

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

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Commissioning Service for Field Director



Andrew Ball, the newly-appointed field director for the Victorian-Tasmanian Department of Mission, Education and Development, was commissioned at a special service at his home church at Carnegie on June 19. A large group of adults and young people crowded the Carnegie chapel for an inspira-

tional service. Pictured is a group of local church, Conference and Department representatives setting him apart for his work by the laying on of hands.

Andrew grew up in the Carnegie church, where he is now an elder. He recently stood down as Board Chairman. In recent years he has led 'Branches', an active

youth group at Carnegie. He has also had wide experience in Department youth programming.

Andrew holds a B.Sc.(Hons) degree and leaves the Victorian Government Service to take up his new appointment. He has recently been part of a small Victorian Government team to liaise with interstate heads of depart-

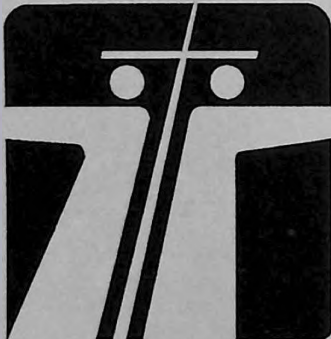
ments and ministers on drugs and poisons issues.

As a field director he will be responsible for heading the Vic-Tas youth ministry program. Andrew is keen to meet and hear from youth leaders, young people and all interested in developing youth ministry.

Managing Editor:
CHRIS AMBROSE

ISSUE	DEADLINE
August 20	August 10
September 3	August 24
September 17	September 7

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COMMENT



Encourage your minister

—K.F. Short

"That was the best sermon that I have ever heard in my life!" But the minister, though making an exceptionally good presentation, was hurting inside. If they only knew! The minister was thinking of leaving the church. It was not because of any moral issue. Nor was he thinking of running away with another man's wife. Nothing like that.

When the minister first came, everyone was so excited about the church's future. The church will grow now! Over the next five years attendances grew 100 per cent. Many souls were added to the kingdom of God. Many people were involved in the work. Visitors were at every service.

Then (it seemed like it happened so suddenly) attendance began to level off, the visitors seemed fewer, and it did not seem that as many people were involved in the ministry as before. Could it be that the minister's effectiveness was gone? He began to wonder: 'Is it time to move on to another church?'

Many ministers have experienced the same sickness. If they have not, they probably will. But the point is, many good ministers have developed the 'bug' and no-one knew what was going on in the minister's life until he, or she, resigned. The confusion and worry were well hidden, or covered up.

"Well if feelings are covered up, what can we do?" Like all other diseases, preventive measures should have been taken.

Here are some things you can do:

1. Take your minister out for a meal.
2. Tell your minister you love and appreciate him or her.
3. Tell your minister how much you appreciate his, or her, spouse (if there is one). Tell the spouse too!
4. Give your minister an extra Sunday off.
5. Remember your minister's birthday.
6. Pray with your minister.
7. Leave your minister a chocolate cake, or a health loaf (according to individual taste).
8. Let the church love the minister too.

These are simple things, and cost very little. Most ministers do not leave the church over doctrinal problems. Many just feel they have lost their effectiveness there. Suddenly one day, from the pulpit, your minister announces that he, or she, has accepted the call to minister somewhere else.

Do you appreciate your minister? If so, let him, or her, know. It is easier, and less costly, to love your minister than to look for someone else who would do the same thing in two or three years.

For our churches' sakes we need to appreciate our ministers, and to let them know that we do.

—This article was adapted from "Christian Standard", a US weekly published by the Churches of Christ Christian Church (Independent), June 5, 1988 issue.

The Christian Science Monitor reports that "South Africa is apparently backing off from imposing strict controls on foreign funding of the opposition organisations, largely because of outside pressure." The proposed bill could have seriously affected the work of church groups, including the South African Council of Churches.

About 500 Anglican bishops from many parts of the world have attended the once-a-decade meeting at the historic seat of English Christianity—the 12th Lambeth Conference. One of the Conference's main issues is authority in the communion. Conference resolutions and recommendations are not binding on any of the autonomous denominations

which make up the communion. One major difference among them now has to do with the ordination of women. This issue is on the Lambeth agenda.

**GIVE THE
CHRISTIAN
AS A GIFT**



Property purchased for Branch-out program

The Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department has purchased a 47-acre property, complete with a holiday resort, for the development of the Branch-out program. This program is for the rehabilitation of alcohol and drug-dependent persons.

Bob Walton, OAM and Joy Walton, OAM, who are among the leading workers in this field in Australia, have been appointed to lead in the establishment and development of this new undertaking of the Department. Bob and Joy formerly worked at the Salvation Army Mancare Community Centre in Canberra.

The new property, Tinbeerwah Woods, will be the hub of the re-education activities program and will be supported by Assessment Centres at Redcliffe and Nambour. A tertiary stage is also planned for Nambour on land already owned by the Department. Any withdrawal will be carried out at hospital detoxification units.

The Executive Director, Don Stewart, said that the develop-

ment, while it was a part of the broadening of the Department's care base, was also a return to its roots. Late last century, and early this century, the Department had its beginnings in the temperance movement. "Now we are again returning to the need to care for those whose lives have been affected by alcohol, or some other drug or substance," Dr Stewart said.

GROWING SPIRITUALLY

Love in Action

Along with the Lord's Prayer and the 23rd Psalm, 1 Corinthians 13 is one of the best-known Bible passages. It is a shining light strategically placed between two passages of scripture which deal with spiritual gifts. Like the people of the Corinth church, we each are gifted by God. Paul likens the church to a body with many different parts which have separate roles. Although each Christian's ministry may differ according to each one's gift, each of us can affect the rest of the body, just as the wellbeing of our little finger affects the physical wellbeing of our body. When one part hurts, the rest sympathises.

So, with people exercising the various gifts of the Spirit, Paul uses 1 Cor 13 to help us keep our own ministry in perspective. He reminds us that all we do and say, no matter how much authority we have, must be done in love, to be effective. It is useless exercising our faith, or being selfless in our actions, unless we act in love. It is a big responsibility for those in leadership in our churches, and no less important for every member of a congregation, to temper words with love and never act without love.

Impossible, you may well think, yet . . . would it be in the scriptures unless it was possible? We need to really look at love, as Jesus exercised it, to find the answer which lies in differentiating between our feelings and our actions. You may be faced with a person whom you find hard to love, the type who rubs you up the wrong way. If love is dependent on how you feel you will react negatively, however, if you act in love, despite your feelings, you've achieved the love of Jesus.

It mightn't be so clear-cut. It might be helping a person in need at the expense of your own needs; letting another person speak at your small group; or accepting change that you don't want, because it helps another's worship. These may seem minor ways to express love, but as we each grasp the truth of love in action and apply it to our daily lives, the church will be seen as the Body of Christ, reflecting the love of Jesus.

—Kaye Caporn (Ivanhoe, Vic.)

Senior Tenants required

The Frankston, Vic., church have successfully been operating a shelter for homeless youth from the Frankston area since June 1986.

The project has provided accommodation for many teenagers over the past two years in a house owned by the church with day to day care provided by "live in" senior house tenants.

The present senior tenants, Julla and Antoin Jacob, have successfully continued the work of the previous couple. However they have now decided, for personal reasons, to move on. The continuance of this worthwhile project is now in jeopardy if suitable replacement senior tenants cannot be found.

The Committee of management for the Youth Housing Project is seeking new senior tenants. The demands and potential problems arising within the house require people with qualities of

concern, compassion and understanding. The Committee members would be pleased to discuss the project and its immediate needs with any person or congregation. For further information contact either Norm Eyers on (03) 787 2490 (AH) or 787 2733 (BH) or Wendy Daff on 787 6526 or Peter Balley on 786 1614.

The General Convention of the Episcopal Church (US-based Anglican), in Detroit, held firm on 'biblical and traditional teaching' relating to sexuality, slightly modified its stance on abortion, and narrowly turned away an attempt to expressly permit homosexuals to enter the 4 to 5 year-long ordination process.

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Dean Sander

Marion has new Youth and Children's Worker

A BA(Hons) degree in Theology from London Bible College, plus work experience with Youth for Christ and Teen Challenge, are among the impressive qualifications of Yvonne Bentham, Marion's new Youth and Children's Worker.

Yvonne and her husband, Richard, were welcomed into membership at Marion on June 26 (the church's ninth anniversary). They are settling in well to the youth and children's scene, with both parents and young people alike expressing enthusiastic praise for their efforts so far. Marion has a strong line-up of lay leadership involved in its youth and children's work. The addition



Yvonne Bentham

of Yvonne to the staff will provide much needed support in the area of co-ordination and the provision of resources.

One of 4 panelists on the '60 Minutes' June program on Israel, has been arrested. Nasri Sabameh is a World Vision project partner in the town of Beit Oumar. He had been interviewed by a govern-

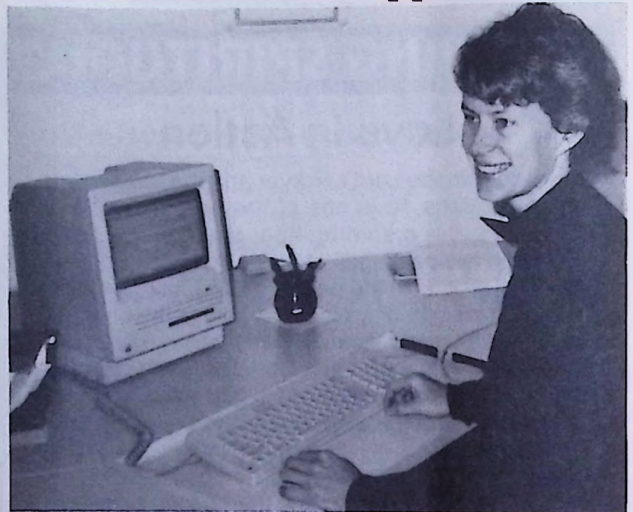
ment agent posing as a journalist before he was arrested. 20 other people from the area have also been arrested. So far authorities have refused to disclose where the people are being held.

John Hicks in chaplaincy

John Hicks has commenced a chaplaincy with the Social Service Department in Queensland. He is replacing Rosemarie Homan who is on maternity leave and who anticipates resuming duties in March 1989.

John is to serve in the position of chaplain to the Brisbane Homes which include Burdeu House, Brig-o-doon Nursing Home, Hillcrest Nursing Home, Kedron Hostel and Gleneagles.

Assistant Director appointed



Julie Trinnick at "The Australian Christian" office

The Overseas Mission Board of Australian Churches of Christ is pleased to announce the appointment of Julie Trinnick as Assistant Director. Julie will take up this position in January 1989.

Julie has a Bachelor of Arts degree, a Diploma of Education, and is presently studying at the College of the Bible towards a Bachelor of Theology degree. This year she is working part-time at the office of "The Australian Christian". She is an experienced secondary school teacher in

the areas of English and French in both Australia and Vanuatu. (where she taught at Ranwadi Junior Secondary School). With this background of four years' missionary service Julie will be a valuable addition to the staff of the Adelaide office of the Board.

We give thanks to God for this appointment and encourage the members of Australian Churches of Christ to pray for Julie as she prepares herself to take on this task.

HEAR HERB MILLER IN AUSTRALIA

Herb Miller is the distinguished Executive Director of the National Evangelistic Association of our Disciples Churches in the US. He is in Australia as the guest of the State Departments of Mission.

Your opportunity to hear him:

Melbourne

Warmbrunn Memorial Lectureship - August 19 - 8pm

Nunawading church - Theme: *Fire From the Altar*
Open to all

Seminar for Church Leaders - August 20 - 10am-4.30pm

Nunawading church - Theme: *How to Build a Magnetic Church*

Sydney

Seminar for Church Leaders - August 27 - 10am-4.30pm

Northside Community Church - Theme: *How to Build a Magnetic Church*

Seminar registration: \$15 per person

Melbourne inquiries to Dept of Mission, Education & Development, (03) 662 2377

Sydney inquiries to Dept of Church Development & Education, (02) 630 7533

AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED



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\$69,825 for Homeless Program in Queensland

The Queensland government, under the Family Emergency Accommodation Program (FEAP), have made the annual 'one off' grant of \$69,825. These funds will assist the Queensland Social Service Department with the operation of the Homeless Persons Emergency Accommodation Program to provide furniture and removal expenses for persons helped by the program.

The Social Service Department currently operates 67 houses or

flats for this purpose, providing emergency accommodation for families or individuals who find themselves without a home. The Program is worked in close association with the existing care and counselling providing organisations.

Beryl Wiltshire is the Director of the Program. She is assisted by Lyle Morris who is also engaged in street work, in particular assisting Aboriginal folk, as a part of the program.

Christian Projects—A major advance

—Ian Henry
Chairman

Christian Projects has reorganised its operational plans in order to keep pace with its growing activities and influence. Two companies are to be incorporated. One will be responsible for the spiritual oversight and direction of the operations, for CP grants, rewards and honours. The other will be responsible for earning the income, building our target fund of \$5 million and distributing \$10,000 per week.

The trustees considered it necessary to separate the spiritual and philosophical aspects from the commercial, and are confident that the brotherhood will fully support the new plan.

The NSW agency has been accepted by the Department of Church Development and Education, headed by its director, Robert Smith. The Queensland agency has been accepted by the Centenary Development Foundation, representative Bruce

Warren; and in Victoria by the Projectors, with a committee led by Andrew Ball.

Negotiations are continuing with SA and are scheduled to begin with WA, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the ACT. For the first time since its inception there is an all-state endorsement of the CP concept, and active support for the building of an all Australian Churches of Christ profile. The Trustees are pleased with the support accorded to the CP objectives.

The personalities within the state organisations will be announced shortly, as will the CP plans for the 1988/1989 year.

For information as to how you can assist in promoting the cause of CP write to the central office in Melbourne (Mr I. Henry, Chairman of Trustees, 99 James St, Templestowe 3106), or contact state agency headquarters.

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Recent changes to superannuation

—Jim Ashley

Churches of Christ Provident Fund

The Government's May economic statement introduced a number of major changes to superannuation, including the imposition of a tax.

This taxation commenced to apply from July 1, 1988, and a summary of the changes is as follows:

1. Superannuation contributions paid by churches and church committees will be subject to a 15% tax payable by the Fund.

Contributions will be shown on members' statements with an entry to reduce each contribution by the tax thereon.

As the aggregate of the tax deductions is not payable to the taxation department until after June 1989, these amounts are thus available for investment to augment the end of year superannuation distribution of earnings. (Note below that such investment income is also subject to tax.)

2. Investment income (interest, dividends, realised capital gains net of all expenses and life insurance premiums) will also be taxed at a rate of 15%. However, dividend imputation (that is, allow-

ances for taxes paid by the company distributing the dividends) will apply. Depending on the proportion of funds invested in Australian shares subject to imputation, it can be expected that the 15% rate will reduce.

3. Benefits:

Compensation for the imposition of the above taxes is broadly provided by reduction in the taxation of lump sum benefits, namely

- (a) under age 55, tax rates reduce to 20% (presently 30%) plus Medicare levy;
- (b) from age 55, the first \$60,000 of benefits is tax free (indexed according to average weekly earnings) and thereafter a 15% tax rate plus Medicare levy will apply.

The special concessions relating to pre-July 1 1983 ministry are unchanged.

In all cases contributions made by members of the Fund, for which no taxation deduction has been allowed, are not subject to tax when paid on withdrawal or retirement from the Fund.

Reopening of Essay Competition

During 1987/88 essays were sought by the Department of Christian Union on the subject of "The Relevance of Thomas Campbell's Declaration and Address to Churches of Christ in the 1990s". Some well researched submissions were received but the judges resolved that none had adequately attended to the main aspect of 'relevance to Churches of Christ in the 1990s'. Participants were advised that no recommendations were made for allocation of the awards of First—\$250, Second—\$100 and Third—\$50.

The Department of Christian Union considers that the theme is of great significance to Churches of Christ as we appraise directions

ahead to fulfil our commitment to Christ's prayer of John 17. Consequently the competition is reopened. It is our hope that an essay, or more, will be forthcoming, worthy of publishing for the benefit of all Christian churches in Australia.

Essays should be between 3,000 and 5,000 words and should explore concepts and ideas from Declaration and Address relevant to the future. Closing date is November 30, 1988.

Publications of essays would be a fitting tribute to the Campbells in this, the bicentenary of the birth of Alexander. Submissions to: The Secretary, DCU, 28 Potter St, Black Rock 3193. Phone: (03) 598 5594.



Registration

Canberra
January 15-21, 1989

Have you mailed your registration form for Federal Conference in Canberra yet? If you have not obtained a registration form, please see your church secretary or write to The Secretary, Federal Conference Arrangements Committee, Church of Christ, 82 Limestone Ave, Alnsille, ACT 2602.

For those who are still thinking, here is an explanation of what it is all about.

Page 1

Your own invitation from Conference President, Nell Gilmore, to come to Canberra from 15-21 January, 1989. The theme 'God's People, God's World' is emphasised at the outset.

Page 2

A broad outline of the week's program. The 'Black Stump' has since been changed from Thursday to Monday night.

Inside the form you will see a 'wash' of the three spires: St Andrew's Church, Parliament House and the Telecom Tower on Black Mountain. These three points represent God, people (government) and communication.

Page 3

Registration details. If you are coming on your own tick the appropriate boxes in column 1. If

two are registering on the same form, use column 1 for one person's details and column 2 for the other's.

Accommodation details are important for working out how many University bedrooms we need to book, and to reserve ground floor rooms for those who cannot climb the stairs.

Page 4

This indicates what parts of the Conference are important to you.

Page 5

This is your opportunity to select those tours of interest to you and to nominate which day would suit you best. We also seek further details on child care arrangements you would like.

Page 6

By telling us when and how you intend to arrive and depart we can arrange for you to be met and escorted, to ensure a smooth arrival and departure.

Page 7

Fees—the registration costs indicate the total amount. The money is needed before Conference to finance paperwork, production of the handbook and publicity. Individuals will pay \$50, couples pay a total of \$90.

A deposit of one night's costs is sought in order to confirm accommodation with the University. We will request further money at Conference if you choose to stay at the ANU. The cost for the Conference is \$300. This covers seven nights, the cost is not reduced for six nights. For five nights the cost is \$250, four nights cost \$200 and so on. If two are registering, the costs will be double the relevant amount quoted above.

If you decide to stay at a caravan park or motel you should make your own arrangements, do not send money to the Federal Conference. Registration Officer

Tours—the amounts we ask for now are deposits. You will be asked to pay the balance when you come to Canberra. Exact costs will not be finalised until just before Conference. The costs will depend, to some extent, on the



"GODS PEOPLE GODS WORLD"

demand shown for each tour. You will be able to make additional bookings or arrange for alterations when you arrive. There will be one or two extra tours arranged, to be announced through "The Australian Christian" or at Conference.

Cheques should be made out to "42nd Federal Conference". Registrations close on 30 September, 1988.

Two separate 'fliers', accompany the main form giving detailed information about Conference events.

Ministers' Seminar

The information on the 'flier' is incorrect. The seminar will commence on 12 January and will be held at Birrlgal Conference Centre, 30km SW of Canberra. Details were provided in the July 9 issue of "The Australian Christian".

We look forward to seeing you all in Canberra next January.

These are the people you should contact for further information:

—Registration and remittances—Bruce Kennedy (062) 58 1360 or Don Burdett (062) 49 1561;

—Tours—Ron Kerr (062) 54 2213;

—Ministers' Seminar—Kevin Caulton (062) 82 1502;

—Women's Day—Pat Kerr (062) 54 2213;

—University accommodation—Ian Morris (062) 41 5589;

—Other accommodation—telephone numbers given on registration form.

—K. Bray

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Common-wealth grant for hostel

The Department of Community Services and Health have announced a grant of \$651,780 to build a 25-bed, (plus two staff beds), Hostel at St George, which is situated about 600km west of Brisbane.

An exciting association has begun between the Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department and the Balonne Shire over the need for aged care facilities in the town of St George.

It all began in 1985 when some people from St George approached the Church Department about the possibility of meeting the need. Public meetings invited the Department to develop an aged care facility for the Shire. The local town Committee, which is committed to the project, has raised about \$200,000 at this stage, and the value of a 10-acre block of land has been given to the Department. The land, with its buildings, has been estimated to be worth about \$120,000.

Rob Warwick, from Boonah, is the Department's Administrator of the Project. Don Stewart, the Executive Director of the Department, spoke at a recent public meeting at St George as progress was reported on the project.

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Church service in advertisement



Some of the members of Marlon's band, 'Bits and Pieces'

The Christian Television Association of SA are currently using footage shot at one of Marlon Church of Christ's night services in their latest TV advertisement. The 60-second spot fea-

tures Marlon's backing band and also shows close-ups of many members of the congregation.

The spot is frequently being shown in prime time viewing and,

consequently, the range of people seeing it is quite vast. Some exciting witnessing opportunities have come for those whose faces appear during the advertisement.

Girls' Brigade at Hamilton



Back row: Kirstin Philp, Michelle Polack, Jemimah Eldridge, Andrea Polack, Captain Rhonda Eldridge; Centre row: Amanda Stewart, Keren Eldridge, Tanla Clutterbuck; Front row: Sarah Sharam, Elizabeth Eldridge, Cindy Hill, Deputy State Commissioner Jean Thompson

On June 26, at 2pm, the Hamilton, Vic., church saw their Girls' Brigade company affiliated. Jean Thompson, State Deputy Commissioner of Girls' Brigade, officiated at the service. This was a very exciting time for the church

and many people from the community, especially the parents and relatives of the girls, attended the service. Afternoon tea following the service was a time of sharing and fellowship.

Since the affiliation service

there has been much enthusiasm in the community for the Girls' Brigade. There are now a further six new girls attending. Anne Philp will be shortly commissioned as Lieutenant.

—Photo courtesy of "Hamilton Spectator"

The Letters to the Editor limit is 200 words.

ACC OVERLOOKS RELIGION

To the Editor,

Has the Australian Council of Churches forgotten about religion?

The ACC's 34th General Meeting, which opened in Sydney late in June, appears to have been missed as a golden opportunity to examine why Australian church attendance is dropping and to put forward suggestions for remedying the situation.

Major subjects for discussion at the meeting included:

—a motion on the Middle East to include recognition of Israel's right to exist within defined and secure borders, but calling on the Federal Government to declare that Israeli policies towards the Palestinians contravene international law and undermine the security of all peoples in the region;

—a motion calling on the Federal Government to downgrade its diplomatic ties with South Africa to consular level, to end all trade links, to take action for comprehensive and mandatory economic sanctions and to consider financing the Australian information offices of the African National Congress and the South-West African People's Organisation; and

—a motion expressing distress at the "obdurate attitude" of the French government to moves for Kanak self-determination.

There was apparently no discussion on the decline of religious belief among Australians, which was documented in the last census.

—Laurie Cusack
(San Remo, Vic.)

PENFRIEND WANTED

To the Editor,

Greetings to all your readers from Ulster. I am interested in making contact with caring Christians from your wonderful country. I will write to all who will write to me. My name and address is John Wood, 9 Celtic Park, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, N.

Ireland, BT74 6HP, United Kingdom.

—J. Wood

DILEMMA OF MULTI-FAITH PRESENTATION

To the Editor,

In the process of celebrating the Bicentennial year many churches and church organisations seem to be getting on a bandwagon that is trying to get unbelieving Australia to see that all the various religions, faiths and philosophies can be compatible with each other.

I'm concerned that Churches of Christ have followed suit, too. An example is the article on the back page of "The Australian Christian" (July 9) regarding the Joint Board's "Sharing Dreams and Visions in Australia".

Seems we are trying to make a 'melting pot' faith (multi-faith was the word they used) made up of the basic concepts of the various religions, in the search for what truth is. I shudder to think what the logical consequences of this are going to be—not just in the area of theology and truth as revealed in Scripture, but also in regard to our conviction about sharing our faith with the lost (2 Tim 2:24-26).

It seems we, in Churches of Christ, just go along with this 'lowest common denominator' view and get more 'wishy-washy' and less concerned for divine truth as time goes by. Where will it all end?

—David Althorpe
(Nollamara, WA)

COMPROMISE!

To the Editor,

A multi-cultural society is one thing, compromising our Christian uniqueness is another.

Dialogue, and the removing of ignorance and intolerance is commendable, inferring that other faiths are 'pathways to God' is contrary to the claims of Jesus (John 14:6).

Dilemmas such as those haunt me when I read of such ventures as reported in "The Australian Christian" (July 9). It was in a comment on 'Sharing Dreams and Visions in Australia'. I also

wonder if Bangladesh, Chad, and Iran would be as willing to give Christians a fair go as Islam and others receive here?

We should not be ungracious nor vindictive to other beliefs — neither should we be yoked with or choked by them. Let us not end up burying the Christ and the Cross under religious rhetoric or misguided 'goodwill'.

— R.N. Hawkins
(Maitland, N.S.W.)

REFERENDA

To the Editor,

Regarding the Referenda on September 3 concerning changes to the Australian Constitution has any statement on behalf of the Federal Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia

been made in reference to these referenda? If so, has it been published in "The Australian Christian"?

I believe this to be a very important issue, and the ramifications of a yes or no vote should be thoroughly understood by every Australian citizen.

I would very much appreciate an article in "The Australian Christian" informing readers of the issues involved, and so enabling us to vote responsibly at these referenda.

— B.D. Thomas
(Seaview Downs, S.A.)

(The Federal Conference Executive have not issued a statement on the referenda nor has "The Australian Christian" pub-

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

Why worry?

To the Editor,

I'm a great worrier. That's why I was taken with a quote in our church paper. It said, "You can't worry and worship at the same time." My immediate reaction was, "I can!"

I've worried in church hundreds of times. The fact that it is quiet and I am inactive has the worries crowding into my mind. I don't only worry about whether I locked the keys in the car, or left the lights on at home, but whether I will be made redundant or whether someone has taken something that I said the wrong way.

Then I realised that the quote didn't say, "You can't worry in church." It said that you can't worry and worship at the same time. And I was aware that when I was worrying in church I wasn't worshipping. So I couldn't wait until the next Sunday to see if I could worry and worship at one and the same time.

So the next Sunday I put my mind into worshipping for the whole hour . . . quite an achievement for me! And I never worried once. It was great.

Then I thought 'worry-less' Sundays are good, but how do I get on for the rest of the week? I remembered that we can worship at any time. So, when I find myself worrying, I begin worshipping and the worrying stops.

It's not that I think that worshipping means that God will fix up all the things I worry about. It's that the worship reminds me that God is there all the time, and whatever happens, somehow he'll get me through to the other side. And come to think of it, he always has!

—TERTIUS

lished any material yet on the issues involved. I am aware that some material regarding the referendum has been circulating among churches but none of this is an official Churches of Christ statement. In the next issue I will attempt to provide a **balanced view** on the four questions being asked. — Editor)

TRAVEL TO ISRAEL

To the Editor,

My COB mate Alan Matheson's letter ("A.C." March 26) invited answers, and I am pleased to respond.

1. "Why go at this time? Israel is in turmoil." Being in my 28th year of ministry, and not having taken long-service leave nor having been outside Australia, I was thankful for the opportunity to see the places about which I have often preached. During the 11 days we were in Israel we didn't hear a rifle shot.

2. "Who will be your guides?" Inner Faith Travel selected Richard Zureik, a free-lance Arab Christian guide. From the outset he informed us of the hardships Arabs were facing — schools closed for six months, etc. Richard frequently kept us up to date via Arab newspapers. Our driver was a fine Muslim Arab. Richard impressed me with his Christian concern — even for the Jewish soldiers hitching a ride with us to the war zone in Lebanon.

3. "Who will you meet?" Our tour was designed to show us as much of the country as possible in

a short time. We welcomed the opportunity to spend an hour enjoying Christian fellowship in Richard's parents' 'Crusader' house. They told of Richard's grandfather who had been a G.O. priest in the Nazareth village. We also had tea in a Bedouin tent and repaired their light system. Concerning the "boat ride on the Sea of Galilee" we shared with a group of US Jewish converts and will always remember our combined devotion and prayer on the Lake.

We praise God for an enriching pilgrimage.

— Ron Sansome
(Sunnybank, Qld.)

P.S. We were thrilled to see a 'Church of Christ' chapel in the village of Richard's parents. As a boy Richard went along occasionally.

(Edited to meet 200 word limit)

HOW WELL DO WE KNOW OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS?

To the Editor,

I think it is important that we know and understand a little more about the students that come through our Colleges.

These days many of them are married with children, and others come from other states. They must need not only financial help but certainly loving support. How much they must miss their extended families.

Now, maybe, lots of churches are supporting the students in all these ways but I wonder if it wouldn't be possible to get students to write a profile on themselves, their vision and their dreams, to be published in each issue.

In that way all of the readers

How Christian is Australia?

During a discussion I was involved in on Sunday the question arose as to how Christian Australia is? One of the participants was a former missionary and he commented that when Christians of the country he was working in came into contact with non-Christian Australians they suffered cultural shock. They had made an assumption that all Australians are Christians. The missionaries had never stated that but that was the impression they had gained.

According to all the polls that are taken an overwhelming majority of Australians express a belief in a deity. However once the questions become more specific then that majority becomes a minority. It would appear that somewhere in the range of 15-20% of Australians attend church on a given Sunday morning. Whilst this is a lower rate than in the halcyon days of the 1950s it means that there are more actual attenders than in that decade when church attendances peaked.

Because of the changing nature of Australian society we in the church cannot assume that people will listen to our voice at all. Although the assumption is made that our laws are based on Christian principles I would not like to push that thought too far. The difficulty that Christians have of living up to the standards of God is often expressed in Christian circles.

would get to know who is going through College, how they were led to make that decision, etc.

As it is now we don't know much about them (our future church leaders and teachers!). How can we begin to not only support them lovingly in prayer and thought but have any idea of what kind of ministry they are involved in?

— Pat Burch
(Ringwood, Vic.)

How then can we expect the rest of society to live up to these standards when they do not have the active power of God's Spirit helping them to meet those standards.

To create a truly Christian society we need to work at two levels. The first of these is on the small scale where we need to share the Christian faith with all Australians. We need to be active in the sharing of the Good News that Jesus Christ can change lives in our communities. We not only need to be telling the news but living it as well. So many of the people who sit in the pews are good people and yet they are really no different than many of their neighbours. Does the Christian faith really make that little difference?

The other area is on the large scale where the church needs to make its collective voice known about what it sees as the wrongs that are occurring in society. This will include our concerns about the direction that society is heading in and of the injustices that exist in society.

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NEW AT KENSINGTON

Ian Corlett's service each Sunday in July-August, in elderly citizens' accommodation, represents new outreach to residents. Breakfast for young adults at 6.30 on Wednesday is another expression of fellowship and outreach. Your fellowship can be through intercession and giving.

DEPARTMENT OF MISSION, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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CHRISTIANITY AND ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIA

In south-eastern Australia, by the second half of the 19th century, Aboriginal people knew they had been dispossessed of their land. They entered a period of despair and disillusionment for which they needed time and great strength of will to enable them to rise above it and survive.

Christian missions were often the only places which provided the safety and time for Aboriginal people to prepare for the new kind of battles that they would face in the 20th century. The second half of the 19th century was an era of great missionary personalities and long lasting, historically important missions. Part 3 of a paper just published by the Zadok Institute looks at that era and describes the life and achievements of two great missions. "Christianity and Aboriginal Australia: Part 3. Dispossession and Despair: The Missionary Response at the end of the 19th Century" is part of a series of papers being written by John Harris, Director of the Zadok Institute for Christianity and Society, during 1988. This paper, S37 and the previous two, S35 and S36, are available from the Zadok Institute, Blackall St, Barton, ACT 2600, for \$2 each plus 78c postage.

BOOKS

THE SECTARIAN STRAND Religion In Australian History

by Michael Hogan (Penguin Books) \$14.95.

As the information supplied with this book notes, apart from a few exceptions, historians and other observers of Australian history "merely nod casually at the role of religion in the development of modern Australia — and then proceed to explain its history, its politics, its inequalities, and its social structure as if religion were not important". Dr Michael Hogan seeks to correct this impression with his examination of Australian history in the context of the religious rivalry that has bedevilled Australia throughout its history.

This book gives some interesting insights into the way various policies and aspects of Australian life have developed, often as a compromise because of the religious rivalry. Much of the rivalry was of course that between Protestants and Catholics although the author does bring out some of the early conflicts between the Anglican and Nonconformist churches.

This history traces these influences from the time of the First Fleet through to the present day. He also seeks to explain some of the apparent secularism of Australian society.

The main emphasis in this study is on the major churches and on the main organisations on each side of the various divides. Interestingly Churches of Christ are not mentioned at all, the Baptist Church has only two references, both minor mentions, and this follows for other "minor" Protestant churches.

It is interesting to read of the developments of various political parties and the religious impact on these parties. Often it is written about in terms of Protestant/Catholic conflict.

An interesting addition to the spate of current literature on Australia's history.

— C.R.A.

HOW GOD HOODWINKED HITLER

by Hans Mol (Albatross) \$9.95

Hans Mol, a Dutchman, was arrested for operating a clandestine radio receiver, in December 1943, and released near the end of the war. If you have read accounts of imprisonments by the Germans during World War

Two you will find that this book tells a similar story. The horrors aren't so dramatically highlighted as in some accounts, but the reader is made aware of the mental and physical suffering of those held in a prison in Magdeburg, and others in the work camp to which the author was later transferred.

Mol's gradual discovery of the unique significance of the Christian faith, in the midst of misery, is recounted. He describes how the intervention of some other prisoners saved his life, which led him to the realisation "To need redemption is to be more human than to deny it". For him this was an important step towards becoming a Christian and he sees it as being so for those in the Western world where individualism is promoted as the ideal by which we judge ourselves.

The book shows, in a more subtle way than the title may seem to suggest, the way the reality of God was discovered through the experiences of the author and others. As Mol explains the title: "Hitler's rampaging, conquering might steamrolling over anguished souls and countries had disregarded God's still, small voice which worked away quietly."

Hans Mol has written over a dozen books, as a sociologist, including "The Faith of Australians", having lived in Australia for over 20 years before taking up a professorship in the sociology of religion at McMaster University in Canada.

—J.T.

UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE—DEEP LONGINGS FOR RELATIONSHIP

by Lawrence J. Crabb Jr
(Interbac—S. John Bacon Pty Ltd) \$7.95

When one considers the highly individual and, at times, eccentric people with whom each of us mix daily, this must rank as one of the most ambitious titles of 1988. The author's thesis is that the healing of relationships with God and others depends on the application of counselling techniques not just based on biblical principles, but derived directly from the Bible.

What might, in other hands, have developed as insensitive legalism is, in fact, a set of techniques which recognise the integrity of the individual, the need to face reality and to accept responsibility for our own behaviour—and aimed at the promotion of personal maturity.

Crabb defines maturity in terms of repentance, the yielding of self-protection, the abandonment of manipulative styles of relating to those around us and the acceptance of risky involvement with others. It is less related to perfection than to a growing awareness of our imperfection and dependence on God.

A valuable book for the Christian counsellor, a little difficult for the layman, but equally valuable to anyone who seeks to develop the potential for wholeness in lives and relationships which is possible through Jesus Christ.

—Graeme Addicott



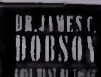
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GOD WHAT IT THING



King James



KIM BOYCE

Religious issues in the USSR

According to information reaching Keston College the number of religious prisoners in the USSR is continuing to drop. As of July 1, 1988, the number of known cases was 182, 107 of them Christians. A number of prisoners have completed their sentences, while others have been released early.

Baptist Nikolai Polshchuk, who was serving a four-year exile sentence, after completing four years in camp, had the remainder of his exile sentence cancelled in March.

Peter Siemens, leader of a German Baptist church in Kazakhstan, was freed early from labour camp in June. Other Baptists have had their sentences reduced.

Unconfirmed reports indicate that a number of Seventh Day Adventist prisoners have also been released ahead of schedule.

Believers may be encouraged by the positive tone of General Secretary Gorbachev's comments at the recent special Com-

munist Party Conference. He spoke of the "ultimate aim" of political reform as "the all-round enrichment of human rights and the enhancement of the social activism of the Soviet people". Moving away from the traditional Soviet interpretations he denied that human rights were "a gift from the state" and suggested that they were "an inalienable characteristic of socialism".

He went on to refer to the religious world view as an "unmaterialistic and unscientific one". However, he stated, "All believers, regardless of the religion they profess, are citizens of the USSR with full rights." He referred to the "draft Law on Freedom of Conscience" which is being prepared.

Gorbachev's speech, and subsequent events at the Conference, serve as a reminder of both the extent to which the political atmosphere has changed in recent years and the limitations of such change.

Londua Training School camp

—Kerry Schulz
Vanuatu

"What is your life?" was this year's theme for our school camp which was held in early July for three and a half days. The camp was held at school with the village students and staff all staying within the school.

Lyll Muller generously gave his time to lead the studies which were held each morning. These studies were very helpful to all the staff and students, and many seriously thought about their lives through these studies.

Shem Tema, who has just returned from Australia, gave inspiring messages at night.

Peter Schulz was Camp Director. Included in the program were studies, singing, swimming, games, video and concert. It was also a terrific opportunity for



everyone to spend time sharing and socialising.

20 students made commitments both first time and rededications. Two were baptised the same day they made their decisions. Please uphold these students in your prayers. We praise God for the way he is working in Vanuatu.

Evangelism in Greece

Vandals destroyed or stole more than \$15,000 worth of office equipment and supplies, including 12,000 evangelistic booklets and Bible correspondence lessons, when they broke into the Every Home for Christ (EHC) office in Athens, Greece, at the end of May.

EHC has experienced various forms of opposition since it began working with evangelical believers to systematically deliver gospel literature door-to-door in Greece in 1982. Usually that opposition amounts to minor incidents of verbal abuse. At other times resistance has been more intense. Several EHC teams have been forced away from villages by rock-throwing mobs.

The Greek Orthodox Church is the recognised state religion of Greece and enjoys special privileges and protection. Approximately 95% of the population are

members of the Orthodox Church. Evangelical Protestants, Pentecostals and members of various sects are regarded as heretics who oppose basic teachings of the Greek Orthodox Church. By law, all evangelistic literature that is distributed by EHC, or any other non-Orthodox group, must be clearly marked 'evangelical', a pejorative label that is synonymous with 'heretical' in the minds of most Greeks.

Since 1982 over 4,300 people have responded by mail to the EHC office in Athens requesting a free Bible study course that is offered by the ministry and/or indicating that they had accepted Christ as Saviour. The recent vandalism of the EHC office in Athens was disheartening, but the evangelistic activities of the ministry are continuing.

The Kenyan parliament suspended normal business recently to discuss and approve a motion condemning Anglican Bishop Alexander Muge. It accuses him of trying to destabilise the country, and calls upon other church leaders to disown him. Just before the parliamentary action the other two Angli-

can bishops then in the country, Henry Okullu and David Gitari, issued a joint statement expressing the 'full confidence' of the Church of the Province of Kenya in Muge. They said "The church is not aware of any offence which Bishop Muge has committed to deserve disciplinary action."

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On June 19 Baptists in Kiev marked the millennium of the baptism of the citizens of Kievan Rus with a large baptismal service in the river Dniepr, near the city, according to information forwarded by Keston College. 75 new members were baptised at the conclusion of a service held in the woods on the banks of the river, before a congregation reported to be as large as 10-13 thousand.

Third World debt is costing the poor their livelihoods, and their lives, according to an education kit published for One World Week by the Australian Council of Churches and Australian Catholic Relief. Recent UN figures show that the poor countries are providing 29 billion dollars annually for the rich countries. One World Week (August 7-14) is an annual program designed to help the Australian church community understand and respond to development issues confronting the world.

A 'PADRE seminar' (People for Alcohol and Drug Responsible Education) is planned for Ballarat, Vic., and District on November 24. Prominent experienced people will give information about alcohol and other drugs. Ministers and lay leaders will be especially catered for through facts, strategies and resources. Further information is available from the Victorian Temperance Alliance Inc., 9 Mason St, Dandenong. Phone (03) 794 9296.

Since 1982 a group of Nepalese Christians has been distributing gospel literature door-to-door and sharing their faith in Nepalese villages. Over 200,000 pieces of gospel literature have been distributed and more than 10,300 written responses have been recorded since Every Home for Christ activities began. Any Christian convicted of ac-

tively proselytising Hindus risks a 6-year prison term.

'Sunday Night Live with Gordon Moyes' has once again been confirmed in the latest industry surveys as the No. 1 talk show on Sydney radio, with the largest listening audience of any Sunday night talk program in Australia.

Eugene Antonio Marino became the first black Roman Catholic archbishop in the US on May 5. There are 12 black bishops in the US, 11 of whom serve as auxiliaries, or assistants, to the diocesan leadership.

On ABC Radio National Caroline Jones is presenting a series entitled 'The Search for Meaning'. The broadcasts can be heard on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9pm, with replays Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 9am. (Regionals on Thursday nights only).

ABC is presenting Music of Australia's Religious Ritual 'Rites of Passage'. This is a series presenting selections of ritual music for birth, life, death and renewal in religious observance, as well as major festivals associated with practices and beliefs of multicultural and multi-faith groups. There is a Listener's Guide Book available to accompany the radio programs. For information concerning the book, and dates of broadcast for the 20 programs, contact the ABC.

Iris Carter, who has served as a missionary with the South Sea Evangelical Mission for over 25 years, has been awarded the Solomon Islands Medal (Bronze), for her services for the people of that nation.

The "CYC-RAM '88" Team passed the halfway point of their ride this week when they passed through Derby,

WA. By then they had covered 7,672 km. The team includes riders from Austria, Norway, the Netherlands, the UK, USA, Canada and Australia. They are part of the Bible Society's 'Bike for Bibles' project. Their aim is to raise \$500,000 through tax-deductible donations and sponsorships, for the 'Aboriginal Support Program' and literacy development projects in Pacific countries.

After 18 months of consultation, SIM International and International Christian Fellowship have announced the merger of their missions, effective January 1, 1989. Under the name SIM International, the merger will add ICF ministries in Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Philippines, Indonesia and Senegal to those of SIM in Africa and South America.

The Chairman of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid, Rev. Neville Ross, has called for action to stop the Federal Government from relaxing the current strict guidelines applying to the export of military equipment. "The Australian Government has cut aid to the lowest level for 25 years and now proposes to join the senseless arms race as a way of earning export income," he says. Announced by the Defence Minister Mr Beazley in June, the recommendation seeks to pave the way for increased sales of Australian-made arms and military equipment.

Hundreds of political prisoners are believed to be held in Somali jails under continuous solitary confinement and unsanitary conditions, according to a special report released in Washington by two national human rights committees. The report urges the government of Major General Mohammed Siad Barre to end torture and maltreatment of political

prisoners. Somalia is one of the world's poorest countries, suffering from a lack of natural resources, severe economic problems, chronic drought and the presence of up to 1 million Ethiopian refugees.

Speaking at a workshop in Kenya on social justice and the church, Bishop Alexander Muge said most Africans were living below the poverty line because development was mainly benefiting multinationals and the few controlling the continent's resources. "The unity of Africa is threatened by increasing oppression of the marginalised classes and the entrenchment of tribalism," the Anglican prelate said. He called on the church to address itself to issues which threaten justice and peace.

Sir Garfield Todd will be attending World Convention in Auckland, New Zealand, in November this year. At the President's Reception opportunity will be taken to express the New Zealand churches' thanks for his 50 years leadership in the work in Zimbabwe.

The total Muslim population of Holland is estimated at 350,000 (mainly Turks and Moroccans), including between 2,000 and 3,000 Dutch converts to Islam. The presence of the Muslim minority in Holland has led to new laws being passed recently. One allows Muslims to announce the time for Friday prayers over loudspeakers. Muslims also were granted 13 hours of TV time and 50 hours on radio.

The SA Catholic Church has launched a major initiative to provide abortion counselling—although the church has always taught that abortion is wrong. The church has started a 24-hour telephone counselling service to help women

who are considering having an abortion or who are suffering from post-abortion grief and depression. The service is designed to show that the church cares about the issue. The telephone number is (08) 272 6811.

A man who broke a pastor's jaw because he disagreed with his sermon has been released with a 4-month suspended sentence. The man interjected at a sermon in an Adelaide Baptist church. He resisted attempts to evict him after he had refused to leave. He also pleaded guilty to having assaulted a congregation member. He said he did not want the congregation to be misled.

Lebanon's almost anarchical situation has been exploited by adding the problem of toxic waste dumping to the country's ills. A private Lebanese firm has taken advantage of the situation to make some money by helping an Italian company rid itself of its toxic chemicals by illegally dumping them in Lebanon. The cost of removing the waste, neutralising it and disposing of it in the Pacific Ocean has been estimated at \$6.2 million. It was feared the waste could seep into the Mediterranean Sea harming marine life.

The World Vision 40 Hour Famine has reached the \$3 million mark, well past halfway to its \$5.7 million target. Executive Director, Harold Henderson, asked all sponsors and participants to get their money in as quickly as possible. "The sooner the funds come in, the sooner we can remit them to the areas of need in the 80 countries in which World Vision works."

COME TO FEDERAL CONFERENCE CANBERRA JANUARY 1989

Into Africa

The Australian Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board is thrilled to announce the formation of a new partnership in mission agreement. It is between Churches of Christ in New Zealand, Zimbabwe and Australia.

The next step is for the appointment of a biblical studies teacher/chaplain to the **Dadaya High School**. This 800-student boarding school is located 435km from Harare, the capital city of Zimbabwe. Prior to independence in 1980 this country was known as Southern Rhodesia.

Now for the background to this new venture of faith. For many years there has been a non-formal partnership between Churches of Christ in Australia, New Zealand and Vanuatu. Missionary personnel and work teams from New Zealand have encouraged and strengthened the churches in Vanuatu for over 25 years. Now the time has come for greater trans-Tasman co-operation.

For over two years correspondence has flowed between the Adelaide Overseas Mission Board office and Mrs Pat Todd, the secretary of the Section on Overseas Mission of Churches of Christ in New Zealand. In 1987 George Mathieson visited the Section members in Nelson, New Zealand. Then in May/June he visited Zimbabwe to determine the response of church leaders amongst Churches of Christ in Zimbabwe to this tri-partite proposal. **Hugh Scott** (a former

missionary in Zimbabwe) attended the last two annual meetings of the Overseas Mission Board as the representative from New Zealand. All partners have enthusiastically endorsed the proposal and a new venture is opening up in the great continent of Africa.

The New Zealand churches have done a magnificent job in their pioneering efforts to establish the church in what was then Southern Rhodesia. In 1898 John Sherriff and his family moved into the country on horse-drawn wagons. Other missionaries followed. Churches and schools were established. Dadaya became the base for the work.

Today in the Runde communal lands area there are 36 Churches of Christ with two trained African ministers to assist the church in its ministry. Some of the leaders in political, economic and community life would give thanks for the part which the teaching of the Christian faith and the academic training they have received through Churches of Christ, has played in their lives.

In 1934 a missionary couple left New Zealand for Zimbabwe. After 13 years in mission work **Garfield Todd** was elected to parliament. Many will recall the difficulties which the Todd's experienced prior to independence in 1980, when Garfield was placed under house arrest for five years at his Hokonlu ranch in



Dadaya. The difficulties and triumphs of those years have earned Sir Garfield and Lady Grace the trust and friendship of thousands of black Zimbabweans.

One of the ways in which the Todds ministry continues today is through the Vukuzenzele community project. Around 36 houses have been built on part of the ranch. Some of the people injured during the disastrous war leading to independence are being rehabilitated. For those attending World Convention in Auckland it is hoped that you will be able to meet Sir Garfield personally.

As the work of Churches of Christ expanded in Zimbabwe, financial stringency and other pressures on personnel made it necessary to relinquish some of the areas where churches had been established. Numbers of North American missionaries from the Christian Church (Independent) are serving in the areas pioneered by New Zealand. The hospital at Mashoko is but one illustration. After a two-year wait for visas, Ross and Dawn Heyward of New Zealand performed an excellent ministry from

this location in the mid-1980s.

Last year **Graham and Marion Whaley** of New Zealand did an excellent job in a teaching/chaplaincy role at Dadaya High School. They have now moved on to a position with the Methodist church in Zimbabwe. This vacancy now opens up the possibility for an Australian or New Zealand couple with the appropriate theological qualifications (and visas permitting) to enter into an exciting ministry at Dadaya High School.

Already Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA) has been assisting in Zimbabwe. Students who have financial problems have been assisted, and money for food relief for those affected by drought has been provided. This newly proposed appointment will also be assisted by COCOA.

Mission is not an optional extra. It is inherent in the gospel itself. Will you pray that God's Spirit may continue to guide and direct each of the partners in this venture? What possibilities may yet open to us as we participate in Christ's mission to the world?



Hugh Scott and Thornley Thomas



Obituaries limited to 100 words.

DICKINS, Phoebe Gertrude

(30.5.88) Phoebe was born in Geelong, Vic, 1898. In 1917 she married Stan Kirby; their children were: Ron, Maurice, Betty (dec.), Russell and Harvey (dec.). Also in 1917 she was baptised at LaTrobe Tce church, becoming involved in Christian service in the church and at home, tending many sick relations. Her active and cheerful witness continued despite her own unreliable health. After Stan's death in 1962 Phoebe lived in Melbourne with Betty and Ray (Drayton) for 20 years, later returning to Geelong. The Terrace was filled to honour her memory. We sang hymns she had chosen to express her faith in Christ.

—Noel Mitaxa

MALTHOUSE, Phyllis Ella

(11.7.88). Phyllis Malthouse died on July 11 at her home. Phyllis was born in Geelong, Vic., and, as a child, attended the LaTrobe Terrace church where she was later baptised and received into membership. In 1928 Phyllis married John Thomas Malthouse. There were five children to the marriage and, at the time of her death, there were over 20 grandchildren and more than 10 great grandchildren. Phyllis joined the Belmont church where Ron Watt is the only remaining brother.

—Bob Clymer

PADEY, Ernest Percival

(22.7.88). The first of 11 children, Percy was born in Fitzroy, Vic., in 1903. Later, in visiting Castlemaine, he met a charming Christian gentlewoman, Verna Hall, at the Church of Christ. They were married by H.M. Clipstone in the church in September 1926. They lived in Caulfield and Percy entered membership of the Bamba Rd. church after accepting Christ at an E.C. Hinrichsen mission. He was elected a deacon and served as treasurer for 20 years, and as a welcome officer. He was a builder and was a leader in the erection of the Bamba Rd. chapel, which was built in a day, and the Tootgarook chapel. After Verna's death in 1974 Percy transferred to Ormond. Consistency, faithful Christian witness, and practical adherence to Christian principles and standards marked Percy's life. Failing health necessitated admittance to the Fred Combridge Nursing Home, Northcote. A large congregation expressed love and sympathy to Percy's sons, Reginald and Colin, and their loved ones.

—W.W. Saunders

RISSON, Horace Mervyn

(6.7.88) Born in 1916, Horace later committed his life to Christ at East Ipswich, Qld. He was a schoolteacher and principal, and served with the army in WWII. In 1942 he married Noel Hage. Their children, Karin, Adrian, Geoffrey and Roger all served in ministry. Horace was deacon and elder at East Ipswich and Ann St, and Qld Conference President in

1971. While visiting family in Sweden he suffered an aneurism. For the past six years Horace and Noel lived at GARV, Southport. At the funeral service at Southport the theme of the '71 conference 'Be Ready' was used. Horace was a Christian gentleman.

—L.G.A.

VIC

BELMONT (Bob Clymer).

Board met recently for a study day to formulate program to be presented to church for coming year ... Three study groups functioning including one for youth led by Lawrie & Ruth Barker ... Church midweek teas have proved very successful under guidance of Helen Warmbrunn. 60 attended last one at which wedding photos & gowns plus baby photos taxed the mind as we tried to sort out who belonged to whom ... Church saddened by death of Phyllis Malthouse.

The 20th anniversary of the birth of liberation theology as a consciously distinctive approach was celebrated in New York with honours for Gustavo Gutierrez, the Roman Catholic priest widely considered the movement's chief pioneer, and still its primary exponent. Many people have been enthusiastic about the way Gutierrez, and others working along similar lines, express a Christian rationale for political action to overcome the oppression of the poor. Critics accuse these theologians of subordinating Christian faith to Marxism.

The Executive Committee of the Lutheran World Federation, at its annual meeting in Ethiopia in June, considered such issues as the human consequences of the global debt crisis, Palestinian-Israeli issues and the response of the church to AIDS.

PEOPLE OF THE LIE

The Hope for Healing Human Evil.

by M. Scott Peck

(Touchstone Book - Simon & Schuster) \$15.70.

Dr Peck is a practicing psychiatrist who has come to a Christian faith after commencing in practice as a psychiatrist. In a previous book he sought to integrate the insights of psychiatry with religious belief. In this book he looks very closely at the essence of human evil. Dr Peck regards those who are evil as "People of the Lie" who attack others around them rather than facing up to their own failures. Through the use of case studies from his own practice Dr Peck shows how these people wreck havoc in the lives of those around them especially their families. Reading some of the case studies one becomes depressed at the extent that evil in people causes suffering and pain. This is not an easy book to read and would not be of great interest to many of our readers, yet it does tackle a problem that many would refuse to believe exists. I am still not sure of the way that Christian faith impacts on solving this problem of evil exhibited in people in this book. Dr Peck certainly raises the question of exorcism and the use of a "methodology of love" to help combat this problem. An unusual book that covers a very special area which should be read by those with an interest in this area.

—C.R.A.

TRAGEDY TURNED TO TRIUMPH

by Ray Wilson (self-published) \$6.50 plus \$1.50

postage

The setting of this true story is familiar territory for me, geographically, time-wise and, to some extent, in the sphere of Christian service. The account of Miriam's sudden illness and threatened separation from her young baby will strike a chord in most readers' hearts. However, both Miriam and Ray Wilson had learnt in their youth that they could turn to the word of God for guidance at all times, and throughout this book we see how the continuance of this practice literally kept them from being frightened. In spite of—or because of—Miriam's physical limitations, sharing the faith was possible, as told in many short accounts within this story.

I was glad of the sections written by daughter Rosemary. These give a slightly different perspective to husband Ray's story and confirm the aptness of the title. A helpful book to read and to share with others.

Available from Ray Wilson, Unit 45, 17 Jolimont Rd, Forest Hill 3131, (cheques payable to "Miriam Wilson Publishing Fund").

—Nancy Garth

Bible courier work will continue in China despite a new Chinese law which means couriers run a far greater risk of prosecution or even imprisonment says the New Zealand director of Open Doors with Brother Andrew. The new law makes liable for prosecution anyone who either mails or carries any printed matter across the border without making a clear declaration of its content.

While religious belief among Americans is strong and growing stronger, US churches in the 1980s have made no progress in bringing believers into the organised church community, according to a new study by the Gallup Poll organisation. The study revealed that 44%, about 78 million Americans, remain outside the church, compared with 41% a decade ago.

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Construction commenced on Occasional Care Centre

Malcolm Chandler, the Senior Director of Child Care for the Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Services Department, has announced that construction has commenced on the Occasional Child Care Centre at Centenary.

This centre is being built with funding from the Department of Community Services and Health, Office of Child Care.

The centre will help to meet a growing need in this suburb of Brisbane. It will cost \$242,000.

The project was developed after an analysis of the needs in the area showed that there was a high need for an Occasional Child Care Centre. An occasional care centre is for parents at home who need to undertake shopping, doctors' appointments, sporting and other pursuits.

Sunraysia Convention

Peter and Pearl Sumner—with Luther, Peter's guide dog—from Christian Blind Mission International, were guests for the Sunraysia Churches of Christ Convention weekend of June 24-26. The churches at Mildura, Red Cliffs and Dareton comprise the Sunraysia district.

The Friday evening at Red Cliffs included a business session. The Saturday and Sunday evening

sessions were at Mildura. 240 attended each night. A catered tea was provided for over 200 on the Saturday evening.

Peter gave challenging messages and Pearl delighted all with her singing. Items were also presented by Kaleidoscope singing group and the Barbershop Quartette.

The offering of \$670 was given to Peter for his work.

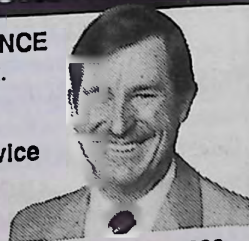
—Betty Keatch

Hostility towards Christians in Egypt appears to be mounting as reports of torture, terrorism, murder and the burning of churches escalate. The police and government officials refuse to intervene as Muslim Fundamentalists carry out repeated acts of terrorism and intimidation against Coptic Christians.

Seven in ten adults in the US say they are members of a church or synagogue, according to a 1987 study recently released by the Gallup organisation. This 69% figure is down from the all-time high of 76% in 1947.

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Focus on Castlemaine

Those attending church on a Sunday morning at the Castlemaine, Vic., Church of Christ can choose between a teaching service and a communion service or, preferably, attend both.

The teaching service begins at 9.45. After a message lasting between 30 and 45 minutes the congregation divides into groups to discuss questions displayed on the overhead projector. Morning tea is provided before the communion service which begins at 11.15. The idea of two distinct services, or parts of a service, is to encourage the congregation to give equal place in their worship to Word and sacrament.

Between 40 and 70 attend Bible school, which is held at the same time as the teaching service.

A good number of those who attend in the morning return for the 7pm service, along with some who only come in the evening. This service aims to present an inspirational gospel challenge, and concludes with communion.

There are about 130 members at Castlemaine. The average age of the congregation is 30-45 years. There are a number of young families and a lot of children in the church.

An interesting adjunct to the life of the church is the Christian School which is based at Campbell's Creek. The school is interdenominational, with 60 students from Maldon and Castlemaine, and it is staffed entirely by Churches of Christ personnel at present.

George Moran, an Independent Baptist, was one of the founders of the school, seeking an antithesis to humanist doctrine. It met initially at his place, later at the Maldon Council Chambers, and is now based in a former Methodist church. He is no longer directly involved, but the school continues. Academic results have been pleasing.

Peter Haylock is the minister at Castlemaine and has been for the past 11 years. Before that he had been working with the Bible Society. His wife, Marilyn, teaches at the Christian School. She also takes a Bible school class and two KYB classes.

There are several study groups held during the week, as well as girls' club, CWF and a youth group led by Terry & Kathy Evans. Once a month a special, evening service is held, taken by groups such as the youth or CWF.

The church's Pastoral Care teams undertake visitation to homes and hospitals. Grace Turney and Mavis Jones head up the hospital visitation work.

As a member of the Ministers' Fraternal Peter Haylock does some radio work. Graeme Furlong and his son Andrew are two of those involved in a weekly radio broadcast entitled Sunday Magazine.

Another important area of outreach in which the church is involved is the Solid Rock Foundation. Paul and Rita Pletsch coordinate the work of the various committees connected with this foundation which is aimed at the young people of Castlemaine, particularly those with drug problems. Drugs contributed to the death of one of the young people in the church. This caused people to consider practical ways of working with youth. The program concentrates on outreach, information and entertainment. Street drama is one of the methods used in an attempt to convey their message.

The Castlemaine church, established 130 years ago, is in the process of relocating. They would like to develop their role as a Christian community in the town, caring about the education and ongoing welfare of the young, as well as the spiritual needs of the Castlemaine community as a whole.

PLEASE ADVISE ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS

BIRTHS

McCLOUD (WALLER) Brenda, Philip & Courtney are thrilled to announce the birth of their beautiful son and brother, Timothy Edward, on Sunday 24 July 1988.

RUBY WEDDINGS

MITCHELL — SLATER Peter and Helen are happy to announce the Anniversary of their marriage August 14th 1948 by the late Rev. Roy McLelland at the Presbyterian Church Derrinallum. Thanks be to God for these years.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

MIDDLEMASS Roy and Grace, of 30 Porter Street, Redcliffe, Qld., thank God for the privilege of

BARMERA, S.A.

Church Anniversary

4 September 1988

9.30am

Speaker: **Roger Brown**
(past minister, 1966-1970)

Barbecue lunch to follow
Past members and visitors
especially invited to attend

"Sharing and Walking together" for 50 years. Married 28-8-38 Church of Christ, Falcon Street, North Sydney, N.S.W., by the late Ira Patemoster. "In Everything give Thanks".

DEATHS

FINGER (Collyer), Ruth Ellen. Dearly loved daughter of Max and Nell. Loved sister of Bryan, John and Julie, sister-in-law of Denise and Robert. She loved all beautiful things and leaves beautiful memories.

ROBOTTOM, Stuart Roydon (Joe). On July 20, at home, 26 Hillcrest Rd., Angelsea, loved and loving husband of Muriel, loving father of Jan, Karen, Ian and Helen. Loved Papa of Mark, Lisa, Cara, Megan, Jacqui, James, Emma, Stuart, Cameron and Andrea. Respected and loved father-in-law and friend of Evelyn, John, Tim and Lyle.

IN MEMORIAM

LAUNDER, Graham. Loving son of Dorothy and Arthur, dear brother of Malcolm and Joy. Passed to his Lord on August 6, 1957. Cherishing his remembrance . . . until the day dawns!

RECOMMEND

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An invitation to the
50th
ANNIVERSARY
of the
PENDLE HILL
CHURCH OF
CHRIST
on 30th October 1988
Worship: 10.00am
Lunch: 12 noon
Preacher: Dr K. Farmer
Wentworthville
Community Centre
Dunmore St,
Wentworthville.
Inquiries -
Phone (02) 635 7618

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.

An invitation to the

125th ANNIVERSARY of the DONCASTER CHURCH OF CHRIST

11th September, 1988

Worship: 10.00am Lunch: 12.30pm

Evening service: 7.00pm

Preacher at both services: **Dr Keith Farmer**

RSVP 21.8.1988

Phone (03) 848 8636

VICTORIAN BOYS' CHOIR VISITS

CHELTENHAM

The Cheltenham Church of Christ
will present in concert

The Victorian Boys' Choir
on Sunday August 21st

at 2.30pm in the Auditorium, Pine Street, Cheltenham. FORTY-THREE boys make up this delightful and well-known choir, and it is under the direction of Mr Paul Forster.

It is the choir's first visit to Cheltenham and the Associate Artiste will be **Dianne Briffa**—soprano from the Victorian State Opera Company. Music presented at this concert will be light classical and popular well-known songs. Proceeds will aid "Very Special Kids"—a support group for children with life-threatening diseases, and the College of the Bible building program.

Tickets available from Church Office—Phone (03) 584 8499

Adults \$8.00

Children/Pensioners \$6.00

Please come and enjoy this fine entertainment.



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(Youth Dimension)

Guest Artists: **BARBERSHOP QUARTETTE
ABOUT FACE**

SCENE 2

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433 CAMBERWELL ROAD

CAMBERWELL 3124

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Nepalese pastor Nicanor Tamang, arrested in November 1987, has finally left Nepal. He is living in Nehra Dun, a city on the India/Nepal border, and is establishing the first church among the hundreds of thousands of Nepalese living there.

Christians in the Solomon Islands are experiencing revitalised spiritual life, with local congregations meeting at 4 am three days a week to pray, reports of visions, miracles and healings, financial giving doubled and 'rascal' (gang) activities decreasing sharply.

It has been reported that many Chinese churches have split over whether or not to join the Three Self Patriotic Movement (the official Chinese Protestant church).

Greece's General Secretary for Ministry and Religion has appointed a 10 member panel to investigate complaints of discrimination lodged by minority religious groups. The groups want dictatorial 1930s laws favouring the Greek Orthodox Church repealed.

50 evangelical denominations in El Salvador have agreed to strategies aimed at producing a 12% annual growth rate in local churches until the turn of the century. In recent years growth rates have been as high as 20% as people in the strife torn country have turned to God to cope with the pressures of economic and political turmoil.

In the US Sunday School enrollments have declined from 40 million 16 years ago to 26 million

today, a decline of 34% according to Win Arn.

Melbourne's God Squad was invited to present a display at the Custom show run by the Harley Davidson Owners Club in Melbourne in April. They took out the trophy for the best stand. The prize? A dozen bottles of Jack Daniels Whisky.

The 1989 Lausanne Congress for World Evangelisation, to be held in Singapore, has taken for its theme: 'On to 2000 AD - Reaching the Unreached'.

The United Nations Disaster Response Organisation reported 12 July that flash flooding has seriously affected 7 districts in Bangladesh. Reports indicate that 6.5 million are affected by the floods. 67 are reported dead and 120,000ha of standing crops damaged.

3 Sudan Interior Mission related Challenge cine-vans helped to establish 9 churches during the first 5 months of 1988 in southern Ghana. They also helped churches in 2 areas begin an outreach to their neighbours. Each of the 3 vans has a crew of two evangelist operators. The vans showed films a total of 318 times to audiences which averaged over 5,000 per night during the same 5 months.

A Boston, USA, couple have pleaded not guilty to manslaughter charges after being indicted by a grand jury for the 1986 death of their 2 year-old son who died from a bowel obstruction while under the care of a Christian Science practitioner. Six other similar cases are currently in court in the US.

Grace Episcopal Cathedral in Kansas has barred a 9 year-old from attending services there. The church obtained a restraining order against the boy and his mother on the grounds that the boy disrupted church services and his mother refused to control him. The boy had pulled the fire alarm, made loud noises, thrown objects and destroyed property over a period of 7 months. The mother said her son had emotional problems and that church services have improved his behaviour.

RECOMMEND
THE
CHRISTIAN

MINISTERS WORKSHOP

Effective Ministers

The following are random observations on some of the effective ministers I have met in the course of my work.

+ **They stick with the basics.** They treat the Great Commission seriously. Some have integrated outreach visitation into their program. Because they believe that churches that aren't growing are dying, they teach their members how to make Christ their Lord, how to understand the Bible, how to pray, how to witness and how to demonstrate caring love to those in need.

+ **What they do, they do well.** They seem to be always striving for better music, quality worship, sharper sermons, better letter-headers, improved church papers and good relationships within the church. Excellence doesn't only belong to the business sector or the media. Work for the King of Kings also demands the best.

+ **They budget for outreach.** Some churches who think they believe in outreach never budget for advertising, publicity brochures, or for any kind of evangelism. If they do grow it is more by accident than by design. For a church to budget money for evangelistic outreach is to treat it as a priority. Effective ministers seem to understand this.

+ **They know their district.** Approaches to worship, education and evangelism will differ from one church to another. Successful executives will need a different approach to that needed for the youth of a high unemployment district. Talking with effective ministers I've noticed they have a 'feel' for their particular region and work on how best to minister in that environment.

+ **They are usually pace-setters.** They maintain a strong personal devotional life. They read the Scriptures for personal growth as

well as for sermons. They believe spiritual power comes from an authentic relationship with God, and so work on that relationship. Some win people to Christ and follow up new Christians and, while doing it, train others by having them with them 'on the job'.

+ **They evidence commitment.** They seem prepared to put everything they've got into their ministry. They come across as authentic people, but with the touch of God in their lives. Their faith inspires others. Churches seem prepared to follow the lead of ministers who show clear commitment to Christ and his church and appear to know where they are heading. I've noticed, too, that effective ministers can usually spell out clearly their own personal goals and their vision for their church.

+ **They manage their time.** Most effective ministers are good time managers. They read books and listen to tapes. They attend courses to develop their skills in leadership and motivation. They apply what they learn. Everyone has 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Effective ministers have learned to use it wisely and therefore achieve more.

+ **They treat their family as a priority.** Their partners enjoy prime place in their time, planning and interests. Their children don't feel neglected. They plan family nights and activities on a regular basis. Success is not having a growing church at the expense of a disintegrating marriage and family, so they work at maintaining strong family relationships.

— Brian White

Edited by Brian White, Field Director of the Vic.-Tas. Department of Mission, Education and Development and the Federal Board of Christian Education



Prison Seminar

—Barry Goode



Four men and three women gathered in the reception room of the office of Good News Inc., SA. This was the day we'd waited many weeks for. In one hour's time we would be entering the barred, concrete environment of the Yatala Labour Prison to conduct a Christian seminar that would run for four successive afternoons.

Several of our group had never been inside a prison before. Mixed with the uncertainty of what the day would hold was the realisation that they would be helping bring encouragement and the opportunity for salvation to "whosoever will come", and would fulfil the command of Jesus to visit those in prison.

Ray Kidney, the Director of OARS (Offenders Aid and Re-

habilitation Society), who sponsored the seminar, opened in prayer and asked that the Lord would go before us. All of us knew that without the love of Jesus we would have no desire to enter such a place.

We were fortunate that a very helpful Programming Officer named Graham was assigned to look after us for the next four days.

After each receiving an ID card we were taken through a metal detector before making our way into the restricted area of the prison. As we walked leisurely across the gaol courtyard to the new chapel we were able to view the open space where A Division had stood before being burnt down a few years ago.

We entered the chapel and stood soberly observing, through the barred windows, the spiralling

rolls of razor-sharp wire placed threateningly atop the stone walls, some 30 metres away. The full force of the uniqueness and importance of our mission hit us. We would go home that day, but the prisoners, one of whom had been given a 30-year sentence, may serve decades before release comes.

Our aim was to build up, encourage and help strengthen these men so that they would be better prepared for the task of living out their faith in a hostile environment. In fact, we were also strengthened, encouraged, built up and given a greater understanding of our Saviour. Through the lives and faith of these men we realised that persecution and imprisonment had given them a depth and hunger for God and his Word that we would do well to copy.

Although the prisoners present averaged only seven or eight per day, plus an equal amount of visitors, the seminar was to leave an impression on everyone present.

As seminar leader I chose the topic "The Bible—What is it?". We weren't long into the seminar before two men approached the microphone. Tom told how, while praying on his knees, the Lord had given him a song. Together we sang the God-given rendition. When the song concluded Trevor told his testimony. He had borrowed funds as a land-broker and soon found that his intention to pay back the more

than one million dollars involved was never going to be realised. He went on to say how, during the traumatic times that followed, between the confession of his wrong and his imprisonment, he was introduced to the Saviour.

Tom told how he had committed murder and had been at the point of suicide when he walked into a church with a deep burden of guilt. He emerged a couple of hours later with a deep peace, which was still with him.

Still another prisoner testified to having mainlined on heroin and having used needles with eight other people who have now got AIDS, without contracting it himself. He was so encouraged by the fellowship and seminar that it was as if he'd been converted all over again.

At the conclusion of our time together handshakes and hugs demonstrated the deep bond of fellowship that had developed during this time for, after all, weren't we all just sinners, saved by grace? "If we had these seminars every day we wouldn't want to go home!" joked Steve, the longest serving prisoner present.

Six denominations (including Churches of Christ) were represented in our visiting team, but the only 'tag' that showed was "Belonging to Christ". The experience would be one that we would never forget.

Perhaps it may be possible on future occasions for others to come in with us too. Whether this is possible or not, remember, when we go into prison you go with us through your prayer and practical support. "I was in prison and you visited me" (Matt 25:34-40).

Anglican, Roman Catholic and Uniting Church leaders in Canberra are strongly opposing a government plan to build a \$400 million complex in the city centre, with a casino as its focus. The city does not have a local government, and the federal government has said it will go ahead despite the church and other protests.

The South African government banned several activities planned to mark the 70th birthday of jailed black South African leader Nelson Mandela. The conference of Roman Catholic bishops in southern Africa condemned the government's action, calling it a "continuation of the erosion of human rights in our country". WCC General Secretary Emilio Castro sent a

tribute to Mandela for his dedication to the cause of liberation of South Africa, calling his continued imprisonment "proof of the policy of repression of the South African government".

General Secretary Frank Chikane of the South African Council of Churches has sharply criticised Israeli policy towards Palestinians in the occupied territories, and towards a white minority dominated government which rules South Africa. He voiced strong concerns about "economic and military collaboration of Israel with the apartheid regime in South Africa". He said such Israeli-South African co-operation has created a situation in which "the black majority in South Africa regards Israel as an enemy country."

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Kum Ba Yah



Robnson Hall at Kum Ba Yah

If looking for a great place to have a church camp in Western Australia or for motel type accommodation when visiting Western Australia, readers should consider using Kum Ba Yah.

The Kum Ba Yah Christian Conference and Recreation Centre came into being in August 1977. Up until that time the site was known as the J. Rhodes Camp Site at Watermans Bay, Western Australia. Merle Peacock had a vision for the camp site that, at the time, needed redevelopment. She was given a 25 year lease on the property and set about having the site very tastefully developed.

The facilities include seven comfortable motel-style units (five are four bed suites, one a two bed unit and the other an eight bed family unit), four dormitory type rooms, each with their own shower, toilet and washbasins. The total that can be accommodated at Kum Ba Yah is 62. As well there is an excellent hall which contains a communal kitchen, for larger camps, with a good dining area and an area suitable for meetings or use as a lounge. This building was named Robnson Hall last year in honour of J.K. Robnson, one of Western Australia's well-known ministers, and his parents, Mr & Mrs J.W.B. Robnson.

The small site has been well used in siting the buildings and the area is a reasonable distance from the city centre of Perth, which is accessible by public transport. The other advantage of Kum Ba Yah is its closeness to the Indian

Ocean, only 200 metres.

Many churches and church groups use Kum Ba Yah as a conference centre. This may be for Board Retreats, planning conferences, youth group camps or church camps. One interesting camp held regularly is run by an Anglican church—several of the church men invite church contacts to join them for a relaxing weekend. Some go fishing, others just relax around camp and through this time build friendships with new contacts. The same church also organises a women's weekend along the same lines.

Several groups conduct marriage enrichment weekends and singles camps have been held. Country schools also use Kum Ba Yah as a camp site when they have children come to the city on a learning experience.

Because of the good rates for hire the motel units are particularly popular during the week by people from interstate who are touring in Western Australia.

The Manageress, Merle Peacock, who is also the W.A. "Australian Christian" Board member, can be contacted C/-12-14 Lennard St., Marmion 6020 or by phoning (09) 447 1500 (home) or 328 1811 (Kum Ba Yah office).

A leading Soviet legal expert says that the Soviet Union is actively considering revising laws which call for criminal prosecution of those who refuse to perform military service on religious grounds.

Protestants in Mexico

El Universal, a prominent Mexico City newspaper, has quoted a Roman Catholic priest who says he believes Protestant 'sects' in Mexico should be compared to the AIDS disease because 'AIDS destroys the defences of an organism against illness; thus the ignorance of the faithful in regard to the doctrine of God leaves them exposed to the attacks of any of the sects.'

The newspaper ran a four-day series on Protestant groups. Among claims made were that 'the sects are extensions of US imperialism' and their actions 'respond to multinational interests'.

Statistics given surprised many Mexican evangelicals. One state, Tabasco, according to El Universal, has a Protestant population of more than 23% and the state of Chiapas between 11% and 30%. What is surprising is that official statistics have never placed Mexico's Protestant population higher than 3.7%.

The newspaper reserved its most scathing attacks for Mexico's Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL—known in Australia as Wycliffe Bible Translators), which is a special object of Catholic opposition in Mexico. The report stated that a Catholic priest had pointed out 'government officials were unable to see the damage SIL was causing in Indian communities, since they not only infused new ideas but also, little by little, modified their customs and lifestyles until they finished up the

Indian cultures.'

The Catholic Archbishop of Oaxaca, Bartolome Carrasco Briseno, asserted in the article that 'Protestant sects and SIL specifically act as organisms that foment the planting and trafficking of drugs'.

Mexican evangelicals counter that if the accusations against them were based on any kind of facts, legal authorities would have pursued them long ago. '...it is distressing to be falsely accused repeatedly by a church which claims to follow Christ,' stated Juan Isals, vice-president of the Mexican Evangelical Fraternity.

The true victims are the Indian believers. 51 families accused of being 'followers of SIL' were recently expelled for opposing the leadership of their community and their homes and harvests were burned down 'by a multitude'. Accounts of persecution in other areas have also been reported.

—From the news magazine of Concerned Christian Growth Ministries.

Frankston Church of Christ CHRISTIAN YOUTH HOUSE SENIOR TENANTS

Rent-free accommodation is offered for persons willing to act as senior tenants to manage the daily running of a project which provides accommodation with up to three homeless teenagers in Frankston, Vic.

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On being a preacher's kid

This is for all the preacher's kids—all others need not read any further, unless they wish to.

Rules for PKs

1. You must be on your best behaviour at all times. You are being watched, at church, at school, at work. Don't put a foot out of place, it reflects on the preacher.
2. You must attend all church functions and be good at everything. You cannot expect other people to attend church functions if you don't. If you belong to the preacher, you have his/her attributes also.
3. You must be at the right places, especially on Sunday.
4. You must meet everyone. You will be introduced to everyone, so don't run away, even if you feel like it.

5. You mustn't blab. Whatever you hear, in the manse or out, don't pass it on.

6. You can answer the phone sometimes—not others—it's hard to know which phone call is which.

7. You can tidy your father's desk, but don't look at anything.

I can hear all the preacher's kids saying, "Ah! Someone understands." But, in hindsight, it wasn't too bad. In fact, it was like spinach, not too appetising, but good for you! You learn the right sort of values, to be understanding of others and to be self-disciplined. Preacher's kids usually come from a very loving environment.

—Beth Butler

The Pharisee

I thank you God that I am not
Like other men today,
I go to church on Sundays,
While they go their own way.

I put my money in the plate,
Have done so all these years;
That other lot are down the pub
And spend their cash on beers!

Their habits just disgust me,
Their sins are plain to see;
Your church on earth would not go on
Save for the likes of me.

I read the Bible and I pray,
I shun the sins of men.
That other lot outside your church,
You won't find me with them.

My sincerity you know about,
Though I'm not one to boast.
I think on balance you'll agree
My life is better than most.

These kind of folk we can do without,
For them you need not search;
The last thing they deserve to be
Is members of your church.

My son, I've listened to your prayer
And watched the way you live.
You leave me with a problem,
You've got nothing to forgive!

Search in your heart for the sin of pride
And you'll not look in vain;
And when you need forgiveness, son,
Please pray to me again.

—N.G. Aubrey

Video pornography

At a meeting of Commonwealth and State Ministers responsible for censorship, on June 30, the State Ministers decided unanimously that the X classification of video pornography should be discontinued and that no new NVE (non-violent erotica) category be introduced. The Federal Attorney-General agreed to report this view to the Commonwealth Government and said it would be up to Caucus (the Parliamentary Labour Party) to decide. This could take place as early as mid-August.

In the meantime, the Canberra-based mail order 'Mature Media Group' have launched a massive campaign. As well they will attempt to flood the country with additional imported material from the United States where, it is alleged, the pornographic production companies are substantially in the hands of organised crime.

X-rated videos do not contain scenes of physical violence. They do contain explicit non-violent sex acts of all kinds. The bulk of X-rated videos treat women as sexual commodities to arouse the desires of the target audience and reduce persons to objects of sexual pleasure.

The overwhelming burden of evidence shows that this type of video engenders a sexually caloused and manipulative orientation towards women. It mediates, in the mind of the habitual viewer, a perception of women in general as being highly promiscuous and available.

These videos have an adverse affect on children and exist within the home video entertainment market. Barbara Biggins of the Australian Council for Children's Films and TV cited this as a form of child abuse.

Members of Parliament and Senators should be asked to support the Joint Select Committee's recommendations that because these "are matters of major public policy it is more appropriate that they be dealt with by substantive legislation" In other words, they should be asked to support the introduction of a Bill into Federal Parliament to ban X-rated videos and their R equivalents, as recommended by the Joint Select Committee Majority.

—Australian Church Women

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ston, Tas. •Jim D'Enyar, Carolyn Shields, Nola Stone, Andra Thurogood, Greg Waterhouse, Berwick, Vic.

MARRIAGES

•Belinda Heard to Andrew Thomas, Marlon, SA. •Jacqueline Waters to George Formisano, Footscray, Vic.

DEATHS

•Doug Mower, Marlon, SA. •William Carter, Croydon, SA. •Jack

Sinclair, Berwick, Vic. •Phyllis Ella Malthouse, Belmont, Vic.

Changes of Address

BRIGHTON: Minister — John & Eira Clapp, 52 Mole St, Brighton 3186. Phone (03) 592 1531.

HOBART: Minister — Jeff Weston, 12A Liverpool Cres., West Hobart, Tas., 7000. Phone (002) 34 1911.

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For further information please write to:

Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board,
PO Box 320, Unley 5061.



SA

ALBERT PARK (Steve & Catie Ogden) 'The Call of God Resounding'—theme for five recent services with focus on traditions of Mission, Unity & Adaptability of our movement ... 'In-Betweeners' (0-50 years) held enjoyable games night at Molde Home ... Men's Breakfast (on wintry morning) lured 25 to eat, chat & listen to Reg Brand speak on 'The Changing Bloke in Australia' ... Member Val Stevens visiting PNG mission as a helper.

MARION (Graham Agnew, Keith Horne) Features at Five, with band, artists & topical addresses, attracting about 230 weekly ... During 14 months of trading recycled clothing shop has brought in \$10,000. Gwen Fisher co-ordinates volunteer team ... Tele-Link program is provided by our Community Centre involving approximately 20 elderly & shut-in people ... Church's 9th anniversary celebrations June 26—combined attendances about 600 ... Brian Ricketts will commence as third minister February 1990.

DULWICH/ROSE PARK UNITED (Ted Bray, Roger Brown) Recent guest preachers: Dr Trevor Taylor representing OMB, Garth Nelson—Prince Alfred College chaplain & George Wright—Royal Adelaide Hospital chaplain ... Pauline Crosby, until recently of this parish & now with husband Keith in Arthurton (Yorke Peninsula) UC parish, has received rare honour: life membership of Australian Church Women. She chaired co-ordinating committee for women's religious activities for bicentennial year.

CROYDON (Keith Ridge) Through co-operation with 'Youth With a Mission' church distributed 600 copies of New Testaments to four local primary schools ... Guest speaker Lionel Berthelson spoke on behalf of overseas missions ... Highlights of 78th anniversary of church included: baptism of Hilda Johnson, farewell to Bruce & Bonnie Marriot, moving to Alice Springs, address by Eric Hollard. **BARMERA** (Ian Adams) The church was opened in 1955, built entirely by volunteer labour, vari-

ous Adelaide churches' members helped. The anniversary will be celebrated on September 4, followed by a BBQ lunch.

WA

MANDURAH (R. Ryall) Church encouraged by more local people & visitors attending worship ... June 19 focus on OM work, PNG & Western India ... CWF stall raised further \$500 for building fund ... Visit to 'Coolibah Lodge' for entertainment & morning tea appreciated by residents ... Church enjoyed Shekinah singers, July 10 ... Minister leading inter-church group in pastoral care training at Uniting Church ... Church participating in Bible Society deputation visit, July 31. **FREMANTLE** (D. Good) Appreciated visit by State Conference President, Don Parker & his wife ... Information given at evening services by A. & D. Cant (Force Ten), N. Masters (high school chaplain) & T. Booth (Bible Society) ... 1,038 litres of apples & pears cooked & given to the Christian Welfare Centre ... \$610 donated for other fruit passed on to missions ... D. & J. Ryle (Modbury, SA) welcome visitors 'home'.

NSW

EPING (S. Curkpatrick, M. York) Over 70 children attended a Holiday Bible Club held each morning for a week. 40 church members helped to run it. New contacts will be encouraged to attend Sunday School & a new activity: Monday afternoon Adventure Club for primary-aged children.

THORNLEIGH (F. Elliot) Five of our young people were leaders at the recent annual DCD Junior High Camp at Fitzroy Falls, a number from the church were campers ... The elders & their wives shared in a special dinner at which they honoured Ed Newton who recently retired as an elder after 16 years. His wife Gwen's support of Ed was recognised.

PENDLE HILL (Ross Pelling) Second full-time minister, Peter Clegg, appointed from January 1989 as evangelist ... 22% increase in small groups attendances over year, with number of

groups held Sunday & mid-week ... Chapel seating capacity increased to 165 ... Congratulations to Dianne Driver & Colin Murdoch on engagement ... 30 invited to New Attenders dinner ... John Mallison, Lay Leadership Seminar, August 27 ... 50th anniversary October 30 ... CWF commencing August 2.

QLD

BONGEEN (B.M. Nowltzke) Church benefited from enrichment weekend conducted by Colin Smith ... Statistics show 14 additions for year including 11 baptisms ... Church planning meeting accepted alterations to constitution ... Andrew Margens

& Ivan Cheetham have suffered family bereavements.

TAS

LAUNCESTON (G. Stirling) Seminars for presidents & readers held ... Minister inducted Jeff Weston to Hobart ministry & Steve Warwick as President of Tas. Convention on July 10 ... Anglican lady baptised ... James Payne (Bible Society), evening speaker on Bible Sunday ... Parenting seminars with Brian White well attended; Brian spoke at services on July 24 ... \$800 raised by 40 hour Famine ... Soup & Savoury lunch held by CWF & Progressive Dinner by Mingles.

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VIC

HAMILTON (Ray Eldridge) Minister's wife, Rhonda, formed Girls Brigade; affiliation service last Sunday in June. Many non-church folk attending. Several more girls coming since affiliation service ... Invitation sent to all speakers who assisted while pulpit was vacant; many apologies because of prior commitments ... Luncheon followed morning service—wonderful time of fellowship with those able to attend ... Monthly stall still proving popular with patrons.

BENTLEIGH (M. Buckingham, A. McMillan) Combined regional evening services included OMB speaker Thelma Littlejohn with slides & commentary on four mission areas ... Favourite hymn night & visit by Maurie Conry, co-ordinator Operation Good News '88 ... Morning speakers David Reynolds & Tim Green, first year students, COB, very much appreciated ... Some members ill, others seeking warmer weather.

FOOTSCRAY (Dan Lundgren) Church blessed with new members welcomed: Richard Kang, Esther Lee from Korea; Alice Knight by transfer; Geoffrey Wicking, Craig Hort by baptism ... Paul Williams asked to

stand as elder ... Netball team enjoying success ... CWF link with Ararat continuing ... TRYFC presented successful church dinner ... Explorers, Good Companions, Young Families all continuing ... Combined church/SS services bringing scholars into chapel worship experience.

SANDRINGHAM Bill Hoggett appointed chairman of church board ... Farewell luncheon to Jim & Jean Preston on 17 July prior to their move to Mornington ... Melbourne Male Voice Praise Choir presented musical service at ecumenical gathering on 24 July ... Young people led morning service on 24 July ... David Allison facing heart surgery after diagnostic surgery ... Church enjoying fellowship with Alan Payne & family.

BERWICK (Geoff Rowcroft) Successful Hobbies & Craft Expo revealed members' talents ... Musical Afternoon for senior citizens well attended ... Social Concern Group organising Opportunity Shop & garage sales ... Evening services during July highlighted the roles of Rotary, state & local government ... Planned Giving Program held, particularly with relocation plans in mind, & calling of Peter & Chris Holt to ministry in early September.

GREENSBOROUGH (George Warren). Youth group now called T group travelled on Vic Rail famine train to country areas. They raised over \$850 ... John Tudor from Education Dept guest speaker on July 24 ... Minister & family enjoyed weekend in Canberra ... Ladies exercise class open to community is underway ... Tennis club organised social evening at Epping Leisure Centre, much fun & fellowship was enjoyed by 110 members & friends.

BOX HILL (J. Edwards). Attendance at outreach events: men's dinner 34; women's cabaret evening 50; bush dance 80; film "Cry from the Mountain" 100 ... Three lectures on gospel in Revelation

Ken Clinton ... Trevor Banks spoke for DCU&EA ... Jack Coles spoke National Bible Sunday ... Missions day raised \$2,100 in support of Ertius Lisam, PNG, & painting of Mooroopna manse by working bees. Large display of artifacts, posters & photos on Vanuatu, PNG & India ... Car park commenced.

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

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Change of Federal Conference Secretary

At the last meeting of the Federal Conference Executive Ian Allsop tendered his resignation as Federal Conference Secretary. The Executive regretfully received his resignation after he has given six years in the position and contributed a great deal to the development of Churches of Christ in Australia.

During the time that Ian has been Federal Conference Secretary he has been involved on a two thirds time basis as Academic Dean of the College of the Bible and he has also been working on his Ph.D. from Melbourne University. Due to changes at the University and the loss of his supervisor Ian has had to transfer his doctoral program to Monash University. This has necessitated his attendance at university on a full-time basis for at least six months.

Ian has also retired temporarily from the position of Academic Dean at the College of the Bible but will be continuing his lecturing at the College of the Bible.

The Federal Conference Executive is very happy to announce that Joan Pye has agreed to accept the position as Federal Conference Secretary.



Ian Allsop

Joan is an active member of the Richmond, Vic., church and has also been active in Vic-Tas. CWF work. Since the last Federal Conference she has been a member of the Federal Conference Executive.

As a part of the change the Federal Conference Secretary's office will move to the Churches of Christ Centre, 52 LaTrobe St., Melbourne 3000. The phone number at the Centre is (03) 662 2377, Joan's home number is (03) 419 4318.

Adrian van Leen speaking in Singapore

After a successful visit in 1987, when Impact Christian Communications arranged for some meetings, Singapore Youth for Christ invited Adrian van Leen, Director of Concerned Christians Growth Ministries, to return for speaking engagements in June this year. He was introduced in Impact's magazine as "Mr Cult-Buster" and his article on witnessing to the cults was featured.

The Executive Director of Singapore Youth for Christ, Albert Lee felt that CCG Ministries had a positive contribution to make to the Singaporean Christian community. A program of seminars and speaking arrangements was prepared. This started with a three-day seminar for students and church leaders, followed by other individual meetings and several brief series. Many of the speaking

engagements were with young people's groups.

Many cults are active in Singapore. The Director addressed such topics as Eastern and pseudo-Christian cults operating in the region and the invasion of martial arts and meditation. He spoke on how to deal with cultists, their beliefs and what the Bible has to say concerning such things.

During his stay in Singapore he was also able to further examine cultic and extreme Christian fringe groups activities in Singapore, including groups such as the Red Swastika Society and the True Jesus Church.

Concerned Christian Growth Ministries Inc., based in Perth, envisages closer links in the future with Christians in Singapore and other South East Asian countries.

THE LAST WORD

Nothing in this lost world bears the impress of the Son of God so surely as forgiveness.

—Alice Cary

Sign in a shop window: "Good home wanted for Staffordshire bull terrier. Almost human, but otherwise sound."

★★★★★

The play had been long and uninteresting. One member of the audience kept mumbling a few words until a woman in an adjoining seat could restrain her curiosity no longer.

"Do you mind if I ask what you're saying?" she said.

"Not at all. It's merely 'I envy my feet,'" replied the mumbling one.

"But why?"

"They're asleep!"

★★★★★

Schoolboy to his father: "Dad, I have finished your income-tax assessment. How are you getting on with my homework?"

★★★★★

There was no salesgirl behind the confectionery counter in the department store, and the customer was growing impatient. After pacing the aisle for a few minutes, she asked, in a voice loud enough for half the store to hear, "Isn't there anybody to wait on the nuts?"

★★★★★

The new army recruit was given guard duty at 2am. He did his best for a while, but at about 4am he went to sleep. He awakened to find the officer of the day standing before him.


Remembering the heavy penalty for being asleep on guard duty, this smart young man kept his head bowed for another moment, then looked upward and reverently said, "A-a-a-men!"

★★★★★



In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success.

Proverbs 3:6



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