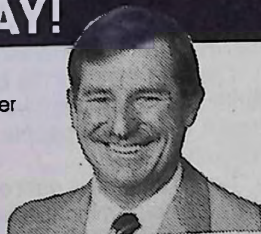
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Witnessing for Christ

—David Wilson

(Student at Londua Training School, Vanuatu)

God bless you all! First of all I want to thank God for having a purpose in my life and thank him for transporting me from my home in Santo to this school on Ambae. Since I came to this school I have accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour and Lord in my life.

Before I came to this school I lived in my home and I was a very strong-headed boy. I did all sorts of evil things and I thought it was all right, but it was not. As it is written in the Holy Scriptures that "Children it is your Christian duty to obey your parents; for this is the right thing to do. Respect your father and mother is also the first commandment that has a promise added." (Eph 6:1-2).

In my daily life I feel that always Jesus is with me. When I play with my brothers and sisters in the school, they find out that Jesus is real in my life. Many times we come together and witness for Jesus Christ in many ways. In singing, in Christian Endeavour, in our gospel services and others, to glorify the name of our Lord, for it says in the Bible that his name shall be glorified.

Satan also wants to have his way in my life, but praise God for he has given me his whole coat of armour to overcome Satan.

Many times too, Pastor William and other teachers, like Mr Peter and Mrs Kerry give us a study about the Lord Jesus Christ. This helps us all in our Christian life. Some of my friends did not want to come to Christ, but how wonderful God is, he has transformed them and made them his children.

As for us Christians, we must always keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and to reach the goal which is the life above in heaven that will live for ever and ever . . . AMEN!

Union closer

The 1.7-million-member United Church of Christ and the 1.1-million-member Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), in the USA, moved closer to a relationship of full communion when their executive boards recently adopted a document supporting mutual unity. The document follows the action of the two churches highest deliberative bodies when in 1985 they declared the churches to be 'ecumenical partners'.

Since then they have pursued some mission work jointly and co-operated in various ways locally. In addition, a 22-member Ecumenical Partnership Committee has laid theological foundations for furthering the relationship.

"As partners," the Committee's statement said, "we are working toward a time when our churches will be able to claim 'full communion'—a relationship characterised by a mutual recognition of baptism, full eucharistic fellowship, the mutual recognition of members and ordained ministers, a common commitment to con-

fess the gospel of Christ by proclamation and service to the world and common decision-making."

The two churches are similar in policy, mission style and theological diversity but do have differences—notably in regard to the sacraments. In the UCC, infant baptism is common, and communion is celebrated with varying frequency. Among the Disciples, baptism is usually for adults, and communion is part of each worship service.

However, the Ecumenical Partnership Committee has said that there are no theological barriers to keep the two denominations from recognising each other's baptism and communion practices, and it is studying ways in which the churches could recognise each other's ministers.

—The Christian Century

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE AT FEDERAL CONFERENCE



The Letters to the Editor limit is 200 words.

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

To the Editor,

I have followed with interest the debate on the issue of women in ministry which has occurred over the past few months.

In 1 Corinthians 14 the women are the third group of people to be told to 'be still' (vs 28 and 30). Paul is clearly referring to specific situations within the normal structure of church relationships where speaking is not permitted.

Believers, both men and women, are encouraged to discover and use their spiritual gifts (1 Pet 4:9-11, Rom 12:4-8 etc). Do these passages apply to men only? If not, why would God give women spiritual gifts so that men (and women) could tell them that they cannot use them?

If someone would only explain the inconsistencies of men who strongly believe that women should not teach, yet let their wives teach Bethel; and who let women preach and teach overseas, in Sunday Schools, home groups, schools, yet not in church. If women cannot teach (biblically), then please take all women out of all teaching positions, especially the mission field. Bring the unmarried women missionaries home and command the married women to refrain from all teaching responsibilities.

Surely consistent application of scriptural 'truths' should apply to all situations.

—Jenny Ramsay
(Kenmore, Qld)

TOLERANCE NEEDED

To the Editor,

I am really glad that Russell and Betty Clinton and Ingrid Gilmore wrote in "The Australian Christian" (May 28) regarding the Victorian Conference service this year, held in the Dallas Brooks Hall. They highlight for us what has been a continuing problem for years within our movement. It is the attitude that says, "If things don't go the way I want them to go, then I'm not coming back any

more, or I am going to make it as uncomfortable as possible for anybody else to get any blessing out of anything".

What a shame that mature, responsible Christian people should have such a reaction to a service which I found extremely worshipful, as well as moving, powerful and helpful.

In this year celebrating the bicentenary of the birth of Alexander Campbell, it is unfortunate that more of the tolerance and love which he proclaimed can't be practised.

—Geoff Rowcroft
(Berwick, Vic.)

SURROGATE PARENTHOOD

To the Editor,

Neither the ideas behind the modern in vitro fertilisation programs, nor the moral and legal dilemmas, are anything new. The ideas don't concern us here. When Abraham and Sarah did not have children, Sarah had Abraham use Hagar as a surrogate mother. Later, law provided for a brother to be a surrogate father, when a man died without an heir. The Laws of Manu are very detailed on the subject.

The A.I.D. program has provided surrogate fathers for many years. The biological father has no rights or knowledge of his children, who are considered in law to be the children of the woman's husband.

The recent birth of a child to a surrogate mother in Victoria has raised all sorts of flurry, and threats have been made by politicians that the practice will be made a criminal offence. The legal position is, according to recent law on the subject, that the child belongs to the surrogate mother.

The sale of 'human issue' (that is, ova), is illegal, but sperm donors are paid, so presumably the men are not human, nor have they any legal rights whatever with children from their sperm. Surrogate mothers may not be paid, and unpaid women are to be made criminals whilst, on the other hand, the child is theirs.

Where are the equal rights for men and women?

—John J. Alderson
(Havelock, Vic.)

PENFRIEND WANTED

To the Editor,

I am 26, single and a Bible College student, studying theology and psychology at Minnesota Bible College. I have spent a lot of time in Perth and am interested in that city. I am looking for correspondence with a Christian girl, single, aged 18-24.

—Thomas Colvin
(Minnesota Bible College, 920 Maywood Rd S.W., Rochester, Minnesota 55902, USA)

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

To the Editor,

In the "A.C." (March 5) N.G. Aubrey made three statements about the American degree, Doctor of Ministry: (1) it has no academic value for Australian universities; (2a) those engaged in thorough academic research would normally pursue a Bachelors and Masters degree before proceeding to a Doctorate and (2b) the D. Min. is a backdoor Doctorate with requirements far below those of a Ph.D.; (3) it is questionable whether or not holders of the D.Min. degree should use the title Dr.

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

Weaker Brothers

To the Editor,

In our church we do everything the Christian way.

If an individual or the minority get upset about a proposed change, the proposal is dropped. We wanted to change the seating to make worship more intimate, but one of us, who had sat the other way for 20 years, threatened to leave, so the seats remain as they were. At Christmas the young people wanted to use candles in the chapel. One good brother threatened to leave and go to the Anglicans. There were no candles.

Our minister keeps reminding us that we must not do anything to "cause the weaker brother to stumble".

Last time it happened I was fed up and pulled out my concordance to see what the passage really did say. It was 1 Corinthians 8, all about eating meat. Paul was saying it is best not to eat meat if some brother has a weak conscience as well as a weak stomach and believes in vegetarianism.

I noticed that it is the **brother** who is weak. Apparently New Testament women had more sense. Maybe that's why some people tried to keep them silent in church!

Paul's attitude is right of course. But does that mean that the noisy minority should always get its way? Paul says, "They are brothers for whom Christ died", and should be looked after as such. But what if, by giving in to them, we hold back the church in its work of winning people from outside the church for whom Christ also died?

And does this mean that the 'weaker brethren' are the ones who determine the future of the church? When I meet Paul in heaven I am going to ask him ... provided the queue is not too long.

—TERTIUS

Re (2a): In American seminaries that are accredited by the Association of Theological Schools one of the prerequisites for admission to the D.Min. program is a B.A. and an M.Div. (or their equivalents).

Re (2b): The requirements for the D.Min. include the academic (usually stiffer than for an M.Div. but often lower than for a Ph.D.) but are not restricted to it. Ministers need to be equipped personally and professionally as well as academically.

Re (3): On the American scene Dr. is commonly used for qualified professionals, like doctors and dentists, and sometimes lawyers, which is how the D.Min. needs to be viewed.

Ministers should not flaunt Dr. anymore than they should parade other degrees.

— Ronald W. Graham
(Johnston, Iowa, U.S.A.)

INNER SUBURBAN MALAISE To the Editor,

To understand one of the disturbing trends in our movement one need look no further than the Church News ("A.C." May 28). Between news of the happenings of two other congregations was the announcement that Richmond, Vic., for financial reasons, "regretfully decided to change to a part-time ministry". What is of interest is that the other two congregations had multiple ministries.

In the past two decades we've closed up and sold one building after another in the inner suburbs of Melbourne. This is a travesty of stewardship.

Short-term planning; an ignorance of sociological and demographic patterns; a corporate management style which has more to do with American business practices than 'mustard seeds', more to do with numbers than 'koinonia'; and a refusal by senior ministers and laity to have anything to do with the inner industrial suburbs; have characterised inner suburban ministry for most of our post-war history.

Yet it is the congregations of these suburbs that set patterns of stewardship, commitment and service unequalled in our churches.

Why is it not possible for a multiple ministry congregation to locate one of its team in Richmond? Why not a Properties Corporation plan to provide housing for families prepared to commit themselves to the Richmonds of our cities? Why not the location of one of our Conference Departments in Richmond, where a relationship with a smaller congregation might do wonders to Conference life and witness?

—Alan Matheson
(Hawthorn, Vic.)

(This letter has been edited.—
Editor)

Were you an Endeavourer?

The National Fellowship of Christian Endeavour still provides an opportunity for former Endeavourers to meet for fellowship, to share in prayer together, and to encourage the extension of the CE movement among young people.

For several years Mrs Mavis Ham has been the leader of this group. The new Superintendent will be Ron Woodgate.

The former Endeavourers meet bi-monthly at Bible House, 241 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. At the next meeting on July 6 R. Worthy of the Prison Fellowship will be the speaker. Future dates are September 7 and November 2. The meeting starts at 12 noon and those attended are urged to bring their lunch and join the fellowship.

For further details contact Ray Uren on (03) 890 6500.

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"You will be witnesses for me" Acts 1:8

—Kerry Schulz (Vanuatu)

On the night before Good Friday four Londua students were baptised in a moving service beside the sea. The moon was high, the ocean glistening and the reality of Jesus surrounded us all.

Londua Training School continues to have a strong witness in the lives of many people in the West Ambae area. Many students come to learn practical and academic skills and many leave knowing someone who will be with them the rest of their lives.

The teachers and staff at Londua continue to influence the lives of 110 students at the school. The loving and caring attitude that is portrayed in the school has a marked effect on the students. Not only do many students come to know the Lord, but many are encouraged in their spiritual lives.

Londua has been established for over 20 years, and a lot of time, money and dedication has made Londua what it is today. One thing will surely remain, that is: Jesus Christ will always be head of the school, and many young lives have been changed through the continued witness that this school has.



Kerry and Peter Schulz

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RECORDS

THE GOLDEN YEARS—SACRED SONGS (ABC Records) C&L 38779

Robert Parker has gained an international reputation for his genius in transforming old, scratchy 78 rpm records into sparkingly clear, digital stereo recordings. Until now he has performed his magic on jazz, blues, comedy, swing and opera. His latest recording takes him into a new, and most rewarding, arena—that of sacred songs.

The songs are performed by some of the world's best singers, including Peter Dawson, John McCormack, Dame Clare Butt, Elizabeth Schumann, Paul Robeson and Ernest Lough, the boy soprano who was more famous in his own time than Aled Jones.

The selection makes a fascinating link with the Victorian era, when families would gather around the piano to play and sing some of the many hundreds of sacred songs and ballads composed especially for such get-togethers. The 20th century brought radio and television, and the virtual demise of the family singalong around the piano. The best sacred songs survived as 78s which became perennial favourites. Many of the outstanding songs on the album remained in the catalogue from the 1920s to the 1950s, only disappearing when production of 78s ceased. They are long overdue for revival.

My young family were not very impressed with this record—not enough 'beat'—but it brought back memories of listening to the "Hospital Half-hour" on the radio, when these singers were favourites. The sound quality was very good, with very little scratching on my middle-of-the-range stereo unit.

This is a record for memories and also to preserve the voices of the greatest singers of yesteryear.

The "Golden Years—Sacred Songs" is available on ABC Records on album, cassette and compact disc, available from ABC shops in capital cities and record shops that market ABC records.

—S.W.

Pacific theology should be distinctive, bearing in mind the universality of theology and the distinctiveness of the Pacific perspective. It involves seeing the Word of God as this relates to real needs, not just as presented, in the past, by Westerners. This means, according to one delegate, that Pacific theology should address itself to nuclear testing, foreign domination etc.

The simple Pacific lifestyle is being threatened by western influences. People are tempted to believe that the western lifestyle is better when, in fact, the simple lifestyle is not only part of the Pacific culture, but it is the culture of the New Testament. There is an emphasis on developing a Pacific theology directly based on the guidelines of the New Testament. As well there is a helpful study of the meaning of contextualization in practical terms.

The paper on Aboriginal Christianity reiterates the general theme of the book that a particular context (in this case Aboriginal) is unique and requires an appropriate theology. We are reminded that the Good News is timeless and its effectiveness immediate to every part of the world.

The authors of the papers are from Tonga, Fiji, Australia, Rotuma and PNG. This is a useful publication, one of few indicating the concerns and convictions of South Pacific theologians.

—J.T.

BEYOND THE TREADMILL

by Rowland Moss (Scripture Union) \$8.80

This is a book that I certainly wouldn't have bothered to pick up and read, but I'm glad that I did read it. In many ways it confirmed some of my ideas and attitudes on the whole subject of pressure and stress. Moss writes from the perspective of having had a complete breakdown himself, and the book is designed to help prevent people breaking down. He recognises that every one of us can have a breakdown and that the church often can push people into a breakdown.

I was a bit uncertain about some of his OT examples of people under pressure and heading for breakdown. When he looked at Paul he commented, "Our main safeguard against coming to breaking-point is the same as that of the apostle—to build a well-constructed faith on the solid foundation available." He argues that we need to recover our view of God's greatness; to bring the Lord into the whole of life; to make worship central in our lives; to build deep and meaningful relationships or else we will continue on the treadmill of frantic activity.

In discussing Paul he rightly argues that our faith must get beyond the abstract theology and become a practical trust in all of life. One thing that didn't rate much mention, but which I consider essential, is the strong sense of being called by God to live for him and serve him. While the last couple of chapters were a hard slog (perhaps because he had argued his case well), the book is well worth the time.

—Steve Warwick

BOOKS

THE COURAGE TO HOPE

by Peter Sampson (Scripture Union) \$6.75

This small, readable book was written by an experienced British minister who drew from his pastoral and personal involvement in grief situations.

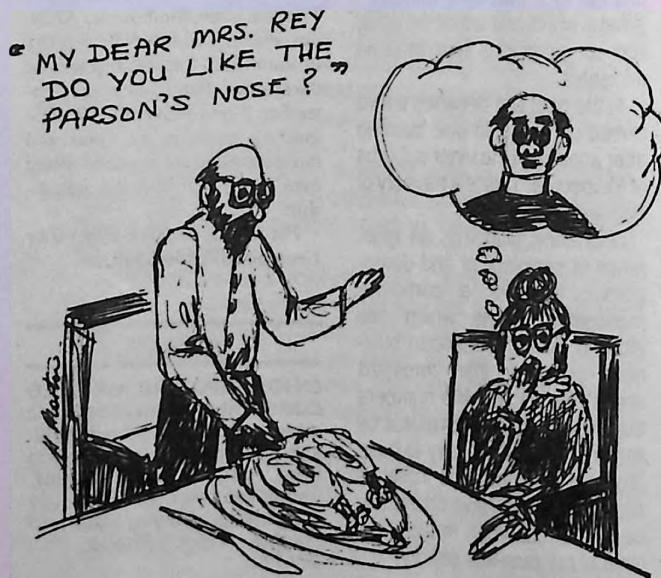
The first impression, from the back cover, is of a biographical account of a man's illness and death. It isn't a biography. Rather, the author has used a friend's death as a way of introducing the subject of grief. He covers the topic from the care of a dying person to the different stages of grief. This is a good book for those who find themselves directly or indirectly coming to terms with death.

—Kaye Caporn

SOUTH PACIFIC THEOLOGY

by Slone 'Amanaki Havea and others
(Regnum Books) \$16.95

A number of papers were presented by delegates from eight Pacific countries at the first Evangelical Consultation on Pacific Theology in PNG in 1986. This book comprises some of them, which consider the meaning of God's message for Pacific peoples and how it can be more effectively communicated. The following are some of the main themes which emerged.

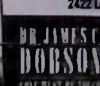




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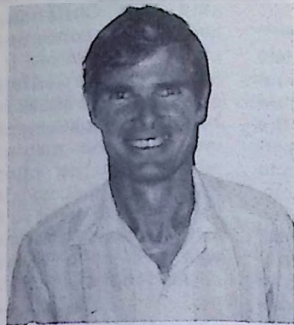
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Easter in PNG



At high points in the Christian calendar, such as Easter and Christmas, the programs in our PNG churches really build up above their normal intensity. It is quite a common occurrence for the churches to hold all-night fellowship times with singing, testimonies, preaching and prayers that go from dusk to dawn.

Over Easter the Madang church held one such night, the first I have experienced since coming to Madang. Diana Catts prepared and led a prayer workshop that followed the Good Friday Lotu (worship) in the morning and finished at 4pm the same day. Then, on the Saturday, some 120 of us gathered at 5pm to participate in a fellowship night that

culminated in a worship celebration of the resurrection at 7am Sunday.

The night was filled with singing, testimonies, prayer, audiovisuals, and preaching and teaching on prayer and men of prayer. It was great to see so many complete families sharing in the whole night. As mum and dad participated, the littlest piccaninnies slept on the seats or on floor mats.

It was a new way for me to celebrate Easter and I was greatly encouraged by this event in the life of the church here in Madang.

We were all feeling pretty tired by 8.15am Sunday when the program concluded, but I found out later that the folk from the Matupis church, who had attended the Saturday night program with us, had also held all-night fellowship programs on the Friday night and again on the Sunday night.

The church is obviously a central part of the corporate life of many of the people here. Pray that this will continue—with Jesus as the real centre of their lives.

—Wayne Kerrison

(On June 6 Wayne and Janet flew to Brisbane so Wayne could have medical tests for unexplained stomach pains.)

World Convention Luncheon

In connection with recent Assemblies of the World Convention of Churches of Christ, a delegation from Australia has visited Tuebingen, West Germany. This time of fellowship and worship has been a highlight for the families of the Tuebingen Christliche Gemeinde and the Tuebingen Institute for the Study of Christian Origins. Both the congregation and the institute are missions of the European Evangelistic Society.

In appreciation of our friends 'down under' the European Evangelistic Society is sponsoring a special International Luncheon on November 5, at 12.30pm, at the Sheraton Auckland Hotel. The featured speaker for the occasion is Dr D. E. Stewart, Executive Director of the Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department. Dr Stewart is well acquainted with the work in Tuebingen.

There is no charge for the luncheon, an offering will be received. Tickets and reservations by mail: European Evangelistic Society, Drawer E, Atlanta, Georgia, 30364, USA.

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Maintaining the Witness

—Doug Walladge
Vanuatu

Johnson Tabi is chief of Naruwa, a village in the bush of central Pentecost, Vanuatu. As is befitting a chief, his people listen to him and follow him. They have followed him as he has told them to discard communion. They have followed him as he has altered baptism and changed the marriage service.

No, not all have followed him! A small house group has begun meeting to faithfully maintain the witness of the New Testament as practised by Churches of Christ. The group is led by Andrew Bule and Mathew Bule, two grandsons of John Wai.

John Wai first brought the gospel to central Pentecost early this century. Andrew and Mathew are maintaining the witness to Jesus Christ at home—their Jerusalem. You can help them maintain their witness even though for you Naruwa is your Samaria, or perhaps even the ends of the earth. Your prayers can help them directly, and your giving can support Churches of Christ in Vanuatu as they help them.

Recent visitors to Naruwa have been Pastor Amos Tangwele of the Department of Church Development, who was able to encourage the house group. Another has been Doug Walladge of Banmatmat Bible College. Both the Department and the College depend on your support of the Overseas Mission Board.

There were about 25 adults, and as many children and young people for a Saturday night meeting of the house group when Banmatmat students and staff were involved in practical work. About the same number met again the next morning for communion before joining Johnson's group for worship and preaching. It is not easy maintaining their witness when they know it is dividing the village, so support them at this hard time. Pray, and give generously on July 3.



Andrew & Mathew Bule

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Raymond Fung, World Council of Church's full-time secretary for evangelism, has asked for prayer and advice to strengthen evangelistic activity in the global ecumenical body. He declares himself puzzled by the fact that WCC member churches give high priority to evangelism, but this is not reflected in WCC activities.

Bulgarian state authorities have declared for the first time that Seventh Day Adventists are officially recognised under terms of the country's 1949 Law Concerning Religious Faiths.

According to Keston College the Russian Orthodox Church has begun a campaign to open new parishes in Western Ukraine.

3 crew members of a US navy munitions train that ran over peace activist Brian Willson are suing him. They accuse Willson of disregarding their rights and causing them mental anguish by allowing the train to hit him. Willson lost both legs and suffered head injuries during a blockade of the tracks.

Baptists in the Soviet Union have raised the equivalent of US\$100,000 for medicine to be distributed by the Baptist church in Nicaragua.

The Government of Vietnam recently permitted the reopening of a Roman Catholic seminary in Ho Chi Minh City. 50 candidates for the priesthood will be allowed to train.

The General Synod of the Anglican Church in New Zealand has given final approval to legislation allowing women bishops. Meanwhile the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea has given a firm no to the same proposition.

"New Life", an independent evangelical weekly newspaper celebrated its 50th anniversary at a service on June 5 in Melbourne. At this service the Rev. Bob Thomas was welcomed as its new editor. Bob formerly edited "Australian Presbyterian Life" and is only the 3rd full-time editor of "New Life".

The Australian government is shouldering a massive \$5-6 billion bill every year to meet the direct cost of unemployment, the Brotherhood of St Laurence announced last week. The unemployment rate was up to 7.9% in April. The Brotherhood claimed that a 10% reduction to unemployment would improve budget outcomes by \$600 million.

As part of a major effort to combat yellow fever in Bolivia, World Vision has donated 50,000 doses of vaccine, costing \$21,250, to prevent the disease. The vaccines will be used in the northern tropical areas of Santa Cruz, Beni and Pando, where a yellow fever outbreak has been affecting tens of thousands.

Angola's 13-year-old war continues to take a massive toll on the country's people, with an estimated \$137 million in food and other aid needed during the coming year.

Food is reaching hungry Mozambicans in the north of the country, thanks to donations from Australians. The World Vision project to deliver more than 10,600 tonnes of food supplies to the northern Mozambican province of Tete is progressing well. The Australian government has provided the food and most of the \$1 million needed to move the grain into Tete.

Prof S.G. Kibicho has said that the church in Africa must expose all dictatorial regimes and

rulers who refuse to relinquish power. They should also speak out against ineffective parliaments, corruption, exploitation, poverty, coups, inefficiency and apathy, especially among civil servants. He was speaking in a keynote address to a Christian Education Writers' Workshop organised by the All Africa Conference of Churches. The aim of the workshop was to produce a handbook to guide Christian educators, church leaders and lay people in Africa for Christian service.

African Christians should make use of the spiritual seeds the early missionaries planted on the continent, Kenya's Catholic Cardinal, Maurice Otunga, has said in Nairobi. Apart from availing God's message to the African people, the cardinal further said, the work of the early missionaries has also availed indigenous religious leadership to the churches in Africa. The Catholic church in Kenya has an estimated 4 million followers out of the population of 18 million.

Bishop Gresford Chitemo is to succeed the late Festo Kivengere as leader of Africa Evangelistic Enterprise. Bishop Chitemo, who was formerly Bishop of Morogoro Diocese in South Eastern Tanzania, is also Tanzania's AEE team leader and was Bishop Kivengere's deputy team leader for East Africa.

Scripture Union has launched a special project, 'On the Road', to raise funds for a much-needed Toyota Liteace van for SU workers in Fiji. "Quest" and "One to One" readers and their friends are being encouraged to join in the action. They can write to their local SU office for a promotional kit with information, games, a cassette and ideas on how to fill piggy banks. Contact your local SU office, or the na-

tional headquarters on (03) 650 3733, for further information.

SA, Vic and WA state governments have rejected the proposed transfer of the Commonwealth's Emergency Relief Program to the states. The SA Minister of Community Welfare, Dr John Cornwall, said, "The Commonwealth is now trying to pull out of its responsibility for emergency relief. The danger of transferring responsibility for this program to the states is that the money will be absorbed into general revenue and not be specifically identifiable."

At the Fifth Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia it was decided that expressions of baptismal reaffirmation, including acts of immersion, need further exploration. A resolution to provide for immersion in reaffirmation services was brought, with proponents identifying painful situations in which people had felt deprived of a full affirmation of renewal experiences. Many did not identify with their infant baptism. Doctrinal grounds were given for opposition to the motion.

The Executive Council of the United Church of Christ, St Louis, Missouri, USA, has decided "Christians have an obligation to act in accordance with their consciences even if faithfulness to God leads them to civil disobedience."

Melbourne Youth for Christ will present a free youth rally at the Melbourne Town Hall on August 20. It will begin at 8pm. Guest speaker: Robert Coyle from Youth Dimension and guest artists: Larry Norman, About Face and the Barbershop Quartet.

Christians have an important role to play in working for justice in our community, according

to Melbourne lawyer and pastor, Tim Costello. He said that Christians need to be concerned about, and involved in, justice because God had clearly shown himself to be a God of justice and love. Costello pointed out that justice often involves conflict, so it is hard for us to see it as a form of love. His address was part of a series called 'Prophet's Pulpit'.

The next Prophet's Pulpit address will be from Ross Langmead, of Westgate Baptist church. This will be held at St Stephen's Anglican church, Richmond, Vic., at 9pm on June 26. Inquiries to Steve Bradbury, phone: (03) 819 1900.

Opening the gathering of about 250 church leaders in Johannesburg, General Secretary Frank Chikane of the South African Council of Churches said "we must go beyond passive non-violence, where you do nothing, and move over into active non-violence" in order to increase pressure on the South African government to end apartheid. Participants considered forms of non-cooperation including refusing to comply with the Population Registration Act (under which South Africans are racially classified at birth), and withholding taxes.

The American Bible Society is publishing a booklet of Bible passages intended for people with the disease AIDS, and their families and friends. Title of the booklet is 'Nothing can Separate us from the Love of God'. It includes 22 Bible passages linked by brief explanations.

**OVERSEAS
MISSION -
"WITNESSES
FOR ME"**

Tribute to Abel Bani

—Ron McLean

The Australian Churches of Christ join with the Churches of Christ in Vanuatu in giving thanks to the Lord for the life of Abel Bani, highly respected leader of the churches in Vanuatu for many decades. Abel went to be with Christ, whom he loved and faithfully served, on June 7.

Abel came from Nanako village on the island of Ambae (formerly Aoba). He would have been a young boy when Mr and Mrs F. Purdy arrived in 1906. Consequently Abel had the privilege and joy of seeing the island churches grow and multiply, not only on Ambae, but on other northern islands such as Maewo, Pentecost and Espiritu Santo.

In his youth he served for a period in the police force, but he is remembered particularly for his lifetime commitment to spreading the gospel in Vanuatu.

I first met Abel Bani in 1948 when my wife and I arrived as young, inexperienced missionaries on Ambae. Abel eagerly showed me how I could effectively minister to the village churches. He introduced me to the way of life and customs of the island people. He took me to villages throughout Ambae and, in the small launch called 'Sunbeam', we travelled to Maewo and Pentecost, visiting villages and churches.

On my first visit to Pentecost, I asked Abel one morning how he had slept during the night. "Sleep!" he retorted. "We are not here to sleep, nor have we come on a picnic. We are here to help the people, and I have been up all night discussing their problems with them."

Abel had a missionary vision. He was deeply burdened for the unevangelised people of Santo and the neighbouring islands. It was Abel's missionary vision that enabled him to inspire the churches, especially on Ambae, to take the gospel into the Santo area. He had the joy of seeing new churches planted in several locations. In the years prior to independence in Vanuatu, his involvement with the Nagriamel land



Abel Bani in Adelaide 1970

rights movement at Vanafoa, in the bushlands of Santo, was motivated by his desire to break down barriers and evangelise the bush dwellers on Santo, as well as his political inclinations.

Abel made several overseas visits. He attended the World Convention of Churches of Christ held in Melbourne in 1952, and in Adelaide in 1970. He visited Papua New Guinea encouraging the ni-Vanuatu missionaries who were serving there, and the young churches.

Although Abel had no formal education or training for the ministry, he would pore over the scriptures, searching out appropriate passages for a particular preaching occasion. He usually had a powerful message for the churches and would speak on relevant issues.

He was a man deeply committed to his family, his people, the church and his Lord. He saw how the gospel brought miraculous changes to individuals and whole communities. With the apostle Paul, Abel could wholeheartedly say, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth."

The harvest of Abel Bani's faithful life will continue to be reaped for years ahead. We praise God for the fruit of his ministry and for his dedicated life, which was a blessing to all who knew him.

**PLEASE ADVISE
CHANGE OF
ADDRESS**

Way of Truth

—Hazel Skuce
India

Today I received a letter from one of our students, a married man with a grown family.

He has written, "I cannot tell you how much I liked Romans and its rhetoric and the reasoning of St Paul. It is one of the best books that I have read. It has created a profound impression upon me."

Here is a man very near to the Lord, but he is finding opposition from his wife and sons. He asks us to pray for him in this difficult time.

As I read his letter this morning I thought of the late David Hammer who prepared our lessons on John's gospel and Romans. Today his work is witnessing to literally hundreds of people throughout India and nearby countries. Thousands have studied the lessons that he prepared.

I want to pay tribute to Dr David Hammer and Dr Allan Elliot for all they did to help us 25 years ago to launch the Way of Truth. Today we find students who have entered into full-time service for the Lord, and others preparing themselves for full-time service, while others are serving in areas of secular employment with a vital witness. We cannot begin to assess the effect that the Way of Truth has had on the lives of the thousands who have been touched as they have studied the lessons—the individuals who have begun the courses and their families and friends.

As more and more people become literate they are hungry to read and they read anything that is made available free of charge or can be purchased with pocket money. Today the door is wide open for those who are engaged in the literature media. Thank you for your support and prayers over the last 25 years. Let us go forward together in this literature ministry.



Appreciation

Federal Conference Executive, at its meeting on June 7, expressed its appreciation for the service that Maurice Rocha had performed as Executive Director of the Federal Aborigines Board.

Maurice's involvement with the FAB came at a critical time of change for the Board in the sphere of its work and in its administrative structures.

The Executive has very much appreciated Maurice's abilities and his willingness to be involved in such a difficult task.

The Federal Conference Executive wishes Maurice and Roxanna God's blessing as they move back to Queensland.

The church status of US presidential candidate Michael Dukakis has become a campaign issue. Dukakis, a Democrat and governor of Massachusetts, was baptised under Eastern Orthodox auspices, but his wife is Jewish. This has led to the accusation that he is an apostate. Eastern Orthodox who marry non-Christians remain church members, but cannot receive the sacraments.

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Obituaries limited to 100 words.

BARTLETT, Marjorie Jean

(25.5.88). Jean was a member of the Bartlett family which played a significant role in the establishment of the Croydon, S.A. church. Having a quiet, but determined personality, Jean was an active member at Croydon throughout her life, serving for some time in the Sunday school and generally supporting and encouraging others in the church. For a number of years, Jean offered self sacrificing support for her sick mother, and in later times, has been a great companion to her older sister Cora, resident in a nearby Nursing Home. Following her spinal injury three years ago Jean suffered considerable discomfort, however her

faith in her Lord was her sure source of strength. — Keith Ridge
WALTON, Ernest E.

(26.5.88) Ern shared in many ways, despite hurts and struggles in his life. He became involved at the Mile End, SA, church at about the time that both his parents died. He was deacon and treasurer at Stirling for many years, a member of Conference Social Service Committee, CFA treasurer for 21 years, involved with St John's Ambulance, Meals on Wheels and other organisations. After serving in the Air Force during the war, Ern married Betty Halleday. She died three years later, leaving him with two small children. We remember him with affection. We extend our sympathy to David, Christine and her family, and his brother Bill.

—John Main

NSW

GREENACRE (P. DeWildt, T. Smith). Dennis & Pam Nutt & Johanna back from USA where Dennis taught for a semester at Milligan College ... Church crowded for Brigades Parade on May 29. Young lady baptised during service ... Services continue to grow with morning services increasing by 20% & evening by 10% ... Church membership now the highest it has ever been.

SA

BORDERTOWN (S. Pillay). SE Dist. Conf held at Bordertown June 4. Cecil Grant speaker ... Marriage enrichment film series screened during May-June ... "Shepherds Inn" coffee shop meeting needs of young people Saturday nights ... Mack & Dot Kearney, visiting US evangelist, spoke on revival & commitment ... 13 plus & Kids Club youth groups continue to grow ... Part-time youth pastor being sought by board ... New format for evening services proving successful.

VIC

YORK ST., BALLARAT (Roger Risson, Brian Parsons). New deacon Brian Parsons ... Discare committee organising monthly supper for newcomers in host homes ... Steel frame erected & bricklaying started on new chapel ... Sunday School picnic held at Jubilee Lake, Daylesford on Anzac Day ... Guest speakers: Vic Symes - Gideons; Jeff May -

Executive Director OMB; Maurice Rocha - Executive Director, Aborigines Missions ... Eight members currently involved in RE teaching in local schools.

WA

KALAMUNDA (Tim Hanna, Mark Proud, Dean Smith). Paul Sanders, final year student Carlingford, appointed associate pastor, youth, as from Jan. 1989 ... Team of four travelled to North West on outreach & visitation ... School for Christian Growth 10 week course beginning July. Also "Renewing Love" studies for women ... Ministry & enrichment evening focused on reaching out.

The United Methodist Church in Zimbabwe is in the process of revising its hymnal. According to Patrick Matsikenyi, a musician who is part of the 20-member hymnal revision committee, one notable issue is language in hymns and other church literature which suggests Jesus is white.

The five-yearly Congress of the European Baptist Federation is to meet in Budapest in July. Theme of the meeting is 'Come and See What God Has Done'. The Baptist World Alliance counts more than a million members and more than 10,000 congregations in Baptist denominations in 22 European countries

**KEEP IN MIND
OVERSEAS MISSION OFFERING
JULY 3**

BOOKS



IF THIS IS TREASON, I AM GUILTY
by Allan A. Boesak (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co./Africa World Press) \$14.50

Allan Boesak is Moderator of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church and President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. With Desmond Tutu, he is one of the leading opponents of the racial policies of the South African government.

In this collection of Boesak's writing, sermons and speeches we find strong Biblical analysis, evidence of a deep faith and a degree of passion evocative of the speeches of Martin Luther King.

We also find the words of a man who has consistently called for a non-violent response to the structural violence of the State, but can no longer judge those who—out of anger and despair—meet violence with violence.

He continues to plead for the way of peace. Boesak equates the position of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in South Africa with that of the Confessing Church in Nazi Germany.

He contends that, in the struggle against apartheid, neutrality is immoral, liberal politics has failed, and that only the church has the degree of recklessness (in the sense of lack of self-regard) necessary to take on that monstrous offspring of the Dutch Reformed Church and the Nationalist Party.

Read this book. Read it—and be moved to righteous anger or tears of pity; but extend your anger and tears to include not only South Africa, but also Brixton or Richmond or Redfern or wherever Christ is crucified daily on the cross of prejudice.

—Graeme Addicott

PRAYER: PACE SETTING
A resource manual for mobilizing young people in prayer

by John Earwicker (The Trinity Press) \$12.35

Has your church held a prayer concert yet? Have you joined in a prayer walk? Have you ever heard of piggy-back prayer? Is the prayer life of your church stimulating and exciting? If your answer to any of the above questions is 'No' then you could well take a look at this little book.

Prayer: Pace Setting starts with a call to Christian leaders and young people to reach prayerless people and pass on something of the vision God calls us to in prayer. The book aims to challenge and enthuse young people to pray in the way God expects us to. Both rationale and examples are firmly based on scripture.

A strategy of practical steps towards training in both private and public praying is presented and could be followed by even the smallest congregation. Specific session plans are suggested for those who feel that they lack the creativity to implement these ideas themselves.

To say that this is a book for young people is to limit its potential. It could easily be adapted to use with older members of the congregation and, with a little adjustment, could well provide material for a small, mixed-age study group interested in gaining more confidence and enjoyment in praying.

—J.W.P.

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Nubeena

—Gordon Henderson



An oil painting of the area by Gordon Henderson

Don't be surprised if you don't know where Nubeena is. Neither did we, until we were invited to visit for an interview early in 1983. Nubeena is in Australia's convict country, not far from Port Arthur convict settlement, Tasmania, and about 120 kms from Hobart.

Population

Nubeena boasts of being the largest town on the Tasman Peninsula with 500-600 people, about half the Peninsula's population.

Church

The church has a history of over 100 years. In the last 20 years a new church and manse have been built. Average attendances are about 60 (morning), 30 (evening) and 20 (Sunday School). We have a wide variety of interstate and overseas visitors.

Area

It is a very picturesque area, hilly, with narrow roads winding around the countryside. Largely a rural and tourist area, the main source of income and employment is farming: orchards, fishing, dairying, grazing and fish farming. October to November are the best months. The weather by then is improving and various bulbs bloom in paddocks where homes once stood. Native shrubs and trees abound. In general the weather is cold to moderate.

Ministry

As the only resident minister on the Peninsula the opportunities to help people are varied, for both Gwen and myself.

It has been a joy at the nursing home to lead some ageing, dying folk to the Lord. One old chap confessed his regret at having

Like it or not

—Hazel Bassett, PNG



Witnessing for me has always had connotations of being hard work and the sort of thing you do under sufferance. However, the other day I learnt once again that witnessing is what we do willingly or unwittingly each moment of our lives.

Joshua and I love to visit in the village. One day we decided to visit our friends Donna and her sons Jonathon and Silas. After we had been talking for a while, Donna said to me, "I'm glad you wear a skirt and top like us. And I'm glad you come and try to talk with us. It really makes me feel that you care for us."

I was taken aback by what she said. I had never thought that what I wore would be important and that my stumbling, incorrect Pidgin would show anything other than my ignorance. Yet for Donna it showed a willingness to try and understand her and accept her people's ways. Suddenly I became aware of the importance of little things that we often do without thinking about it.

What message do we give to people when we talk to them while still busily doing something else?

Do we separate people from us by our language and what we wear? Do we show people the love of the Lord through little acts of concern like giving them a cool drink on a hot day? Or do we not see those around us as potential members of the Kingdom of Heaven?

So often, what we say can't be heard because our actions are too loud. Witnessing is something that we all do for God. It is up to us to be the best witnesses we can be wherever God has put us. Remember, "You shall be my witnesses ..." whether you like it or not!

made his commitment to the Lord at the close of life when he could have given God so many active years.

Both Gwen and I teach RI in the school. Others from our church and the Anglican church assist. This has become more rewarding as the years have passed.

Our congregation is actively involved in a variety of Bible studies and house meetings. Ours is not a quiet country church, of a semi-retired nature! Far from it. It seems impossible to get enough visiting done. We are looking forward to some assistance from Stan Ryle from Bunbury, WA, who will help in some visitation and preaching until the end of November.

The older youth work is conducted twice monthly by myself and a lady member. Our weekly church paper has good acceptance within the church and community. A 'Minister's Musing' is contributed to the monthly Penin-

sula Gazette. Other community involvement is in such events as the annual Anzac service, even occasionally being called on to judge at a fancy dress party!

Need

As past-president of the Tasmanian churches I would urge you all to pray for the churches and pastors here. To a degree we do feel a little divorced from the mainland churches. Tasmanian church membership is not large, a little over 800, with about 600 communicants. There is a need and there is a field. People are seeking an answer to life and we know that the church has that answer.

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BIRTHS

DOW (TRINNICK) Leah Kate has a baby sister, Joanna Claire, born June 8, weight 7lb 11oz. Proud parents are Wendy and Russell. Grandparents Joan and Colin, Bev and Ken are delighted, as are the aunts and uncles. Thanks to God for his gift.

APPROACHING MARRIAGES

CROWE — PEEMOELLER Donald and Marianne are happy to announce the approaching marriage of their eldest daughter Dana to Gregory Dean Crowe at Parkdale Church of Christ on Saturday, June 25 at 4pm.

DEATHS

FARRAR (HOWARTH). Mary Elizabeth of Pyramid Hill on June 3rd. Aged 84. Loving wife of Thomas (Dec.). Loved mother of Lance (Tocumwal), Stuart (Bagshot), Una (Mrs Shaw, Essendon), Don (Pyramid Hill) and Lynda (Brighton). Mother-in-law of Betty, Avis, Rex and Estelle. Grandmother of 12. Great grandmother of 7. Not to be ministered unto, but to minister, a long and useful life lived in the service of others.

HICKIN, Annie Augusta, of Palm Beach, Queensland, on 30 May 1988, aged 87 years. Loved wife of Frank. Loving mother of Noel, Keith, Robert and Margaret. Dear grandma and great grandmother to their families. Loved by all. In God's care.

HUMPHRIES (DAVIS). Peacefully, on June 4th, June went to be with her Lord. Dearly loved by Keith, her husband of 46 years. Devoted and caring Mum of Malcolm and Beth, Karen and Fred (Morris), Clyde and Lois and special Grandma to her 7 grandchildren. Loved sister of Wilma and Tom Small. "To God be the Glory!" **HUMPHRIES (DAVIS)**, June. Called to be with her Lord on June 4th. Treasured memories of a special friend. Because she lived in God's love those around her were also touched with His love. — Cath and Jack Maydom.

IN MEMORIAM

HARTNEY, James Bruce. June 22, 1987. Our happy days, Jim, now treasured memories. Till we meet again. Your loving wife, Betty.

JONES Dr Lloyd Edwin. Continued loving memories of our dear husband, father and Grandy, passed to be with his Lord June 24, 1986 — Isabella, David, Wendy and family. Thanks be to God for every remembrance of him.

MUDFORD (BINGHAM). Isabel 24.6.87. Cherished memories — Karlie.

THANK YOU

WATERMAN. Mrs Grace Waterman wishes to thank all her friends who sent cards and letters to celebrate her recent 90th birthday. Mrs Waterman is unable to personally reply to all who wrote to her but she wishes to thank all her friends who contacted her.

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Contact Lyn Ashlin on (03) 391 4282 for appointments.

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PASTORAL WORK VOLUNTEERS

Opportunities are available to work as a volunteer in the Pastoral Care Programme at Epworth Hospital, Melbourne, Vic. A training course for volunteers will be conducted in October. If you are interested in this work, please contact the Pastoral Care Department, Epworth Hospital on phone no. (03) 429 4811 - extensions 230 or 656 before the **22nd of July**

Missionary Families

When Valerie and I went to India we knew that our children would have to go to boarding school 36 hours' travel away. It was part of our being there, and not unduly questioned. We may have been naive about our call to mission, but we were confident that when God calls he also gives the grace to handle the implications. Experience has validated this belief. This in no way reduced the sadness of separation. The end of each holiday carried its own trauma. I recall my tears, walking away from the school, watched by a tiny son.

Our four children managed well at school. The Christian concern and commitment of the teachers compensated for any shortcomings in resources. Living in another culture broadened outlook and understanding. While at school in India our children wanted to 'be Australian'. Now they are appreciative of where they have come from, and see it as no disadvantage.

Our eldest, Jenni, returned to Australia a year before we did,

—John Main
living with former missionary colleagues. This was our own choice. The answer to this sort of dilemma rests with each family. The danger is in stereotyping—imposing your own response on others.

Five years ago we returned. Each of our children could tell of their own hurts, joys and discoveries. Some of these arise from being children of missionaries, others from being teenagers. Statistically, missionary children do not have greater problems of emotional adjustment than home country peers. For us there were resettling difficulties, something quite common with interstate moves here in Australia.

We hope that seminars on the well-being of missionary children will bring greater sensitivity to their particular situation, that they will be seen as different, but not deprived. We trust that added understanding will bring more acceptance, concerned prayer for families in the field coping with separation, and a respect for the response to God's call to ministry.

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... And You Shall Be My Witnesses

—John Bassett, PNG



How often have you heard this text taken and used to justify staying home—because "the Lord commands it in Acts 1:8"? Look again at this verse and read it within the context of the entire passage. Jesus is not issuing forth lordly commands, rather he is simply describing through foresight that which will occur. The disciples will receive the power of the Spirit and then they will bear witness to Christ wherever they go.

This leads me yet again to ponder whether or not Christ could say the same today as he said 2,000 years ago. Are we, his followers, being witnesses today? I believe that many 'Christians' today fail to live up to this expectation. Let us turn our attention briefly to what a witness is.

The primary prerequisite for a witness is that they need to have experienced the event in question personally. If, at an enquiry into the cause of a car accident the witness begins their testimony with, "At the time of the accident I was in another city, but I heard...", their testimony is relegated to a very low place, if it is accepted at all. Likewise, for us to be effective witnesses for Christ, we must have experienced a relationship with him. Have you met Christ yourself?

The other vital component of being a witness is that there must be a willingness to speak out. Unless a witness speaks up the truth remains a mystery. It is true that in a trial situation a good attorney endeavours to get as many witnesses as possible to tell what happened. Even though they may well say almost exactly the same thing, the attorney knows that each new testimony sheds a little new light because of the way it is said. That new light might just tip the balance in favour of his client.

How much more so it is in the case of our witnessing for Christ! There are people that you talk to that no other Christian will ever meet. There are meaningful things that you would share with them that no other Christian would find significant. Each of us is called to witness—will you?

There is also one common misunderstanding about the role of a witness. A witness is rarely, if ever, called upon to explain why an event happened, he is simply asked to tell the facts. I believe that one of the most effective New Testament witnesses to Christ was the blind man who had his sight restored. When confronted by the hostile religious leaders of the day and asked to denounce Jesus as a sinner, his reply was simply, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I do know, I was blind but now I see." (Jn 9:25)

This man's experience of Jesus did not extend to whether or not he was a sinner, so he did not feel bound to comment. But the one thing he did know about Jesus was that he had given him sight and he was going to tell anyone and everyone. It is not possible for everyone to bear witness to Christ 'to the uttermost ends of the earth', but it is possible, yes even necessary, that we be a witness for him where we are.

Training Opportunities in Melbourne with three International Seminar Leaders for Practitioners in Home and Overseas Mission

Two Seminars in June/July 1988

Dr Robert Linthicum, Director of Urban Ministry for World Vision International, has 30 years of experience as an urban pastor, theologian and practitioner in inner-city ministries.

1. Interpreting ministry in the city

Will deal with the sociology and theology of the city.

June 29th to July 1st...2.00-9.30pm; July 2nd...9.30-5.30pm

Westgate Baptist, 16 High Street, Yarraville

Co-ordinator: Rev Ken Luscombe, Urban Baptist Coalition

2. Developing a plan for ministry in the city

How to reach the city and the use of strategies of networking, community organization and evangelism and social action.

July 6th to 8th...2.00-9.30pm; 9th...9.30-5.30pm

94 Hodgkinson Street, Clifton Hill

Co-ordinator: Mrs Ruth Sampson, Pastor, Box Hill Baptist

Two Seminars in August 1988

Dr Paul Hiebert, Professor of Anthropology and South Asian Studies, Fuller Theological Seminary. A world renowned lecturer in practical anthropology, contextualization and urban mission.

1. Anthropology for Cross-cultural Mission

August 23rd to 26th...2.00-9.30pm; 27th...9.30-5.30pm

High Street Road Uniting Church, Mt Waverley

Co-ordinator: Mr Doug McConnell, Director of APCM

2. Dynamic factors in Church Growth

Issues that limit the penetration of the Good News in Modern Secular society.

August 30th to September 2nd...2.00-9.30pm; 3rd...9.30-5.30pm

Doncaster Church of Christ, 2 Short Street, Doncaster

Co-ordinator: Mr Geoff Renner, World Vision

A Seminar in August 1988

Dr Thorwald Lorenzen, Professor of Systematic Theology and Ethics, Baptist Theological College, Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

1. Christian perspectives on Human Rights

A seminar that will underscore the theological and Biblical basis for those concerned about the ministry of justice.

August Fri 12th...6.30-9.30pm; Sat 13th and 20th...9.30-5.00pm; Sun 14th and 21st...2.00-5.00pm;

Wed 17th...2.00-5.00pm

Malvern Holy Advent Anglican Church, St Georges Road, Armadale.

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Following up Those who Move

—Ron White

Keith Home from Marion, SA, promptly referred them to me, with detail on their past church activity. They had bought their home in the Noble Park, Vic., area. Their street number was 20, but cruising up and down the street in the driving rain, it seemed that every number after 18 had somehow mysteriously vanished.

Stopping and opening the gate of number 18, I called in to discover if there was a number 20. I walked up the driveway, spotting a gentleman working in the garage. I called out loudly, "Excuse me!" He was engrossed in what he was doing and his wife was hanging out washing. Only then did I spot the dog or, should I say, their 'short horse'. They'd had trouble late on Saturday nights about their large property and had just obtained their brand new country guard dog to keep prowlers at bay ... I was the first prowler!

The dog silently bounded over to me and I was sure he was just excited about a visitor. The worst that could happen was yet another dry cleaning bill from dirty paws. Without a sound he went behind me and snapped his teeth shut about me like a finely-set trap. The owners began yelling at one another about where the muzzle was, and I danced around in sudden, vibrant animation, trying to dodge further lunges.

With the dog finally contained, the owner, who looked like an old veteran, asked, "And did he get you?"

"Yes, he did", I replied, squirming around trying to see that part

of one's self most difficult to see. "Roll your pants up and let's have a look," he said.

Despite finding no tear I knew the 'horse' had well and truly got me. When the old 'vet' said to show him, I wasn't about to walk off without showing him what other visitors could look forward to. Stooping down automatically, I soon discovered that you can't roll pants up that far. "Well, drop 'em down then," the old 'vet' said.

Guessing that he had seen far worse in his time than me, I checked to see that the large front gate on the drive was shut and began to tentatively work at undoing my belt while both the 'vet' and his wife stood and watched to see the effectiveness of their new dog. Sure enough, underneath two rows of teeth marks neatly planted on my long johns, was a long gash.

The lady of the house, with a worried face, went for antiseptic. The 'vet' stood there with hands on hips, waiting, and I grew cold and realised again that you can't walk very far with pants around your knees.

Stooping to hold my pants from dropping to the wet ground, I explained why I had come, and he asked who I was.

So, with cold, bare legs, pants around my knees, and standing in the middle of the drive, I tried to look as reverent as a new visiting Reverend should, and explained that I was the local Church of Christ minister. With a faint smile, he looked at me knowingly and said, "I thought I'd seen you before!"

I returned his piercing look, then trying to look deadly serious, I said, "I just want you to be absolutely sure ... I don't drop my pants in broad daylight in the driveway of every home I visit!"

We laughed and laughed. Limping up the street, I found number 20 a hundred yards away, and the new residents from the Marion church had not moved in yet.

Keith, you should know that the effects of your ministry are untold, and I will see them yet! I am absolutely determined!

Witnesses for Christ

—Aileen Draney, PNG

W A witness shows and tells what he believes is the truth. Christ asks us to witness for Him. Women and men and young people are all called to witness to Christ in all we do and say.

I Into new areas such as the Sogeram and the villages nearby, up the Ramu, into the mountains and the Biwat area, into the Porapora area. Wherever folk offer the invitation here in PNG, and in your PNG (where God has placed you), too.

T To the changes that God brings. Yamlri is one among many that show God's change in his life. The power of the evil one and all the fears associated with just living have gone, and Christ's peace has taken the place of these fears.

N News about a new life. "Come and teach us about the news that made you change your way of living. That has made you a different man or woman." Christ's news that is new for everyone and available to all if we will witness.

E Everyone needs to know. This often means hours of walking in unpleasant conditions. Hours of sitting in a canoe or boat with the sun beating down. Hours of sitting and listening before sharing. Hours of being watched to see if you live up to what you say. So all can hear.

S Sent out by churches in another country. Sent out by Conference of Churches of Christ here in PNG, sent out by individual churches on a patrol or teaching ministry. Pelly and Genabai have been sent. This last month this has meant that there was water flowing through their house, their garden was destroyed by water. "We will stay and continue to witness", was their reply when asked if they wanted to move out.

S Sending folk also need to witness in the area where God has placed them. Sending folk need to know the folk they have sent, need to pray and support in every way. Sending is not enough.

E Everywhere. In the home, in the classroom, in the workshop, in daily conversations. In the difficult times and the inconvenient times. To those still steeped in superstition and fear. For some missionaries it has been to people still known as killers. To the isolated groups, as well as the crowds in the towns.

S Sent by God through His people and if we use His power then we can be assured of results. Remember, though, it will be in His time.

F Forever. How easy it is to give up or to pull out when the going gets tough. Forever doesn't say this. We must keep on witnessing till He comes again.

O Over and over again the message needs to be given. Often we think, "Yes, they understand now", only to find out later that this was not completely the case.

R Ruang, Krela, Alice, Njarla, Ana, Cathy, Julie and Rosa are the leaders amongst the women of the Conference, (before we called it Mission area). They will be witnessing in over 60 villages and churches throughout 1988. They need the assurance of your prayers.

C Christ. We must watch that we are His witnesses and not witnessing to and about ourselves.

H Hundreds have come but they need to continue to grow. Pray for pastors, church leaders, pastor advisers and others who share in this nurturing. Pray for radio broadcasts, books, cassettes, material that is prepared to meet this need.

R Reason. Why witness? Because He first loved us.

I Individuals, clans, groups, literates, non-literates. Young, old—yes, this includes all.

S Seasoned with love and prayers and all done in His power.

T To Him be glory for ever and ever.

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Volunteers recognised at Modbury



"This is to certify that participated in the laying of 13,500 pavers to the front driveway and carpark at the Modbury Church of Christ on Saturday, May 28th, 1988." (Then follows a quote from 1 Thessalonians 1:3).

So read 60 certificates awarded to folk who helped pave the church carpark as part of Modbury's church completion and extension program. Folk aged from 3 to 89 years joined teams

responsible for cutting, passing and laying the pavers. Other teams of volunteers leveled, screeded and tamped the base.

Because of ascending costs it is anticipated that much of the building completion program will be achieved through voluntary labour. If the exercise of May 28 is anything to go by the quality and finish of the work will be magnificent!

— Dennis Ryle

Around the world at Modbury

In a mobile age the Modbury, SA, church shares the challenge of other churches in keeping touch with its members located around the globe.

To enable members to keep aware of distant friends a world map with well displayed photos, updated information, and current mission projects, are displayed in the foyer.

Currently this is helping us to keep in contact with friends in

Mother Teresa is visiting both China and the USSR during June as part of the process of establishing Missionaries of Charity homes in each country.

The Roman Catholic church has launched an 18 month 'wealth inquiry' aimed to investigate the distribution of wealth in Australia and the Pacific region. This will culminate in the Australian Catholic Bishops' social justice statement in Sept. 1989.

Italy, Bhutan, Hong Kong, Quito and Toronto, as well as maintaining our interest in projects in India and the monthly Force Ten project.

What began as a means of keeping contact with travelling members has become a way of enhancing awareness of the world-wide church and its mission.

— Dennis Ryle

Taree Anniversary celebrations



Waratah Girl's Choir at Taree's 125th Anniversary

Taree City church, the oldest affiliated church in the NSW Conference, celebrated its 125th anniversary on June 11 and 12.

The building was packed for the service of praise and thanksgiving on the Saturday evening when the Waratah Girl's Choir provided the program. About 200 attended the banquet in the Fellowship Centre including visitors from Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and other areas of New South Wales. E.M. Saxby, Chairman, welcomed the Mayor of the City of Greater Taree, Alderman Ray and Mrs Green; Ray Hawkins, NSW Conference

President and Keith Gower, Secretary of the Taree Minister's Fraternal.

Services on the Sunday were well attended, the speaker being Colln Bowser, lecturer at Carlingford Theological College.

On Sunday afternoon Mrs H. Haden read a paper entitled "Down Memory Lane". Mrs Haden is the grand-daughter of George Saxby, one of the early church pioneers, and has compiled a history of the church and its people. An audio-visual, prepared by A.A. Billingham and E.M. Saxby, was also shown.

Developing local church housing projects through Project Partnership will be the theme of the second 'Church and Housing' Conference to be conducted by the Victorian Council of Churches. The conference, to be held on July 28 at the Mission of St James and St John, West Melbourne (10am to 4pm), will include input from high level officers of the Ministry of Housing and Construction, as well as case studies of local church

housing projects already operating. Those wishing to register for the conference should phone (03) 614 4940.

Organisations in India that receive foreign funds have been told to close down any newspapers they produce and establish separate publication bodies unable to receive foreign money. This includes most Christian magazines.

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DISCIPLESHIP

•Michelle Bruvels, Jenny Judd, Sharon Murphy, Ararat, Vic.
 •Karen Morrison, Carolyn Sharp, Chris Brown, Bull Creek, WA.
 •Janelle Wilson, Craig Townsend, Julie Hazendonk, Andre Marsland, Mark Taylor, Ben O'Brien, York St, Ballarat, Vic.
 •Max McGinley, Corinne & Brendon Bosley, Gary Bissett, Brian & Anne Marie Keefe, Geoff Evans, Susan Thorpe, Manifold Heights, Vic. •Natalie Alderton, Andrew Harrison, Launceston, Tas. •Ben Combridge, Charissa Combridge, John Wicklein, Sarah Garrett, Stuart Rutter, Andrew Knight, Blackwood, SA. •Russell Baills, Cameron Daff, Karen Wieland, Bongeem, Qld. •Matthew and Stephen Lance, Philip Smyth, Kym Holten, Melinda Cahill, Shane Walker, Tracey West, Heather Smith, Northam, WA. •Anne Townsend, Katrina Goldspink, Kalamunda, W.A. •Mrs Indra Prasad, Greg Heath, Greg Maxwell, Keith Britton, Sharlene Cook, Greenacre, N.S.W.

MARRIAGE

•Shelley Broad to Stephen Ilt, Pyramid Hill, Vic. •Tricia Coleman to Jon Moore, Blackwood, SA. •Narelle Harrison to Steve Sharman, Tracey Allen to David Westaway, York St, Ballarat, Vic. •Anne Marie Morris to Brian Keefe, Kylie Haddon to Gary McPherson, Manifold Heights, Vic.

DEATHS

•Rose Emma Clark, Ararat, Vic.
 •Mary Elizabeth Farrar, Pyramid

Changes of Address

MANIFOLD HEIGHTS:
 Secretary—Miss R. Hawker, 2/4
 The Fairway, Nth Geelong 3215.

CARNEGIE: Secretary—Peter Little, 4 Dorgan St, Mount Waverley 3149. Phone: (03) 232 9526

MCARTHUR: Malcolm: 45 Catherine Cres, Ballina, NSW. Phone (066) 86 42 92.

HOBART: Secretary — Malcolm Lacey, C/- 184 Collins St., Hobart, Tas. 7000.

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Stating the Obvious

—Wayne Kerrison, PNG

One thing you have to learn very quickly in cross-cultural mission is that your witness is very obvious. As a missionary worker in another country and culture you stand out rather like a 'sore thumb'. Most people around you are aware that you work with a mission, even though they may not know which mission.

Thus every action or spoken word is measured against their understanding and expectations of 'missionaries'.

Sometimes these expectations are unrealistic and we face the problem of falling short of their expectations. Sometimes we are seen as a 'soft touch' because of their understanding of some scripture, eg. Matt. 25:36ff.

When we don't respond in the expected or hoped for way, we then have a difficulty. We very much need wisdom and discernment as we meet these situations daily. There is a danger that we become 'hard' and fail to perceive real need. Jesus had a capacity to see into people's lives and see their real needs. As His witnesses, we need His guidance and discernment lest we see only man's exterior needs and characteristics.

You may not be in a cross-cultural situation like we are, nevertheless you are being watched and opinions of Jesus are being formed as a result of your actions and words. Pray that we all may be "true witnesses" for Him.



MOVEMENT, MUSIC, DRAMA, BANNERS— WORKSHOPS AT FEDERAL CONFERENCE

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST OVERSEAS MISSION BOARD

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The Assistant Director will share with the Executive Director and work under his guidance in the areas of Administration, Publicity, Deputation and Education. The financial accounting of the Boards funds will be a particular responsibility with back up from secretarial staff.

Salary will be as for South Australian ministers and a manse is available if required. The Board is located in Adelaide. A duty statement is available on request.

For further details or in making application please contact The Executive Director, Mr. Jeff May, P.O. Box 320, Unley, S.A. 5061. Phone (08) 271 3620.



VIC

ARARAT (S. Bannon). Minister, wife, mother-in-law settled in new manse opened by Ron Brooker ... Week sharing teaching, counselling, preaching with Dr Whiting ... Sharon Murphy baptised ... Church saddened by death of Rose Clark ... Some members involved in 40 Hour Famine, film "Cry" shown ... Orchestra helps with bright singing at evening services ... Ladies entertained Salvation Army ladies at lunch, viewed Mrs Symes slides on Malaysia.

BAMBRA RD, CAULFIELD (M. Buckingham, A. McMillan). Church anniversary held May 29. Jean Milne, who was in membership with us for a long time, was the guest speaker; Lyndal Williams soloist. Over 100 present, many past & present members enjoyed the service & happy time of fellowship over lunch ... Combined 5pm service being held ... Don Russell, COB speaker recently ... Friday night games & craft club started.

PYRAMID HILL (Paul Hammat). Paul Hammat, with wife Christine & baby Nathan, commenced ministry in late February ... 12-16-year-olds' youth group combined with UC group. Named "The Young & the Restless", at their first event over 22 YP enjoyed Australia day weekend camp at Lake Meran ... Meetings have increased numbers towards 35-40 ... Young Adults group commenced with youth tea at the manse in Boort & all enjoyed the night.

BORONIA (Kelth Milne, Mike Folland). Annual Commitment Sunday saw us welcome Federal Conference President, Neil Gilmore & wife Joy for the day. Neil preached morning & evening services & advertised Federal Conference at lunchtime—a great day ... Small groups program underway ... Combined with district churches in Pentecost celebration ... Joyce Landorf's "His Stubborn Love" film series being shown ... George Parker has had further surgery.

NORTH BALWYN (Paul Burnham). Paul Burnham led a seminar series on gifts of the Holy Spirit. 50 members attended. On

the fourth night each person completed a questionnaire identifying their gifts ... Combined Bible school & church family service well attended. Bongo the clown & Razzamajazz the puppet presented a thought-provoking segment & choir sang ... Number of members participated in World Vision 40 Hour Famine.

SOUTH YARRA (A.B. Clark). Mothers Day special: Mr Clark morning speaker, Anthea Thompson evening, Cheryl Town soloist ... Recent visitors Mr & Mrs C. Taylor from NSW ... Mr Clark speaker for Gospel Singers concert ... CWF held Queen's Birthday meeting at Jean Kennon's place, also celebrated Jean's special birthday ... Prayers for sick: Hilda Barbour, Bernie Storey & minister & families of bereaved, Jack Sinclair ... Church earnestly praying for the furtherance of the gospel.

YORK ST, BALLARAT (Roger Risson, Brian Parsons). Roger Risson attended National Conference on Small Groups ... Brian Parsons appointed pastoral worker to work in association with minister until associate can be appointed ... The Herd: 38 young people attended camp at Blackwood ... Elders visiting all groups & auxiliaries to view needs, plans, problems & give more effective support to group leaders ... Growing pre-gospel prayer time & prayer partners during gospel service.

MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (P. Downie, M. Ball). Max Ball welcomed into ministry team ... Farewells to Barnett family to BCV & Clint Wardle family to Theological College, Carlingford ... Family camp, Halls Gap, leader Graeme Cann, a success ... Prayer support for church with Upper Room ministry & Ladies Monthly Care & Prayer ... P. Downie ministry extended three years. Paul doing extended Graduate Diploma in Ministry ... Six cell groups meeting weekly.

WA

BULL CREEK (Phillip Bradley). Special Easter services included a dawn service on a hill at the local golf course. As the sun rose we praised a risen Lord ... Greenways Bible study program

in full swing ... Congregation decided to employ office secretary to assist the minister, initially part-time ... Playgroup commenced April 12 ... Family camp at Pt Peron enjoyed by 70 members and families.

CARNARVON (D. Bone). Cyclone Herbie caused damage to banana & vegetable crops of some church families & busy bees are in progress to clean up ... Several folk are spending holiday time helping at Olive Laird Hostel and were invaluable when Herbie caused water & power to be cut ... Rex & Judy Ugle preparing for Aboriginal Convention, have hired the Civic Centre for meetings.

ROCKINGHAM (Kelth Ware). Services being well attended & all looking forward to the commencement of new church building ... Vacation Bible School preparations nearing completion for next school holidays. Theme has a bicentennial flavour & has the title "Settlers for God" ... 10 folk have been welcomed into fellowship recently ... All auxiliaries being well supported ... A successful progressive dinner was held recently.

WEMBLEY DOWNS (John Somerville). Three members attended second Australian Christian Peace Network annual gathering in Sydney over Anzac weekend ... Congregation delighted to support John & Margaret Somerville's acceptance of invitation to undertake brief ministry at Christchurch later this year & attend World Convention ... 21st congratulations: Janelle Black ... We are grateful for Stella Walkington's returning health & Alan & Dot Cant's return from Australia-wide travel.

DIANELLA (John Spencer). Guest speakers Don Parker—Conference President, Dr Robert Thomas—Professor of New Testament from USA ... Church much in prayer for Stan Redmond following major surgery ... Planning meeting held following morning service & Asian luncheon May 22 ... Melanie Matthews baptised June 12 ... Shirley & Eric Tinetti welcomed back after extensive motoring tour of north west of state.

MANDURAH (R. Ryall). Church encouraged by recent at-

tendance at worship by more local people ... Birth of baby sons in families of Martin & Janet Jones of Serpentine (Rhys Owen) & Gil & Jenny Turner of Avalon (Shaun) ... Alice Wallace's son saved from death in road accident in NSW ... CWF raised further \$500 at stall outside Mewburn Centre. Ladies have handed on \$1,000 this year to building fund ... Members helped with large discussion groups at High School seminar on person of Christ.

NORTHAM (G. Butler). Many visitors over recent months including several missionary societies ... Girls Brigade and Youth Clubs attendances increasing ... Our fellowship is actively involved with churches at Dowerin, Cunderdin & Wundowie, taking services monthly ... Minister & two ladies involved in a total of eight scripture classes weekly ... Several young people attended Morawa Youth Camp, one commitment ... Chapel nearly full on Sunday mornings.

NSW

BOWRAL (David Jones). Church family camp at 'Attunga' homestead west of Moss Vale well attended in spite of torrential rains ... Holy Spirit active in the church. Numerous decisions to follow the Lord have resulted ... 'Solid Rock' youth group sponsored by church growing apace, recent camp at Ulladulla rewarding to all ... Whole church, particularly Bible School, saddened by tree lopping accident involving Ron Cross.

TAS

LAUNCESTON (Gordon Stirling). About 80 attended Mission Tasmania tea ... Church enjoyed ministry & fellowship with Mr & Mrs C.H.J. Wright on May 29 & June 5 ... Gordon Stirling underwent eye surgery in Melbourne on May 31 ... While minister absent local members have been putting into practice what they learned at Talks Preparation classes ... CWF actively working against new video category (N.V.E.) ... Jim & Gwen McLennan celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.



OLD

MARYBOROUGH (Chris O'Dempsey). Seven new members welcomed ... Harriet Bauernfeind, Rose Hamann, Alf Wilton now with their Lord ... Girls' and Boys' Brigades, CYF, ladies led special services ... Five home groups reorganised after pastor Chris, Geoff Buchanan & Ros Tydd attended Melbourne seminar ... Family camp-in with Pearce family ... Attendances of young people especially good ... F. Williams (Leprosy Mission), Ben Kil (Open Doors), guest speakers.

CALOUNDRA (J. Welden). Church excited as the date of occupying it's newly completed multi-purpose hall draws near. Members from southern churches who winter on the Sunshine Coast will be able to share in the opening celebrations on August 13 & 14. Located at Beerburum Street adjacent to Camp Cal, Dickey Beach, over 3,500 hours of voluntary labour have gone into the project, costing \$160,000.

BONGEEN (B. M Nowltzke). Church celebrated golden wedding of Theo & Wilma Daff with dinner attended by family members from Victoria & NSW & church family members. Ladies catered ... Speakers during minister's holidays were Peter Retchford, Trevor Mears & Kenmore Ambassadors who shared a weekend with us ... CWF held Knitwit parade ... Paper drives held regularly.

SA

COWANDILLA (R.S.A. Mc Lean). Pentecost Sunday local churches combined for presentation in drama & song by Covenant Players ... Combined service with Richmond Baptist—Glen Foster from Texas preaching ... Recent visiting speakers: Principal Bill Tabbernee, Rosalie Rofe (Papua New Guinea) & Keith Skillicorn (Leprosy Mission) ... \$2,290 for projects presented to Val Stephens, state Overseas Mission Committee ... Congregation divided into 11 pastoral care groups.

MAGILL (T. Lawrie). Films shown & discussed: "The God Makers" (on Mormons) & "One in a Million" (on abortion) ...

Norm Carter led family camp at Nurioopta, over 50 attended .. Barbara Gear inducted as SA Women's Conference President ... Ron & Nancy Brown farewelled as they leave for WA—members for 37 years, since church's inception ... Baptismal service for Tim Lomman ... June: Bible month; John Phelps (Bible Society), speaker June 5.

BLACKWOOD (R. Combridge). Winter evening services 5pm ... Crowded church for bap-

tism of Andrew Knight & Stuart Rutter ... 94 at June youth camp at Longwood ... Large number of Growth Groups providing valuable prayer link throughout the fellowship ... Support for Living Links Hazel Skuce & Julie Walslade promoted ... Church building program in final stages ... Marion & Lyn Palmer & family spending six months in Darwin.

MAYLANDS (Richard Lawton). Varied program of effective fellowship opportunities

included: ecumenical services, a local church breakfast, Bible study 'In the Spirit of Love' ... Evening services enhanced by interviews featuring persons involved in concerns of justice, death & dying, contemplative prayer & the witness of a leading sportsman ... Holmes & Benjamin families welcomed babies during May ... Local MP & a representative from Arthritis Foundation were guests at monthly Thursday Club.

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The Role of Families

Currently in Australia we have many groups, including the churches, arguing that governments should be making positive steps towards giving the family more support and encouragement. The argument is that the family is the basic unit of society and thus unless we make positive steps to ensure that families stay together then we will be creating forces that will destroy our society. Several political parties have jumped onto the bandwagon and are making statements as to the way that they will support families.

During the last couple of weeks I have heard or read about situations which make me wonder what is the true view of families in Australia.

In the past week in Melbourne we have had a plethora of publicity, almost all ecstatically positive, on the birth of Alice Deakin Kirkman. She is the first surrogate IVF baby born in Australia and probably only the third in the world. "The Age" ran front cover stories and photographs of the new baby including a discreet photo of the baby being fed by the "mother" with expressed breast milk. There are many ethical questions that are raised by this birth. These include the birth in a hospital that does not have an ethics committee after the committee at the Epworth Hospital, one of Melbourne's main IVF hospitals, refused to sanction this use of IVF technology.

Not only ethical questions have been raised, but also legal questions as to the parentage of the baby.

As an aside I was taken by the colourful expression by Dean Lance Shilton of Sydney who described surrogacy procedures as adultery by remote control.

Just after the birth of baby Alice it was announced that there is already another IVF surrogacy in Australia. A woman in country Victoria is carrying triplets for her sister in Western Australia.

It appears that at present the current crop of surrogacy is all within families, however the question must come as to the laws related to this matter and there has been a rush of suggestions from all sides as to what various governments should be enacting. I wonder what sort of laws will result, if any, and what we as Christians think should be the legal situation. The whole question of the enormous costs relating to IVF births has also been raised

recently. Given that the success rate of this technique is only in the region of 15%, what is being done about those couples who fail to achieve their desire of children after this very intrusive operation?

I also heard during the same period of a woman who applied for a Housing Commission flat in Melbourne. This unmarried mother wished to have a two bedroom flat for herself and her child. She was told that the waiting list is up to five years, however if she had another child then a three bedroom flat would be available within six months. No questions were asked about where the extra child would come from, or if there was a husband/partner involved in this proposed birth. One wonders what some people are advocating.

As a society we are spending a vast sum on helping people divorce and to cope with the trauma that is involved in this tragic situation. Yet any groups that are seeking to establish counselling or marriage enrichment services that seek to help families work through difficulties and avert a family break-up are crying out for funding.

As an adoptive parent I am fully aware of the obstacles placed in the way of couples adopting children. At the same time single mothers have great pressure placed on them to raise their own children. I wonder down the track just what problems we are creating for society with the number of children who live in single parent families. I am well aware that many children from these families will be very well adjusted people and that children from stable marriages can also be maladjusted. However I believe that the role models and situations we are seeing now will create real problems in our Australian society in the future.

As Christians we need to think through what we understand by families and encourage families, not add to the pressures on them in our society. We also need to minister to those who are in families that do not fit our ideal model without looking down on them. We need to let our voice be known and to be serious about this in our teaching programs.

Before we start to express our views in public, we should be going back to the Bible and discovering what is the family grouping that God prefers, and the responsibilities that fall on all who are members of this family.

THE LAST WORD

All moral obligation resolves itself into the obligation of conformity to the will of God.

— Charles Hodge

Teacher: Not only he is the worst behaved child in my class, but he also has a perfect attendance record!

★★★★★

Sign on speaker's table: "If you don't strike oil in 20 minutes, stop boring."

★★★★★

"Do fathers always know more than their sons?" asked the little boy.

"Yes," his father told him.

"Who invented the steam engine?" the son wanted to know.

"James Watt."

"Well, why didn't James Watt's father invent it?"

★★★★★

"Is Mrs Wilson an active member of your sewing circle?"

"Goodness, no! She never says a word. Just sits there and sews."

★★★★★

Judge: Haven't I seen you before?

Man: Yes, Your Honour. I taught your daughter how to play the piano.

Judge: Thirty years.

★★★★★

As a patient came slowly out of the anaesthetic he said, "Why are the blinds drawn doctor?"

"There's a fire across the street and we didn't want you to think the operation was a failure."



Ageing is when you reach the top of the ladder and find it's leaning against the wrong wall.



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