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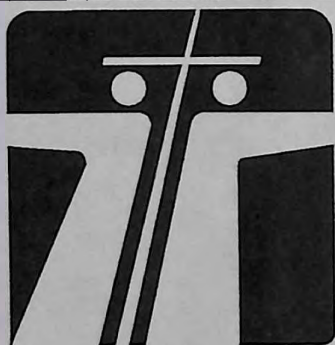


Kawerau River, Queenstown area

Managing Editor:
CHRIS AMBROSE

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Australian Council of Churches 34th General Meeting

— Trevor Banks



Evangelism was a major emphasis of the 34th General Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches held in Sydney June 23-27, 1988. The theme was "Mission and Evangelism: An Ecumenical Affirmation" and Jim Wallis of Sojourners Community (Washington, DC) was the keynote speaker.

Delegates from the 13 member churches assembled on June 23 under the chairmanship of President, Rev. Dr. D'Arcy Wood, to hear the report of the executive and Dr Wood's address. The two year review noted the visit from the Middle East Council of Churches and the involvement of the ACC with Indonesian and Melanesian (PNG) Council of Churches. It also noted that valuable staff time had been spent responding to unsubstantiated attacks on the ecumenical movement. During this meeting appreciation was expressed to Jean Skuse for her work as General Secretary over the past 12 years. Ms Skuse has been succeeded by Rev. David Gill.

The Thursday evening and Friday were given over to a consultation on 'Awakening a New Conscience in Australia'. A series of papers raised areas of injustice in Australian society, small groups looked at these issues from the perspective of the mission of the church, and Jim Wallis brought his faith and experience into his reflections on the issues raised.

Worship, including a communion service, and visitors from overseas reminded delegates of the unity and diversity of the church. The special concerns of Australian Aborigines, of women in Australian society and of young people were presented in ways which pointed the way to increased understanding.

Four priorities for the immediate future were considered.

1. **Building relationships.** First with member churches, but also with non-member churches. The Council resolved to approach non-member churches with the desire to expand the Council.

2. **Developing community in Australia.** Two specific decisions were taken in this area. First it was decided to work towards the establishment of a Commission on Aboriginal Concerns within the structures of the ACC. The second was to locate the Commission on the Status of Women in Perth.

3. **Developing Global Community.** This came through strongly in the contributions of Jim Wallis. It was particularly emphasised in the work of the Commission on World Christian Action and the resolutions brought by the Commission on International Affairs.

4. **World Council of Churches Assembly.** The next WCC Assembly will be held in Canberra in February 1991. Plans were outlined regarding this Assembly.

A major area of concern is funding. Members asked that more information on budgeting could be provided before meetings, and at the same time challenged the churches to increase their financial support.

Churches of Christ will again be well represented on various commissions of the ACC. Bob Smith, Sydney, was elected as an Executive member. Archbishop David Penman of Melbourne was elected President of the Council.

The Bangladesh government, which has just passed a law declaring Islam the state religion of Bangladesh, told the Australian Baptist Missionary Society in June that 9 of its missionaries must leave the country by July 31.

Of the 37 church buildings belonging to the Sudan Interior Church in the southern part of Sudan only 3 have not been burned or destroyed.

Church agencies must combine relief and development work with stronger political advocacy against apartheid if they are to contribute effectively to the drive to save Mozambican lives, a meeting of church leaders in Zimbabwe said on May 27.

At the start of National Missing Persons Week (July 31 - August 6) a church service is being held at the Independent

Church, Collins St., Melbourne at 10 am on July 31. For details contact (03) 762 1592.

Dr. Gordon Moyes, Superintendent of Wesley Central Mission Sydney, has been elected Australian President of the Boys' Brigade. With over 11,000 boys in uniform, the Boys' Brigade is the oldest uniformed boys movement in the world.



Sursum Corda

The early Christians knew what they were doing when they included in their liturgies the text known as the **Sursum Corda**. This invitation to 'Lift up your hearts' is found as early as the third century, and is worth thinking on.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you Lord, holy Father, mighty Creator, and eternal God.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with the whole company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, evermore praising you, and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Glory to you O Lord, most high.**

We are reminded by these dignified words of:

The Direction of Worship

'How does that hymn go down in this church?' was a question asked recently. The question, of course, should have been, 'How does that hymn go up?' In worship, our praise not only ascends, but we ourselves can rise above the sorrow, despair, hurt, guilt, and other such feelings that lay us low. The Jewish pilgrims of old ascended into the hill of the Lord. We, too, reach out and rise up to the eternal throne when we 'lift up our hearts' in his presence.

The Duty of Worship

Whether we want to or not, it is our duty to 'give thanks and praise'. Things may be going well in our personal lives, or otherwise. But we should give praise! Our church may be growing, standing still, or decreasing, but we should give praise! We may be riddled with fears, doubts and discouragements, but, amidst all adversity, we are called to be faithful and should give praise!

The Dimensions of Worship

Sometimes in worship we give thought to the wider church, but whenever we offer sacrifices of adoration and praise, we join too with 'the whole company of heaven'—angels, archangels, the saints who have gone before, and even the creation for 'the heavens declare the glory of God'. **When in worship I lift my heart, I enter the dimension of Infinity.** I can never worship alone, for I join not only with Christians around the earth, but with those around the throne.

—N. Aubrey
(Taree, NSW)

Parenting Outreach



Andrew and Lee-Anne Henley with Brian White checking some resources at the Parenting Seminar

Lee-Anne Henley, the wife of the minister of the Ocean Grove, Vic., church, saw the potential of a **Parenting Seminar** for her church and community.

She comments as follows on the seminar led by Brian White of the Department of Mission, Education and Development: "For three Tuesday nights in June, 50 parents squeezed into a hall to laugh, chat, commiserate, discuss, identify and be thankful for

their roles as parents. The seminar was of real benefit to the participants, and I am sure the knowledge gained will be passed on to spouses, and the benefits to the children."

Most of the 50 who attended were from the Ocean Grove community with a few attending from local churches. It was a great way for the Ocean Grove church to reach out and support the families of the town.

Employed Religious Education teachers

Scripture (SRE) in high schools has been taught for many years by visiting workers, and these people continue to make up the majority of teachers. In recent years a new dimension has emerged with the introduction of the paid high school Scripture teacher.

As a result of this a number of concerns began to emerge including: curriculum that fully represent the participating churches; employment conditions; parents' rights; and how the full-time, or employed, SRE teaching approach fitted the SRE Report and recommendations.

Before Jim Koopman moved to Austin, Texas, US, to start a new Christian Reformed congregation, he organised 400 volunteers across the country who spent 1,000 hours on the phone introducing Austin neighbours to the future church. About 4,000 of the people contacted asked for follow-up literature, and Koopman expected 300 in the first worship service.

Early in 1988 the **Inter-Church Commission on Religious Education in Schools (ICCOREIS)**, NSW, which represents the churches, met with employed secondary Scripture teachers and their boards to discuss these concerns.

The conference was successful in enabling understanding of the functions and responsibilities of ICCOREIS; and in identifying a desire to maintain channels of communication between ICCOREIS and boards as well as establishing closer relationships between teachers.

L.C.F. Higgins

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He is Lord—A Tribute to Agnes

—Kaye Caporn

In my article, 'Giving Thanks ("A.C." April 30), I shared the attitude of my friend Agnes who had demonstrated 1 Thess. 5:18 "Be thankful in all circumstances ..." Because of her blindness Agnes Thompson couldn't read my article herself, but was thrilled when I shared it with her. She reminded me that "All praise must go to God, if people ask. After all, it's only through his grace that I can praise him."

On May 25 Agnes caught a bus to keep a hair appointment. When returning home, she alighted from the bus and stepped into the path of an oncoming car. She died instantly.

Agnes has left us several legacies. The primary one is assurance. Her eternal well-being is without doubt in the minds of all of us who'd glimpsed her faith. Two weeks before Agnes had asked us to pray that she'd never become dependent on others. She

said she was ready to meet her Lord and that all she asked was to be able to live at home until his time came.

She left us the legacy of prayer, for her life was centred around that ministry. The day she died Agnes had been going to come to my place for Bible study, home to meet with her prayer triplets, and back to church for the evening Bible study. If I asked her to pray about something I knew she would do so. John and I were upheld in prayer, day by day, for over five years of ministry here at Ivanhoe.

Our emotions are mixed, for we rejoice in Agnes' eternal glory, but at times our hearts are heavy.

'He is Lord' is one of the choruses Agnes chose for the thanksgiving service for her life, which she planned for one special reason: "So that when I die it will be an opportunity for people to see the Lord."

Seeking to serve

Chris Radbone is one of Adelaide's best known young Christian sportsmen of recent years, a former brilliant Sturt league footballer. He has embarked on a far-flung itinerary during which he plans to offer his accountancy skills to organisations in third world countries.

Member of a well-known Churches of Christ family, Chris decided to give effect to an inspiration he had formed on gaining his economics degree at Adelaide University. This was to see

whether his skills could be of use to missionary and relief organisations in SE Asia.

His motivation to this field came, in part, from having seen Aboriginal mission work in both SA and WA. So off he flew to Bangkok, and on to Rangoon, to gain a perspective on the agricultural side of aid work in Burma. After a visit to Europe and the UK he will go to Morocco and Kenya. He will be in touch with World Vision work directed from Nairobi.



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Evangelism Consultation

The guest consultant, at a Consultation on Evangelism being sponsored by State Home Mission Departments or their equivalent, will be Herb Miller. The Consultation, which will be held at Stanwell Tops in August, has been in the planning stage for nearly two years.

Herb Miller is the executive director of the National Evangelistic Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the USA. The Net Resource Centre, which Herb Miller leads, has 14 staff members and now serves some 60 US denominations. Herb is a staff consultant with the Yokefellow Institute and conducts workshops with this organisation each year. Well-known church consultant Lyle Schaller is a co-consultant for the Yokefellow Institute. Herb has written a number of books, the latest of which is "How to Build a Magnetic Church", in the Creative Leadership Series, of which Lyle Schaller is general editor.

Herb is also the editor of "Net Results", a journal of new ideas in evangelism and church vitality (joint venture of the Disciples and



Herb Miller

the United Methodist Church). It circulates among leaders of 60 denominations.

Herb Miller will lead the Stanwell Tops consultation and work with state leaders to set new directions for our churches in the 1990s. He will also conduct seminars for church leaders in Melbourne and Sydney. Peter Kaldor, a Uniting Church researcher and writer, author of the recent book "Who Goes Where? Who Doesn't Care?", will give the opening address at the consultation. His presentation will seek to outline some of the challenges before the Australian church in the 1990s.

Meeting the needs of the blind

Pearl Sumner, Director of Library Services at the Christian Bible Mission International, has announced her resignation to take up a position with World Blind Union. Working from Melbourne, she will focus on the development of services to meet the needs of blind women in developing countries.

Pearl has served with CBMI for 15 years and has played a key role in establishing a free, circulating library of Christian books, both in

braille and on talking books.

Pearl's husband, Peter, continues to serve as Director of Ministry and Communication with CBMI. Peter, along with others on our deputation team, will share with an ever-growing number of churches and other groups throughout Australia about the growing work of the mission worldwide. Currently CBMI is involved in 96 developing countries with more than 1,000 permanent projects.

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National Christian Camping Conference

Set Free To Serve



From July 25-29 camping people from across the world will be meeting at the Stanwell Tops Christian Conference Centre, NSW, for the 1988 National Conference conducted by Christian Camping International (Australia).

Approximately 400 people are expected to register for the Conference. Overseas participants will come from New Zealand (50 already booked in), UK, USA, Canada, Southern Africa, Brazil, Korea, Japan, Philippines, and other countries.

The Conference theme is 'Set Free to Serve' and the special speaker will be Rev. David Cook, principal of the Sydney Missionary and Bible College. There will be a well-balanced program of Bible teaching, workshops, fel-

lowship, recreation and prayer designed to encourage camping ministry staff, volunteers, and others interested in the ministry of Christian camping. Those who attend are assured that their faith and service for the Lord will be more effective in the future because they have taken part in this conference.

During the Conference the founding president of CCIA, Arthur Bartlett from Mill Valley Ranch, Vic., will conclude his 14 years of leadership of CCIA. The new president will be Bill Impy, the manager of Stanwell Tops Christian Conference Centre.

For information about the National Camping Conference contact the CCIA office on (02) 868 5588 and speak to the office secretary, Judy Evans, or write to her at CCIA, PO Box 259, Epping, NSW 2121.

On Guard in Bordertown



SE Districts Conference President, Stan Milne, with Cec Grant

Cec Grant, pastor with the Federal Aborigines Board, was the speaker at the recent South East District Conference of Churches of Christ held in Bordertown, SA. The Conference consists of the churches at Bordertown, Kelth, Mt Gambler, Mundulla, Naracoorte, Tarpeena and Wampony. The theme for Cec's messages was On Guard in Bordertown.

Deane Wiese, Conference Secretary said, "Through Cec's preaching, and group discussion, we were encouraged to be a vital link in God's army—to defend the faith and defend the gospel."

Denis and Maureen Atkinson, pastoring the Aboriginal church in Mooroopna, sang in the meetings.

The relationship with the Grants began when the churches

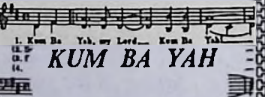
at Bordertown and Keith became involved in the 'Keep a Missionary' (KAM) program, taking a prayerful interest in the Grants' ministry in the Albury-Wodonga area, and helping to meet their salary. A series of visits and regular newsletters have forged a link that is actively involving the Bordertown and Keith churches in the development of Aboriginal churches and leadership training.

The FAB commends the KAM program to the Australian churches. Nearly 200 churches and church groups are now involved.

If your church is seeking to participate more actively in the work amongst the Aborigines through KAM, the Board office in Perth would be pleased to hear from you.

—A.W.M.

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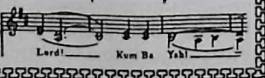


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Re-entry Program for missionary families

At a one day seminar in Victoria last year, which considered the particular problems of missionary families, speakers called on Mission Boards, local churches and supporters of the missionaries to be more sensitive to the needs of missionary children.

At the seminar, members of missionary families, discussing the greatest difficulties facing them on their return to Australia, mentioned materialism, loss of identity, living together as a family again, choices, public transport, different moral standards and making new friends.

In these problems they had not really found that the church particularly understood or had the commitment to help them with what they needed.

A Re-entry Program has been arranged, by the Missionary Department of the Evangelical Alliance, for recently returned missionary families. It will be held at El Kanah, Marysville, Vic., September 9-11.

World Vision, through their Ministry Support Services, has made a gift which will enable missionary families to attend the program with minimal expense.

More details can be obtained from the secretary of the Arrangements Committee, Barry Jenkins, at 1 Hilary Grove, Ringwood East 3135. Phone: (03) 870 7520.

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Christians at Expo

There is a definite Christian presence at the current Expo in Brisbane. There are three areas that claim to be Christian, the Church at Expo, the Pavilion of Promise and the Holy See Vatican Collections. There are also some further interesting aspects to a Christian influence at Expo including a moderate section of the USSR exhibit which shows something of religious life in the Soviet Union, particularly the Russian Orthodox Church which is celebrating its millenium this year.

Within the South Seas islands area many of the countries have exhibits that are selling crafts and other produce. Several of these will not trade on a Sunday because of their Christian commitment. As well the groups from these countries who perform daily will only perform Christian material on a Sunday.

The Church at Expo



This is the first Expo that has had an official Christian chapel. This was established at the invitation of Sir Llewellyn Edwards, the Chairman of World Expo 88. Expo donated the site to the Church at Expo committee who then had to equip the area and arrange staffing and a program. A managing committee was set up with representatives from the Anglican, Baptist, Churches of Christ (Col Smith), Lutheran, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and Uniting Churches and the Salvation Army.

The Church at Expo contains a small chapel which will seat about 60, a display area, and counselling rooms. The chapel is staffed by trained representatives from each of the participating churches who provide advisory and counselling services.

During each day of Expo three interdenominational worship services are held. The first at 9.15 am is for staff with the other two services (1 pm and 5.45 pm) open to the general public and staff. A rostered minister will conduct the service in one of these time slots for a week. During the weekend the service times are slightly different.

Churches of Christ have been very involved in various aspects of the ministry of the chapel. Cyril Muller has been the coordinator of the counselling team, which has included many from our churches. Don Cranston, an architect, and currently Queensland Conference President, designed the chapel, Shane Foley designed the logo and Lyndell and Lynne Winter (mother and daughter) designed and created all the wall hangings in the chapel.

The chapel is open throughout Expo and at all times at least five people are on hand to talk to visitors. One person manages the chapel, two people act as hosts and two counsellors are on hand to help people who wish to raise matters with them. Currently about 150 are attending the three services a day with about 400 making visits to the chapel.

The Pavilion of Promise

The Pavilion of Promise features a presentation of "The

Scroll" which runs sequentially through three theatres. The presentation combines film, music, special effects and state of the art laser light animation and runs for about 45 minutes. 128 visitors enter the Pavilion every 20 minutes with over 30 showings daily. "The Scroll" looks at the promise of life, the promise of love and the promise of hope.

So far the Pavilion of Promise has proved very popular with visitors to Expo. It is one of the most popular exhibits and one of the most spectacular. 4,300 visitors a day are viewing "The Scroll" which sometimes means that they may have to wait for more than two hours to enter the Pavilion. Since Expo has opened more than 200,000 have viewed the presentation. In fact the management of the Pavilion of Promise is contacting Brisbane churches to discourage Christians from seeing the presentation so that non-Christians are more easily able to see the presentation.

Some 80 people a day are needed to staff the Pavilion and to act as guides etc. To date some 340 people have filled out reference cards indicating they wish to discuss the claims of Jesus Christ further.

At the end of the presentation visitors enter a "Promise Room" which has some further theme exhibits, the chance to talk with volunteer hosts further on what they have viewed, or the chance to purchase appropriate literature or copies of "The Scroll".

At the entrance to the Pavilion there is an amphitheatre where a variety of Christian performers have been operating to entertain the crowds whilst they wait for entry. Artists have included groups, mime artists, soloists, etc.

Another feature of the Pavilion is a vibrant acrylic mural, inspired by the Pavilion's theme, which was painted by Pro Hart.

The Pavilion of the Holy See

The Vatican has provided a Pavilion in which almost 200 pieces from the renowned Vatican museums are exhibited. The pieces include sculpture, paintings, figurines, historical documents and religious artifacts.



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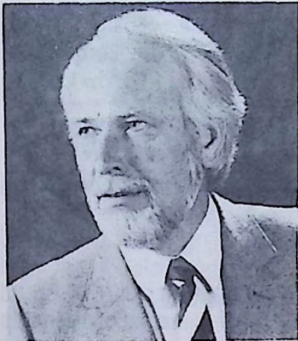


FEDERAL CONFERENCE

National Ministers' Seminar

The Ministers' Seminar, which will be held over the four days prior to Federal Conference, is to be held at the ACT School's Authority Birrigai site. Birrigai is situated in a beautiful area adjacent to the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and close to the Space Tracking Station. There is ample modern accommodation for both singles and couples.

'A Pilgrim Ministry for a Pilgrim People' is the theme of the seminar. Aspects of the general conference theme 'God's People—God's World' will be picked up, along with an emphasis on the nature of ministry in a changing society.



Ross Kingham



John Harris

The two main speakers will be John Harris, Director of Zadok Institute for Christianity and Society, and Ross Kingham, Director of Barnabas Ministries.

Dr Harris has spent much of his adult life in Northern Territory Aboriginal communities as teacher and Bible translator. He is particularly interested in a Christian perspective on Australian society and culture.

Dr Kingham is a Uniting Church minister. Barnabas Ministries provides a retreat ministry for church leaders with the goal of

developing spirituality and renewal. As well as addressing pilgrim ministry, he will lead us in our Bible studies.

Other input will be from Ian Corlett, minister with the Kensington Christian Network in Melbourne, who will be able to bring unique insights from his inner-city ministry; Beverly O'Connor, AIDS Education for Health Care Workers, based at the Woden Valley Hospital; and Lynette Glendinning, an industrial psychologist.

Beverly O'Connor will bring a valuable understanding of God's world from a Christian perspective. Lynette Glendinning is particularly interested in a biblical understanding of pilgrimage and growth. She is involved in corporate and individual growth leadership and stress management within industry.

It is hoped that the seminar will commence with a panel of Christian parliamentarians addressing the issue of Christians in federal politics and the support the church can offer.

Time will be allowed for informal fellowship and visits to the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and the Tracking Station.

January 12-15, 1989

—Kevin Caulton



Lynette Glendinning

The seminar will be stimulating in its input and supportive in its worship and fellowship. Local churches are encouraged to pay for their minister's attendance.

Further details and registration information can be obtained from Kevin Caulton, 2 Marawah St, Lyons, ACT 2606. Phone (062) 82 1502 or (062) 85 1035 (H).



Tennis Players

The Victorian Baptist and Churches of Christ Tennis Association Inc. are in need of more teams for their Saturday afternoon competition.

If you would like to enter a team, or would like more information, contact May Hargreaves, (03) 580 3041, or Ros Littlejohn,

(03) 801 5553. Entries for the summer season, starting September 3, close on July 18.

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Aboriginal Health

The statistics on Aboriginal health in Australia are grim. Life expectancy for Aborigines is 20 years below the national average while infant mortality remains three times the average.

55 community run Aboriginal Health Services strive to provide health education and preventative care as well as curative services. The National Aboriginal and Islander Health Organisation (NAIHO) acts to co-ordinate their work, keep them in touch with relevant health issues, assist in the establishment of new health services and speak on their behalf to the Government.

"It's only through the money we get from non-government organisations and churches that we've been able to begin to

change the face of Aboriginal health" says Dr Bill Roberts, a dentist with the Victorian Health Services who also works with NAIHO.

Force Ten, a joint program of the Australian Council of Churches and Australian Catholic Relief, is seeking to raise \$40,000 toward NAIHO's work. This is important as Government funding of NAIHO ceased at the end of 1987.

In Los Angeles the county tax assessor is threatening to revoke the tax-exempt status of all churches providing sanctuary to undocumented refugees from Central America. The assessor said that giving sanctuary to refugees was a "non-religious" activity and violated the federal laws granting tax exemption.



The Letters to the Editor limit is 200 words.

CHRISTIANS AND ZIONISM

To the Editor,
R.V. Smith is off target in his criticism of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict ("A.C." June 11). There are Christian Zionists and political Zionists, the former being both Jews and Palestinians who have no quarrel, but combine to bring peace to their war-torn land. Political Zionism, under the leadership of Yasser Arafat (?), has vowed to drive the Israelis into the sea. Their policy is in line with that of the Nazis, complete extermination of the race.

Can you blame the Jews for holding on to their small portion of land that was promised to them through the legitimate line of Abraham and Sarah; not through Abraham and Hagar? God made an unconditional promise to Abraham and Sarah. See Galatians 3:16 (note seed, not seeds).

We in the Gentile church are the grafted in branches, but Israel remains the root. One day, very soon I believe, Israel will again be the fertile, fruit-bearing tree that she was destined to become. The prophecies of Isaiah chapters 24-27 tell the story of Israel's part, as do chapters 12-14 of Zechariah.

There will be peace between the descendants of Sarah and Hagar, who will at long last be reconciled to their allotted inheritance in God's plan for the theocratic reign of Christ during the millenium (Isaiah 19:24,25).

—G.L. Butler
(Bruce Rock, WA)

LOGOS FOUNDATION

To the Editor,
As a member of the Covenant Evangelical Church in Toowoomba, the local church body supporting Logos Foundation, I am disappointed in your recent editorial ("A.C." June 11). Rather than approach the people concerned for their actual theological position, you have relied on someone else's perspective. Why not ask Howard Carter, Director of Logos Foundation, what

his position is?

In fact, why not ask me? I've been supporting Logos Foundation for many years and have never heard such things as applying at face value the OT law in our society. Rather, I see a ministry that is committed to declaring the Lordship of Christ in every area of life, including politics.

As Editor, with such a large readership and obvious influence, I really think you need to be more responsible. Please, don't rely on guilt by association. If a brother supposedly offends, go first to him.

—Ian Hoddinott
(Toowoomba, Qld)

(Time prohibited actual contact with Logos Foundation. I have been reading their material for two years and have also listened to several cassettes they have produced.—Editor)

JOKE IN BAD TASTE

To the Editor,

These days public servants are used to being made scapegoats for national ills, and to being the butt of silly jokes about tea ladies. It comes as a shock, however, to find on the back of the "Australian Christian" (May 14), a joke that is thoughtless, ill-informed and uncharitable.

It is by no means the first lapse into bad taste that has occurred on that page. Perhaps it is time you thought of some more appropriate way of using the space.

—Wendy Way
(Weston, ACT)

DYING WITH DIGNITY

To the Editor,

The proposed amendments to the Medical Treatment Bill in Victoria, will, if passed, be the death warrant for unwanted people in our society. Essentially they will remove the protection of the homicide laws from sick non-competent patients so they can be killed by deliberate neglect.

I therefore ask our state politicians to strongly oppose this move.

—L. Cusack
(San Remo, Vic.)

LEGALISING DRUGS

To the Editor,

Legalising hard drugs is a one-way ticket. Legalise it once and you're stuck with the decision forever.

After a few years of legalisation, is a government going to have the internal fortitude to say: "The handouts are over. If you want more drugs, it's back to stealing, prostitution and dealing—same as before"?

Once we accord legal status to addictive drugs, we're committed to injecting heroin into increasing numbers of addicts, every six hours or so, forever.

—Arnold Jago
(Mildura, Vic.)

MINISTERS AND PRAYER

To the Editor,

I am writing this letter to encourage ministers to meet together with their fellow ministers with the

aim of praying together and encouraging each other in the work that God has called them to.

Very often we find in the ministry that the day to day demands on our time can easily prevent us from meeting together for prayer, encouragement and sharing at a personal level.

The Ministers Association in Victoria also has a program for ministers in local areas to meet together for mutual ministry and encouragement.

I want to encourage elders and church boards through this letter to see that they do everything they can to encourage their ministers to attend such gatherings for prayer. I believe it is of great value and ought not to be overlooked or forced out of the minister's program because of other activities.

—Barry Jenkins
(Ringwood, Vic.)

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

Counting the cost

To the Editor,

Our minister gave us a new angle on Luke 14:25-33 last Sunday, which, incidentally, was Discipleship Sunday.

I always thought that Jesus was saying, "If you follow me you've got to take up your cross, you've got to put the Kingdom before your family and you have to deny yourself. So before you commit yourself you'd better count the cost, like a man does before he starts building a house, and like a general does before he decides to commence a battle."

Well, our minister put it differently. He said that Jesus was telling his followers that the cost of his way of life had already been counted, and he was getting on with the building and going on with the battle, because the house would be completed and the battle would be won. So if they wanted to be in on the building and the battle they had better take up their crosses and get started.

I went home and carefully read the passage and it looks as though it could be taken that way. I mentioned this to our minister and he muttered something about exegesis, or some strange word like that!

I must confess that I prefer the way he put it. I'm the sort of person who is likely to renege if I do too much cost-counting before getting going. But I can easily see myself making a few sacrifices to get on a band wagon that can't lose.

—TERTIUS



APPRECIATION

To the Editor,

Good wishes as you continue in your work as Editor, not an easy task with so many tastes and differing views.

I appreciate your editorials. I found the last one, "The Role of Families" ("A.C." June 25) very thought-provoking, something to help my confused thinking!!

Gordon Stirling's "Adoration" was timely for me as I am reading Dr Tozer's "The Knowledge of the Holy" which is something along the same thinking. One critic wrote of it, "Dr Tozer helps us in this book on the character of God to rediscover his majesty in a way that will deeply affect our day to day living."

Thanks again for your helpful contribution through "The Australian Christian" to our thinking and growth.

— Dorothy Armstrong
(Kallangur, Qld.)

HEADSHIP

To the Editor,

Equality of the sexes in the Christian faith is a very emotive issue. In all the clamour for it, and the quoting of Scripture, I don't remember one concept being debated.

It is an issue that goes above equality in sin and salvation to God's order of responsibility and accountability. That matter is called 'Headship'. "I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." 1 Cor. 11:3.

The push by the feminist movement, inside and outside the church, is to my mind a judgement by God on men for failing to exercise biblical 'headship'. In the family men fail to set an example, give direction, exercise love and accept responsibility, so the women have to assume it.

The sadness of local churches is the tyranny of small-minded, limited faith men and the lack of willing men to exercise 'headship'. So the church becomes 'women's work'.

I don't see any incompatibility

within scripture for women preachers, presidents etc. if they are under the headship of the elders. The issue is not women preachers but women elders as I see the biblical pattern. We err in equating a preacher with elder-ship.

Headship needs to be rethought in our Movement.

— Ray Hawkins
(Maitland, N.S.W.)

(Letter edited to 200 word limit. — Editor)

FAITH DEFINED

To the Editor,

Remember when we attended the half yearly business meeting to hear the minister's report giving the number of confessions of faith and believers baptism by immersion. God's blessing was upon the efforts of members inviting friends to the gospel services.

Nowadays we hear reports from church secretaries of growth through the addition of Christians in Fellowship.

What is faith? Faith is the teachings of Jesus given to the Apostles, written down under the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The New Testament church would be well advised to give all wishing to join a statement of faith that there are commands related to salvation that are to be obeyed. How pathetic are churches' efforts for unity, looking for a faith that would be agreeable to all. Quenching the Holy Spirit's work will never bring about the unity Jesus prayed for. To contend for the faith is to speak, teach, and preach in all honesty the gospel of Jesus.

Authority

Within Churches of Christ just what, or who, is our authority for our actions and attitudes? We have no creed by which to judge statements and actions. We have no set text books (apart from the Bible) which lay out the guidelines and certainly our ministers have no manual of operation.

It was said in the early history of our related movement in America that the numerous editors of magazines and newspapers were the "Bishops" among their churches. In our early history in Australia that could also have been an accurate picture. This included some of the earlier editors of "The Australian Christian". However that is certainly not the situation today.

Thomas and Alexander Campbell and some of the other early pioneers of our movement could be cited as the authorities on which we base our actions and practices. However I would have to guess that very few of our readers would even know anything about these men let alone anything about the material they wrote and their teaching emphases.

Within Churches of Christ, because of our strong position on the priesthood of all believers, the minister is only one of the congregation. Whilst he/she may firmly

The fastest growing churches today are the Apostolic, Pentecostal and Baptists who hold to a deep seated faith in the New Testament. After 60 years in Churches of Christ as a lay preacher I believe Christ is building his church out of this world by his victory.

— Henri Pietzsch
(Hurstbridge, Vic.)

(Letter edited to 200 word limit. — Editor)

state a viewpoint and urge a position be taken, the local congregation does not necessarily have to follow their lead. Thus we tend not to have one individual, or a group of people, who are the clear authorities in the local situation. Of course there are always exceptions where a strong personality carries a great deal of weight and exhibits a large amount of local authority.

Thus we come back to the point that within our movement the only accepted authority is that of the Bible. Even here we make a further distinction. One of our strong emphases has been on the restoration of a New Testament Christianity. We therefore will look firstly to the New Testament for our authority and examine any teaching in the Old Testament through the new revelation of God's action regarding man that was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Accepting that the Bible is our primary source of authority, both in the local church and for each of us individually, means that we must then be careful in how we interpret and use the biblical material. There are plenty of examples among the sects, and even in our churches, of the misuse of scripture to argue a point.

The issue of the interpretation of scripture is one that is constantly being raised in the Letters to the Editor pages.

Having raised the issues of the authority of the Bible for our life and action, and having run out of space in this issue, I wish to comment on the ways we should be using the Bible to help us determine our life and actions in the next issue.

EMPLOYMENT WANTED

Employment needed urgently. Preferably office work, but anything for a mature male. Please ring R. Little (03) 569 7777.



C.R.O.P. WILL REAP HARVEST

The joint Department and Properties Corporation Church Reach Out Plan (C.R.O.P.) launched at Conference in May has already had an outstanding response from churches and leaders keen to share in new church planting. Share your ideas and vision with us now.

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BOOKS

WHO WE ARE IS HOW WE PRAY Matching Personality and Spirituality

by Dr Charles J. Keating
(Twenty Third Publications, available
through Collins Dove) \$9.95.

The book maintains that the type of person we are determines our approach to the spiritual life. Unless we are aware of our personality, its direction, strengths and weaknesses, it may be difficult for many to achieve a satisfactory spiritual life. The better we know ourselves the more productive will be our choice of spirituality, and the greater the possibility of its fulfilment.

Dr Keating accepts the 'Myers-Briggs Personality Types' indicator as a valid and reliable guide to personality, but adds that its findings need to be authenticated by personal experience. 16 personality types are discussed at length, each with a combination of four of the following as characteristics or qualities: introverted, sensing, thinking, judging, feeling, perceiving, intuitive and extroverted. A chapter is devoted to each of these eight personality types.

A basis for the discussion of spirituality is presented from the lives of St Ignasius of Loyola, St Francis de Sales, St Teresa of Avila and Pierre de Chardin. The book closes with prayer formats, giving brief examples for personality types.

Dr Keating's approach to spirituality is meaningful and practical because it is discussed only in the context of human behaviour in everyday living. The problems faced are many and varied. The book provides an opportunity to build better relationships with God and our peers through a thorough analysis of personal experiences.

The material presented is positive, provocative and helpful. Dr Keating accepts as a fact that worship is a way of life, not words only, and gives to the reader sufficient guidelines to attain an acceptable way of worship. The book encompasses our total environment: socially, physically and spiritually, that the end product will give purpose and balance to worship as a whole of life experience.

—Stan Ryles

MINISTRY IN AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES

edited by William Tabbernee (The Joint Board of
Christian Education with the Victorian Council of
Churches' Commission on Faith and Order) \$11.95.

Ministry in Australian churches is part of a series describing the attitudes and practices of Australian churches. The other books in the series have surveyed the thoughts and practices of the different Christian traditions on baptism, communion and marriage.

This book presents a series of essays on ministry in three sections. The first section looks at ministry in the Christian tradition. This examination of ministry commences with an examination of the Jewish background and then looks at ministry in the New Testament following this with a series of articles on the history of ministry through various ages of the church.

The second section contains 13 brief statements on the shape and practice of ministry in various Australian denominations. The Churches of Christ position is well set out by Dr Bill Tabbernee. I was interested to see that the priesthood of all believers was expressed by almost all writers to be of essence in the ministry of nearly all the denominations.

How this works in practice was a little hazy but it seems that many denominations are swinging more towards our model of ministry. I guess the question comes as to how far our ministry model is swinging towards the practices and beliefs of other denominations. This section is fascinating in the insights it provides as to how such diverse groups as the Eastern Orthodox Churches, the Roman Catholic Church, the Salvation Army, Pentecostals, Presbyterian, the Society of Friends and others see ministry in their tradition.

The final section looks at various issues that are raised today about ministry. The issue of women in the ministry is raised in two chapters, both of which were written by Eira Clapp, currently ministering at the Brighton, Vic., church. Ministry in an ecumenical situation and also in a multicultural society are discussed as are issues relating to chaplaincy and ministry training. In this final section a series of discussion questions are provided at the end of each chapter allowing the issues raised to be discussed in small groups.

An excellent volume that gives understanding of ministry in various churches today in Australia and which also raises some of the current issues related to ministry. Highly recommended.

— C.R.A.

MANY FAITHS – ONE NATION

edited by Ian Gillman (Collins) \$19.95

This book, commissioned by the Bicentennial Authority, is a contribution to the understanding of the 46 varieties of religion practised in Australia. 36 variations of Christianity are included, together with eight statements on other world faiths. The rationalists and humanists are included. Aboriginal religions are awarded first place in the book, in recognition that the Koorie peoples have been practising their beliefs here for over 40,000 years. Each group has contributed its own statement, therefore avoiding negative interpretations by less sympathetic writers. While this means that each group puts on its public face, the reader is offered an authentic analysis of differing value systems.

The editor provides an excellent overview of the place of religion in Australian life (in substance, the Christian contribution). This book will be a valuable resource for students of the sociology of religion in Australia.

Graeme Chapman, lecturer at COB, makes an excellent statement on Churches of Christ, rightly stressing the contribution of British migrant families to the establishment of our churches in Australia. Graeme's analysis correctly interprets the editor's requirements.

If you wish to know whether the Christian Israelites still exist; who the Cooneyites are; and what the Swedenborgians say about themselves; it is all there. You may be surprised to learn that the ancient faith of Zoroastrianism, encountered by the Jews in captivity in Babylonia, is practised in Australia by Indian and Iranian families.

Some groups' claims of rapid growth and total numbers do not seem to be supported by national census figures, but then we have been known to inflate our figures on occasions.

The book is available from Collins Book Stores.


—Bruce McIntosh

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Pay back?

—Wayne Kerrison

There is a cultural phenomenon in Papua New Guinea known as 'pay back'. It consists of literally paying back a wrong done to you, or one of your relatives, or those who belong to your village line. While it has a very negative connotation and can be compared to 'an eye for an eye', it does have a humorous side for me.

I mean how else can I explain hitting a tree with the Mission Lite-ace van, on a very clear corner, with a dry road and no other cars about?

Oh, the embarrassment!

If you've missed the point about pay back, perhaps you didn't see the story I wrote for "The Australian Christian" (May 14), entitled "Down but not out". I was helping my next-door neighbour remove part of a tree that had crashed down, across his driveway and ours, when a misplaced hit caused the tree to roll. A branch of that tree hit me and threw me through the air.

The pay back suggestion was that because a tree had had a go at



me, I was having a go at a tree!

Thankfully no personal injury was sustained in this incident (apart from wounded pride) and the van is repairable. Although I

am telling this story very much tongue-in-cheek, the issue of pay back creeps into many areas of life and the church is far from immune.

Pray that the examples of Jesus, as he offers forgiveness, will come through clearly to our brothers and sisters in Papua New Guinea.

Perfect toast

We had reached the conclusion that we would never eat evenly cooked toast again. We had begun to accept that as one of the costs of mission service. Out in the bush in



Papua New Guinea, without electricity, the only means of cooking toast was by means of a wire rack with gauze on one side that you place on top of the gas stove. Our

problem was that no matter how hard we tried, the bread would stick to the wire gauze and some parts would burn while other parts wouldn't even cook.

The major breakthrough came one day when we were breakfasting with some other missionaries and we were served perfect toast. Well, we just had to find out how they had managed such a thing. Can you imagine our surprise when we found out that they were using their toaster upside down (or at least we had been using ours upside down)? Since then we have turned our toaster over and now we, too, can cook perfect toast.

I got to thinking though. Some-

—John Bassett
times our lives get a bit like that toaster. We get all mixed up and topsy-turvy, and no matter how hard we try, we can't seem to sort things out. Often, what we need to do is to turn our lives upside down. That is, we need to totally reassess our values and priorities. In Matthew 6:33 Jesus tells us to seek the things of God first and then all other things will fall into place.

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The biggest Bible shipment out of Australia will leave on July 21, carrying 1,000,000 Portuguese New Testaments—a gift from Australian Christians to the school children in Brazil. Dr Nelson Fanin, Brazilian evangelist, approached World Home Bible League with a request for 25,000,000 Testaments. Brazil has a population of about 140,000,000, 40% of whom are youth under 15 years. The project has the endorsement of Brazil's President and the Education Department. Its main aim is to supply each secondary student with a New Testament. To date 8,000,000 have been supplied for this project.

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A Council of Christian Churches embracing Roman Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox and Armenians has been formed in France to enable the church to speak with one voice on major social questions. It is the first Council of its kind in a Roman Catholic European country.

Druids, who claim their cult predates Roman times, are growing in numbers in Europe, claiming more than 3 million members in Germany alone. The religion practises occult rituals, goddess worship and even has an ecological slant.

A New Zealand group, United Christian Broadcasters (Pacific) Ltd., has received permission to set up both AM and FM radio stations in Tonga, beginning early in 1989. The group says there has been considerable interest in similar projects from other Pacific islands nations.

Arthur Blessitt, the American evangelist who carries a life sized cross around the world, estimates that in 15 years he has been turned away from more than half the churches where he has requested to leave his cross overnight, but he has never been turned away from spending the night at a bar or nightclub.

The Methodist Church of Ghana has embarked on an ambitious farming venture that includes cotton cultivation to feed the country's textile industries. Maize will also be cultivated. The President of the Methodist Conference said that the Church wanted to make Christianity serve a more meaningful purpose to the people. Through the farming venture the Methodist Church would be assisting the youth in the area to get decent employment, rather than migrate to the urban centres.

Coming events within the South Australian churches include a Social Justice Workshop, to be held on July 16 at the Albert Park church, and the 10th Annual Hymn-Fest on July 17 at the Fullarton church.

"Volunteer Management—A Resource Manual" is a new publication which addresses the why, what, how and when of volunteering. The aim of the manual is to link volunteer theory and practice. It's available from The Volunteer Centre of SA, First floor, 155 Pirie St, Adelaide 5000.

The Council of the officially recognised Evangelical Christian-Baptist Union in the USSR has issued a message marking the millennium of the Orthodox Church. The Council notes the great contribution of Christianity to the spiritual, cultural and historical heritage of the nation. Baptists especially appreciate the contribution of the Russian Orthodox Church in making available the Holy Scriptures, notably the Russian Bible of 1876. While recognising major differences on doctrinal matters with the Orthodox, the Council sees much in common in accepting the truths of God's revelation, including the Bible.

During the summit meeting in Moscow between Reagan and Gorbachev, President Reagan gave a speech at the Danilov monastery (recently handed back to the Orthodox Church) in which he called for full religious freedom in the Soviet Union. He said that thousands of closed churches should be reopened and banned congregations allowed to practise their religion freely, making special mention of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

The burgeoning Namibian student boycott against the location of South Afri-

can army and police bases near their school is rapidly spreading. An estimated 25,000 Namibian children in 20 secondary and 15 primary schools are affected so far, the largest student protest in the 7 decades of South African rule. The boycott has the support of the church. In the past pupils have been killed in cross-fire, as well there have been accusations that soldiers and police have acted deliberately to terrorise those at schools close to the bases.

An international team recently visited Christian 'base communities', church projects and ecumenical organisations in several parts of Brazil. What is happening in Brazil in connection with the base communities, the group says, 'may well have implications for the renewal and ecumenical life of the church universal.' The visitors focussed on the 'biblical orientation, ecclesial convictions and social vision', of the communities—very roughly estimated to number 80,000 and to involve 5 million people. Particularly noted was the communities' pastoral work with street children, marginalised women, urban and rural workers and youth.

'Cornerstone' magazine, in the US, reports a new grouping of 36 congregations, called Sanctuary, has been formed for young people who became Christians through heavy-metal rock music. Sanctuary was set up after the new Christians 'found that the churches just don't understand' such music. Its founder says Sanctuary is 'expanding very quickly'. In belief and practice it resembles 'charismatic Southern Baptists'.

The 48th General Synod of the Anglican Church of the Province of New Zealand has approved a translation of the psalms

In its new prayer book which notably reduces the number of references to 'Israel' and 'Zion'. One supporter of the approved version said that throughout its history 'the church has tended to spiritualise these names, and the existence of the modern nation of Israel has produced a certain ambiguity for Christians' in using the psalms as traditionally worded.

Despite the long history of Christian activity in Sri Lanka, where 72% of the people live in villages, only about 700 villages, out of about 25,000 in the country, have a Christian presence. In recent years more and more Christians have committed themselves to the missionary challenge of evangelising the unreached areas of Sri Lanka. Their first national missions conference was held in June in the south of Sri Lanka. It was called Navodaya '88, the name indicating the people's hope for a 'new era' (the meaning of Navodaya).

6 representatives from North Korea travelled to the Vatican and participated in Holy Week liturgies, marking the first official visit to the Vatican since the present communist regime took power in 1948. At that time all churches were closed. 2 members of the delegation claimed to have a Roman Catholic background and said they partook in confession and communion for the first time in 38 years.

On Pentecost Sunday churches in Africa associated with African Enterprise prayed specifically for more than 120 individual Australian churches. The AE team leaders wanted partnership with Australians to be a two-way affair, so they decided to pray for every Australian church which had determined to form a partnership link. The Lausanne Committee for World Evangelisation is mobilis-

ing worldwide prayer this year for evangelism and renewal in Australia. May 22 was the date for a special prayer focus.

Extra funds provided by the South Australian State Government will enable 78 primary and secondary schools in SA to purchase computers for young people to use in their everyday school lessons. The state's Minister for Education, Greg Crafter commented: "Computers are no longer seen as technology that is used in isolation from everyday school subjects. Rather, computers are, like pens, pencils or compasses—tools that assist students in today's world to extend their skills and learning."

Two Swedish peace activists of the Network Friends, a non-violent Christian organisation, symbolically 'demolished' a major bank in central Stockholm to protest the injustice and spiritual crisis of the international banking system. The activists claimed that the banks have set up money as a false god of security and that in pursuit of wealth they have encouraged greed and economic injustice. The Friends propose a usury-free economy and donation of capital to poor communities.

More wars were fought in 1987 than in any previous year in history. 80% of the fatalities from these conflicts were civilians.

A single Trident submarine could be traded in for a 5-year program of universal child immunisation against 6 deadly diseases, which would prevent 1 million deaths a year.

Come to Federal Conference, January 15-21, 1989, Canberra

Jubilee Commemoration Wall

To mark 50 years of Explorer work a Commemoration Wall has been constructed at Camp Waterman. A feature of the wall will be a number of plaques highlighting the work through the decades. The wall will be dedicated on the Commemoration Day, October 15.

The wall and paved area, with seating and a table, have all been constructed by Frank Richards, from plans prepared by architect Ray Drayton. Most favourable comments have been received from those who have seen the project under construction. Adjacent to the wall are some large rocks, one of which will bear a plaque with the words from Psalm 18:1-2.

On the Commemoration Day clubs will bring small rocks to place into an embankment wall.



Ray Drayton (right) with Frank Richards (centre) and camp managers Paul Fry and John Beard

The main Commemoration Wall will also have space for club histories placed in a time capsule.

Clubs have been contributing towards the cost of the wall. Donations from friends would be most welcome. Send gifts to

Russell Croxford, C/- Department of Mission, Education and Development, 52 La Trobe St, Melbourne 3000.

Motor racing ministry

The Sports and Leisure Ministry's motor racing chaplain (NSW), Garry Coleman, toured the US late in 1987 studying US motor racing ministry and talked of his dream—an all-purpose bus he could take to the motor racing pits, costing about \$100,000.

Garry Coleman, a licensed coach driver, had regular contact with people in the bus industry. He had a phone call from a representative of one of the companies in March explaining that Mobil and BMW, two of the largest motor sport sponsors were sponsoring a 'media bus'.

This media bus had full facilities and they asked if he would be

willing to drive it to the major motor racing meetings around the nation. Garry's proviso was that those who organised the media bus were aware that he was the chaplain.

The responses from the motor race drivers, pit crews, officials, organisers and company have been remarkable. Already Garry has taken the bus to Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney motor race meetings.

The SLM is a faith financed ministry. Garry Coleman is on faith support, so the position as media bus driver, which is paid, is helping to finance Garry's ministry.

First Birthday

The Naracoorte, S.A., Friendship Centre recently celebrated its first birthday. Everyone was asked to wear a hat in one of three categories: good taste, bad taste or most original. 20 adults attended. The day began with morning tea, followed by a program of competitions, games and items. The children took part, singing some of their favourite songs.

Arch Moyle, one of the

Friendship Centre regulars, judged the hats. Good taste was won by George Midwinter wearing a yellow cardboard band with pink crepe paper. Bad taste was won by Kate Edwards wearing a hat covered in pink carnations. Most original was won by Jennie Badger wearing a hat looking like a pin cushion.

Lunch followed with a birthday cake made and iced by Faye Gerlicke.

— Jenny Blake

New Living Faith

New Living Faith, the 1988 edition of the Joint Board of Christian Education's popular all-age learning program, is breaking all records! Already, around Australia and New Zealand, 74% more children and teenagers than last year are using the program.

Its learning plan, for all age groups except the 'beginners', is now based on a common Bible passage, linked to the three-year lectionary. This means the resources can be directly linked to worship, promoting a welcome unity in all Sunday activities.

The Joint Board has been astonished by the success of the entirely new venture it has added

to the New Living Faith program this year. The 'Worship Packs' have twice run out of stock since they were launched last October. These provide visual resources for worship, resources which can be readily reproduced on service sheets without any copyright hassles.

For further details about the New Living Faith program, contact the Joint Board of Christian Education, 2nd Floor, 10 Queen St, Melbourne 3000.

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Obituaries limited to 100 words.

FARRAR, Mary Elizabeth

(3.6.88) Mary passed away after a long illness at Pyramid Hill, Vic. In 1903 Mary, aged 17, was baptised at Castlemaine. She married Thomas there in 1925. Later they moved to Pyramid Hill. Mary was devoted to her family, community and church. Some of Mary's appreciated talents were expressed as organist, in the women's work and in hospitality. Mary and Thomas had five children. Thomas died in 1983. Mary's children, 12 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren would find great comfort because her faith was so real. Mary was a caring lady whose life was motivated by a strong faith in our Lord Jesus.

—G. Henderson

GRENFELL, Nicholas Edward Simeon (Ted)

(21.3.88) Aged 75 years. Ted Grenfell loved the Brotherhood. He lived his life in service to his father in heaven, his family, his friends and his fellow man. May 1935 he married Eileen Nash at Bambray Road, Vic., serving there until moving in 1950 to Meringandan, near Toowoomba, Qld. He was secretary to the three Toowoomba churches. Representing Victoria in badminton championships and junior soccer, Ted played most sports and was proficient in all attempted. In 1957 he urged the Queensland Social Service Department to buy Mylo House and was Chairman of the 38 bed hostel and 42 bed nursing home for 25 years, including the com-

mencement of Nubeena retirement Village. He is survived by his wife Eileen, daughters Beverley, Kathleen and Margaret, six grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

—Beverley Grenfell

LEWIS, David John

(3.5.88) David was born in 1926 and baptised at the age of 9. He attended churches at Norwood, Grote Street, Maylands and, for the last 30 years, Elizabeth, SA. In 1954 he married Claire, who shared his love of singing. They were members of the Adelaide Philharmonic Choir and various church choirs. He was assistant church treasurer, a JP, and he worked as an insurance clerk before retiring through ill-health. He had a hearty handshake and always showed his appreciation of others. He is survived by his wife, Claire, daughter Sandra, and son Rick (minister at Telopea, NSW), daughter-in-law Heather and grandson Ryan.

—R.H. Webster

SINCLAIR, Jack

Jack Sinclair, was a long-time member at Cheltenham, Vic., previously a member at Windsor, South Yarra and Berwick. After war service Jack worked as a customs officer. He nursed his wife Lola for 20 years. Following her death he remarried and, together with Gwen, served on our Aboriginal Missions in WA and Qld. Jack was a great encourager to ministers and supported many student ministers. He was a diligent worker and a wise counsellor in the church. He travelled to many appointments and missions in Australia

and overseas. Gerald Rose, Ian Corlett, Geoff Rowcroft and the writer shared in his funeral service in May. We commend Gwen and the family to God's care.

—Gordon Moyes

THOMPSON, Agnes Rosannah

(25.5.88) Agnes was born in Roma, Qld, in 1912 and welcomed by transfer to Ivanhoe, Vic., in 1944. During the many years since her husband died Agnes' life was

her Lord, family, friends and church. A packed-to-overflowing chapel was evidence of how many lives Agnes had touched. Our hearts go out to Gavin and Pat, Keith and Chikae, Gwen, Jeanette, Ian and Nola, Lyle and Amina and all of Agnes' dearly loved grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

—J.A.C.

VIC

BALWYN (Graham Woodward). Congregation involved in a number of activities which have enhanced congregational life, people's relationship with God and outreach into the community ... 'Yukana Singers' helped CWF celebrate their birthday ... CWF organised & ran a 'Fair Dinkum Dinner' where 100 enjoyed fine food, company & entertainment ... Church held picnic at Steels Creek.

SURREY HILLS/WATTLE PARK (Milton Oliver). Julie Adam preached her first sermon 'belonging to Christ' recently ... Church was happy to have Alan Mathieson preach in a recent morning service ... Evening services for July & August will take the form of house groups, meeting for tea & discussion based on 'Wisdom for Today' ... Anne Oliver has started a Bible study group for young people, especially young mothers ... Dinner dance held recently was a great success.

HARTWELL (Graeme Rogerson). 5 pm services enjoyed by all attending. A meal & fellowship follow. Numbers growing ... Pulpit exchange with Burwood Uniting Church & East Kew ... Pentecost Sunday church hosted the Burwood & District Inter-Church Council service. Theme 'Jesus the Spirit' ... CWF speakers included guest speaker from Council for the Aging & Alan Page of Overseas Mission Dept ... Lead singing group now used in praise segment during morning worship.

RINGWOOD (Barry Jenkins, Bryan Mee). Bryan Mee, school teacher from Tasmania, has joined us as part-time second minister. Bryan is studying at COB & BCV ... Term 3 program features house groups studying "Open Heart Open Home" under

the guidance of Norman Pell & Melbourne Reachout ... Recent planned giving review enables church to increase giving to missions, extend some church buildings & plan for a second full-time minister by 1990.

WA

DALKEITH RD., NEDLANDS (B.K. Ryall). Church School (midweek Primary) grown to over 90 per week ... "Road Directory" produced with all attending persons included ... Combined Pentecost service hosted with flames & liturgical dance ... Minister interim Bethesda Hospital chaplain whilst A. Morris doing interim Christchurch, NZ; delegate to Sydney Evangelism Consultation; delegate to International Christian Sports Congress in South Korea ... Successful family camp & cottage meetings.

QLD

HARLAXTON, TOOWOOMBA (Daryl Thorpe). Past minister Geoff Charles spoke at 66th church anniversary with Shane Foley presiding, followed by picnic lunch in the park ... "Fund Raising" dinner held in old hall built in one day in 1922. New hall to be commenced shortly ... Monthly family night service commenced ... Working bees to assist Caloundra & Sunnybank churches organised.

Australian welfare agencies are facing an unprecedented crisis. The State Government's decision not to subsidise its share of a 4% second tier pay rise for welfare staff is seriously threatening the viability of the agencies and putting at severe risk the thousands of families using their services. It is a problem shared by many non-government welfare organisations.

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Lay Ministry

Mission Work

Exciting news in Singles Ministry



Cheryl Johnson (left) and Anne Spoelder examine one of Jim Smoke's books on divorce recovery at the Department of Mission, Education and Development's bookstore

The Ocean Grove singles group is rejoicing in the baptism of several of their members. Their singles group, under the leadership of Lesley Wilson, is an exciting group, with a wide variety of activities. As Singles Ministry Co-ordinator, Cheryl Johnson spoke at a meeting in May and sensed a strong bond between members. On that night they had three new people, due to advertising in the local paper.

Carnegie singles group, with Anne Spoelder as leader, has increased its numbers through effective programs and a caring approach. Starting with a small group of eight they now have 50 contacts and average 25 at their meetings. Leadership is a constant need, as it is very demanding to keep a group effective and people oriented.

Singles Ministry Co-ordinator

Cheryl Johnson is employed by the Vlc.-Tas. Conference Executive for one day a week as Singles Co-ordinator. Speaking appointments, committee meetings, organising of camps and seminars are part of her role. A seminar for singles, October 21-23 will be held at Camp Water-

man, Monbulk. Cheryl is available to help your church catch a vision of outreach to the single person. It is an area of ministry that has enormous possibilities in any church. Along with Brian White from the Department of Mission, Education and Development, Cheryl is working on material for divorce recovery workshops.

Jim Smoke's Australian visit

Jim Smoke has spoken at hundreds of singles conferences and conducted divorce recovery seminars in America. He has a growing concern for the performance oriented pressures within churches and has released a book entitled "Whatever Happened to Ordinary Christians?" Seminars will be conducted under the auspices of the Federal Board of Christian Education in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney during his stay in Australia, April 1989. Jim is not only an expert on singles ministry but has vast experience in all aspects of ministry. His seminars will be for ministers, singles, married people and all church leaders. Contact Cheryl Johnson on (03) 397 5715 for further information.

Focus on Acacia Ridge

Faith and perseverance were two of the factors which helped to commence the church at Acacia Ridge, in Brisbane. Jim and Dorothy Rogers were the couple who developed the work there, with the help of a tent, an accordion (played by Dorothy), and lanterns to provide lighting.

Every Sunday afternoon they would conduct a Sunday School program. About 60 children would attend. Afterwards the Rogers would take their equipment to another area, conduct Sunday School there also, then return to Acacia Ridge to hold an evening gospel service.

The church officially began in 1953. The present minister is Paul Scully. Earlier ministers include Vlc Parker and Noel Newton (who was ministering there when the present chapel was constructed).

When Paul Scully began his ministry, four years ago, the church participated in a Bethel program which led into the development of a home group ministry, which is a Bible study/sharing fellowship. 45 are now involved in five home groups. In the 1987 Conference handbook the membership of Acacia Ridge is shown as 56.

The youth group meets on a Friday night and one Wednesday night home group is specifically for youth. Sunday School is run concurrently with the morning service.

The evening service is aimed at young people. This emphasis means that the church actually has two congregations, those who attend the morning service, and a different group who attend in the evening (of course, there are those who attend both). Debble and Lyal Thomson lead the orchestra which includes guitars, flute, trumpet, clarinets, piano and organ.

The church conducts camping and other programs. They were the first to offer the Family Enrichment program conducted by the Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department. That was early this year, and a second program is planned.

The church also provides a venue for the Kenmore Christian College Lay Training Program, a two-year part-time course.

One of the elders, Jack Price, is well-known as a lecturer for the Ambulance Brigade. Joe Schluter, another elder, is on an interdenominational committee trying to arrange for a community worker to commence work in a housing commission development. The church is also considering ways to reach out more effectively to young people in the area.

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Dean Sander

DEATHS

FLANDERS, Thomas Henry. 86 years. On the 20th June at R.M.H. Dearly loved brother-in-law of Amy and Paul Kettner and family. Deceased family Bess, Gilbert, George, Arthur, Grace and dearly loved wife Nell (31.3.1987). Loving memories. "Till we meet again."

LEWIS, David John. On May 3rd at Lyell McEwin Hospital. Dearly loved husband of Claire, loving father of Sandra, Rick and Heather, and proud papa to Ryan. In God's hands.

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One of the most famine-stricken areas of Mozambique is Casa Banana, an isolated camp surrounded by rebel activity in the central province of Sofala, where desperately needed food is only reaching the camp's 8,000 inhabitants by airlift. More than 40% of the area's men, women and children have been suffering from severe malnutrition and famine-induced diseases after more than 8 months with very few food supplies.

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DIRECTOR OF WILDERNESS PROGRAM FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS

THE ORGANISATION

The Sydney City Mission is a vibrant Christian Welfare Agency with 38 programs throughout Sydney and Wollongong. It is the largest independent City Mission in the world.

THE PROGRAM

In line with its policy to develop programs which are effective and relevant to the needs of today's society, the Mission plans to recommence its Wilderness Program for young offenders.

This program aims at early diversion of young people from a life of crime, and provides an environment where positive attitudes and life skills can be developed. This program provides an alternative to institutionalization of young offenders.

THE PERSON

We seek a highly motivated energetic person who will be responsible to senior management for the successful development and management of the Wilderness Program.

The person we seek will ideally have some of the following:

- Knowledge of the juvenile justice system in N.S.W.
- Awareness of current trends in the development of programs for young offenders.
- Considerable experience in outdoor activities such as abseiling, trekking, canoeing, etc.
- Strong people management skills with the ability to head up a multi-faceted team, comprising some 30 staff.
- A knowledge of family therapy and support mechanisms.
- A demonstrated Christian commitment.

Appropriate tertiary qualifications would be highly regarded.

An attractive salary package will be offered.

Confidential written applications including curriculum vitae should be forwarded to:

The General Manager
Training, Youth & Regional Programs,
Sydney City Mission,
28 Regent Street,
Chippendale, N.S.W. 2008.

SUBIACO CHURCH OF CHRIST 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Come "Back to Subiaco" for ...

Thursday, September 1st at 6.30 p.m.

Dinner at Wembley Lodge

Tickets available for \$15 from Mrs Elaine Herrington,
(09) 342 4447, 38 Beaumont Way, Greenwood 6024.

Friday, September 2nd at 7.30 p.m.

A Concert "The Passing Parade"

in which past members will share a part. Come and share in this social time with past friends.

Sunday, September 4th at 10 a.m. and 6.45 p.m.

Special services with **Pastor David Althorpe** (a product of Subiaco church) as our guest speaker at both meetings.

Youth Night at Conference

Troupe Theatre, Unley, was packed to capacity for this year's South Australian Conference youth night titled "Discovery — Young People in Australian Society". They were perched on chairs, cushions, the balcony and the dance floor for a night of contrasts.

Contributing to the night were: Rob Timms, comedian, guitarist and singer; Barney, poet extraordinaire; Arms & Legs

Acting Co., dramatic technicians; Rob Combridge, dynamic speaker and "Second Chance", a local Christian rock band.

The music was loud, the night was fun and the message was powerful!

Many thanks to the Youth Ministry Committee for 'Discovery', a night which put Christianity in a young person's frame of reference.

— Jim Keatch

SO

STIRLING (John Main). Members supporting Paul Ravesteyn working with Mobile Mission Maintenance in Zambia... Church decorated with posters for Pentecost Sunday ... Young people's orchestra appreciated ... Four young people baptised on June 19 with many visitors present ... Lindy Marshall graduated as Batchelor of Education ... Cadet journalist Liz Main writing leader articles for "The Adelaide Advertiser" ... Several families attending Expo in July ... Minister conducting seminars at local High School.

NARACOORTE (Grant Simpson). CWF held bicentennial tea for senior citizens with over 65 attending. All enjoyed items between courses ... New youth club attracts around 17 ... carpet laid in church, foyer & hall is beneficial to all ... Recent gospel services featured Otto & Jenny Wichert (Wycliffe), Jim Stallard (CBMI) & film "Kevin can Wait"

... Young Adult "ruff-it" camp at Aylesbury's enjoyed by all.

In "The Christian Standard" recently they ran a comparison of the number of churches and members for each stream of the Restoration Movement in the US. The Churches of Christ/Christian Churches (Independents) have 5,756 congregations with 1,092,950 members in the US and Canada. The Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) have 4,330 churches with 1,148,740 members whilst the churches of Christ (non-instrumental churches) have 13,485 congregations with 1,281,433 members. They estimated that there are 6,700 congregations in 91 other countries of the world, with 600,000 members.

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Jim Wallis at the ACC

Hope is a valid concept and living reality for Christians today. It is particularly evident in the non-white churches. This emphasis came through strongly in Jim Wallis' presentations to the 34th General Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches. He delivered the keynote address "Empowering a New Christian Conscience", conducted a Bible study and acted as resource person for a consultation held in conjunction with the meeting.

Jim Wallis' own pilgrimage in faith provided the backdrop. Brought up in an evangelical tradition, his local congregation rejected his radical student views and Jim spent some time outside the church. But, as he said, he could never be quit of Jesus. So in his searching he was reconnected with the church through Jesus in the 'little ones of Matthew 25'. Since that time he has been imprisoned for supporting the homeless in the USA (goal is a wonderful place for hearing and expressing Good News he has discovered). He has risked death in a war zone in Nicaragua and has identified with the oppressed in the Philippines and South Africa. All of this has helped him to discover over and over again that Jesus is already out in society and in particular is to be found with the poor. He related to us the grace said before meals in the food line for poor people in Washington: "Lord, we know you will be through this food line today, so help us to treat you well."

During the consultation "Awakening a New Conscience in Australia" presentations were made concerning the unemployed, the homeless, discrimination against women, Aboriginal concerns, environmental issues and other matters. Jim Wallis responded to these issues by pointing out that we need to face the facts that injustice does exist but that often the church is not in a place where it can see and feel injustice. In fact frequently we see the victims of injustice interrupting us in our desire to get on with the work of the church. The white church puts a dividing line between evangelism and social justice — but this is not so in the



black (or poor) church. He went on to say that the most important voices to hear today are those of the marginalized and poor — orphans, widows, victims of racism etc. For this reason there is hope for among these people the Kingdom is growing.

In his Bible study Jim told of taking scissors and cutting out of the Bible all those passages which referred to the poor. He was left with a Bible full of holes and which would not hold together. Once again we were forced to find Christ where many of us were not expecting him and were confronted with the challenge that change is occurring in the churches which are listening to the poor and responding to their needs.

Jim Wallis made a conjecture that another Reformation is occurring as people are rediscovering the way back to Jesus through the poor. He made three points concerning Christianity in the western world: there is a need for recovery of lost faith; there is a need to provide a spirituality for a broken world; and there is a need for conversion of the churches. Yet this is happening, there is hope, because Jesus, whom we would take to other people, is already out there with them waiting for us to rediscover him.

— Trevor Banks

**FOCUS ON THE FUTURE
AT
FEDERAL
CONFERENCE,
CANBERRA,
JANUARY 1989**



A US toymaker suggests that the perfect means for inculcating wholesome Christian values in children is through its new Special Blessings line of dolls. This doe-eyed family of one black girl, two white girls and one white boy "capture the joy of prayer"—with their eyes turned heavenward and their hands fastened together with Velcro.

Melbourne Youth for Christ regret that Larry Norman will not be able to appear at their rally at the Melbourne Town Hall on August 20. Admission to the rally is free, it will commence at 7.41pm and the guest speaker will be Robert Coyle from Youth Dimension. Guest artists will be About Face, Barbershop Quartet and Scene 2.

Wembley Stadium, England, was filled with over 70,000 people marking the birthday of Nelson Mandela in June. A fur-

ther 1 billion watched the event live on TV, an event that proved to have an important spiritual dimension. Major artists performed at the concert including Sting (singing "If you love somebody set them free") and Whitney Houston, with her mother, soul performer Cissie Houston (singing "I believe").

Anglican Archbishop Donald Robinson of Sydney has strongly condemned surrogate motherhood: "Surrogate motherhood is not the way for our society to help people overcome the suffering, deprivation and unfulfilled longing that may come from being childless. Marriage is an exclusive relationship between husband and wife. The introduction of a surrogate mother into that relationship violates and places stress on that union. God's loving purposes can be found even through the pain of childlessness."

Vietnam's food shortage is critical, with up to 2 million facing starvation and malnutrition and a further 5-6 million affected in the north of the country. The food shortage is further complicated by rampant inflation running at 700%-1000% per annum. The price of 1kg of rice has increased tenfold in the past 3 years. Many millions are surviving on a diet of rice and leaves.

The annual dinner of the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students will be held on August 6, 7pm, at Ridley College, Vic. The speaker will be Sir Harold Knight. Cost \$16 (\$14 for students). If you wish to attend you should contact Mrs J. Quartel, 641 Whitehorse Rd, Mont Albert 3127 before July 29.

In the Philippines 300,000 New Testaments provided by the International Bible Society are being distributed to army personnel in a

'values formation program' aimed at combating insurgency and lifting soldiers' morale.

The Supreme Court in the United States has upheld a ruling, by the State of California, denying the Church of Scientology its state tax exemption for 1970-72 on the grounds that the church regularly engaged in business for profit.

Representing the many hungry Australians during the World Vision 40 Hour Famine weekend in June were groups travelling on trains in every state except Queensland. In that state four fasters spent their foodless weekend at World Expo '88, going on 40 Fun Park rides during that time and sleeping in the NZ pavilion. The national efforts of more than 2 million Australians (including sponsors) are expected to raise \$5,700,000.

Retired Roman Catholic Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre says he will ordain 4 bishops at his Swiss headquarters. Lefebvre leads a worldwide movement which rejects many reforms and trends in Roman Catholicism in the wake of the Second Vatican Council of the early 1960s. The ordination will mean his automatic excommunication. Though he has continued to ordain deacons and priests, he has been officially forbidden to do so by the Vatican since mid-1976.

Living Bibles International has plans underway to provide 500,000 Scripture booklets, in 25 languages, for distribution at the Olympic Games in Korea.

The number of "conscious atheists" in the world is now about 197 million, according to the International Association of Agnostics and Atheists. The group says the number increases by about 8.5 million a year.

From Chains of Bondage

In chains of bondage were they brought
From homes and hearths, and kin away;
Far from the ties they held most dear,
In lonely exile, here to stay.

Their backs they bowed beneath the lash,
Where blood drops red had left their stain;
From dawn till dark they toiled till spent,
Their precious freedom to reclaim.

Such precious freedom, dearly bought,
In history's tome has penned its page;
And from its roots of toil and pain
Has grown our goodly heritage.

From chains of bondage, Lord, we've come,
Who bear Your name, and own Your grace;
Confessing that no toil of man
Can break the yoke of Adam's race.

Our hope alone in Christ we find,
Who bore the lash, whose blood was shed;
That we from bondage might be freed
Who were in sin and trespass dead.

Father, receive our praise today,
As in Your presence here we stand;
Mindful that every perfect gift
Comes from Your gracious, loving hand.

—Beryl Carter

(This hymn was written for the Bicentennial Thanksgiving Service at the Horsham, Vic., church. The tune is Rimington (290, hymn book).)

In August, CCI Australia will be the host of two gatherings of the world leaders of Christian Camping International. The first will be the CCI Associations Representatives' Forum. The second will be the meeting of the CCI Trustees Board, which is the most senior organisation of the world-wide work of Christian Camping International.

Melbourne is to have its first extended experience of the ministry of an Anglican woman priest. Rev. Heather Mueller, rector of a parish in Hawaii, will spend 2 months of her sabbatical leave as an associate priest at St James Old Cathedral in October and November.

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Growing demands for Marriage and Parenting Seminars



Brian and Joan White (right) with Martin and Deirdre Burgess during a marriage enrichment retreat with the Clayton church

Brian and Joan White, working with both the Vic.-Tas. Department of Mission, Education and Development and the Federal Board of Christian Education, are excited about the number of requests for marriage enrichment and parenting seminars. So far they have conducted 36 marriage seminars involving over 500.

The parenting seminars, which are a recent introduction, are also meeting a need in the churches. Seven have been conducted involving over 250. Another four are scheduled for 1988 with five already booked for 1989. With four more marriage programs planned for 1988 and five for 1989, family life education is well and truly up and running in our churches.

Three alternative marriage enrichment programs are offered — a weekend retreat; a seminar in a local church using Friday evening, most of Saturday, and Sunday afternoon; or one night a week over five or six weeks. The parenting programs can also be conducted over a weekend or over three weeks using one night a week.

So far Brian and Joan have conducted seminars in all states, but most have been in Victoria and New South Wales. As well, they have conducted two pre-marriage education events. Coping with future anticipated in-

creases has meant the training of a number of couples to help meet the demands.

Brian has written a study book titled "Getting Along" for the Federal Board of Christian Education. The studies deal with marriage/family life, singles, communication and resolving conflict. They have been written for general use and not just for couples. The cost is \$3 plus postage.

Brian and Joan are both accredited Christian Marriage Enrichment Seminar leaders. They studied marriage and family life in the USA in 1982 on an Australian Christian Foundation Scholarship. Brian is involved with the Australian Association for Marriage Education. Inquiries are welcome c/- 52 LaTrobe St., Melbourne 3000, or by phoning (03) 662 2377.

My Prayer for Australia

My prayer, dear Lord, for Australia,
Is that each child should be loved and fed;
That we live in joy and harmony
And your Word be daily read.
May the strong reach out and be ready
To succour the fallen and weak;
And may we ever be willing
Of your bounteous love to speak.
May we stand united and steadfast,
Your grace as our only worth;
In our hearts a vision of heaven
While building it here on earth.

—Margaret Burrage-Coburn

Unborn Child Protection Bill

The Rev. Fred Nile, MLC, Parliamentary leader of the Call to Australia Citizens' Movement has sought the leave of the NSW Legislative Council to introduce his Private member's "The Unborn Child Protection Bill, 1988".

Draft copies of the Bill have been distributed to all Members of the NSW Parliament to seek their comments and constructive suggestions.

Rev. Fred Nile said, "Following the recent successful adoption of the pro-life motion in the Legislative Council of NSW, I am very confident my Bill will be

passed by the Parliament.

It is time that the excellent child protection legislation in NSW to prevent physical and sexual abuse should be followed up by this legislation to protect the unborn child. It is time to rectify the glaring omission in our state that one minute after birth the child has all this excellent legal protection, but one minute before birth the child has no rights.

It is time that the 100,000 babies, which are aborted each year in Australia, had some legal status and finally, received true recognition of their basic human rights.'

VIC

GLEN WAVERLEY (Ron Elbourne, Lindsay Croxford, Doug Fitzpatrick). Training sessions held to increase home visitation team ... First year students from Wollongong Institute for Contemporary Church Leadership billeted with church families while receiving input from ministry team & visiting other large churches ... Recent guest artists: "Victory 4", Beverley Beasley, ICCL students ... Senior minister

led in-service training for those counselling, & following up to baptism, any making commitments to Christ.

More than 250,000 Ugandans from the West Nile Region in the northwest, who had fled into neighbouring Sudan during the last 10 years as a result of the civil war, have returned home and have been resettled during the past two years, according to the Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation, Deogratius Rwabilita.

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GOD IS LOVE

Communion Addresses

by J.W. Alexander (The Banner of Truth Trust) \$10.60

This is a good example of why one should not judge a book by its cover. The 13 discourses it contains were originally sermons preached by the author to his New York congregation on "sacramental occasions" and were first collated and published in 1859.

J.W. Alexander was certainly a forceful preacher but the style of his work, and even some of his theology, is not really acceptable today. Nevertheless, there are some very beautiful passages: particularly in his first sermon, 'God is Love', which is based on 1 John. Alexander is at his best when he expounds scripture—and at his worst when he condemns those he sees as heretics and anti-Christian, those he calls "religious monsters", and attacks them with flamboyant and extravagant metaphorical language.

Even so, Alexander's themes are undoubtedly relevant to the communion service: God is love, Christ bearing our sin, plenteous redemption, the need of a mediator ... and, provided that the reader is not deterred by the 19th century language and imagery, he/she could certainly find inspiration for a communion introduction here. It is often the language rather than the theology which is dated.

On the other hand, if you are a prospective president looking for suitable articles to read directly to the congregation, this will not suit your purpose.

—J.W.P.

MANAGING TO BE FREE

A practical guide to organising priorities

by Shirley Daniels and Marian Jones Clark
(Baker Book House)

James Dobson has said that the biggest problem facing families today is 'busyness' and most of us have more than enough to do. The business world knows all about management, priorities and schedules. Managers are frequently fed into seminars that encourage better and more effective use of time. All very nice and enlightening, but what about something for the home-maker?

Managing to be Free is designed for those who want to establish home-based priorities. Told in story form and using scriptural principles, the book focuses on a fictional character who needs help and attends a home management seminar. Graphs, worksheets and guides are included and the book looks at the struggles faced by those who are not organised at all. The book abounds in home truths eg: "good intentions are not enough. If I'm going to do something, I need to decide what and when" and "there is nothing in your background or genes that dooms you to live out your days in a mess".

The book also looks at purposes, priorities and goals along with attitudes and how to organise schedules. But above all, it is a practical guide, and although it is written mainly for women, men will benefit greatly from this book.

I appreciate the book's direct simplicity and its emphasis on involving children in home tasks.

—Ken Laffer

NEW EYES FOR READING

Biblical and Theological Reflections by Women from the Third World

edited by John S. Pobee &
Barbel von Wartenburg-Potter (WCC Publications)

As the elder child in a family of two daughters, and as a single, middle-aged, middle class, tertiary educated, white Australian woman, I can honestly say that I have never felt unwanted, oppressed, inferior, simply because I happened to be born a female. However, by reading **New Eyes For Reading** my eyes have been opened to the social, religious, political and economic backgrounds of the 19 third world women who have written these reflections on biblical texts and the situation of women in the churches.

From countries as far afield as Ghana, Uruguay, India, their cultures have led them to interpret well-known scriptural passages in ways I find difficult to comprehend. I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to read this book. My knowledge has been increased. My interest has been aroused. My conscience has been stirred.

—M.P.

COME ALIVE!

(Scripture Union) \$1.95.

"Come Alive" has been produced as a special introductory give away Christian discipleship booklet for the bicentenary produced by Scripture Union. It has been designed to supplement the Operation Good News special New Testaments that are being produced by The Bible Society and the World Home Bible League for distribution by churches.

"Come Alive" is targeted for adults who have just begun their Christian journey, or who are thinking of doing so, and is written in a racy style of other Scripture Union productions.

There are 30 daily segments designed to cover the basics of the Christian life. There are also meditation thoughts included at intervals throughout the booklet. Four outlines for small groups are included to enable churches to establish nurture groups for new Christians that could use this material.

"Come Alive" is available in bulk lots of \$70 per 100 copies with a higher price for smaller numbers of copies. A high quality retail edition will be released through Christian bookshops at a price of \$1.95. Bulk quantities are available through the Scripture Union State office or the 'Operation Good News' committee in each State.

— C.R.A.

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Vic. •Naomi & Emily Grey, Henley Beach, SA. •Mrs Maureen Stepanoff, Dalketh Rd., Neldands, W.A. •Andrew McCormick, John McCormick, David Wilson, Jean Burgess, Susan Smith, Fred Daniels, Harlaxton, Toowoomba, Qld. •Jacqui Brown, Andrea Byass, Ben Muller, Samantha Muller, Stirling, S.A. •David Moody, Damien Hillier, Bruce Needham, Annette Needham, Ringwood, Vic. •Paula Smith, Naracoorte, S.A.

MARRIAGE

•Dorothy Fenner to Herbert Arthurs, Ivanhoe, Vic. •Maureen Schembri to Kevin Moss, Croydon, Vic. •Suzanne Tate to Charles Gilbert, Greensborough, Vic. •Lorraine Suplina to Robert Kingsland, Mildura, Vic. •Carol Roache to Joe Meerbach, Portland, Vic. •Joneen Constantine to Lance D'Evelyns, Philippa Burrows to Marc Bell, Dalketh Rd., Neldands, W.A.

DEATHS

•Agnes Thompson, Ivanhoe, Vic. •Vera Weddell, Kelth, SA. •June Humphries, Croydon, Vic. •Lydia Sones, Chelsea, Vic. •J. Lakey, Mavis Wyllie, Portland, Vic. •K. Jones, Bayswater, Vic. •Ern Walton, Stirling, S.A. •Norman Gratton, Ringwood, Vic.

MOVEMENT, MUSIC,
DRAMA, BANNERS —
WORSHOPS AT
FEDERAL
CONFERENCE,
CANBERRA 1989

Changes of Address

MANIFOLD HEIGHTS:
Secretary—Miss Rachel Hawker,
2/4 The Fairway, North Geelong,
Vic. 3215.

HOSPITAL INTERDENOMINATIONAL PASTORAL CARE WORKER

Expressions of interest are sought from trained pastoral counsellors in good standing with their denomination for an appointment as **Pastoral Care Worker at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane**. The pastoral care project is new and interdenominational. The appointee will have an active part in evaluating and developing this project.

The appointee will care for and counsel both patients and families in the afternoons and evenings. It is likely that more than one appointment will be made allowing for flexibility in rostering. Appointment will be for one year in the first instance, commencing at the beginning of 1989. The appointee will respond to the Co-ordinator of Chaplaincy and liaise with Chaplaincy Staff. Salary will be negotiable, but it is planned to offer the appointee approximately the same rate as that of the current chaplaincy staff at this hospital.

Further information may be obtained from Rev. Maurice Harriman, Co-ordinator of Chaplaincy Services, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane, Qld. 4102. (Phone (07) 240 2111).

Church of Christ WAIKERIE, S.A.

invite applications for
the position of
**PART-TIME
PASTOR**

to commence 1989.
Further information
available from:

**The Secretary,
Don Lawrie,
54 Lawrie Tce.,
Waikerie 5330.**

VICTORIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Duties:

To promote ecumenical enterprises at the state, regional and local church level.
To liaise with the Australian Council of Churches and other Councils of Churches.
To establish and maintain contact with member churches and encourage co-operation between them.

Qualifications:

The successful applicant will be a committed member of the Church, ordained or lay, theologically and ecumenically aware, with a capacity for organisation and administration.

Terms of Appointment:

The position is full-time.
The initial appointment will be for three years from 1st February, 1989.

Further information from -

**The President,
Victorian Council of Churches,
3rd Floor, 328 Flinders Street,
MELBOURNE, VIC. 3000.**

Applications will close on 31st August, 1988.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST OVERSEAS MISSION BOARD

Applications are invited for this position from persons with theological training, an interest in world mission and some accounting skills. We recognise interests and abilities can be developed.

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.

QLD

KENMORE (Gabriel Babare). Gabriel Babare conducting 5-months' interim ministry, his leadership is challenging & enriching church ... Sunday night cell groups developing caring fellowship relating studies to Christian living ... John Godby's Tuesday night studies on James are attracting increasing support ... Janelle Babare & Anne Runge gave stimulating talks to CWF group ... Gabriel Babare joins the faculty of Kenmore Christian College in July & will lecture & continue his studies.

CABOOLTURE (Tony Williamson). In excitement the church is looking to God's leading ... Church renovations are underway ... Sunday School attendances increased after Vacation Bible Club ... CWF has grown & held two stalls ... First family camp planned for July ... Youth group commence ... Fellowship luncheon each month ... We thank God for all he has provided & for the practical assistance from other fellowships.

ALBION (Peter Overton). Women's Fellowship progressive dinner raised \$413 for Living Link (Jill Bawden) ... Combined monthly services with Kedron, Stafford, Boondall & Zillmere churches continue. Most recent featured Richard & Shirley Pearce ... Newly formed touch football team has had two wins and one draw; stars include Peter Overton.

SA

KEITH (K. Wray). Family camp held in April, 51 attending including visitors; Sonny Pillay study leader ... Six men completed Challenge to Christian Manhood course ... Mary Dredge speaker at SEDC Ladies Day ... Three families transferred out including Durhams to WEC ... Community contact work planned for July ... Minister & wife attended Magarey Lectures at Longmead ... Three young teens doing the Continuing with Christ study.

HENLEY BEACH (Brian Hill). CYF car wash ... Visiting speakers on leprosy work (Korea) & Overseas Missions ... Lenore

Good speaker at Mother's Day luncheon, 38 present. Mother's Day service, Joan Dodd presided, Merle Hill was speaker ... Naomi & Emily Grey baptised ... Girls' Brigade 40th Anniversary, June, past & present included Verna Lander & Thelma Jones (first captain & chaplain 1st Adelaide Company 1948). Present captain is Yvonne Lanyon ... Family camp planned for August.

NSW

SOUTH TAMWORTH (J. Howes). Praise & thanks were given to God for a wonderfully uplifting baptismal service. Three married ladies & the teenage son & daughter of one were baptised. These plus a married couple & a man were welcomed into fellowship in the same service ... A luncheon & 'Getting to know you' meeting were enjoyed with guest speaker, CWF President Doreen Moore.

TAS

LAUNCESTON (G. Stirling). Suzanne & Scott Dubbeld holidaying with family in Scotland ... David Wright on business trip to Britain ... Gordon Stirling returned after successful eye surgery in Melbourne ... Prayer Workshop held on June 25 for church officers & auxiliary leaders ... John & Colleen Harrison will commence part-time ministry with the Caveside church in October ... Wayne Kerrison to enter hospital in Brisbane this week for exploratory surgery.

VIC

MILDURA (David Ratten). Church volunteer work teams commenced extensions to increase seating capacity of chapel & provide large entrance/assembly foyer between chapel & hall ... Peter & Pearl Sumner, CBMI, guests at Sunraysia Convention; 240 attended Saturday & Sunday nights ... 24 attended recent New Members' Dinner; husband & wife baptised ... Combined churches worship & witness in Arts Theatre with Kaleidoscope and Endless Praise.

PORTLAND (R. Hough). OAC held week of meetings which

were very successful ... David Young, from Children for Christ, held seminar which led to large numbers of children forming Kids Club ... Church meeting monthly in Salvation Army hall in Heywood with an average of 25 ... Family transferred into membership; lady transferred from NZ ... Coffee shop going very well & starting to see some results among young people.

BAYSWATER (R. Combridge). Moving forward for Christ ... Family news: Fay & Lawrance Hughes improving after surgery; prayers for Neil & Merinda Hordern—illness; Kaye Jones died after surgery at Bendigo Hospital—sad loss ... New cradle roll leader, Raelene Grundy ... Young & Marrieds commenced Mike & Jane Lee's June 19 ... Youth camp July 8-10 ... Good response to fellowship supper ... Masterlife well attended.

EASTERN SUBURBAN REGION

ASHBURTON (Ken Barton). Members appreciated the presentation to the church by Elizabeth Barks of her painting of Holman Hunt's 'The Light of the World' ... Every member present highlighted Pentecost service ... CWF service conducted by women featured dramatic presentations of

some women of the Bible ... members stimulated by morning worship service conducted by regional youth group ... Companionship Centre celebrated eighth birthday with a bicentenary theme.

EAST KEW (Ed Roffey). Eldest regular attender has just turned 88 ... Tudors are having a busy time. Mark has returned from a trip to Korea with a volleyball team & Andrew had a party for his 21st ... Church luncheons are well attended & are held on the third Thursday of each month.

CAMBERWELL (Milton Oliver, Viney Longthorp). Lance & Enid Fisher are in the USA with their daughter & family ... Close relationship with Surrey Hills/Wattle Park continues & the church deeply appreciates the ministry & leadership of Milton Oliver ... Jean & Russell Ryall attended recent conference in Canberra of the International Training in Communication organisation.

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE AT FEDERAL CONFERENCE, CANBERRA 1989

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VIC

PORT FAIRY (L. Steele). Morning church attendance encouraging ... Successful Sunday School anniversary & tea, speaker Steve Nixon from ESA ... Men's Fellowship commenced in May, nine attending ... CWF special effort & street stall raised over \$900 for deposit on manse ... Midweek home Bible Study well attended ... Pastor & some members involved in Good News 88 ... Playgroup numbers keeping up ... Ruby Edwards & Mrs D. Lang in hospital ... One baptism recently.

IVANHOE (J. Caporn, P. Eades). Cairns family welcomed by transfer ... Serendipity Bible studies commenced ... Kid's Klub for Primary school children ... Discipleship classes in progress ... CWF speaker Bob Pearson (Mint notemaking expert), & planning Lifeline speaker; visiting Fred Combridge House ... YP numbers & Sunday School increasing ... Prayer triplets continuing ... 5pm winter services began with tea/puppet service ... Several members unwell ... Church stunned by accidental death of Agnes Thompson.

SWAN HILL (L.J. Mayes). Graham Hyman study leader for successful family camp at Halls

Gap over Queen's Birthday weekend—85 attended ... Ted Keating (Nunawading) addressed Singles Group and met with church board during June ... 500 New Testaments distributed by our church during Operation Good News '88.

GLEN WAVERLEY (Ron Elbourne, Lindsay Croxford, Doug Fitzpatrick). Church encouraged at number of baptisms in recent months ... Church Family Camp held at Mt Evelyn ... 90 YP enjoyed youth camp (combined with Berwick) at Marysville ... Recent College for Christians featured four-week series, led by senior minister, on spiritual gifts & their role in Christian ministry ... Playgroups held family tea after evening service, guest artists: Rudy & Mandy Van Den Bovenkamp & 'Victory 4'.

OCEAN GROVE (Andrew Henley). Six members of Singles' Group baptised in special service ... Membership day & luncheon held to welcome seven other new members ... Home fellowship meetings successful ... Parenting Seminar by Brian White a great outreach to community, with 50 attending ... Andrew guest speaker at Explorers leaders' night ... Women's Bible study groups combined for fun craft night ... Singles group held Ques-

tion night & Games night.

YORK ST, BALLARAT (Roger Risson, Brian Parsons). 'Relationships' seminar held with Graham Cann ... Evening offerings: Gideons \$55; Overseas Mission \$79; Alan Hocking (local youth worker) \$202 ... New group, 'The Gangsters' formed to cater for young people from Years 7-9 ... Brian Parsons & Bob Ross involved in outreach to families of young people who attend our youth groups ... Gospel service presenting series of films featuring Tony Campolo.

ASCOT VALE (R. Bourdon). Church attendances increasing ... Wednesday evening worship service an inspiring time in the presence of God ... Prayer meeting, at 6am each day, regularly attended ... Geoff & Nadine Ismail welcomed into fellowship ... Halfway House looking for larger premises ... Renovations underway to enlarge and improve chapel ... Stephen Reinmuth shared his testimony witnessing to a man on Death Row.

CROYDON (W. Gibney). A victorious thanksgiving service held, June 7, for our beloved sister June Humphries who had been an inspiration to many over the years of her illness ... A commissioning service was held for house church leaders, June 19, eight groups

being established initially ... A large group of scouts & their leaders attended a church parade on June 26.

CHELSEA (T. Frazer). Youth service, May 29, speaker Andrew Ball ... CWF street stall raised \$712 ... Lydia Sones, well-known as an Infant Welfare Sister, died soon after her 90th birthday ... Youth Group continuing to attract about five regulars for Friday night variety programs ... About 80 attended CWF birthday meeting, guest speaker spoke on helping women in domestic violence situations ... Explorer club plans a Chelsea reunion on November 6.

GREENSBOROUGH (George Warren). Saturday prayer sessions held 9am to 10am ... Ladies mid-week Bible study group meeting in members' homes ... Choir presented musical items on June 19, now preparing for music festival ... Philip Dean & the Tomato Dodgers, guests at evening service ... Minister chaired seminar for presidents and musicians focusing on worship ... Tim & Mark Warren performed in Perth with their school band.

RECOMMEND
THE AUSTRALIAN
CHRISTIAN

42nd FEDERAL CONFERENCE

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA
JANUARY 15 — 21, 1989 — CANBERRA
THEME: GOD'S PEOPLE — GOD'S WORLD



"GODS PEOPLE GODS WORLD"

CONFERENCE PRESIDENT: Neil Gilmore, Federal Conference Office, 82 Limestone Ave., Alinslie, A.C.T., 2602. Phone (062) 48 7659

CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS SECRETARY: Bruce Kennedy, Cf-82 Limestone Ave., Alinslie, A.C.T., 2602 Phone (062) 48 6987.

CHAIRMAN OF FEDERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE: C.Ward, 52 LaTrobe St., Melbourne, 3000 Phone (03) 662 2377.

FEDERAL CONFERENCE SECRETARY: Ian Allsop, College of the Bible, 7 Elm Road, Glen Iris, Vic., 3146 Phone (03) 25 6085.

FEDERAL CONFERENCE TREASURER: G. E. Page, 8 Tanner Street, Glen Waverley, Vic., 3150. Phone (03) 233 2238.

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A Vision of Sharing

The latest Australian census figures show that Islam and Eastern religions are growing relatively fast, accounting for almost 2% of the population. Christianity's share, while still a healthy 73%, has slipped back 3% over the past five years. These statistics underline the growing pluralism of Australian society, a fact that Christians cannot ignore.

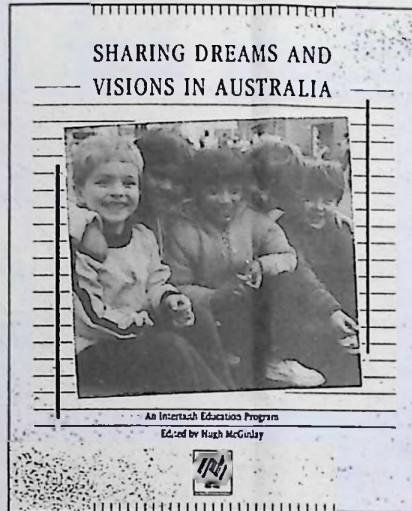
The spectacular achievements of the ecumenical movement over the past 25 years have created a new bond among the Christian denominations. Mutual understanding and co-operation have largely removed the suspicion and hostility of the past. But most Christians are totally ignorant of the beliefs, practices and concerns of other faith groups. Such ignorance is dangerous, a perfect breeding ground for intolerance and fear.

So, in the bicentennial year, a unique interfaith project will encourage Australians of all faiths to share their spiritual visions. The Interfaith Education Program, developed by the Joint Board of Christian Education and endorsed by the Australian Bicentennial Authority, is not a study course. The learning experiences it provides come from people, not texts.

It offers the resources for ordinary Australians belonging to different faith groups to meet each other and share the living reality of their beliefs, values and lifestyles. The hope is that, in the process, mutual respect and concern will be strengthened, and an impetus developed for a strong religious influence on the future life of Australia.

The program's resource book, "Sharing Dreams and Visions in Australia" is partly an evocative visual essay on the nature of multi-faith Australia. In a series of fascinating photographs, accompanied by poetic text, it sketches the religious dimensions of Australian society today, from the Aboriginal dreaming to the rituals of Shintoism.

On the practical side, it provides a variety of simple ideas for families, groups and individuals to use to cross the barriers of religion. The



emphasis is on community activities, learning through meeting and sharing.

For places where there are limited opportunities to meet people from other religions, taped interviews with people from the Jewish, Buddhist and Islamic faiths are available.

Other suggestions include reciprocal visits to places of worship, and special tastings of food and drink significant to different faith groups.

The book also provides simple directions for holding a series of four interfaith meetings. The Interfaith Education Program offers Christians an opportunity to share with Australians of other faiths in this special year.

"Sharing Dreams and Visions in Australia", edited by Hugh McGinlay, priced at \$5.95, is available from bookshops, or the Joint Board of Christian Education, 2nd Floor, 10 Queen St, Melbourne 3000. Phone: (03) 62 5076. The tape "Terry Lane Talks with People of Faith", \$7.95, is available directly from the Joint Board of Christian Education.

THE LAST WORD

Stewardship is the acceptance from God of personal responsibility for all of life and life's affairs.

— Rowell C. Long

The advance crew of a removalist company arrived the first week in January to pack for the wife of an up-and-coming junior executive, for whom this was the fifth move in four years. As one of the men started to pack a shiny waffle iron, red Christmas ribbon still intact, the wife said, "Please put that near the top of the carton."

"Sure, lady," he said. "It would be a shame to have a nice gift like this damaged."

"Oh, it's not that," she replied, half-smiling, half-sighing. "That was given to me five Christmases ago, but they always seem to pack it near the bottom and I never get down to it before we're ready to move again."

★★★★★

The world's worst golfer hit his ball into a monstrous trap. "What club should I use now?" he wailed to his caddie.


"What club you use isn't important," answered the young man. "Just take along plenty of food and water."

★★★★★

'Our church,' said the mother, 'is a disgrace. The pews are too hard, the choir is off key, the sermons are poor ...' 'But mother,' interrupted her daughter, 'what can you expect for 20 cents?'



I'm pretty fit for my age. First thing in the morning I bend down and touch my slippers 50 times... then if I feel like it, I get out of bed and put them on.



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