

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA
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October 1, 1988

New Church Planted

A new congregation was established at Mornington, Vic., on September 4. Almost 300 from Frankston, Red Hill, Tootgarook and other churches met for the inaugural service at which 60 adults and young people signed a fellowship roll as an intimation of their commitment to the new work.

Ian Cartmel, the newly appointed minister, led the service. He was inducted to his ministry by **Dr Cliff Warmbrunn**, Chairman of the Department of Mission, Education and Development.

Conference President, **Gerald Rose**, preached the sermon where he likened the commencement of the new church to the birth of a baby, with all the rejoicing at a birth and the wonder of new life.

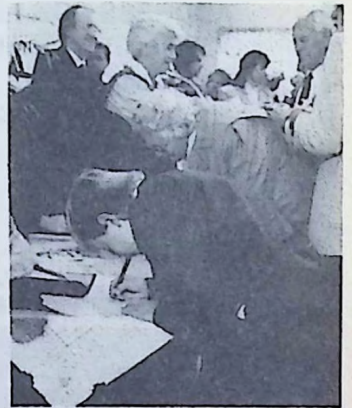
\$1,700 was received in the offering.

Services are being held in the Mornington Technical School.

Each Sunday since the opening new contacts have been made.

Mavis Peet has been appointed as Secretary and **Graham Emmett** as Treasurer.

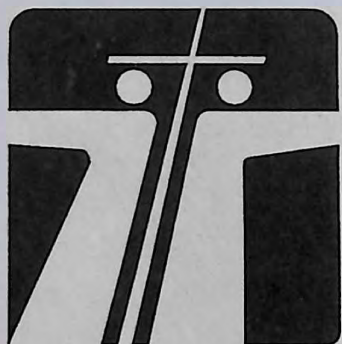
The church is being financially assisted by the Department of Mission, Education and Development as a part of Victoria-Tasmania's new CROP initiative.



Managing Editor:
CHRIS AMBROSE

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PEOPLE

Reaching out on radio

In an August issue of the Hobart "Mercury" a story on Jeff Weston, the new minister at the Collins St church, Hobart was published. Before moving to Hobart Jeff ministered at the Darwin church for over six years. The article told of his radio work in Darwin, where he conducted a two-hour talkback program on a commercial radio station for three years.

His program offered both on-air and off-air counselling, always within a Christian context. He found that this enabled him to communicate with those who would rarely enter a church. The show received an average of 30 calls a night. The most common problem was loneliness, followed by marriage breakdowns and drug abuse. Darwin has the highest alcohol consumption per head of population in the world.

Jeff was supported in his radio work by the church, which provided lay members as off-air counsellors. They started receiving calls an hour before the program began and often continued counselling well into the early morning. The church developed a referral network for callers to both professional services and other churches. Jeff ascribes about 15% of the Darwin church's growth to the talkback program.



Balga Friendship Centre

The Friendship Centre of the Balga, WA, church had a break from their usual activities on September 10. Courtesy of the Alcoa Company 45 members went by coach on an outing to the Jarrahdale Forests.

For part of the journey they were accompanied by a tour guide who explained the method used in mining the bauxite in the area. She also spoke of the technological and biological research continually being carried on by the Alcoa Company and the Forestry Commission. The purpose of this is to make the best use of the mineral deposits and yet replenish the forests and renew the growth of the trees and plants.

The results were seen in the many instances of healthy, replanted forest areas where previously there had been areas of dieback affected forest. We saw the precautions taken against the spread of the dieback and the diligence of the Company in its research and co-operation with the Forestry Commission. Many of the newer areas are blooming profusely with seeded native plants such as wattle and coral creepers. Some of the animals are slowly returning.

A tasty lunch was enjoyed at the Serpentine Restaurant. The slight rain showers did not dampen the spirit and fellowship of the members.

Kalgoorlie's 90th anniversary

The 90th anniversary got off to a good start when 140 gathered for a meal and time of fellowship and reminiscences. Songs from Ron Gething and Pam Allen, two skits from 'the oldies' and reminders of past experiences from

several people added to the night. The anniversary cake, in the form of an open Bible, was cut by Vera Gleeson (oldest present member) and Myrtle Forrest (who joined the church after the Hinrichsen—Brooker tent mission of 1926).

GROWING SPIRITUALLY

A Vision for Life

"Good leaders have a vision" is an opinion currently held among experts on leadership. This may be a revelation for man in today's world; but for me it is a reassurance that the Bible is God's Word with a vision for every generation.

The Bible centres on God's leadership and the vision he has for his people. That is to maintain a perfect relationship with him and to live in harmony with each other and nature. The O.T. gives examples of how God revealed his vision to selected men, then inspired them to become great leaders.

The supreme example of leadership is found in the life of Jesus. The vision he shared has influenced his followers even today, to love others, forget their own selfish nature and have faith in him.

Peter spoke about the future of the Church on the Day of Pentecost when he quoted the prophet Joel, "For I [God] will pour out my Spirit, your sons and daughters will prophesy, young men see visions, and old men dream dreams." The growth of the Church will occur when its members are committed in their faith and to the vision God has given them. However an understanding of its implementation is necessary, before the vision will reach its potential.

The vision for the Church must be consistent with the Great Commission (Mt 28:19-20) where Christ instructed his followers to go into the world and make disciples. The cost of the vision, in time and resources demanded from the leaders and members, needs to be considered in the initial stage.

Leaders must share the vision and seek input from the congregation so that they also can have a claim on the vision. People who feel they own a vision are more likely to be committed to it.

A strategy for implementing the vision is then planned, breaking it into achievable objectives and periodically evaluating of the vision to see if the aims are met, or if the vision needs to be extended.

God reveals his vision to those who meditate on his Word. Obedience to his calling encourages spiritual growth among individuals as a closer relationship with him is developed. The challenge for us is to equip ourselves to be worthy servants in fulfilling God's vision within this world.

—John Powell
(Launceston, Tas.)



G. Howell, G. Carslake, R. Taylor and L. Gibb

It was wonderful to see so many old friends. Two years of hard work resulted in the book "Church of Christ, Kalgoorlie—90 Years Young", compiled by Laurel Henderson. Some copies are still available from 101 Lyall St, Kalgoorlie 6430 (\$10 plus \$1.50 postage).

On Sunday morning the new hall was packed with 260 people for a time of praise and worship. Ian Taylor, MLA, spoke on behalf of the community. Graham Carslake gave the message.

Larry Gibb led us in communion and commitment to the future with the Lord.

More memories were shared by ex-Kalgoorlie members Vi Pallot, Frank Park and Vern Smythe (who showed some slides of the 75th anniversary) in the afternoon, followed by afternoon tea.

At the evening service Robert Taylor spoke of the past and challenged us for the future, to go forward with the Lord.

—L. Hall



V. Gleeson and M. Forrest cut the anniversary cake

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Muriel Holt



Most Australians are familiar with the term 'the quiet achiever'. Amongst the missionaries working with the Federal Aborigines Board Muriel Holt has earned that name. Small of stature, but big of heart and spiritual maturity, Muriel has made a valuable contribution to the people she has served for many years. She is now one of the longest serving missionaries with the FAB.

Following her graduation from Kenmore College in 1968, Muriel commenced her service at Norseman mission, helping to care for a house full of little boys. When she was transferred to Eldsvold in 1973 she was again involved in child-care. The Olive Laird Memorial hostel (Carnarvon) was opened late in 1984 and Muriel was asked to come and cook for the residents—a job she has been doing ever since.

Muriel never complains, she gets on quietly and efficiently with her duties in a selfless, reliable way. The 'oldies' and her fellow-workers love and respect 'the quiet achiever' for the work she does and the example she sets day by day. Her ministry is not 'up front'—she wouldn't like it that way—but it is as necessary as that of any other missionary.

—A.W.M.

Partnership in Mission

In 1903 Australian Churches of Christ sent workers to Vanuatu.

In 1969 the Vanuatu Conference sent workers to Papua New Guinea.

In 1988 Vanuatu is sending workers to Australia.

Pastor August Ben and his wife Maylene, as well as Pastor Bill Bule and his wife Janet, arrive in Australia in late September for a two-month ministry tour. This is the first time that a ni-Vanuatu has been asked to come specifically for ministry in Australian churches. Many have been before and have done deputation

and updates on the work in Vanuatu.

Knowing these people I am excited about the ministry that Australia will experience as they share with people. I am also excited about the fact that the Conference has grown to the stage where there are capable people who can be sent.

In 1989 an evangelistic team from one of our churches in Vanuatu is planning to visit some parts of Australia. Maybe we need to take time to reflect on why this is necessary.

—R. Bowden

Football and ministry



Andrew Henley, minister of the Ocean Grove, Vic, church, has attracted media attention as a result of his involvement in the local football team. In September the "Geelong Advertiser" included a story on Andrew, who has just won his second best and fairest award with the Grove.

In the report he commented that the community does not have a very positive concept of the church and it is up to the church to bridge the gap. He has found that playing football has been a good opportunity for him to get to know the community.

As a centreman-wingman Andrew has to take occasional physical knocks, as well as some amusing comments from time to time. Earlier this season a comment from an Anglesea player, when play was near the crowd, caused some mirth.

"I came through a pack and collected a player heavily, in the fair sense of the word, and as I

kept running he yelled, 'That wasn't very Christian, was it?'"

The Ocean Grove congregation occasionally hears football analogies in Andrew's sermons. "If you are talking about a football incident you are likely to have 95% of the listeners rather than 55%," he commented. Andrew, his wife Lee-Anne and son Benjamin have been in Ocean Grove nearly three years.

A 'National Singles Happening' is to be held in Arcadia, NSW, January 26-29, 1989. New Horizons Ministry with Singles, in conjunction with Wesley Central Mission Sydney, have organised a program including outdoor activities, Christian fellowship and speakers. Dr Keith Bowes and his wife, Robin, will be the keynote speakers and will focus on aspects of Christian Maturity. Cost is \$110, with a \$50 deposit required by November 18. Contact Collin Murdoch, Co-ordinator on (02) 267 8741(B) or (02) 708 5493(H).

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122 years and still going strong



Bendigo, Vic, Church of Christ celebrated its 122nd birthday on the weekend of August 27-28. On the Saturday the church celebrated with a variety concert featuring local talent

from within the church for the first half of the program, followed by the entire second half featuring the Barbershop Quartette.

On Sunday the La'el Music Company were our guest artists

at both morning and evening services. At the end of the morning service, while still singing the final hymn, the members filed out to the fellowship room where the first 122 members received a

candle each, representing a year of witness in the community. Following the benediction in the fellowship room a birthday cake was cut by the minister and distributed.

Alexander Campbell visits Belconnen

On September 11, the day before the 200th birthday of Alexander Campbell, Belconnen, ACT, church members were talking over a three-course dinner when Alexander, near-sighted and walking with a stick, staggered into the hall.

During the morning worship Paul Potter outlined to the church the direction that Alexander Campbell expected his church to take—with a discipleship thrust—and his dreams of church unity.

At lunch Mark Butler outlined the views of Alexander Campbell



Mark Butler interviews Alexander Campbell

and interviewed him. It was interesting to hear of his dedication

and the full life that he led, especially when, at 70 years, he organised the rebuilding of Bethany College.

A step back into the past helped Belconnen church members to understand the Churches of Christ of the present.

—Beth Butler

Correction

On page three of the last issue (September 17) the caption underneath the photograph was incorrect. Pictured commissioning Heather Potter was Jacqui Pederson.

CWF meets at Caveside

The gathering of Tasmania's northern CWF groups was held on September 13 in picturesque surroundings: the outlined Western Tiers with golden patches of wattle at the foothills; and green pastures which added to the scene at Caveside.

40 ladies travelled from Launceston, Devonport and Ulverstone to combine with Caveside. Following lunch there was a service taken by the Devonport ladies, led by D. Newman. Joan Smith of Launceston led the singing. Then some poems were read by June Lee and Eileen Harman of Devonport. This was followed by a duet from Leonie Cripps and Shirley Gibson.

Ruth Edge gave an interesting message on the theme of 'Peace and Forgiveness', including her experiences of welfare work in South Australia. Light refreshments brought to a close an enjoyable day of fellowship.

—D. Newman

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South Australia responds to New Campus Campaign

On September 9 the Dom Polski Centre was filled to capacity when 400 sat down to a meal, during which they were entertained by some fine artists in an atmosphere of warmth and fellowship. The occasion was the New Campus Dinner organised by the State College of the Bible Committee and led by Keith Ridge and Keith Horne for the South Australian State Board.

Joan Oxenbury (violinist), Winston Kay (soloist) and 'Kiwi Country' were the artists. Bar-

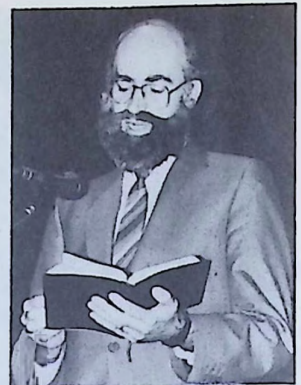
bara Grear, President of the Women's Conference, led a devotion that struck a positive note, setting the tone of all that was to follow. Colln Dredge, Conference President, co-hosted the evening with Barbara Grear. Clive Ward, in the absence of the Campaign Chairman, chaired the night. The speakers, Mike Folland, Graham Agnew and Dr Bill Tabbernee, challenged, encouraged and informed the audience of the progress and needs of the new building pro-

gram of the Federal College of Churches of Christ.

The result was exciting. Before the dinner South Australia had already given or pledged \$140,000. The result of this weekend in Adelaide added another \$50,000. But the story does not finish there because there are several congregations still working on the project. It is conservatively estimated that this added figure will bring the total contribution for SA to over \$250,000.

Quite apart from the money raised, the program was significant in the life of the South Australian churches. The theme of the night was 'Claiming the Vision' and the story has not finished because the vision still lingers.

The climax of the night came when people from various tables assembled on the platform bringing the gifts and promises from



Dr W. Tabbernee, Principal of the College of the Bible

their tables. It was indeed a moving moment and there is no doubt that the response promises well for the future support of the College and the ongoing work of the churches in South Australia.



Conference President Colln Dredge receiving pledges

National Youth Convention No 14 - Perth 1990



At the Federal Board of Christian Education Conference in July plans were finalised for the National Youth Convention 14, to be held in Perth from January 8-14, 1990. Pictured are Andrew Ball (right), Director of Field Services with the Federal Board and Mark Wilson, member of the Western Australian Organising Committee, discussing the details for the convention. N.Y.C.14 will be a great opportunity to holiday in WA.

Young people from all over Australia will travel by luxury coach in convoy to converge on the Perth University, venue for the

seven-day convention

'On Wings Like Eagles' (Isaiah 40:31) is the theme for this great youth event. The challenges, friendships and the chance for a cheap, relaxing holiday are all great reasons that churches should plan now to encourage their youth groups and young people to attend. Full details and application forms will be available soon in each state.

Lithuanian Catholic priest Fr Alfonso Svarinskas was unexpectedly freed from labour camp on July 15 on condition that he emigrates to West Germany.

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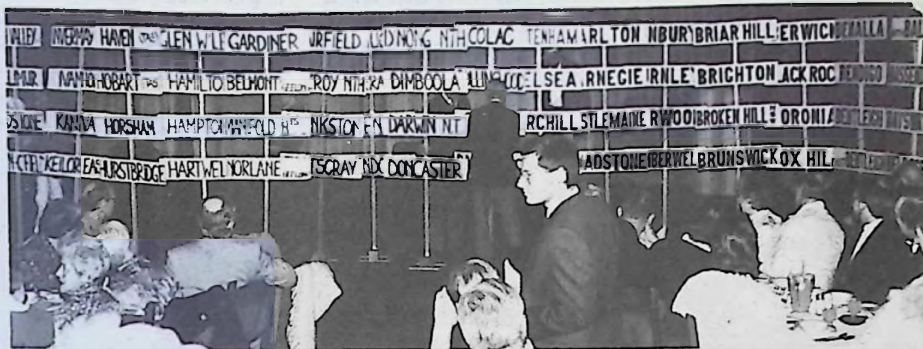
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Explorer Jubilee Dinner

250 Explorer leaders, past and present, together with spouses, friends and Conference representatives gathered at Rembrandt's restaurant, Wantima South, Vic., for dinner on September 8. Malcolm Gray was the compere for the evening.

Special guests included Conference Officers Gerald Rose and Clive Ward, CWF President Lois Smith, Department Chairman Dr Clif Warmbrunn, Past Directors Vlny Longthorp and Ray McKenzie, Good Companions Chief Dot Brooker and Past Leader Rita Roberts. Special acknowledgement was made of Past Chiefs Lyndsay Smith and Les Stewart. Perc Foster, the first Chief, was represented by his brother Vic. Mrs N. Newham came from Queensland for the occasion. Her husband, the late Will Newham, was Explorer Chief from 1942 to 1960.

Eight leaders shared memories



Parade of over 150 flags bearing the names of all known clubs during the 50 years

and experiences of earlier days and paid tribute to the contribution of the movement to their own lives and to others.

Graham Hyman of Youth Specialties Australia was the speaker. He charged the movement to look towards future development. The Barbershop Quartette presented entertainment. Russell Croxford

spoke of his hopes and vision for the future in what was a fine conclusion to the evening. Special thanks go to Peter Wing Tang who was responsible for the arrangements for the evening.

Jubilee History

Lyndsay Smith has written a history "Exploring for 50 Years" which is available at \$5

plus postage. The history has been well produced and carries a number of pages of pictures. Copies are available from the Department of Mission, Education and Development.

A Past Deputy Chief, John McDonald, invited gifts for the Jubilee Commemorative Wall at Camp Waterman, Monbulk, to be dedicated on October 15.

At work—in retirement

What do you do when you've retired? If you are like Vic and Nan Colyer you make yourselves available for some voluntary service for the Lord.

Because of staff holidays the need arose for someone to cook for six weeks at the Olive Laird Hostel in Carnarvon, WA. Vic and Nan, already busy in their home church (Warwick), made

themselves available to work in the hostel kitchen and to transport the residents to doctors' appointments, church meetings and their fishing trips in the recently acquired bus.

Missionary enterprise down through the years owes much to retired people who, with the necessary time and free from family responsibilities, are available for



Vic and Nan Colyer

periods of short-term or long-term service. Along with the knowledge that this service is greatly appreciated comes a blessing from the Lord and the opportunity to share in missionary service in a practical way.

With many Christians these days opting for early retirement, opportunities for service in the local church or the wider missionary field abound. Have you considered making yourself available?

—A.W.M.

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COMPUTERS IN CHURCHES

To the Editor,
Malcolm Gray ("A.C." September 3) raises the matter of computers in the churches. Should Malcolm care to come to Federal Conference, Canberra, January 1989, and I hope he will, he will find a workshop on the very subject.

Church Care, a computer group from Brisbane, has been invited to provide the workshop. Church Care offer software specifically designed for church needs in administration, study, worship and other areas.

In addition, there will come from the report from the Working Group on the Future a suggestion that Churches of Christ, either alone or in conjunction with other churches, look seriously at such a national data bank and link up as that being proposed for the Uniting Church.

By the way, registration forms for Conference should be obtainable from your local church secretary.

—Neil Gilmore
(President,
Federal Conference)

"THE LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST"

To the Editor,

Nikos Katzantzakis' novel "The Last Temptation of Christ", on which the much-debated Martin Scorsese film is based, is the work, I believe, of a sincere devout Christian.

The gospel tells us little of the day-to-day life of Jesus. The author fills in the gap with no material that cannot be fitted into the Gospel narrative if we approach both the novel and the Gospels with an open mind.

Most of the storm over the film seems to centre on Jesus' sexual fantasy and subsequent family life with Mary. We as Christians cherish the fact that Jesus was tempted like us. How many of us are tempted with power over the whole world? Psychologists tell

us that sexual thoughts are rarely far away from our consciousness. If Jesus was a man is it not realistic to assume that he faced sexual temptation?

Why do Christians react so violently when material is presented that challenges the concept of their faith? I believe it arises out of the real uncertainty that is inherent in faith as opposed to fact. If a film was made that challenged the fact of gravity it would be regarded as fantasy. However, when a tenet of faith (about which there must always be a grain of doubt or it would be fact) is challenged, we react as man always has to the indefensible with overt or covert violence, calling for bans, censorship or picketing.

—Colin Lawn
(Ringwood, Vic.)

MINISTER WANTED

To the Editor,

The Church of Christ in Wingham, NSW, is in great need of a minister on a part-time basis, at the moment, due to resignation of our minister, loss of a large proportion of our congregation and therefore less finances.

We can provide a large home and part-week wage until the situation improves. The area is growing and there is much scope for outreach into the community.

Please feel free to obtain further information by phone (065) 53 4068 or by writing to this address: PO Box 64, Wingham 2429.

—Neida Knowles
(Secretary, Wingham
Church of Christ)

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

To the Editor,

G. Harris ("A.C.", September 3) addresses the institutional issues raised by N. Aubrey concerning the academic status of the D. Min. qualification. There are, however, cultural and conventional differences between Australia and North America.

As Harris notes, the D. Min. is a professional degree. In North America other professions acquire their credentials in a similar

manner. In Australia professional degrees usually require extended undergraduate study but result in a Bachelor's degree; the Ph.D. is awarded for an original contribution to a discipline, usually on the basis of an extended period of research. Honorary doctorates may be awarded for symbolic or ceremonial reasons. It is conventional to recognise the achieved Ph.D. with the title 'Dr', but not the honorary degree. Some professions are accorded the courtesy title of Dr.

North American culture appears to promote ready acknowledgement of the use of the title Dr. Australia's does not. Professional courtesy titles are not usually acknowledged beyond the boundaries of the professional's field. Medical practitioners are the exception. Indeed Australians appear willing to recognise the

title only in relation to that occupation. Such is the confused heritage of the myth of 'egalitarian inequality'.

The use of a given (Christian) and family name provides a fairly unambiguous means of identification. Unless the nature and extent of professional/academic qualifications are relevant to the matter at hand, this should be a sufficient form of acknowledgement.

—Rosslyn Reed
(West Pennant Hills, NSW)

Billy Graham left a hospital bed on September 8 to hold a press conference prior to the opening of the 8-day Greater Rochester, USA, Billy Graham Crusade. Immediately following the press conference Graham returned to hospital where he is being treated for staph and strep infections in his left foot, the result of an apparent bite by a spider.

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

COMMUNION

To the Editor,

I would have liked to have been a philologist, in spite of the fact that I always chose the non-language options when I was at school. The way words are made up has always intrigued me. My mind often wanders off onto possible derivations of words ... most of which are probably more guesswork than accurate.

No doubt God has forgiven me for philologising the word 'communion' last Sunday morning when I should have been meditating more appropriately.

The 'comm' part obviously has to do with community, but it is also the root of communism.

And the 'union' part is clearly about togetherness of mind and spirit. But it is also a word that we associate with strikes and other petty inconveniences.

Then somehow I found myself thinking that communists are probably the most committed people in the world, and that trade unions demonstrate more solidarity than any other organisation. It wasn't hard for me to move to the next step and wonder what would happen if our taking communion was a sign of equal commitment to our cause and equal solidarity in accomplishing it.

I found the thought too uncomfortable and went back to more appropriate meditation.

—TERTIUS

Project 1000



Sir Geoffrey Foot

About 26 Boys Brigaders took part in a 'Cyclathon Project 1000' at Launceston on August 20. They cycled around Tasmania (without leaving the school hall) to raise funds which were shared between the Brigade and the College of the Bible New Campus Appeal. A Knight in Shining Armour (Sir Geoffrey Foot, Chairman of the COB Campaign) did his best to aid the ap-

peal. Cyclists who were sponsored were encouraged by cheer leaders who served morning and afternoon teas. The College will benefit by about \$300.

BALWYN

66th Church Anniversary
 Sunday 9 October
 Worship service: 10 am
 Speaker: L.F. Barker
 Followed by fellowship time
 with light refreshments

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by Randall Edwards (Vital Publications) \$3.50.



As Randy Edwards states in his introduction: The Restoration Movement (Churches of Christ) is commonly misunderstood both by those who are its members and by those who are not. This series of five studies is designed to examine the issues that differentiate Churches of Christ from the rest of the Christian church. The study titles are Movement, Sect, Denomination or Church?; Scripture and Apostolic testimony; Baptism — Are We Distinctive?; The Lord's Supper and In Opinions Liberty. There are some good background information and thoughts provided by Randy Edwards and some excellent group exercises and questions provided for each of the studies.

This is the fourth in a series of

study books that the Federal Board of Christian Education has published as a part of a national study program. Randall Edwards has been a lecturer at Kenmore Christian College for the past 11 years, the last five as Principal.

Copies should be available from State Conference offices of Churches of Christ or from the Federal Board of Christian Education, 52 LaTrobe St., Melbourne 3000.

—C.R.A.

THE GOOD NEWS CHILDREN'S BIBLE

(Collins Publishers) \$17.95.

An excellent selection of Bible passages that concentrates on the stories and action of the Bible. This selection is designed for children and uses the Good News translation which has been widely recommended for use by children. The concentration is upon the action stories in the Bible and thus in the New Testament the main selections come from the four Gospels, the Book of Acts with only five selections from Paul's letters, one from the letter of Jude and three selections from the book of Revelation. In the Old Testament there is a similar concentration on Genesis, Exodus, the books of Samuel and the Kings with some selections from among the prophets.

The passages selected are produced in full and not rewritten, with explanations for unusual words and phrases given with the text.

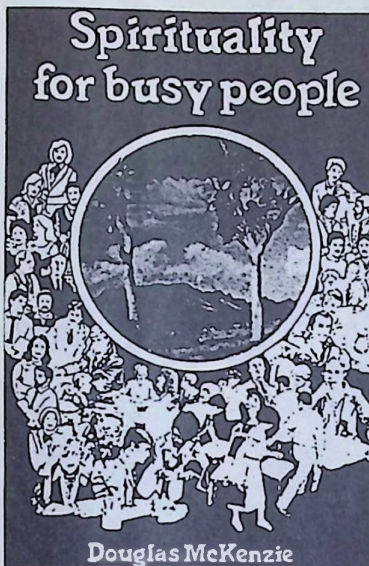
The Good News Children's Bible contains 80 full colour illustrations by Guido Bertello. Other aids to understanding include scene setting introductions, geographical background information, maps, indexes and an explanation of how the Bible came to exist. Much of this information is better suited for the parents who will be reading this to their children.

A good introduction to the Bible for a younger age group.

— C.R.A.

SPIRITUALITY FOR BUSY PEOPLE

by Douglas McKenzie (Joint Board of Christian Education) \$9.95



The title of this book is very appealing. I'm sure there are many who desire to be 'more spiritual', if only they had the time. Douglas McKenzie doesn't attempt to show the reader how to squeeze in some 'spirituality sessions'. Rather he begins by defining a spiritual life and making it clear that an escapist type of spirituality is not what he's writing about. He refers to the erroneous idea that true spirituality means escaping from the imprisonment of the flesh, mentioning common "pseudo-goals" for spiritual life such as peace of mind and personal comfort.

His point is that we must realise that our spiritual life should be lived 'in the here and now'. Spirituality is taking account of obedience to God

in life's total context. This emphasis is very helpful, as it's far too easy to tone down the spiritual dimension of our lives, considering spirituality to be something monopolised by the "religious elite".

Some sections of the book seemed a bit disjointed. The frequent use of sub-headings didn't help to link sections. In places the attempt to 'Australianise' using imagery from the bush was overdone. McKenzie writes of the need to develop images of spirituality fitting for the Australian context. He gives appropriate attitudes for some particular situations of conflict. Some of the images used weren't too clear, for example, I wasn't sure why a platypus was used to introduce steps for communication with God.

The author aims to show that spirituality means relating to God in all of life, not just when problems arise. He writes from a background of ministry in both city and country churches around Australia.

—J.T.

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE AT FEDERAL CONFERENCE, CANBERRA 1989



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Get a complete education at RJSS

Baptism at Ranwadi is in line with the aim to get a complete education at the Churches of Christ Junior Secondary School on Pentecost Island.

On August 7 1988 16 people were baptised. The school's Principal, Silas Bull, led the singing of choruses and welcomed everyone. The baptismal service was led by the Principal of Banmatmat Bible College, Pastor Jose Sall. The message was presented by the Director of Home Mission and Evangelism, Pastor Amos Tangwall. The baptisms were conducted by Bill Bule and Samuel Bule, Headmaster of Atabtabanga Primary School, gave the prayer for the new converts. Those baptised came from the islands of Malo, Malekula, Maewo, Ambae and Pentecost.

The baptisms were followed by a communion service led by Surun group from Wujunmel. Pastor Obed presided and the headmaster of Torle Primary

—Bill Bule, Vanuatu
School, Dick Bule, preached.

During the service Bill Bule (former pastor and Deputy Principal of RJSS) welcomed the incoming pastor, Japheth Garae, on behalf of the school. Pastor Japheth then extended the right hand of fellowship to those who had been baptised.

After the welcome came the farewell to the outgoing school pastor, Bill Bule. Words of thanks and appreciation for the work done by Bill and Janet Bule were given by the Vice-Chairman of the RJSS Council, Charlie Tor, on behalf of the school. Gibson Ala, head boy, said thank you on behalf of the students.

The communion service was followed by a big kai of lap lap, rice, taro, bullock, chickens, fish, cakes and more. About 300 people attended.

A Christian education is the key to a complete education at Ranwadi.

Pastor Bill Bule takes up new Conference role

—R. Bawden
Vanuatu



Bill and Janet Bule

Pastor Bill Bule has left Ranwadi Junior Secondary School, where he has been school pastor, to take up his new role in the Conference office in Santo. Bill has been appointed as the Conference Secretary until the end of 1988 when he will become Executive Director of Conference.

He will be working with the

Business Manager, Roger Bawden, whilst learning various aspects of his new work. In 1990 it is planned that Bill will assume full responsibility with Roger taking an advisory role.

This is an important step in the localisation of Conference personnel with the Conference of Churches of Christ in Vanuatu.

Missionary families Re-entry Weekend

On the weekend of September 9-11 members of 14 families, all of whom had returned over the last few years from overseas missionary work, spent an exciting time meeting one another, sharing their experiences and developing guidelines to help them and others in the process of re-entry into Australia.

The families had worked in nine different countries: PNG, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Philippines, Singapore, Argentina, Nigeria and Niger. The weekend was made possible by The Evangelical Alliance and World Vision.

There were programs for the teenagers and children as well as the adults. The adult program, under the leadership of Graeme and Julla Cann, followed what was basically a program of marriage enrichment. The fellowship of people with similar backgrounds opened up possibilities

on continuing friendships.

As part of the Sunday program the young people and parents shared their experiences around a study of Nehemiah 4. Barry Jenkins spoke about some of the difficulties Nehemiah had faced in his return to Jerusalem (his re-entry).

A similar program will be conducted by Roger Dyer in Adelaide on November 5, with Graeme and Julla Cann participating. Notice about further programs in Victoria can be had from Ron Clough at the Evangelical Alliance office, PO Box 289, Hawthorn 3122, or through Roger Dyer in Adelaide, phone (08) 272 5419.

Send in your questions for the "You were asking ... ???" column.

Following his recent election as prime minister of Papua New Guinea, Rabble Namallu requested the Rev Slone Kaml, minister of the Boroko United Church to conduct a dedication service. Leaders of the Port Moresby church laid hands on the prime minister at his request and committed his leadership to God. Amongst those attending the service in the Gerehu Community Centre were many parliamentary and government leaders, including Michael Somare.

Citymission (Melbourne) has been granted the use of Government House grounds for a special open day to be held on November 19. Citymission's patron, Dr Davis McCaughey, Governor of Victoria, will be attending as special guest. Among the attractions will be afternoon tea, entertainment, a stall and opportunity to view the public reception rooms during the afternoon. Funds raised will be for Citymission's Christmas Appeal. Admission will be by ticket only—phone (03) 489 9666 for more information.

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Tribal massacres in Burundi have left as many as 24,000 dead and 50,000 refugees who have fled to Rwanda. The violence is part of a several-hundred-year-old feud between the dominant, but minority, Tutsi tribe and the majority Hutu tribe. Although the Burundian government denies army involvement in the slaughter, reports say Tutsi soldiers retaliated after some of their tribesmen were hacked to death by a group of Hutus with machetes.

War, not drought, is the major cause of hunger in the 4 African nations facing the most serious starvation. Ethiopia, Sudan, Mozambique and Angola each have millions of people cut off from food aid because of war, according to the United Nations. The wars have also created hundreds of thousands of refugees in remote areas, making it difficult to reach them with food aid.

The third private Islamic radio station in Western Europe is now on air in Switzerland. Called The Voice of God, it is operated by the Islamic Cultural Foundation in Geneva. Other Islamic stations are in Denmark and the Netherlands.

Churches in Africa serving under the Council for World Mission (CWM) have expressed concern over the mounting debt crisis on the continent. They plan to send letters to churches in Europe and New Zealand requesting them to exert pressure on their governments to alleviate Africa's debt crisis, claimed to be a result of colonial exploitation of African resources. They are calling on Western nations to help Africa by writing off debts, converting loans into grants or giving credit on soft terms.

Trans World Radio can be heard on short-wave radio

on 11805 khz in the 25 metre band every night from 7.30 to 9pm (EST).

"God's Word: Hope For All"—Budapest 1988, is the theme for the meetings of the Council of the United Bible Societies in Hungary, September 14-21. The Council meets every 8 years and is the largest official UBS gathering. The General Secretary of the Bible Society in Australia, Jim Payne, (Chairman of the UBS Executive Committee) is attending the Council, at which a major concern will be to discover ways in which the Bible Societies can better serve the churches.

Evangelical churches in Mexico are rallying behind an ambitious plan to establish 10,000 house churches by the year 2000. The strategy emerged from an intensive 15-month survey which revealed that the sprawling megalopolis of over 19 million had only 1,015 Protestant churches. A broadly based evangelical 'umbrella' organisation, Vision for Evangelisation in Latin America (VELA), is providing leadership and co-ordination in the venture.

Scripture Gift Mission, an international support agency which specialises in providing Scriptures for person-to-person distribution, this year is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Since its inception it has had a policy of issuing gospel material free of charge to Christian workers and churches who agree to make responsible use of it in evangelism. The mission last year circulated more than 16 million copies in almost 400 languages.

60% of the 80,000 Protestant missionaries working worldwide are from North America, 20% are from Western and Northern Europe and most of the

remaining 20% are from the Third World, according to English missions expert Michael Griffith.

Konstantin Kharchev, chairman of the State Council of Religious Affairs of the USSR Council of Ministers, and 2 colleagues, visited the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva in September. Five Soviet church leaders (Eastern Orthodox, Baptist, Lutheran and Oriental Orthodox) travelled with Kharchev and his aides. The group met the general secretaries and other staff members of the World Council of Churches, Lutheran World Federation, World Alliance of Reformed Churches and Conference of European Churches.

Moscow News reports two more churches in the area are being returned for religious use. The Soviet news agency Tass reports several monasteries have been returned to the Georgian Orthodox Church and several new communities registered. Also, 50,000 copies of the Bible in modern Georgian are to be published next year.

Meeting last month the Italian [Reformed] Waldensian and Methodist Synod narrowly voted not to begin negotiations with the state about possible government financial support. Changes in Italian law now make it possible for traditions other than Roman Catholicism to receive financial support. In other action the Synod chose members of a group to discuss questions of interconfessional marriages with representatives of the country's Roman Catholic bishops.

The Christian Council of Ghana has announced plans to spend 108 million Ghanaian cedis on a pilot program to rehabilitate migrants, refugees and other displaced people in the country. The project is

to provide 100 housing units, schools, clinics and cottage industries for migrants and refugees who have come from such countries as Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Chad and Morocco.

Namibian Lutheran Bishop Hendrick Frederik says his denomination will no longer use Afrikaans as its second official language. English is to be used instead. Frederik called Afrikaans 'the language of the oppressor,' a reference to its use by white South Africans who control his country.

Completion of a 600-square-metre church building in the Man Kyung Dae district in Pyongyang, the capital of the Democratic People's Republic of [North] Korea is projected for the end of next month. The new church building is for use by Christians who have been worshipping in about 25 house churches with 8-15 members each. The World Council of Churches is committed to providing about \$US 80,000 in aid for the project. Christians are estimated to be less than 1% of the DPRK population.

Managua's financially troubled Baptist Hospital has turned down some \$US600,000 in US government assistance because its board disapproves of the US government's financing of the contra rebels' fight against the Nicaraguan government. "How can we accept aspirins from one hand," asked William Abdallah, director of the hospital, "while the other hand is dispensing death to our people?"

More than 200 political prisoners, mainly government critics and opponents, are being held in Benin without charge or trial, many of them for as long as 3 years. At least one prisoner of conscience, Remy glele Ak-

pokpo, is known to have died in detention as a result of torture.

Churches and Christian organisations in Africa have moved swiftly with their meagre resources to aid the flood victims in Sudan. Official supplies are going mainly to the registered population, so non-government agencies are the only option if aid is to reach millions of people in shanty towns around Khartoum and nearby cities. These families include the people hit hardest by the disaster, refugees from southern Sudan.

A growing sect in the middle belt of Nigeria is poised to 'wipe out Christianity' from the country. The group, called "Baadali," holds Christianity in contempt and its members believe their god is superior to the Christian God. The Baadali worship their own god on Sundays too, but their aim is to distract people from going to church. They draw public attention by starting the Sunday 'service' with great revelry.

This year Melbourne Citymission has established a Child and Family Development Unit for dealing with the most seriously disturbed young people referred from the courts. Citymission are also pioneering new ways of working cooperatively with the community in youth work and work with homeless young people, in areas such as South Melbourne, Port Melbourne and St Kilda.

Queensland Christian Women's Fellowship Conference will be held on October 6 at the Baptist Tabernacle, Wickham Terrace, Brisbane, beginning at 9am.

**RECOMMEND
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Good Companions—Explorer Jubilee Commemoration Day



Good Companions leader, Dot Brooker, with Explorer Chief, Russell Croxford, at the recent Explorer Jubilee Dinner

Good Companions and Explorer clubs in Victoria will celebrate 50 years of service with a special field day at Camp Waterman, Monbulk on October

15. The program will commence at 11am with children's activities. A light lunch will be provided at a cost of \$2 for those who advise of their attendance.

Decision of meeting of Heads of Churches

A spokesman for the Victorian Heads of Christian Churches, which met on September 9 in Melbourne, expressed the profound dismay of the church leaders at the reported statement from the newly elected national leader of the RSL that Aboriginal people should be blood-tested to attempt to determine their race as a part of their qualification for receiving social welfare benefits.

The Heads of Churches, in noting the apparent scientific impossibility of pursuing such a course, acknowledge the hurt that such a statement has brought to many Aboriginal people and call on all church members to distance themselves from the prejudice inherent in such attitudes.

GOD'S PEOPLE — GOD'S WORLD FEDERAL CONFERENCE JAN. 1989

In the afternoon the two Jubilee Projects will be dedicated. Good Companions have contributed towards the refurbishment of Rita Roberts Lodge. This event will be marked by a special ceremony at 3pm.

At the same time Explorers will join in a short worship event to dedicate the Commemoration Wall and Plaques. Clubs will bring rocks to form part of a rock

wall. Histories of clubs will also be placed in a time capsule.

These two events will be followed by afternoon tea. The day is open to all. Adults will be particularly welcome to share in the afternoon events which commence at 3pm. Please advise the Department office if lunch is required. Telephone Anne Spoelder, (03) 662 2377.

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1988 PART TWO

Living Faith



(Samples supplied will be 1988 material. Catalogue is for 1989 material.)



Obituaries are limited to 100 words in length.

CAUDLE, Raymond Thomas (1.9.88). Ray's whole life reflected his faith in God and love of Christ. A member of Aldgate Valley, S.A., an encourager, minister to ministers, elder and board member. His creativity and sensitivity was seen by many churches as he sought to communicate the reality of God. This was particularly expressed in his planning for the Valley's centenary, the success of which is one of many tributes to him. His death was sudden at age 63, and unexpected. Almost 300 gathered to give thanks for his life and express their love and sympathy to his wife Joy and their children and grandchildren.

— John Gilmore

HUBBARD, Ethel Lucy (20.6.88) Born March 15, 1892 at Homestead Blocks, Croydon. Last surviving foundation member at Flinders Park Church of Christ. Married Frank Hubbard in 1914. In 1926 Ethel and Frank were involved in building the original church at Flinders Park. The church was completed the same day with Brother Beiler leading the service at 8pm that evening. Ethel was the first woman appointed as Conference delegate from Flinders Park. She attended morning services up to the age of 94, as well as Pioneer Luncheons at State Conference. The fourth generation of the Hubbard family are still involved in worship at Flinders Park.

—D.S.

MILES, Keith Charles Donald (19.8.88) Born 1914 at Caulfield, Vic., Keith became a civil engineer. While serving in AIF he married Glad Eaton at Geraldton, WA. Keith was baptised at Carnegie in 1956 and held many offices: Deacon, treasurer, auditor and board chairman, giving unstintingly of his time and talents. He had a long association with Baptist Churches of Christ Tennis Association. Keith collapsed and died after playing, and winning, a game of tennis. A packed church paid tribute to his life and witness in many spheres. Loving sympathy is expressed to Glad and to Kaye and Andrew and families. Thanks be

to God who gives us eternal victory.
PORTEOUS, Leslie James Graham (15.7.88). Born about 75 years ago Les was a quiet and gentle man of deep faith. A loving father and husband he was very much part of Aldgate Valley, S.A. He centered his own and his family's life around the church and his faith in Christ. Never one to be in the centre of things, his support and quiet encouragement will be missed. His death came peacefully after a short illness. In a simple and meaningful service of thanksgiving to God many expressed their love and sympathy to his wife Dornie and their family.

— John Gilmore

PURDIE, Harold James It was a shock to the church to learn of Harold's sudden home call. Using his knowledge of accountancy Harold served God through both local church and SA Brotherhood. His Christian life began at Colonel Light Gardens church, then Prospect, Hampstead Gardens and Noarlunga Centre. In these churches he was a fine example by his love for God. In his retirement he was content to work behind the scenes, doing that which for most was obscure. At the Noarlunga Centre church he was farewelled by a large crowd. Harold is survived by Doreen, Raelene and Alan, Geoffrey and Dianne and four grandchildren.

—M.W.M.

ROBINSON, Ellen Margaret (19.8.88) Nell was a faithful member of the Sunshine, Vic., church. She and Jack committed their lives to Christ during the 1959 Graham Crusade and became members of the Sunshine church. One of her ministries was the preparation of the Communion Table and removal of the emblems and linen at close of service. Tribute is paid to her courage and patience during several years of illness. Sympathy is expressed to Jack and their family. The student minister of the church, Andrew George, and the writer officiated at the church and graveside services.

—F.B. Alcorn

TUCKER, James William (21.7.88) Born 1920. Bill married Doreen in 1942. They had two daughters and six grandchildren. Bill and Doreen

became members of the Torrenville church following the Hinrichsen Mission in 1951. A man of few words, Bill had a love for sports, his favourite flower the gladiolus, loved company and to participate. He played a big role in the church extensions of the 50s. Bill had a strong faith and although life became a struggle in later years he worshipped with us till his last Sunday. Doreen nursed him with unending love and patience. He was faithful to the end.

—G.W.

YATES, Henry (30.8.88) Aged 75, committed his life to God 15 years ago. He was a friend to all, although basically a shy man, and loved to discuss a wide range of interests. He helped cross-cultural barriers relating equally well to his Aboriginal brothers and to us. He was a tough old bushman who worked hard as long as he could and took great pride in his independence. Henry loved to do what he could in the church life, reading etc. It was a privilege to know Henry, a 'true blue' Christian.

—J.M.

VIC

CAMBERWELL (Milton Oliver, Viney Longthorp) Recent speakers have been Trevor Giles (Department of Community Care) & Daryl Colless from the Richmond Church of Christ ... The Bush Dance organised by the young people was a time of enjoyable fellowship ... The evening study groups with Surrey Hills have been well attended & most helpful.

GLEN WAVERLEY (R.B. Elbourne, L. Croxford, D. Fitzpatrick) AGM received positive & encouraging reports & acknowledged God's blessing on past 12 months ... CWF sponsored evening on ministering to the terminally ill: "Death—The Final Stage of Growth", speaker Ron Elbourne ... Chris Hutton guest speaker at all services on 35th church anniversary ... Senior minister leading current College for Christians on theme 'Prayer' ... Geoff Rowcroft was guest speaker at Leadership Recognition Dinner.

YORK ST BALLARAT (Roger Risson, Brian Parsons) Brian Parsons, Glen Strange, Peter Sobey attended training seminar on youth ministry ... Stage Two of building program commenced—relocation of day kindergarten & major work in current youth hall to provide new office facilities & toilets ... 'Inbetweeners' organised informal chat & games night ... Bush dance raised over \$900 with \$500 going toward building fund ... Guest speaker, David Woodward (minister Peel St church, Ballarat).

CHELSEA (T. Frazer) Married woman & teenager made public confession of faith ... Ian Tippett, DMED, guest preacher then led seminar for presidents, readers

etc., for morning worship ... Monthly Friendship Hour of music & entertainment attracting 30 regularly ... 14 from Chelsea among 250 at Explorer Jubilee Dinner ... Flowers & groceries decorated the chapel for spring-time worship service ... Intermediate Explorers were runners-up in Indoor Sports Victorian championship.

IVANHOE (John Caporn, Peter Eades) Four generations of Buckmaster family witnessed baptism of four young people... Services included all-age worship, Wesley hymn night & focus on Alexander Campbell ... YP raised \$107—wonderful concert for Open House ... New families Fondue night held ... Kid's Klub celebrated one year of ministry ... Both afternoon & evening CWF source of great fellowship ... Church anniversary 9 October, Sunday School planning picnic.

LA TROBE TERRACE (C.J. Mackenzie) Secretary Don Drayton retired from work after 46 years with one firm ... Some members have enjoyed holidays up north ... Melissa, baby daughter of Charles & Valmai Claxton & Blair, daughter of Jeff & Jeanette Kirkwood, were dedicated at a church service with the Sunday School children taking part; Ian Mackenzie interpreted the service in sign language.

THE PATCH (Glynthea Flinger, David Rees) Church celebrated opening of new extensions to the building on September 18. Minister led dedication service outside the church before the morning service, after the service a luncheon & PSA were held. Guest speaker E.L. Williams spoke on the early history of the Churches of Christ. Members of church provided musical items ... Vic Berry & David Rees have been recent speakers.

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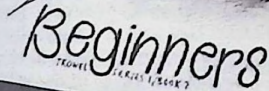
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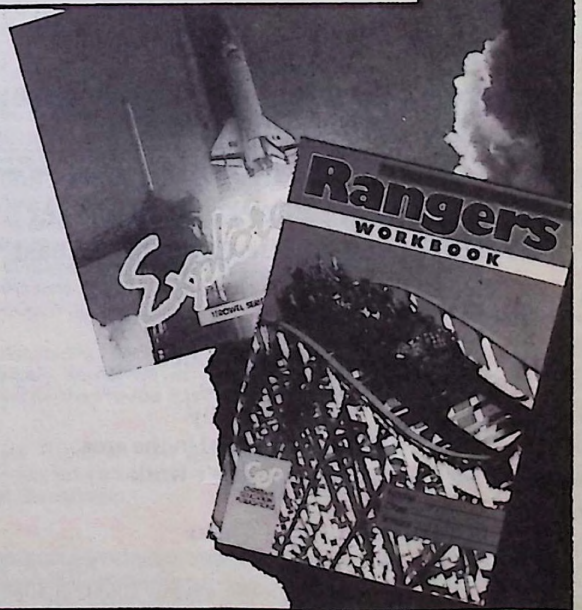


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ENGAGEMENTS

PRESTON - PRICE Jennifer and David Preston of Traralgon, together with Beverley and Barry Bond of Driffield, have pleasure in announcing the engagement of Jacquelyne Elise & David Graeme. Love & best wishes to you both.

GOLDEN WEDDING

GEORGE & RUBY HAIGH of 57 Pimpala St, Wurtulla, Sunshine Coast, Qld, married in the 'Jireh' Baptist Church, Brisbane, 1st October 1938, join with their family in the celebration of their Golden Wedding in Brisbane on Sunday 1st October 1988.

MARSHMAN - BAKER Elsie and Dave celebrate the 50th anniversary of their marriage on October 15 1938 at Horsham Church of Christ. Congratulations from your children and grandchildren.

STANFORD - OWEN Ken and Thelma of Binningup, WA, are happy to announce the 50th anniversary of their wedding celebrated at Bunbury Church of Christ, WA, on October 15th 1938 by the late Frank Fewster. Their four children and eleven grand-

children share with them in thanking God for His protection & blessings during 50 years of loving marriage.

DEATHS

CAUDLE, Raymond Thomas. Loved and loving husband of Joy, loving father and grandfather of Julie and Kent and Corey, Jamie, Daniel Norris; Richard and Jean, and Darren; Greg and Debbie, Bradley, Rebecca. 'Suddenly, but gently, called from his dreams and service to perfection, praise and rest.'

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IN MEMORIAM

MILES, Beryl Mavis. Treasured memories of our darling mother who passed to be with her Lord on 17.9.85. Beloved wife of the late E.J. Miles, loving mother of Rochelle & Rob, Carol & John, and dearly loved Grandma of Jonathan, Justin & Nicholas. Sadly missed by her relatives and friends.

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INAUGURAL MEETING

for proposed Christian Mental Health Family Support Association

October 16 1988 at 2 pm

St Kilda Baptist Church

Meeting open to families, friends and relations and pastoral workers of mental health sufferers. This Inaugural Meeting is aimed at those who are interested in developing a Christian Family Support Network.

For further information ring Pastor Ross Dickson, St Kilda Baptist Church, (03) 531 2495

GOOD COMPANIONS

- EXPLORERS

JUBILEE DAY

15 October 1988

CAMP WATERMAN, MONBULK

11 am - 4 pm

Club program commences 11 am.

Past members and friends are invited to share the afternoon program.

Dedication of Rita Roberts Lodge refurbishing and Explorer Commemoration Wall at 3 pm.

If coming for lunch please phone Department of Mission, Education and Development office (03) 662 2377

Focus on Gattton

The town of Gattton (population 6,000) is situated about 80kms west of Brisbane on the road to Toowoomba. It is the principal township of Gattton Shire in the Lockyer Valley, which is said to be one of the most productive agricultural areas in Australia. Potatoes are one of the main crops and an annual potato festival takes place in Gattton.

Barry Benz is minister of the Gattton Church of Christ. He commenced his ministry there this year, having previously ministered at the Kenmore church.

Gattton has a current active membership of about 37, with a number of faithful older members, but not many young people. In order to minister to youth effectively the church has conducted some youth activities jointly with the churches at Ma Ma Creek and Marburg/Lowood. They are also planning some joint activities with young adults commencing in November. By working on a co-operative basis the churches are able to reach out to both the rural and town communities. In the area the Lutheran Church is very strong, with a congregation of 900 in Gattton.

Gattton has a small Sunday School (average attendance 10), of which Elke Benz is superintendent. They meet at 9am, before the service, which commences at 10am. Once a month a family service

is held which involves the children. Rather than a weekly evening service, the church has a monthly fellowship tea followed by a service generally attended by about 27.

Members of the church come from various walks of life: one has a coffee shop, another is an aerial pilot, there's a Telecom worker and elder, John Buhse, recently handed over his car business to his son. John and his wife Clarice have been supporters of Churches of Christ work for many years, in a variety of ways. Sadly Clarice has suffered for the last 18 months from a severe illness. Doctors have been unable to relieve the constant pain. Your prayers are requested for Clarice.

About a quarter of the congregation are involved in mid-week fellowship (Bible Study and prayer) in homes. The CWF is active and has some involvement in Meals on Wheels.

Some members of the Gattton and Ma Ma Creek churches are on the management committee for the Amaroo Retirement Hostel, working with the Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department. A regular flea market is held to raise funds for the hostel. A major fund-raising event coming up is the 'Celebrate Australia' concert which will be held at the Gattton High School assembly hall on October 22 at 7.45pm.

MOVEMENT, MUSIC, DRAMA AND BANNERS ARE SOME OF THE WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE AT FEDERAL CONFERENCE, CANBERRA, JANUARY 15-21, 1989. HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET?

MINISTERS' WORKSHOP

Don't Lose Them—They're Too Important

Becoming part of a new group is not always easy. We feel awkward, sometimes even clumsy. shyness tends to make us withdraw. Often we feel that we are intruding, conspicuous, open for discussion or just a nuisance.

Joining a local church is no different, for the new member is breaking into a strong fellowship of people who have been together for a long time. The danger for the church is to appear to exclude new people, to forget they need help to develop a sense of belonging. So, the result is that many new members stop trying to belong, give up and just disappear. But new members are important and we must make sure we don't lose them. Helping people belong is a vital part in growing the church.

Helping people belong is hard work. Sometimes it is easier to welcome people into fellowship and then let them fend for themselves; but we must work hard to keep people. True, some people may never stay, never belong no matter what we do. However, the way we approach the process of assimilation into the church says a lot about our commitment to making disciples.

People who have been assimilated into the church, people who belong, normally bear a majority of these characteristics:

- ✦ They are helping to achieve the aims of the church
- ✦ They come to worship with a sense of expectation
- ✦ They are growing in their understanding of faith
- ✦ They are making new friends in the church
- ✦ They are involved in some task suitable to their ability

- ✦ They find value in belonging to a small group
- ✦ They happily and generously support the church financially
- ✦ They are sharing their faith and drawing other people into the life of the church

Take a look at your members, new and old. How many of these characteristics do they display? Chances are, if they don't show most of these characteristics, or are not at least working at them, they are slipping out your back door. Take some steps to close the back door so you don't lose anyone without a good effort.

- ✦ Let some people be responsible to review the involvement of people and offer pastoral care
- ✦ Create an atmosphere of concern for new people where hospitality, sharing and fellowship is open and spontaneous
- ✦ Provide opportunities for people to build relationships
- ✦ Discover people's needs and try to meet them
- ✦ Open up new opportunities for people to use their gifts

Assimilation doesn't just happen; people don't just belong automatically. We have to work at it. Don't lose anyone if you can possibly avoid it—they're too important!

—Ian Tippett

Ian Tippett is Field Director with the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development specialising in Church Growth and Stewardship.

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

FEDERAL CONFERENCE



FEDERAL CONFERENCE

Music! Music! Music!

Canberra

January 15-21, 1989



Lake Burley Griffin and the National Library

Orchestra ... Brass fanfare ... Theme Hymn ... Hallelujah Chorus ... Big band ... Christian rock ... Conference choir! When it comes to music we will have it all in Federal Conference: in praise, worship and just plain singing. This is a people's Conference and the music will be for all, not only to "make a joyful noise," but to challenge our minds and inspire our hearts.

Right now a panel of judges is working through the 30 entries in the Theme Hymn competition. As soon as the winning hymn is selected the Conference Choir

and Singers will learn it so that they may teach it at Federal Conference.

Ever heard of a music leader working by remote control? That's what Conference praise and worship leader Sandra Gibson (formerly of Canberra, now of Glen Waverley, Vic.) is doing at present! Happily Cheryl Leach is on hand in Canberra to prepare for Sandra to take up the baton in January.

Nor has music been forgotten in the Conference youth program. Not only will Chris Hutton and the NSW Youth Ministry Coun-

cil be planning youth participation in the Conference and National Youth Forum; they will also be arranging for a great musical event for young people.

Don't forget, if you want to join in the 'sing-it-yourself Hallelujah Chorus' you'll need to bring your copy of the music to Canberra. Just imagine lifting the roof off the Canberra School of Music!

Finally, music will be the focus of one of the Conference Workshops, to which all interested are invited. This workshop will be run by Jean Rose and others from the Cheltenham, Vic., church and will be looking at all types of music and ways of presentation, especially among, and to, young people.

Stop Press

The list of high calibre speakers for Conference is beginning to take shape, including Bill Tabernee (Principal of the College of the Bible), Mal Garvin (Director of Fusion Australia), Nell Gilmore (Federal Conference President), Alf White (Black Stump raconteur par excellence) and Dr William Nottingham (President of the Division of Overseas Ministries of our American churches).

Business

We understand that the Federal Conference Executive has called for notice of any motions that the various State Conferences or

Federal Departments may be seeking to put forward. The closing date is October 20 1988. See the Directory (page 23) for the address of Federal Conference Executive, to whom all notices of motion must be sent.

Registrations

As of September 19 there were 114 registrations for Federal Conference comprising 10 (Qld), 24 (NSW), 16 (ACT), 26 (Vic), 5 (Tas), 21 (SA), 2 (NT), 8 (WA) and 2 (international). It isn't too late for you to register, but do it now! Registration forms are available from church secretaries, State and Federal Conference offices.

Official reports from Bangladesh now say 300,000 have been stricken with cholera, but the figure could be far greater because communication to many areas is still impossible. Contributions to the World Vision Bangladesh Flood Relief Appeal can be made by ringing 008 33 1337 for the cost of a local call. Melbourne residents can call 690 2166. Donations can also be sent to GPO Box 9944 in any capital city.

A number of Christian music teachers from outer Brisbane suburbs are part of the Christian Music Academy. The aim of the academy is to help Christians to learn to play songs, as well as teach, train and equip those interested in Christian music ministry. For more information contact Alan Nolan, (07) 849 4808(AH).

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His Understanding of the Christian and Politics

The relationship between the Kingdom of God and the kingdoms of this world is a matter that has troubled the followers of Jesus in nearly every century of the Christian era. Precisely how Christians are to "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's" (Luke 20:25) has been subject to a wide variety of interpretations. Early Christians tended to see the interests of the church as irreconcilable with those of the state; hence Christians could have nothing to do with the Roman Empire beyond obeying its laws.

But this situation was drastically changed when the Emperor Constantine was converted to Christianity in 311AD. With the anomaly of a Christian empire, the interests of church and state seemed to be integrated, at least in the mind of many leaders of the church. The Empire, once the persecutor, became the protector and guardian of the faith. This situation prevailed throughout the Middle Ages and is epitomised in the Holy Roman Empire.

Radical reformers

The synthesis of church and state was first effectively challenged by the radical reformers of the 16th century. They insisted that the church consists only of the redeemed and hence could never be coterminous with the state. Therefore, the church must exist separate and apart from the state, whose interests were necessarily quite different. The idea that church and state be separated appeared to many to undermine all social and moral authority hence to be destructive to law and order. This is what made these reformers appear so 'radical'.

Enlightenment

But the modern concept of the state owes less to the radical reformers of the 16th century than to the thinkers of the Enlightenment of the 17th century. Locke, Hobbes and Rousseau in Europe expressed views that were put into practice by Jefferson and Franklin in the New World to create the first popular government.

Campbell's background

Alexander Campbell was heir to both the Radical Reformation attitude toward the state and the Enlightenment understanding of the state. He had been reared in the Seceder branch of the Presbyterian Church in Northern Ireland. This was a body that had separated from the state church some years before Campbell was born. From his earliest years he was outside the pale of state religion.

Furthermore, the family had frequent association with the Rich Hill congregation of independents, and the year which Campbell spent in Glasgow found him in close contact with friends of Glassite and Sandemanian conviction who also functioned outside the official state church. Thus the concept of separation of church and state, which was fundamental to American society, was no novelty to Campbell on his arrival in the New World in 1809.

Influences

Alexander Campbell's ideas about the state were formed by his youthful reading of John Locke, the English philosopher whose *Two Treatises on Government* also influenced Thomas Jefferson, the author of the American Declaration of Independence in 1776. Locke held that all men possess certain "natural rights," including rights of "life, liberty and estate." Governments are formed by men in order to ensure that the rights of all citizens shall be protected. As human constructs, governments are subject to the will of the people who authorise them.

When Alexander Campbell arrived in the New World in 1809 he found a political system that was most congenial to his thinking and one that elicited his hearty endorsement. Enlightenment presuppositions that were incorporated in the Constitution that formed the basis of the government then just two decades old. The separation of church and state was guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution, part of the Bill of Rights which guaranteed a free church. This guaranteed

freedom for preaching the "pure gospel," which Campbell believed would ultimately result in the reformation of the social order and bring about the Millennial order. Campbell looked to the Gospel, not the state, to regenerate mankind; but a state which ensured the unimpaird preaching of the Gospel offered the only climate within which the hope of a better society could be realised.

Political experience

Alexander Campbell's sole experience in the political realm sufficed to dispel any idea he might have held about a 'Christian' state. In 1829 he was elected as a delegate to a convention to draft a new constitution for the state of Virginia. Campbell had no political ambitions; his purpose in entering this political arena was to strike a blow for elimination of slavery in the Old Dominion. He represented the western, mountainous portion of the state where yeoman farmers tilled their own soil and slavery was rare. Campbell knew that if suffrage could be extended to all white males of 21 years of age that slavery would eventually be voted out of Virginia. The eastern plantation owners, who held large numbers of slaves, knew this also, and they had protected their interests by limiting the right to vote to owners of substantial acreage.

Campbell's valiant, but unsuccessful, effort to extend the suffrage in Virginia won for him many admirers but no victory. In the struggle, he was able to observe firsthand how greed and avarice motivated the political process. He concluded that Christians ought not to be involved in the political realm because they had much better purposes to serve in reference to the Kingdom of God. This reluctance to enter politics characterised the conservative branch (anti-instrument) of the movement until well after World War II. It is the duty of a Christian to obey the laws of the land and pay taxes; beyond that, he is well-advised not to be involved in the political realm.

Such disdain for political activity led one student of Campbell's political views to observe that Campbell would be "opposed [to] what today would go by the name of 'Christian social action'" (H.L. Linger in *The Sage of Bethany* (ed. P.E. Gresham), p161). Social improvement and the hope for a better society in general will come about from creation of better men, which is the result of preaching the full Gospel, as Campbell saw it.

Opposition to socialism

No summary of the political views of Alexander Campbell would be acceptable were it to fail to note his opposition to socialism. In 1829 Campbell debated Robert Owen, the father of English Socialism (R. Owen & A. Campbell, *Evidences of Christianity*). While the debate centred on the Christian religion, not on socialism *per se*, Campbell's remarks abound in criticism of the presuppositions of Owen's Utopian Socialist tenets. The individualism of the American frontier was too much a part of Campbell's thought patterns to permit him to entertain socialist themes. Campbell believed strongly in democracy because he was confident of the capacity of every individual to act responsibly in both religious and civil matters

—Henry E. Webb

(Professor at Milligan College, Tennessee, USA)

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Release of report on theological education and ministry training

At the last Federal Conference in Hobart a resolution was passed which requested Federal Conference Executive to establish a Task Force to review the provision of theological education and ministry training in the three Colleges and the Institute of Contemporary Church Leadership (Wollongong).

The Task Force was established early in 1988 and has been considering the whole question of preparation for ministry. Meetings have been held with staff, boards and students at each of the four institutions involved. Questionnaires have been circulated to ministers and church members and a number of interviews have been conducted.

In addition, submissions have been received from a variety of in-

dividuals, churches and groups.

The Task Force will present its report to Federal Conference in Canberra and its recommendations will determine the future directions which Churches of Christ in Australia take with respect to the preparation of people called to minister both in local churches, church related groups and missions.

Delegates attending Federal Conference will receive first-hand the report of the Task Force and they will be able to participate in the discussions which will follow.

Are you concerned with the future directions of ministerial preparation?

This is just one more reason that you should register to attend Federal Conference in Canberra.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu has made a plea for voters to boycott next month's municipal elections which are for segregated local councils. Under the South African state of emergency legislation he could be fined up to £5,000 or imprisoned for up to 10 years. Pretoria is anxious for good turn-outs to show that their policies of reform are working. The South African State Security Council was due to discuss the Archbishop's statement and what action they should take. Observers pointed out that a prison sentence was unlikely.

Bishop Gresford Chitemo of Tanzania has been appointed as Senior Team Leader of African Enterprise (AE) in East Africa. He succeeds the late Festo Kivengere and says his vision for the future of AE in Africa will not vary greatly from that of his predecessor. He said that he believed one of the biggest challenges facing the churches in East Africa was to reach young people.

Leaders from 11 denominations who have linked under a new church growth strategy have set a goal to have 4,100 churches and 500,000 church attenders in New Zealand by the year 2000.

Bangladeshi young people in Australia

A group of Bangladeshi young people from the International Needs Children's Village near Dhaka are visiting Australia during October. Their purpose is to say thank you to Australian Christians for their love and support.

The group will be accompanied by Rev. Smith Adhikary, International Needs' Director, who is the senior pastor of one of the largest churches in Bangladesh. As well he is Director of the World Literature Crusade, past chairman of HEED and was instrumental in founding Youth for Christ in Bangladesh.

This will be an opportunity to hear first hand of how Christians are witnessing to Jesus Christ in a country where the question is not if there will be floods each year, but how bad they will be. This year the floods are the worst for at

least a decade.

Venues will be Kalamunda, W.A., Church of Christ, October 9 at 9.30 am; Modbury, S.A., Church of Christ, October 11 at 7.30 pm; Prahran, Vic., Church of Christ October 14 at 7.30 pm; a family concert at Nunawading Church of Christ 7.30 pm on October 15; North Balwyn Church of Christ October 16 at 11 am; Belconnen, ACT, Church of Christ October 18 at 7.45 pm; a family concert at the Ryde, NSW, Baptist Church at 7.45 pm on October 22; a service at Doonside, NSW, Church of Christ October 23 at 7 pm; Upper Mt Gravatt, Qld., Baptist Church on October 26 at 7.30 pm with a family concert at Masons Jam Factory Auditorium, 773 Waterworks Rd., The Gap, Qld, October 29 at 7 pm.

VIC

SWAN HILL (L.J. Mayes) Party of 53 chartered bus for visit to Broken Hill church on weekend of August 19-21 ... Elders took services during minister's vacation ... Two baptised at morning service in September ... Young people's groups combined for weekend camp with Wendy & Andrew Ball as leaders.

MORNINGTON (Ian Cartmel). Great joy & thankfulness for answered prayer as 300 gathered for opening celebration service September 4. Many friends sharing ... 49 committed themselves to being part of the new congregation ... First morning worship saw 60 present. 12 children attended ... Support from sister churches, individuals & Departments greatly appreciated ... Brian White, Dept. MED, first guest speaker Sept. 18 when set of transparencies & container box from Ormond CWF presented by Betty Stibbe.

GREENSBOROUGH (G. Warren). Evening services now held every Sunday ... Two Bible study groups using Serendipity material commenced with co-leaders Diane Cooksley, Malcolm Winton, Don Marshall ... Four tennis teams fielded in VBCCTA summer season ... CWF organised cabaret dinner raising over \$500.

Members of church family provided items ... Playgroup for preschoolers commences Oct 5 ... Alan Page Snr guest speaker Sept 25.

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DISCIPLESHIP

•Rachael Hamer, Brett Bennett, Sharon McArthur, Fiona Briers, York St, Ballarat, Vic. •Craig Berry, Naracoorte, SA. •Charman Crisp, Hollie DeRoche, Audrey Gobbart, Kerry Turner, Glen Waverley, Vic. •Renate Hughes, Collin St, Hobart, Tas. •Anne Trent, Werribee, Vic. •Bob Pettit, Darwin, NT. •Simon Williams, Flinders Park, SA. •Kristie Pitt, Duanne Pitt, Nicholas Rumble, Luke Rumble, Ivanhoe, Vic. •Gareth Martin, Chelsea, Vic. •Susan Bowring, Kirsty Hill, Thornleigh, NSW. •Diane Ely, Ken Page, Swan Hill, Vic. •Ewen & Maryanne Doroszuk, Carnegie, Vic. •Angela Shaw, Bill Morrow, Aldgate Valley, S.A. •Robert & Joanne Parker, Balaklava, S.A.

MARRIAGES

•Karen Flowers to Brett Jennings, Mandurah, WA. •Karyn Sakareassen to David Winkler, Rachel Sproule to Mark Anderson, Glen Waverley, Vic. •Gail Shepherd to Hank Petrusma, Jane Foot to Noel Mundy, Hobart, Tas. •Marilyn Christensen to Terry Ainslie, Darwin, NT. •Raylene McCrystal to Eric Callaway, Chelsea, Vic. •Gail Owers to Simon Swayn, Diane Ely to Ken Page, Swan Hill, Vic. •Maryanne Schroeder to Ewen Doroszuk, Carnegie, Vic. •Kathryn Webb to Neil Kupke, Balaklava, S.A.

DEATHS

•Vera Bowden, Black Forest, SA. •Mrs Hazelwood, Mrs Hubbard, Mr Pearce, Mrs Gluyas, Flinders Park, SA. •Fred Putland, Dorrie

Wade, Bill Tucker, Torrenville, SA. •Henry Yates, Gilgandra, NSW. •Ellis Lee, Tumbly Bay, SA. •Florence Strong, Keith Miles, Carnegie, Vic. •Raymond Thomas Caudle, Leslie James Graham Porteous, Aldgate Valley, S.A. •Stanley Shepherd, Stan Webb, Cecil Sires, Balaklava, S.A.

Changes of Address

NSW MISSIONS COMMITTEE: Secretary—Noelene Rose, Lot 26, Calala St, Mt Druitt 2770. Phone (02) 625 0939.

MT DRUITT: Minister—Hugh Rose, Lot 26, Calala St, Mt Druitt 2770. Phone (02) 625 0939.

MURDOCH, Colin, 6 Banksia Rd, Greenacre 2190. Phone (02) 708 5493.

KNEE, Alf & Mavis, 123 Salford Park, 100 Harold St, Wantima 3152. Phone (03) 887 1732.

MORNINGTON: Minister — Ian Cartmel, Main Road, Red Hill, Vic. 3937. Phone (059) 89 2433.

Secretary — Mavis Peet, 57 Fifth Ave., Rosebud, Vic. 3939. Phone (059) 86 4827.

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Hurricane Gilbert struck Jamaica on September 12 leaving a trail of destruction. The Jamaican Red Cross has issued an appeal for \$10 million which would provide food and other emergency supplies to 500,000 victims for 6 weeks.

State authorities in East Germany have imposed heavy restrictions on reporting in the religious press in the past few months. The crack-down led to the chairman of the Federation of Evangelical Churches, Bishop Leich, seeking talks with the Secretary of State, Dr Kurt Kleiner.

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

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NSW

THORNLEIGH (F. Elliot) Two young ladies baptised recently ... Stuart Wesley, currently a third year College student at Carlingford, with Thornleigh, has accepted a call to be part of the Ministry Team as Youth Minister commencing February 1989 ... Church conducted a stall at the Dunmore Fete at Pendle Hill on August 17.

GILGANDRA (I. Clark) Sunday School took part in Coo-ee Lodge & Father's Day service ... Family camp at Karuah well attended and enjoyed by all ... Church saddened by passing of Henry Yates after long illness.

WA

FREMANTLE (D. Good) Minister has returned from holiday overseas. He has accepted church's invitation to minister with us until 1994 ... Feature of Father's Day evening service was 'Memories of Father', by four of our members ... 'Home' for visits have been: Cliff & Millie Taylor (NSW), Keith & Robin Bowes (SA) ... Kathleen Taylor on visit to Israel & UK ... Mr & Mrs L. Ladner had diamond wedding anniversary on September 15.

MANDURAH (R. Ryall) Roger conducted worship leaders' workshop, August 14 ... Recent soloist, Kathy Heyhoe ... Karen Flowers & Brett Jennings married August 27 ... Many former members returned to celebrate anniversary, Don Parker & Ken Patterson spoke & Norma McSweeney sang ... Christian drama group, 'Moving Images' took part in High School seminars ... Merv Anderson (UC) shared in pulpit exchange, Roger shared in services at Pinjarra & Mandurah ... Minister led funeral of Henry Sprigg.

KINGSLEY (Don Butler) Submission re building presented to Brotherhood ... Activities for fund raising include quiz night, cake & craft stall, lamington drive, newspaper drive ... Men's basketball team won their grand final ... Congratulations to Cheryl & Phil Guy on arrival of Jessica Rachael; Sue & Greg Johnson on arrival of Damien Luke & Leanne & Garry Beavis on arrival of Jadon Kyle.

PERTH CITY (G. Powell). Ian & Audrey Nicholas & Stephanie Davis welcomed into membership by transfer ... Congratulations to Amy Hill & Mavis Campbell on their 90th birthdays ... 73 Raglan Rd., Mt Lawley purchased for manse ... Gordon & Elma Ewers home after extensive overseas holiday ... George & Gladys Powell & Jack & Thelma Bridge planning to attend World Convention in New Zealand ... Kingsley ladies visited CWF for screening of Bible Society film on China.

TAS

HOBART (Jeff Weston) New minister Jeff Weston inducted on July 10; 'Getting to Know You' house parties held since ... Afternoon CWF holding monthly fundraising luncheons, open to public ... Girls Brigade and 'Travelers' participated at recent service with speaker Graeme Chapman (COB deputation) ... Prayer chain re-established ... Effective Eldership survey underway ... Minister attended Herb Miller Seminar in Melbourne on behalf of Tas. Executive.

DEVONPORT Annual meeting held in August, Karen Bannon inducted as Girls Brigade chaplain ... John Bremman from WEC serving as assistant pastor till December ... Visiting speakers still helping out ... Six ladies travelled to Caveside for CWF get-together with Ulverstone & Launceston, all had an enjoyable day.

LAUNCESTON (Gordon Stirling) Gordon Stirling interviewed Alexander Campbell (John Piper) at 7pm service, 11 September, on the origins of Churches of Christ ... John Harrison speaker on 18 September & two young people who attended the recent Training Seminar, Lyndal Green & Scott Dubbeld, spoke at 7pm service ... 24 CWF ladies joined in annual visit to Caveside on 14 September.

VIC

YORK ST, BALLARAT (Roger Risson, Brian Parsons) Roger Risson attended Ministry Enrichment Training Program at El Kanah Christian Community, Marysville ... Pre-gospel prayer

time well attended ... 'Herd' & 'Shekinah' leaders undertook planning sessions with Brian Parsons ... Essential ministry of prayer teams continues in prayer chains, Bible cell groups, Sunday night (6.30-8.00pm), individually & by those who are prayer supporters for particular areas of ministry.

EASTERN SUBURBAN REGIONAL

ASHBURTON (Ken Barton) Bible Sunday celebrated with special morning worship service ... Kid's Club conducted fortnightly by Anthea Thompson with help from Peter Eades from the College of the Bible. Some church members assist with the worship segment ... CWF annual meeting re-elected Elsie McCahay, Edith Barton & Isabel Hill as president, secretary & treasurer respectively ... Members enjoyed an excellent presentation by Jean Wuit on the work of Community Care.

HARTWELL (Graeme Rogerson) Well attended Family Service followed by a 'Sausage Sizzle'. Children later attended children's rally at Melbourne Town Hall ... Bush dance successful & enjoyable ... Training session for teachers & story-tellers led by Bruce & Merilyn Ber-

tram ... Churches across Melbourne were represented at the Prayer Retreat led by Sisters of the Heart of Life Spirituality Centre, a new & meaningful experience ... Bible Sunday speaker from Gideons.

SURREY HILLS/WATTLE PARK (Milton Oliver) The three house groups combined with Camberwell have been a good time of fellowship ... Arthur Withers is a new addition to pastoral team ... Jon Weetman welcomed into fellowship; Jon has been part of Adventure Time, Explorers & FISH for the past seven years ... Robyn Stephens has been chosen to take part in the Australian goal-ball squad for the Seoul Para-Olympics.

BALWYN (Graeme Woodward) We look back with praise & thanksgiving & we look forward with excitement & expectation ... All auxiliaries have been busy, with visiting speakers & ministry to others, such as a greatly appreciated program for the residents of Emmaus ... OK Klub continues to grow ... Those involved in the Bible Study wait with much anticipation for the next series of studies beginning in October.

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SA

OWEN COMBINED CONGREGATION (Phillip Gardner) Over 80 attended service & luncheon for third anniversary, September 11, speaker Colin Dredge... Owen hosted breakfast Sept. 4 during parish visit by Rev Arthur Jackson, over 50 from Adelaide Plains parish attended... Sunday School raised \$141 for Bible Society at function with Norm Baxter who shared his experiences as an Aboriginal working among his people... 30 ladies enjoyed meal & social.

NARACOORTE (Grant Simpson) Recent services featured Keith & Ruth Skillicorn, Leprosy Mission, Dr Keith Cowley, OMB, & film "From Fury to Freedom"... Outreach weekend held—17 at Men's Breakfast, speaker Des Manning (OARS); youth night screened "The Cross and the Switchblade"... 31 children shared in ROCK Anniversary... Stan & Sheila Whittam (WEC) took evening service.

BLACK FOREST (Ron Bassett) Church saddened by the passing of Vera Bowden, one of early pioneers, aged 91 years. Lovingly remembered by many friends throughout the whole

brotherhood for her service to conference committees... August 7 youth service speaker Paul Quick... Preparing for day with Brian Phelps leading 'Adventurers in Evangelism'.

DULWICH/ROSE PARK UNITED PARISH (Ted Bray, Roger Brown) Guest preacher Ken Dawson spoke on Alexander Campbell's life at 200th birthday celebration service... Two great-grand-daughters of Campbell were present, Constance Magarey & Virginia Young. Their grandfather, Alick Magarey, visiting Bethany, USA, in 1870 with evangelist H.S. Earl, met Alexander's daughter Virginia; he returned six years later to wed her & bring her to Australia.

FLINDERS PARK (Tony & Margaret Williams) **TACK** (Afternoon Kids Club) averaging 65 children with 20 members helping & leading... Church membership increased by four in the last month... Church delighted with Simon Williams baptism & the joy felt by Margaret as she baptised her son... Trading Table on voting day saw \$539 raised... Rappers Camp saw 24 young people enjoy weekend together—time of studies & building on relationships.

TORRENSVILLE (Tony & Margaret Williams) Winter

months saw the loss of three associated with the church, all will be greatly missed... Men of the church joining in the monthly programs of Christian Fellowship (CWF)... Monthly visits to the Torrensville Nursing Home continue; great times of fellowship & ministry to the elderly... Mary Langstreth upheld in prayers & support while undergoing intensive treatment in hospital.

BERRI (A. Chapple) Since Annual Meeting in August church held a weekend retreat & a recognition service for elders, deacons & deaconesses... Church camp held at 'El Shaddai' in September was most successful... Cell groups & Bible studies in operation... Bibles were distributed in part of the township... Church will be seeking a full-time minister for 1990... Tim & Sylvia Ochse have moved to Melbourne.

VICTOR HARBOR (A. Clark) Church family luncheons well attended; some contacts opened homes to host recent lunch... Successful Kid's Camp held at Port Sturt... Sunday School producing monthly newsletter to keep parents in touch & encourage children, who contribute items... Adrian conducted course on 'Being & Becoming Human'... Friendship Centre celebrated birthday with games & BBQ

lunch... Church Social popular with many contacts coming & participating enthusiastically.

TUMBY BAY (Greg Hawkins) Eyre Peninsula Conference, Port Lincoln, speaker Colin Dredge... Rev Sir Allan Walker & wife conducted a weekend mission with combined churches at Tumby Bay, Cummins & Port Lincoln... Minister & wife returned from holidays... Ian Ratcliff from Ghana spoke at week night meeting... EP Women's half-yearly conference & luncheon at Ungarra, led by Lyn Telfer; women came from Whyalla, Tumby Bay & Port Lincoln. Ron Holmes promoted Vital Publications literature.

BALAKLAVA (Graham Lawrie). Workshops held to assist presidents, readers, worship & children's service leaders... Wendy & Vernon Kruger farewelled on moving to Roxby Downs... Church saddened by sudden death of Stanley Shepherd. Sympathy to Joyce & family. Stan presided the previous Sunday, was an active worker in all aspects of church life, participated on local government & most district community organisations... Bicentennial combined churches service in Town Hall... Jim Dow & Geoff Whiting led church's 11th anniversary.

42nd FEDERAL CONFERENCE

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



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Australian Worship is Alive and Well

—Judy Gordon

Australian Christian Foundation Scholar for 1988

Over the past decade or so there has been a search going on amongst Australian churches to discover how to relate to our own people in a style of worship that will be meaningful. Books such as "The Sunburnt Soul" by David Milliken raised our consciousness as to what we are all about, but answers were difficult to find. We knew that many people were not happy with the worship styles of some churches, but still the question persisted, 'How do we make our worship acceptable to God, the traditionalists and the people in the community?' We are multicultural and our backgrounds as Australians are varied. Much of what we did in worship was actually part of other traditions and a great deal was taken from overseas cultures. It was difficult to find what it was to be Australian.

It was then with some excitement that my recent trip to the United States showed that we do indeed have an Australian style of worship that is unique to ourselves. I spent some time in the US talking to people who were developing resources for worship in various denominations. It was really interesting and impressive, but it created a problem for me in that it could not be transferred to our own country. This was when I became aware that we are distinctly different.

First, I felt that one of our characteristics and qualities was flexibility. Some of our churches still have a strongly structured style, but on the whole a lot of searching and testing has produced an ability to be flexible. We have a freedom in Australia that is relaxing, creative and open to change. This flexibility is a very special quality and will lead to new adventures in worship.

Secondly, we have developed worship that suits our culture that is basically informal. We do not use liturgy, gowned choirs or ask our preacher to be gowned. We are not heavily into symbols in the churches. Not that any of these things could possibly be seen as wrong. They are just not needed or used in our churches.



Worship Australian style? I love it!

Rather, we have many congregations that dress neatly, but not too 'churchie'. Our dressing and attitude towards the worship services is more in line with our casual, relaxed nation.

Thirdly, I have noticed that we have developed our own standards of leadership in the worship service. We have decided what the standard is that we will accept and have demanded that it be lived up to. Those who lead or have any part in the service, must work at the standard and 'present' well. This is, of course, also found overseas, but I feel that we have done well in making our worship leaders fit into our Australian way of expressing our worship of the Lord.

I believe that in the future, more and more, we will draw our resources and ideas from within our own ranks, as we learn to live out Australian Christianity. We need to encourage the forward thinkers and keep pace with them. As our society changes, we as churches will need to change with it. This has always been a strong and wise principle to follow and no less important as we look at our own national future.

Jesus said to the woman of Samaria, "You must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth." (Jn 4:24) The truth must not only be theologically correct but must also be such that the people worshipping in the Church will be in truth to themselves, their culture, their world and to others.

Praise God that he delights in our present worship and in the worship we will present in the future.

THE LAST WORD

The man who has not learned to say 'no' will be a weak if not a wretched man as long as he lives.

—Alexander MacLaren

Church ad seen in a newspaper, announcing performance of a cantata during the minister's vacation:
NO SERMON SUNDAY
"Rejoice, Beloved Christians."

★★★★★

Passing a cemetery in the wee hours of the morning, a drunk noticed a sign that read: "Ring the bell for the caretaker." He did and a sleepy-eyed man growled, "What do you want at this hour?" The drunk retorted, "I want to know why you can't ring the bell yourself!"

★★★★★

Just inside the main entrance to the school there was a row of coathooks on the wall. Above it was a sign saying "For Teachers Only". And below it someone had written "Can also be used for coats".

★★★★★

They had been arguing for months about the respective merits of their favourite brands of beer. Eventually, agreeing that it was the only way to settle the argument, they sent a sample of each brand to the Public Analyst to determine which was the best. Three weeks later they got a letter saying, "I regret to inform you that neither of your two horses will ever work again."

★★★★★



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