

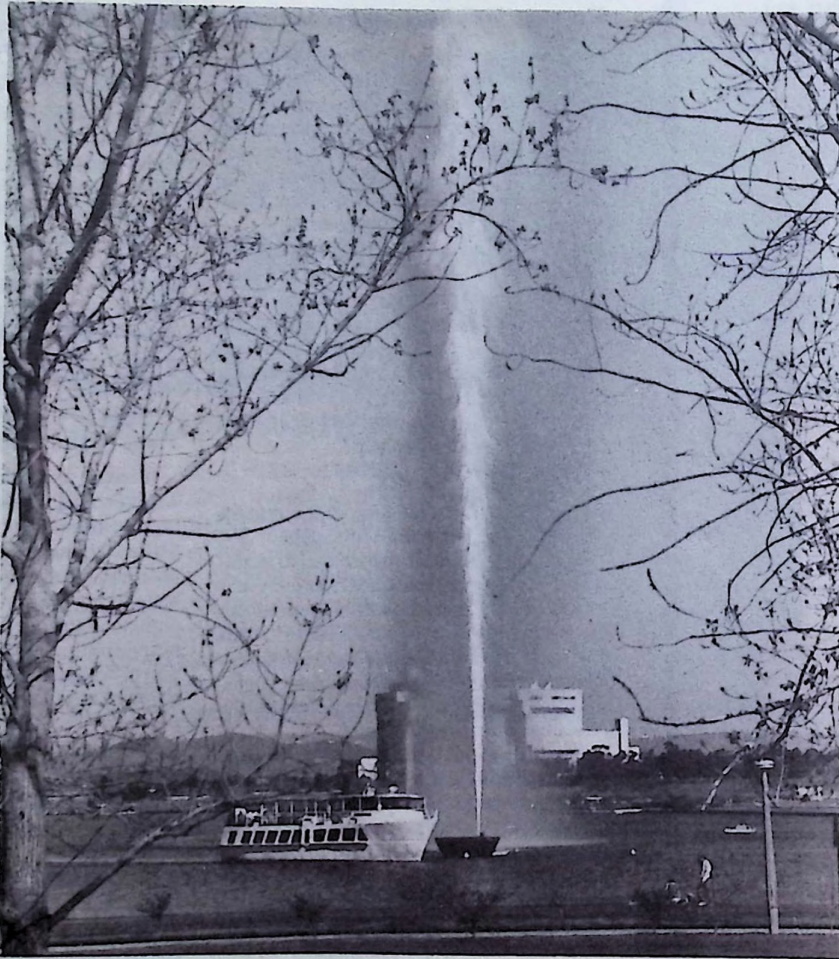
# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

**NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA**

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Volume 91, No. 18

October 15, 1988



**Captain Cook Memorial Water Jet — Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra**

**GOD'S PEOPLE GOD'S WORLD**

**42nd Federal Conference**

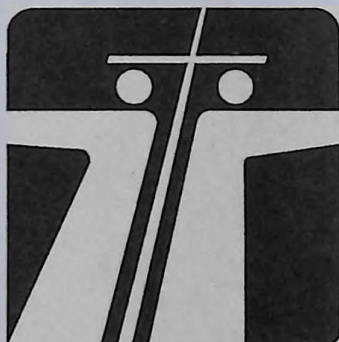
**Canberra 15 — 21 January 1989**

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Managing Editor:  
CHRIS AMBROSE

ISSUE	DEADLINE
October 29	October 19
November 12	November 2
November 26	November 16

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## COMMENT

### Can the church adapt to its new environment?

—Bruce Anderson  
(Mt. Gambier, S.A.)

The ministry of the church is desperately needed. People today still need eternal perspectives, the way to eternal life, help in coping with pressured and traumatic life crises and the fellowship of caring, like-minded people. However, there are two shortages strangling the church.

#### Two major shortages

As I read a couple of future-oriented articles in "The Australian Christian" (17.9.88) I became aware of two trends in our world that are seriously affecting the ministry of the church. People feel short of money and short of time. And the indications for the future do not encourage us to think these shortages will pass quickly, or at all.

In this environment the church is seen by many as out to get both their time and their money, so people stay away in droves. Think of the typical pastor image in TV shows. He visits either to get people to come to church (their time) or to get their contributions to the church (their money). Do you ever see him portrayed as bringing desperately needed compassion, comfort or help?

#### Shortage of money

- Economic climate—one of the articles commented on Australia's total debt of \$60 billion. Australia must reduce this to maintain its standing in world trade. Tax increases are not politically expedient so government focus must turn to reduced expenditure. This heralds tougher times ahead for Australians. Welfare will have to get tighter.

- Unemployment—another factor that is effecting increasing numbers.

- Higher expectations—make us feel tighter with our finances. We have higher expectations of what is an acceptable standard of living. My wife and I, and our two-year-old son, lived in New Guinea in one room of a thatched house for three months. Our only water supply was from the Ramu river; kerosene lamps were our only lighting; feet were our means of transport. Yet we survived and enjoyed life there. Why is it that we Australians feel we must have so much?

However the chances of convincing people that they can live much more simply is not great because the average Australian spends three hours per week in front of their TV set which is constantly telling them they need this or that—tantalising them until they crave it.

#### Shortage of time

Those three hours explain the other shortage to some extent too. Our pressured society demands more and more of our time: sport commitments, committees, children's activities, community involvement etc. Widespread families and transport improvements mean we spend more time travelling large distances to keep in touch with our families.

#### Steady as she goes?

Is it possible for churches to continue in traditional patterns in the face of these shortages? Reduced finances and man-hours of involvement will cripple traditional church programs. When finances dry up facilities must deteriorate, or at least lag behind other commercial enterprises (clubs, schools etc.). People's busy programs ensure that the church programs (mid-week Bible studies, prayer meetings and extra meetings) will be poorly and sporadically attended, lowering the effectiveness of such groups (making teaching series almost pointless).

#### Two responses

It seems to me the church has two options when faced with congregations who are feeling pressured by dollar and time. It can demand greater 'loyalty' and challenge people about their priorities (love for God, the lost, tithing etc.) or it can seek to adapt to the climate of the day by finding ways of ministering spiritually without the same consumption of dollars and hours. The first option may be counterproductive in that it confirms in people's minds the impression that the church is out to get their time and money. This drives people away.

#### Two alternatives

There seem to be two ways the church can adapt to the 'climate'.

- Bigger churches—and fewer—are one solution if percentages of income and time given by members to the church are low. This results in certain 'efficiencies of scale' and provides the necessary income and manpower resources to run a traditional church program. However, some manpower needs increase with the size of the church (eg, the number of Sunday School teachers). Also, some find larger churches rather impersonal. It also troubles me that people can just get lost in the crowd and never develop their own spiritual resources.

• Continued on Page 20

## Family Camp—Darwin style

On the weekend of May 14-15 Darwin Church of Christ held a family camp at beautiful Wangi Falls in Litchfield National Park, about two hours drive from Darwin. There were 14 family groups comprising 26 adults and 22 children.

The backdrop to our camp was a large, sandy swimming hole fed by water cascading over a cliff face hundreds of metres high. The falls run all year round.

Unlike many southern family camps, for those of us in the Northern Territory it is 'take your own everything'. The only facilities provided are taps with running water and the occasional Aussie thunderbox hidden amongst the scrub. For this camp nearly all had tents. Families organised themselves around campfires which they shared for cooking.

An assortment of shade cloths and tarpaulins were erected to



Sunday service under canvas

provide a large shaded expanse for gatherings such as Saturday night's concert and the Sunday morning service. Daytime activities were mainly swimming, reading and relaxing with other church members.

Saturday night's concert provided an opportunity for all those talented people to display their skills for us. In this the youngsters



### Wangi Falls

were heavily involved—devising their own acts. There was a time of chorus singing, a devotion and the evening finished with a cup of hot chocolate.

The Sunday morning service was led by Chris Pettit with her children as helpers and Bible readers. The communion emblems were simple, in keeping with the camp atmosphere. The tranquil surroundings enhanced our worship.

Some of us were able to stay a little longer than the Sunday. Those who had to return felt refreshed and revitalised for the coming week.

**Please advise any change of address**

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## GROWING SPIRITUALLY

### The God whom we want?

According to the scriptures, God has created man in his own image (Gen 1:26), meaning that there is something about the moral consciousness of man that reflects the very being of the Almighty.

Sometimes, however, this truth can be subtly reversed and man in his own mind creates his own God! We may like certain hymns (traditional or modern) and think that because we like them, God likes them. We may be used to a certain style of worship or church policy and think that they suit God. We may adopt a particular lifestyle or adjust our values and imagine that God approves.

What I mean is that we can allow our culture, tradition, conditioning and personal preferences to shape our concept of God, and in so doing there is always the danger of arriving at a deficient theology.

We need something far more tangible as a basis for our faith and we have it in the Holy Scriptures. It is to the written word we must turn time and again in order to test all things, especially our faith and convictions. Let us not be guilty of creating in our minds the God whom we want (albeit unconsciously), but let us search the scriptures and use them as our final court of appeal concerning the truth of the only living God. Then, let us grow in true knowledge and experience of Him.

—N. Aubrey

## Camping studies



**Phyl Davis, Conference President-elect, with Marilyn and John Beard**

At a meeting of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development on September 15, John and Marilyn Beard of Camp Waterman reported on their visit to the United States in June-July. John is the Department's Senior Camp Manager. The visit was sponsored by the Department to assess trends in camping programs and site development.

During their visit they inspected camp sites in California, Washington, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas. Contacts included both church-related and privately owned camps. There was some contact with camps and leaders of our American churches. They also had the opportunity to confer with leaders involved in camping administration at a national level.

Among some of the interesting facts discovered is that in the USSR there are 50,000 camps with 90% of children attending camps annually. The United States has 12,000 camps with 11

million children involved each year. The US, Australia, Canada and Japan are seen to be world leaders in camping activities and professional commitment to development.

John and Marilyn presented a report on the experience, together with a range of recommendations which relate to areas such as leadership training, program development, adventure activities, people with special needs and site development. Department members and staff have been challenged to explore a number of new initiatives which came from the visit.

Both John and Marilyn thought that, in a number of respects, Australian camping activities compared most favourably with what they saw in the US. At some points we are ahead of what was seen overseas, while in others there was lots to learn. The visit was a part of the Department's commitment to renew all areas of its ministry as the 1990s approach.

### VISITING CANBERRA?

#### Stay with a Church Family

A number of Canberra church families offer accommodation in their homes at basic bed and breakfast rates to help raise funds for "Home Mission" extensions in the ACT. If you would like to enjoy friendly "one of the family" hospitality in Canberra write for particulars to:

**Pat & Warwick Wright** Barbara Kennedy  
 28 Kidston Cres., 6 Sharp Place,  
 CURTIN 2605 MELBA 2615  
 Phone (062)81.3088 Phone (062)58.1360

Advance bookings appreciated

## Welcome back Dorothy

On September 23 a welcome service and supper was held at the Cheltenham, Vic., church for Dorothy Geyer. Dorothy returned to Australia in August after spending 33 years involved in mission work in India. Members of her family and church, as well as many friends, attended the service. The program, chaired by Vic-Tas Conference President Gerald Rose, included greetings from churches and individuals, brought by CWF President Lois Smith and Keith Ludgater, Chairman of the Vic-Tas Overseas Mission Department. There were also musical items and a selection of slides presented by one of Dorothy's sisters.

Interstate visitors included Jeff May (Executive Director, Overseas Mission Board), Dr T. Thomas (OMB Chairman) and Bruce Coventry (OMB member). Several visitors from India were also in attendance.

Speeches were made welcoming Dorothy home, whilst at the same time recognising that she must have had a sense of leaving



home when she left India. Flowers and a gift were presented. In response Dorothy expressed her gratitude and pointed out that her work in India was in partnership with many there. She described the way that the Lord enabled her to fulfil the tasks which she was given.

Dorothy will be available for deputation in Victoria in February next year. If you would like her to visit your church or group contact Douglas Hughes, 13 Ridder Court, Dingley 3172; phone (03) 551 4670.

### AUGUST AND MAELINE BEN IN VICTORIA

Born in Vanuatu  
 Missionaries in  
 PNG 1969-79



Director of  
 Home Missions  
 in Vanuatu  
 1979-86  
 Manager of  
 Santo Youth  
 Hostel 1986  
 to date

#### October

17	7.45pm	Box Hill
19	8.00pm	Springvale
20	8.00pm	Swanston St
23	10.00am	Swan Hill
	7.00pm	Shepparton
26	8.00pm	Ararat
30	8.30am, 9.30am, 11.00am	Frankston
	7.00pm	Footscray

#### November

3	7.30pm	Nunawading (meal at 6.30pm, contact Dora Gray (03) 878 4807)
6	10.00am 6.30pm	Greensborough LaTrobe Tce, Geelong

An offering will be received to help towards the cost of their visit.

## Australia-wide Evangelism Consultation

Herb Miller, Executive Director of the National Evangelistic Association of the Disciples of Christ, USA, recently steered 40 representatives of our Australian churches towards new directions in evangelism for the 1990s.

Held at Stanwell Tops in August, the consultation saw representatives of all state departments and theological colleges consider issues of leadership, worship, theological education and personal faith development in relationship to effective evangelism.

A highlight of the consultation was attention given to the need to develop a message of hope and strength to cope in a hostile world. Representatives committed themselves to an evangelism for the future which addresses personal and family needs, making faith relevant and communicable to the Australian community.



Left to right: Bob Smith and Chris Hutton, NSW DCD, Herb Miller and Ian Tippett, Vic-Tas DMED

The outcome of the consultation is currently being developed into a report and recommendations for state departments and local churches. These recommendations will ensure we maintain a real effectiveness in evangelism

to the end of the century.

Herb Miller's visit confirmed the directions of our churches over the past 10 years and has challenged us to a renewed commitment to evangelism as our basic priority in the church.

It is currently hoped that Herb Miller will continue a consultative role with us and help us to develop new programs and initiatives in evangelism over the coming months.

## Media chief to speak at prayer breakfast

The speaker for the Melbourne Prayer Breakfast on Friday 28 October at the Southern Cross Hotel will be Peter King (pictured), Chief Executive Officer of the Fairfax media organisation. Chairman for the function will be Jim Beggs, President of the Waterside Workers Federation.

This will be the fifth Melbourne Prayer Breakfast. Past speakers were Archbishop Penman, Ian Milne, Charles Colson and John Smith. The breakfasts have been arranged by a group of concerned Christians involved in the business, professional and political communities in Melbourne. Their purpose is to call for a return to strong Christian spiritual values and to present the claims and principles of Jesus Christ for personal and corporate life today. They also provide an opportunity for community leaders to be part of a program seeking God's guidance upon state and nation.



Information on the coming breakfast can be obtained from Box 986H, GPO, Melbourne 3001 or by telephoning Eric Easton on (03) 606 4513 or Bill Watson on (03) 450 9704.

**NEW HOPE  
CAN BE YOURS  
DIAL (03) 11610**

## C.R.O.P. help for Kyneton

C.R.O.P., the new Vic-Tas Church Reach Out Plan, will help Kyneton, Vic., members purchase a residence for their new part-time minister, Peter Eades. The purchase is part of the new Properties Corporation - Department of Mission, Education and Development initiative to assist smaller congregations finding themselves in growth situations.

The DMED has assisted with the appointment of Peter Eades, who will continue theological study at the College of the Bible while residing in Kyneton. The Properties Corporation has allocated special funds to the project.

Kyneton, as a community, is beginning to feel the impact of growth on Melbourne's fringe. To take advantage of the coming growth the two departments are linking with local church leaders to assist the church in its development program during the 1990s. The two departments are inviting involvement and gifts to assist the growing range of projects.

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L.M.C.T.  
6549

**Ken Geyer**

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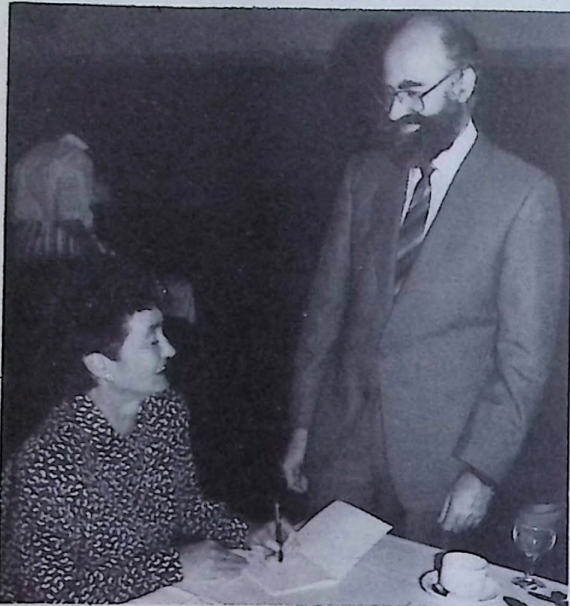
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## Book assists College of the Bible New Campus Campaign



Meredith Davies presenting a copy of her book to Dr Tabbernee

Members and churches throughout Australia have been using novel ways of raising funds for the College of the Bible's New Campus Campaign. Meredith Davies from Port Pirie, SA, has released a book of her poetry "Along the Way" as a means of raising funds for COB.

Her writings reflect her experiences and her relationship with the Lord, from the setting of the Davies' farm huddled against the rugged backdrop of the Flinders Ranges, overlooking wheat fields and the waters of Spencer's Gulf.

The book is proving popular amongst many in our churches in SA, following its release at the August State CWF meeting. At the recent New Campus Dinner in Adelaide Meredith presented an autographed copy to College Principal Dr W. Tabbernee.

Copies of "Along the Way" may be obtained by sending \$3.50 plus \$1.00 postage to M. Davies, Box 181, Port Pirie 5540. Adelaide residents may arrange to collect a copy by contacting Wendy Ridge at Croydon, phone (08) 46 2258.

## Christian Book Month

The Christian Bookselling Association of Australia, a trade association combining publishers, wholesalers and retailers, has announced it has designated November 1988 as 'Christian Book Month'. The CBAA is initiating a Christian Book Month to promote the concept of Christian books as a unique resource which should be used more in the Church's total mission and ministry.

The CBAA is promoting the concept of reading Christian books to churches and the wider community through posters and radio commercials. Members of the association will be available to churches to speak for 10 minutes on either or both of the month's themes: 'Turn on the Power' and 'Refreshment in a Thirsty World'.

Special church services are being held in October in all states except Victoria, the NT and ACT. Members of the CBAA will be taking part in each service, all are welcome to attend. Christian Book Month gives churches an ideal opportunity to raise the consciousness of its people regarding the availability, diversity and relevance of Christian books.

For more information about the state church services and the availability of speakers, ring the secretary of your state chapter for further details. These are: Qld, Ed Buchanan, (07) 52 4004; NSW, John Manners, (02) 524 3347; Vic., Wln Morgan, (03) 544 5720; Tas., Allstair Stott, (003) 31 6759; SA, Cherie Rodway, (08) 212 2322; NT, Hazel Parker, (089) 81 9030.

## Australian Christian Book of the Year

In 1981 the Australian Christian Literature Society decided to establish an Australian Christian Book of the Year award. The purpose of the award was to encourage good Christian literature in Australia. At that time there was very little good Christian literature being produced in Australia and it was felt that a set of awards would help to improve the quality of Australian Christian literature.

Recently the 1988 awards were made. This is the eighth year of the awards and this year there were 35 entries submitted.

"The Refining Fire" by Dawn Mendham (Albatross Books) was chosen as the Australian Book of the Year, 1988. This book also won the Design Award for 1988. In this book 16 Australian artists explore how they effectively practice their art in a Christian context. Biographical sketches of each of the artists are included along with a collection of full colour and half tone reproductions of the various artists' work.

The 1988 award for the best Children's Book went to "The Sacramental Programme" and "We Welcome You" published

by Collins Dove. These are a series of books designed to help children and their parents understand communion and church membership.

Highly Commended Certificates were awarded to "When the Dream is Shattered" by Judith and Michael Murray (Lutheran Publishing House); "Beauty from Ashes" by Peter Crawford (Acorn Press) and "The Crown Versus Chamberlain" by Ken Crispin (Albatross Books). A Highly Commended Certificate was also awarded in the design section to "Father Julian and the Blue Lake" by Frances and Diana Santleben, illustrated by John Nicholson (Collins Dove).

Certificates of Commendation were awarded to the following books: "Still Waters, Deep Waters" edited by Rowland Croucher (Albatross Books); "Journey with the Poor" by Peter Philp (Collins Dove); "Waking and Always" by Andrew Lansdown (Angus & Robertson); "Ellinda" by Roger Climpson (Hodder & Stoughton) and "Matt's Marathon" by Josaphine Crose (Joint Board of Christian Education).



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### Sunday

9.00 a.m. & 11 a.m.      Worship & Communion  
Services

7.00 p.m.                      Gospel Celebration

### Wednesday

1.15 p.m. to 1.45 p.m.      Lunchtime Service

For further enquiries, please ring (03) 663 3884



## Gospel imperative for ACC

Archbishop David Penman gave his first presidential address to the new Executive of the Australian Council of Churches at its first meeting since June this year.

Dr Penman observed, "There are some in our churches who believe that the ACC has lost something of its imperative of the Gospel. I wouldn't be here if I thought that was true. But we should take seriously the need to discover new ways of expressing the Gospel in our structures and life. And we are to encourage our churches, for whom we are directly responsible, to be ever fresh in the Lord Jesus in their daily responsibilities."

In his remarks Dr Penman also stressed the fact that the ACC is not a church, but the servant of the churches which the Executive represents.

"It will be one of my commitments to ensure we facilitate the effectiveness of the churches in expressing their mind on a wide diversity of issues. And that we will not necessarily speak as a Council when we can encourage churches to speak more effectively for themselves, because of the advice we may offer."

He concluded by referring to the present limited membership of the ACC and expressing his hope that the Council might become more representative of Australian churches over the next few years.

## Racism and Migration

The following is the text of a media release on racism and migration issued by Victorian Conference President Gerald Rose on August 29.

"In the light of the recent discussion on migration—

"We call upon the major political parties urgently to re-establish a bipartisan policy on migration and for each party to clearly state that race will not be a criterion in the selection of immigrants.

"We view with considerable disquiet those developments which have led to the focus falling upon issues of racial origins becoming the dominant point of discussion in the immigration debate. Quite apart from the effect this has had in unsettling the social harmony of our community, we believe it is totally out of keeping with the humanitarian concern for people in need which has been

characteristic of the immigration policy of the various governments of Australia over the past two decades.

"As Christian churches it is our strong desire that our attitude to people of all races be that of Christ. He cared for the needy regardless of racial origin. The policies of our government need to reflect this Christ-like attitude that 'as a result there is no longer any distinction between Gentiles and Jews, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarians, savages, slaves and free men, but Christ is all, Christ is in all.' (Col 3:11)"

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CANBERRA,  
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## Christmas in September at Strathmore



30 people gathered at the Strathmore, Vic., church on September 18 to celebrate an early Christmas. Each person brought a gift for an overseas missionary to place under the brightly-lit Christmas tree. The gifts will be packaged and sent to our missionary families so they will receive them in time for Christmas.

Keith and Frances Pitt of Parkdale, who recently visited friends in Papua New Guinea, shared their impressions of missionary life and the enormous cultural differences they encountered. They also brought along photographs and souvenirs from their trip.

The evening included some bright carol singing, some fun games and a visit from Santa, concluding with a Christmas supper with plum pudding and

Christmas cake.

This celebration was part of our overall build up to our Bethlehem Market to be held on November 26. This market involves several local churches and will give the community the opportunity to step back in time to experience the living Christmas story.

People will be able to buy local craft items, Middle Eastern food, cakes, books and so on. There will be special guests and the music and drama of Christmas will be featured throughout the day.

To emphasise the idea of Christmas as a time of peace and joy that lasts the whole year, the proceeds of the Market will go to Camp Challenge—camps for children suffering from cancer. These funds will help give children the opportunity to experience life in all of its fullness.

—Rhonda Luttrell





The Letters to the Editor limit is 200 words.

## U.S. MINISTRY EXCHANGE AVAILABLE

To the Editor,

I have been in contact with a Disciple of Christ minister from St Joseph, Missouri, who is interested in a month's exchange with an Australian minister.

The duties that each would fulfil during the exchange would include preaching for four Sundays, speaking at some mid-week meetings at local social and civic groups and conducting other basic pastoral duties. The exchange would include the use of house and car, with the home church being responsible for their own minister's salary.

The church in Missouri averages 200 each Sunday at worship and is experiencing rapid growth. I would invite any minister within Australia who is interested in pursuing this further to contact me.

—E.C. Keating  
(Nunawading Churches of Christ,  
184 Surrey Rd,  
Blackburn 3130)

## LEADERSHIP 2000

To the Editor,

I am disturbed by the details of the article on Leadership 2000 ("A.C.", Sept. 3). It appears that a self-appointed super ministerial team of some 10 men is to accompany a hand-picked second string junior team of ministers on a training exercise (or jaunt) to Singapore. Christian Projects is funding this venture with \$20,000. I ask:

1. How does a minister enter the inner sanctum of the first 10?
2. How does a junior minister get the nod to be selected/appointed for the jaunt? And by whom?
3. Does Leadership 2000 operate under the auspices and control of the brotherhood? If not, to whom is Leadership 2000 accountable?
4. Why Singapore? Why must training sessions be held overseas at such considerable cost?

The value of learning and training from the servers of others cannot be underestimated. I'm sure, however, that the objectives of this venture could be achieved much more cheaply and probably just as efficiently if held in this country and organised differently. The money thus saved could be spent perhaps to help support the work and projects of some of our smaller, struggling churches.

The whole exercise smacks of elitism. I don't like it.

—Ken Dundas  
(Goonellabah, NSW)  
**CHILDHOOD FAITH EXPERIENCES**

To the Editor,

I have begun research for a book about childhood faith, and invite adult people to write to me about their own experiences.

Some adult people have grown up in a context of Christian nurture and gently entered into a personal faith in Christ. Yet there have been particular special moments on the way. Others have had different beginnings and different experiences which have been the start of their faith journey. I am, of course, interested in hearing about all the ways God has worked in the lives of people as children. By 'children' I mean up to 12 years of age.

If anyone would care to write to me at the address below I would be very grateful.

—Ron Buckland  
(Scripture Union Australia,  
241 Flinders Lane,  
Melbourne 3000)

## GREENHOUSE EFFECT SOLUTION

To the Editor,

I wish to comment on The Alternative Page ("A.C." September 17, page 16). The statement "to turn this greenhouse effect around over the next 50 years we must dramatically reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and rapidly increase the area planted to forests," could start a spate of placard-waving demonstrations.

I wonder if there is not a better way. It is human nature to choose things which will give the best

return. If it could be demonstrated to the farmers and graziers of Australia that the best returns from their land would require that they plant certain types of trees, they would plant them. These trees would provide shade, prevent erosion, provide special, nitrogen-rich stock food, fertilise the land naturally, provide a useful millable timber, beautify the land, help boost incomes and turn carbon dioxide to wood and oxygen. Is it possible that trees could do all this?

For some years I've worked on the assumption that this is possible. Demonstration is the key

word. It must be shown convincingly by practical demonstrations—plantings and records of returns—on properties with various soil types and conditions.

There is not a single tree which will do all the things listed in every district, on every soil type, in differing climates. Even when the trees grow well there will be some problems, but some results are amazing. The trees which will be in the forefront of such a program will be the legumes, but there are other trees which may prove effective. Experimental plantings have been made by me of the lucinae, tree lucerne, carob, mul-

## LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

### REARRANGING CHRISTIANS

To the Editor,

In our suburb some churches are growing, some are static and some are just hanging on by the skin of their teeth.

I've thought about it a lot and have come to the conclusion that growth and decline have nothing to do with the growing churches' ability to win pagans or the declining churches' inability. It is really all a matter of rearranging Christians.

The growing churches in our suburb all have energetic ministers with lots of 'oomph' and personality, and ability to 'stroke' people the right way. Their congregations seem to catch on and are thus attractive to disillusioned Christians from other churches, or lapsed Christians who think it's about time they got back to church, and Christians moving in from other places and looking for a church with a bit of enthusiasm and life in it. The more charismatic churches seem to get their members by pinching them from more sedate mainline churches and from one another.

But no church seems to be making any dent into our considerable population of pagans. I mean the rich partying pagans, and the blue collar pagans who worship at the pub and the clubs and the footy, and the pagans who spend Sunday on the beaches worshipping the sun and anointing themselves with oil to appease his wrath.

I sometimes wonder if a prophet will arise and tell us how to get pagans into the church. I hope that he or she comes along soon because I think the pagans are increasing faster than even the growing churches are.

—TERTIUS

berry, kurrajong and honey locust in the Casino, Gilgandra, Canberra and Lower Blue Mountains districts. The pawlonia tree from China is one which looks interesting and needs testing.

The key statement suggests that fossil fuels are the major cause of the greenhouse effect. Is it not true that termites are generating more carbon dioxide than the burning of coal and oil?

—Noel Flint  
(Warrimoo, NSW)

(The Editor has allowed this letter to exceed the 200-word limit.)

## "THE LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST"

To the Editor,

Colin Lawn asks "Is it not realistic to assume that Jesus faced sexual temptation?" ("A.C." October 1). Of course it is; that is if he also had an inclination to fall down and worship Satan, and if he had not said, "The prince of this world cometh and findeth nothing in me." If he had been like Adam, innocent instead of holy, and if the human nature he took had been fallen instead of without sin. In our fallen human nature there is something to which Satan can appeal, but in our Lord's nothing. Tested? Yes, without sin.

Prurient prying into the human body functions of our blessed Lord, a body, by the way, prepared for him by the Father, would seem to smack a little of the presumption of Uzzah in stretching out his hand to touch the Ark of the Covenant.

The Christ of the movie having lustful fantasies about his creatures, who is this Christ? Certainly not Jesus.

By the way I have no desire from banning anyone seeing this movie who wants to patronise it.

— Bill Wolf  
(Southport, Qld.)

## AGE OF THE WORLD

To the Editor,

The article on Page 13, September 17 ( Facts about the Future) states boldly: "Australia has always been a land of immigrant people. 40,000 years ago the

Aborigines migrated to its shores."

When will Christian people use some thought and not fall for and repeat such utter claptrap? Churches of Christ once claimed to rely wholly and solely on the Biblical word, yet today we find that humanistic propaganda, originated by atheistic so-called scientists is steadily taking over, even in the evangelical congregations.

The Bible states that everything on this earth perished in the great flood except eight people and the livestock taken into the Ark. Calculations by Josephus gives somewhat less than 6,000 years from Creation to the first Advent of Christ on this earth. Add another 2,000 years to this day, and we still have less than 8,000 years!

Calculate as you will from Biblical records, no Bible believing Christian can stretch the earth's age to 40,000 years. So, obviously the Aborigines, who as all people, are descendants of Noah, did not then exist, nor did the earth.

Fundamentalism may be a dirty word in the world today, but it is God's word, not man's that counts. Christians awake!

— J.H. Luxton  
(Biggenden, Qld.)

## POLITICAL LITERATURE IN CHURCH

To the Editor,

Agreed there are dangers in appealing to the emotions (G.W. Williamson, "A.C." September 17) but there is a need within the church to control the mind by exercising wisdom to rightly discern the word of truth.

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The principal lecturer at the 1989 intensive is **Barry McMurtrie**, minister of the Wollongong Church of Christ and Vice-Principal of the Churches of Christ Theological College in New South Wales.

For further information and for application forms write to the Director of the program:

**Graeme Chapman,**  
7 Elm Rd,  
Glen Iris Vic. 3146.

Phone (03) 25 6085

Romans 13 on its own at face value could suggest that honour and respect be due to perpetrators of iniquity such as Hitler, Stalin, and a host of demagogues who are part of today's United Nations.

Jesus gives us clear political guidance. Render to Caesar (or the state) the things which are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's. God granted

mankind free will, but then he claims the expression of that free will, and these claims take precedence over state matters. This principle is demonstrated in the books of Esther and Daniel, and by Jesus himself in his scathing rebuke of Jewish rulers.

Australians are privileged to have a Constitution to control our government. This Constitution is

• Continued on Page 21

## VERSATILE FIELD DIRECTOR

Brian White's diary tells a story of service to churches everywhere. Parent Skills Training and Marriage Enrichment are just one part of a wide range of educational services sought by churches. Recent studies on baptism and relationships are now top sellers.

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## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Discovering the Purpose in an Australian Context by Andrew Curnow (Victorian Council of Christian Education) \$2.

Andrew Curnow, Director of the Council for Christian Education in Schools, delivered the third C.J. Wright Address on Education and Ecumenism on August 19. This biennial address is sponsored by the Victorian Council of Christian Education.

Andrew Curnow sees the task of Christian educators as being the giving of credibility to Christian education, making it a focus for a strong and healthy church. To do this they need to discover and appropriate a purpose for Christian education arising out of our Australian context. Models and methods need to be developed from our own realms of thought and experience.

Copies of the address are available from the Victorian Council of Christian Education, 2A Chapel St., St Kilda 3182 for \$2.

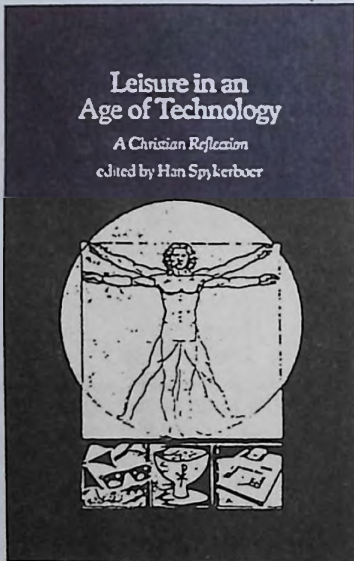
## BOOKS

### LEISURE IN AN AGE OF TECHNOLOGY A Christian Reflection edited by Hans Spykerboer (Joint Board of Christian Education) \$3.95

This slim booklet takes its title from the theme of Expo 88. It contains five studies by Queensland Christians representing Churches of Christ (Dr D.E. Stewart), Uniting, Lutheran, Roman Catholic and Anglican churches.

Technology is seen as an attempt to make what was originally spontaneous more efficient. With the reduced physical workload resulting from this increased efficiency has come, however, complexity and stress, and the need for regular spiritual and physical recreation.

Sr Majella Franzmann's essay examining biblical attitudes to work provides a thoughtful and positive perspective on this basic human activity.



While the writers confidently develop Christian attitudes to technology and leisure separately, they are less certain in coming to grips with the relationship between the two. In fact there does not appear to be an adequate definition of leisure as such.

Do we regard leisure as the time spent outside our normal paid/unpaid working activities; or is it that part of our time which we are free to use at our own discretion?

While the effect of increased technology may be to reduce working hours, few people would regard themselves as having more 'free time' as

a result. It is how this gap between our regular working hours and our recreational time is occupied that poses a major question of stewardship to Christians in the late 20th century.

Possibly this booklet would have benefitted from the inclusion of a select bibliography which would enable interested readers to further develop their understanding of this vital aspect of life.

—Graeme Addicott

### MY PLACE by Sally Morgan (Fremantle Arts Centre Press)

Sally Morgan is a young woman who grew up in a suburb of Perth. Not until she was a young woman did she discover that she was not, as she had been told, partly Indian, but was in fact of Aboriginal descent. In her book, "My Place", she writes with humour and perceptiveness about her journey to discover her roots, and the history and nature of the "Corunna mob" from whom she came. She shares with us the stories of her mother, her great uncle, and finally her grandmother, and along the way gives us a rare insight into Aboriginal thought and values. Important reading for all who would like to better understand the Aboriginal in today's society.

Sally is currently working on a second book, assisted by a grant from the Bicentenary Authority.

—Dorothy Cant

### MISSION IN CHRIST'S WAY Bible Studies

by Lesslie Newbigin (WCC Mission Series)

In January 1986 Lesslie Newbigin gave an address and Bible studies at a meeting of the synod of the Church of South India. These studies, which have been reproduced by the World Council of Churches, examine the tension between the two emphasis of vigorous evangelism and a radical movement for social and political justice in the practice of Christ's mission. As Lesslie Newbigin states in his Preface he is seeking to suggest a framework in which the tension can be creative and not destructive. This booklet also fits in well with the next WCC Division of World Mission and Evangelism conference, scheduled for 1989, which has the theme: "Your Will be Done: Mission in Christ's Way".

I was a little sceptical about what I was going to read when I first started this book. I was pleasantly surprised by the tone of the studies and the emphasis on evangelism that is often missing from WCC publications. Lesslie Newbigin certainly tries to hold the twin emphasis in tension and raises some interesting points in his arguments. The whole concept of mission when raised in a non-Western context means that there are different views of what it means to be involved in mission. Along the way Lesslie Newbigin looks at the rationale for the Protestant mission movement, the church growth movement, and other attempts at expressing mission such as through social justice, etc.

An interesting pamphlet that should be read and discussed by all involved in mission and in working on the theology of mission.

This booklet should be available from the Australian Council of Churches, Box C199, Clarence St. P.O., Sydney 2000.

—C.R.A.



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## Take the nuts out first!

—R. Bawden

How do you plant a church? First take the peanut plants out.

Many people have heard of Jimmy Stephens and his headquarters from the Santo rebellion days, Vanafo village. Chief Timothy, of Vanafo, has asked the Conference of Churches of Christ to place a church there. Conference is planning to do that in the next few months.

Vunamele church, the Santo town church, have been visiting Vanafo each Sunday this year and holding a service. This has been the springboard for the need of a church.

What about the peanuts? Well, Chief Timothy has given the Conference a large piece of ground but

it has been under cultivation with a peanut crop. The peanuts are now harvested, the ground is clear and the building of the church can go ahead.

Vanafo is a custom village with people from most islands of Vanuatu resident in separate villages within the main Vanafo village. Many of them need to have the Word of God planted in their lives so that the dirt in their lives can be cleared away.

Will you pray for them? They are keen to see a building go up and have contributed timber to the value of \$7,000 to the building. Pray that they will be as keen to become the church of God in Vanafo.

## Force Ten's Project for October



### The Church hopes to establish clinics with trained doctors and nurses

(Photo courtesy of UNICEF)

Malnutrition and disease are rife among Egypt's poor, most of whom have no access to medical care. Children are especially vulnerable. The Coptic Orthodox Church in Egypt is struggling to fill the gap in basic health care through a primary health care program.

A major aspect of the program is the training of local health workers, who then visit the villages and teach others about nutrition, hygiene and child-care. By the end of last year 78 health workers had completed the basic course.

In the second stage of the program it is hoped that 18 more village health workers will be

trained who will work to cover the slums of Cairo.

The church is planning to establish at least five multi-purpose clinics so that problems too serious for the village health worker can be treated.

With the support of international church networks and local donations, this program is aiming to make basic health care a reality for those who need it most. Force Ten, a joint program of the Australian Council of Churches and Australian Catholic Relief, is assisting in this work.

For more information contact Force Ten, Box C199 Clarence St PO, Sydney 2000, phone (02) 29 2215.

## Up and down—down then up

—Roger Bawden  
Vanuatu

Vunamele church, in Santo town, built a large outdoor stage in record time. Just a few days before the weekend crusade it went up and the day after it was finished it was down. During the crusade many responded to the call of the Gospel and for them it was more a case of being down then up as they allowed Jesus to take control of their lives.

Eleven of our churches in the Santo/Malo region attended the crusade as well as many from other denominations in the town. Night meetings attracted around 500. Pastor Willson Bebe of Port Vila was the speaker and Roger Bawden took an all-day study.

The final day was a Sunday and it was a marathon of services. Firstly a service for those sportspeople representing Santo town in the Regional games. After that there was a morning communion service attended by 350. This fin-



ished at 12.45pm and there was time for lunch at the church before the afternoon/evening meeting commenced at 4pm. That meeting closed at 11pm. Yes ... a seven-hour meeting ... it was long, but packed with prepared items and spontaneous testimonies. 100 responded to the invitation that came at the end of the service. The consensus of those churches participating is that it must be done twice next year.

## Overseas aid funds distributed

In the last six weeks you have made it possible for COCOA (Churches of Christ Overseas Aid) to assist people in Sudan and Bangladesh, whose lives have been turned upside down by floods. We have been pleased to be able to give \$20,000 for flood relief in the Sudan through the Sudan Interior Mission. We also have a further \$20,000 for

flood relief in Bangladesh through International Christian Fellowship.

COCOA has been able to assist in this way from funds held for emergency relief. Anyone wishing to assist with this giving is invited to make their contribution, which is tax-deductible, to COCOA, Box 320, Unley, SA 5061.

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The former Catholic Archbishop of Zambia, Emmanuel Milingo, (now based in Rome), conducted a healing session before a crowd of about 6,000 in Lusaka at the end of August. The Zambian primate was summoned to Rome in April 1982 to face charges of practising witchcraft as a basis of his healing. He first clashed with the Vatican in 1980 when his faith healing sessions began to attract huge followings from as far afield as Europe and the USA.

Some Africans see one of the continent's problems as being the current trend of militarisation, including the establishment of foreign military bases. The US have big military bases in Somalia and Egypt, as well as military facilities in Kenya, Zaire and elsewhere. The Soviet Union has a base in Ethiopia. The French have a base in Djibouti and Britain has military personnel permanently stationed in a couple of countries.

**Compulsive gamblers have cost Australian society more than \$1,400 million in lost productivity over the past year.**

The Gold Coast Television Church screens a weekly program "Meditation Medication" on 6 Queensland TV channels. The non-denominational program hosted by Derek Pryde and the 'Friends of Jesus' has been produced for many years.

75% of Jamaicans are Christians with Baptists (18%), Church of God (17%), Anglican (15%), Roman Catholic (6%), Seventh Day Adventist (6%), Methodist (5%) and Presbyterian (5%). The rest are Rastafarian (a religious and political movement).

An appeal for the reunification of North and South Korea, divided for 43 years, has been made by

the Archbishop of Seoul, Cardinal Kim. He distanced himself from the violent student protests and repressive government policies. Cardinal Kim denounced extreme radicalism and social revolution as counter to democratization and called on the government to release the hundreds of prisoners of conscience in Korean jails.

Nguyen Quang Huy, head of the Vietnam state commission for religious affairs, said 100 Catholic military chaplains interned in re-education camps since 1975 have been freed. The chaplains are not allowed to conduct services because they are on probation. Communist Party leaders in Vietnam have admitted that mistakes were made in the treatment of the church and that Catholics should no longer be considered as outsiders.

In a lengthy, traditional rite the 4th patriarch of the Ethiopian [Oriental] Orthodox Church was enthroned at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Addis Ababa. Patriarch Merkorios succeeds Patriarch Teklehaimanot who died in May. Oriental Orthodoxy is the principal form of Christianity among the approximately 55% of the Ethiopian population (about 46 million) counted as Christians. Bishops from two other Oriental Orthodox churches—Indian and Armenian—helped lead the celebration of the Eucharist.

80 prisoners at Bangwang Maximum Security Prison in Bangkok, Thailand were baptised in a deep canal on the prison grounds, a result of work by a team from two Baptist congregations in the area. Converts who were baptised were from Thai, Chinese and Burmese backgrounds. They attend weekly Bible groups in their cells and monthly worship serv-

ices. The work in the prison began in 1971 and now includes an outreach to another prison, Lard Yao prison.

A major investigation of various faiths of Australia will be broadcast on ABC Radio National and Regional stations at 7.15 pm (EST) on Wednesdays commencing October 12 and continuing for 6 weeks. "Many Faiths—Many Ways" is a series of programs which explores the changes that faith communities have undergone in recent times in Australia.

The Fifth World Assembly of the World Conference on Religion and Peace will be held at Monash University, Melbourne, from 22-28 January 1989. For more information contact Michael Clohesy or Diana Reynolds, WCRP Melbourne Secretariat, Integer, PO Box 304, Port Melbourne 3207. Phone (03) 696 1388.

The World Council of Churches has proclaimed 1988-1998 as the Ecumenical Decade of the Churches in Solidarity with Women. The Victorian Committee has decided to hold a conference 21-23 October 1988 to coincide with the visit of two women from the WCC. Registration forms and further details are available from Roz Girvan (03) 653 4215 (B), (03) 428 4189 (H).

Last month the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches encouraged church support for 'the international campaign to boycott the Shell Oil Corporation'. The president of the Royal Dutch Petroleum Company has said they are "saddened that an organization which professes Christian standards should behave in such an unethical and intolerant way towards one particular enterprise—moreover one at the forefront in opposing apartheid."

Pope John Paul's tour of southern Africa ended with a measure of ecumenical disagreement, with leaders of the South African Council of Churches expressing disappointment at his failure to more explicitly condemn apartheid, or to single out the Pretoria government as the main author of violence in the region.

An ecumenical conference in France, convened by the WCC, has urged a theology and ethic 'for the liberation of life' including 'respect for individual animals'. 'Animals,' the group says, 'do not exist for the sake of the unbridled pursuit of human avarice and greed.' Their report refers to several areas of concern such as use of animals to develop cosmetics and household products, for fashion (such as fur products), and in circuses, rodeos, bullfights and other forms of entertainment.

For the first time since they split 73 years ago, two US black Baptist denominations worshipped together, during their annual meetings in Dallas and Fort Worth. The National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., and the National Baptist Convention of America split in 1915 in a dispute over ownership and control of a publishing house. However, church leaders said the joint event does not signal a possible merger.

The Council on Foreign Relations of the [Lutheran] Church of Norway says it is "terrified by Romanian authorities' plans to demolish 7,000 villages and replace them with agro-industrial complexes." It says the Romanians plan 'seriously' to infringe upon the rights of minorities...predominantly Hungarians. Thereby the plans also threaten the very existence of centuries-old cultures.'

Duong Ky, chief of Evangelical military chaplains in the former South Vietnamese government, was reportedly released last month from a re-education camp. He was arrested in 1975 shortly after the North Vietnamese victory united the country. He was reportedly the last Christian chaplain held. Whether all the Buddhist chaplains arrested—a majority of Vietnamese are counted as Buddhists—is not clear.

Adam Kuczma, the Methodist superintendent who is president of the Polish Ecumenical Council, met with the Polish Interior Minister Czeslaw Kiszczak (14 September) as part of preparations for proposed talks among government, opposition, and other people on political and economic reform in Poland.

Canaan Banana, the Methodist minister who was Zimbabwe's first president, from April 1980 till the end of last year, says he is glad to be 'back in the land of the living', lecturing part-time in political theology at the University of Zimbabwe, where he used to be chancellor. Retired on a full presidential salary, Banana, a prolific writer on liberation theology, is accepting no pay for his university work.

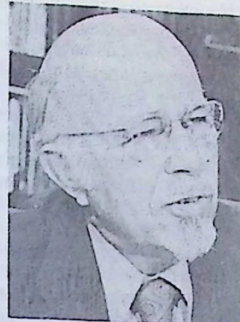
As the Catholic Church worldwide continues to face an acute shortage of priests, over 80,000 married priests, represented by the International Federation of Married Priests, have intensified their struggle to secure the Church's permission to serve as 'married priests'. According to observers, if permission is granted pastoral workers in the church would dramatically increase, thus serving adequately the fast-growing number of Catholics.

*Church Growth leader says Thanks*

Churches of Christ in Australia sent a greeting to Dr McGavran through the recent meeting of state representatives at the Evangelism Consultation held at Stanwell Tops in August. The message of greetings acknowledged the significance of the contact first made with Dr McGavran in 1964.

In 1974 Dr McGavran was responsible for recommending Dr Wln Arn to lead a series of Church Growth seminars in 1975-76. A greeting was also sent to Dr Arn. Consultant participants recognized that the directions set in those days have contributed to our overall growth and the new spirit of optimism evident today.

Dr McGavran, now in his late 80's, sent warm thanks for the greetings. In a comment on new church development he noted: "I earnestly pray that the Churches of Christ in Australia will press forward on every front and will



**Dr Donald McGavran** plan to multiply hundreds of new congregations. Many of these can meet in homes without erecting buildings. That is what the New Testament churches did ..."

Dr McGavran is acknowledged as the father of the Church Growth Movement which so influenced world mission strategy in the last 25 years. His themes have been taken up on every continent with his two earlier books, "The Bridges of God" and "Understanding Church Growth", now seen as basic writings in missiol-

**Obituaries are limited to 100 words in length.**

**BYARD, Janet Brownlie (Crowden).** Janet Crowden was baptised in 1913 in Lobster Creek during an S.G. Griffith mission near to Mole Creek, Tas. Her wedding with Eric Byard in 1923 was the first in the Mole Creek chapel. Later they were members at Caveside where she played the organ for 25 years. They retired to Launceston in 1956. Eric died in 1960 leaving her in indifferent health. Her daughter Betty Masters cared for her until she needed to enter a nursing home, where she died in her 94th year. She was regular in attendance at the Launceston church. She visited nursing homes with baskets of "goodies". She supported and corresponded with nine missionaries. She was enthusiastic, hospitable, a great encourager and a consistent intercessor. Her other children were Muriel Bott and Bob Byard (Dec.).

— G.R.S.

**SCHURMANN, Florentine Lulse (26.9.88).** Born in Collie, W.A., 1904. "Flo" Schurmann accepted Christ at an early age and was baptised at the Bunogy studies. Dr McGavran is a member of our American churches and was in his early years in service with Disciples missions in India.

bury, W.A., church. She never married and her life was spent in service for Christ. Some of her involvements included: in her younger years in Christian Endeavour; one of the pioneer missionaries of Churches of Christ to Aboriginal people assisting at Norseman, where she had an influence on the lives of many including Sonny Graham; pursued studies in accountancy and was book-keeper for the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Federal Aborigines Mission Board to which she gave over 20 years valued service as a Board member; active in Red Cross; active in Mandurah and North Perth churches. A deep faith, a persevering spirit and a love for family and church were the key notes of her life.

— Don Butler.

**The Churchill Trust is inviting applications from Australians over 18 years who wish to be considered for a Churchill Fellowship to undertake, during 1990, an overseas study project that will enhance their usefulness to the Australian community. Details may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 218 Northbourne Ave, Braddon ACT 2601.**

**COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA**



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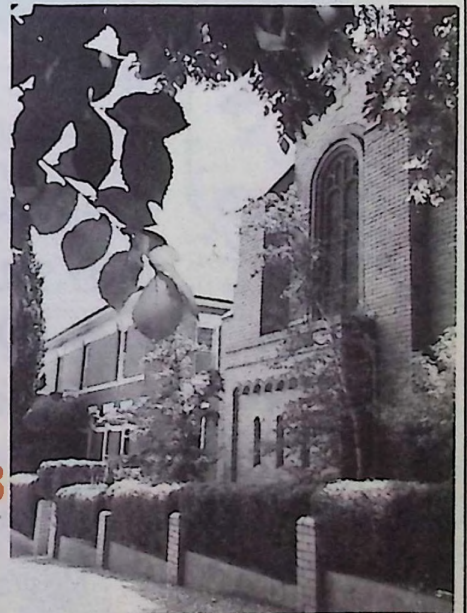
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## HISTORY OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Lesley Stirling (ACT Conference of Churches of Christ) \$10 (plus \$2.50 postage)

This book is an historical study of Churches of Christ in Canberra from 1921 to 1986. It is the history of the life, work and witness of the people who have built the church from a dream in 1921 to more than 300 members worshipping in four churches in 1986. From the records of all churches and the Conference it has been possible to give an account of the growth of all aspects of the work of the Canberra churches.

Lesley Stirling first had the idea of recording for her family the story of the churches' growth and development, but with the encouragement of the Conference in Canberra, researched the records. After three years of hard work she was able to present a 142-page book with a large number of photographs.

Copies of the book are available from Mr Roy Smalley, 9 Wiltshire St, Dickson ACT 2602.



Lesley Stirling

—Beth Butler

## THE WAY MY HEART IS

\$5.00 (plus \$1.50 postage) paperback

\$15.00 (plus \$1.50 postage) hardback

I was touched and encouraged to read the story of Bruce Moody's life. Bruce was born with severe physical disabilities, in fact, so severe that his doctor is quoted in the book as saying that the achievement of adulthood was a feat in itself. His intellectual capacity was unable to achieve its full potential because of the inadequate supply of oxygen to his brain before and after birth. However, Bruce went on to live a full and productive life for 28 years. Instead of being defeated by his condition Bruce worked through all his difficulties with courage and determination.

People haven't always understood the needs of the disabled, but

Bruce was among the first to begin speaking about the rights of disabled people. Who better to speak out than the disabled themselves? Bruce said, "As intellectually and disabled people I feel we have the same rights as the day to day Australian person. We feel, we cry, love and laugh, just the same as everyone out there in the public."

In the International Year of the Disabled in 1981, at the Second South Pacific Conference on Mental Retardation in Melbourne, Bruce helped chair the first day of the Conference and introduced speakers from America and Britain, stunning the audience with the speech he wrote. Bruce had the support of a loving family, was a member of Traralgon Church of Christ, Traralgon Rotaract Club and a supporter of the local football club. He was a very active member of the Reinforce group.

There is beginning to be a much better understanding of the needs and rights of the disabled. They are not looking for charity, but equality in all areas of life such as employment, education and entertainment. Because of the courage and determination of men such as Bruce Moody, the lives of the disabled will be able to reach their full potential. To purchase a copy of the book contact Mrs G. Moody, 4 Brookes St, Traralgon 3844.

—Shirley Byard

## THE NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY OF BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Edited by Edward M. Blaklock and R.K. Harrison (Zondervan Publishing House).

This Dictionary of Biblical Archaeology was released in 1983 and so one or two recent discoveries would not be covered in the text. It is extremely difficult to review a dictionary as it is impossible to read exhaustively the some 500 pages of text and to comment on each article in the publication. This particular volume includes over 800 articles on a variety of subjects which cover archaeological sites, on everyday utensils, on people and on such topics as transport. The articles are well cross-referenced and material in current archaeological journals are referred to. There are some 240 photographs illustrating the text. These are all in black and white and thus some of their helpfulness is lost. There are also a section of maps and several helpful chronological charts of historical periods.

Gordon Garner from the Australian Institute of Archaeology in Melbourne, Bruce Harris, Associate Professor of History at Macquarie University in Sydney, David Searle, also from the Australian Institute of Archaeology and John Thompson from Melbourne were all contributors to this impressive volume.

A good addition to a church library as an easy reference work that will help teachers, ministers and others understand some of the background to the Bible.

—C.R.A.

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I don't care if Churches of Christ people do feel uncomfortable raising your hands. Stick 'em up!

## Focus on Huon Community Church

The Huon Community Church comprises four congregations which, for the last two years have been working in co-operation with the local Uniting Church parish (five churches). Stephen and Val Warwick, with Jeff and Lyn Gray, are working in a unique situation in the Huon Valley, south of Hobart. In Dover, Geeveston and Huonville they work with Community Churches, Cradoc has a Congregational Church. There are Uniting Churches at Cygnet, Franklin, Judbury, Glen Huon and Ranelagh.

Four of the churches meet weekly, three meet fortnightly and two meet monthly. Some congregations have an occasional evening service, not more frequently than once a month. In the months which have a fifth Sunday a combined service is held. In this joint pastorate Jeff Gray, who is in his first year of ministry, having graduated from the College of the Bible last year, has pastoral responsibility for the four northern churches. Stephen works amongst the five southern churches. Preaching, however, is shared amongst all nine churches.

Because of the number of meetings involved each week (usually six per Sunday), careful planning is necessary. Usually Jeff and Stephen preach twice on a Sunday, sometimes three times (quite a few kilometres are covered each week). The combined membership of the five Uniting Churches is 33. Of the other four churches the largest congregation numbers about 40 and the smallest has eight regular attenders. At Geeveston there are often as many children as adults (about 20).

The population of the Huon Valley is 10,000. Huonville is the largest town with about 1,500 inhabitants. The main industries of the area are farming, apples and logging. A number of years ago there were Churches of Christ at Geeveston and Dover. Because of the closing of timber mills and the consequent movement of population, most of the local churches began to work together to overcome the problems of declining congregations. The Churches of Christ sold

their buildings and the Huon Community Church came into being.

Stephen and Val Warwick have been working in the area for two years. Their previous ministry was at Maryborough, Vic. They have also worked as missionaries with SIM in Nigeria and Sudan. The climate of the Huon Valley is quite different to that of North Africa!

Lyn Gray and Val try to attend as many of the women's meetings as possible. There are seven groups. Val heads the editorial team of *The Challenge*, a monthly magazine for the churches. The magazine includes news items and contributions from the nine congregations.

Various activities are offered for children and young people. At Geeveston, on Fridays, a program is run for children and a youth group is held at the same time. Junior Church is held on Sundays. Lyn Gray runs an afternoon group for children at Huonville. There is also a large community youth group in Huonville. At Judbury, which has a population of less than 300, they run a CE for about 20. Glen Huon's Good News Club has a similar number attending.

August and Maeline Ben, from Vanuatu, will be visiting the area on November 15 and 16.

In October the churches are entering a float in the Huonville Council Bicentennial Parade. They'll be providing some entertaining activities afterwards: a clown, magic tricks and puppets. The clown has already appeared at school fetes, where New Testaments have been distributed. This clown (Stephen Warwick), has been requested to appear at the Eldercare Fair, which will be held in November. The opportunity will once again be used to present magic tricks (where possible with a Christian message) and a puppet show.

Most ministers find one congregation quite enough to cope with. How would you like nine—from three different traditions?

## First Graduates

It is anticipated that seven ministers will graduate on November 18 with the College of the Bible's Graduate Diploma in Ministry. Those graduating are from Victoria and South Australia.

The Graduate Diploma, a two-year course first offered in 1987, was initially developed to provide specialist training for ministers wanting to equip themselves for

team ministries, for ministry in large churches, and those who were keen to grow their churches. Since then the scope of the diploma has been broadened to accommodate a wide range of interests and specialist ministries.

In the first year of the course the candidate is involved in a week's intensive program early in the year, a one-day session every two

months and a one or two week placement in a church appropriate to their interests. In the second year a further one week's intensive program is scheduled for the week prior to graduation, when research projects students have been working on are presented.

In committing themselves to the discipline of the diploma, this year's graduates have made an

important spiritual and professional investment in their present and future ministries.

In 1989 the cost of the course will be \$130 per unit, making \$390 for each of the two years. An exciting intensive program is planned for Feb 27 to March 3. The principal lecturer will be Barry McMurtrie (Wollongong). Alan Webb (Swanston St) will be speaking about his ministry among Asian students at Swanston St. It is hoped that other areas covered will include music, preaching, spirituality, the use of computers in church work and team ministry.

If you are interested in this program write for information to the Director of the Graduate Diploma Program, Graeme Chapman, at the College of the Bible, 7 Elm Rd, Glen Iris, Vic. 3146, or phone (03) 25 6085.

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## BIRTHS

**BURGESS (CROWDEN)** To Graeme and Jill God's gift of a son, Jordan Richard, a brother for Ryan and Hayley. We give thanks to God, along with Alex and Dorothy, Ben and May.

## GOLDEN WEDDING

**COLLYER—CHIPPERFIELD** Max and Nell are happy and grateful for 50 years of togetherness following their marriage at Gardiner church on 29 October 1938 by the late Thos Hagger.

## IN MEMORIAM

**GEAKE** Lil Geake passed to her Lord 22 October 1986. Beautiful memories of a wonderful wife, mother and Nana. Forever in our hearts. From husband Bob, children and grandchildren. Loved always. Psalm 17:15 (LB).

## 60th Anniversary

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March 4 & 5 1989

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Val Rogers (03) 478 3986

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**LADY WANTED** for care of elderly lady on Wednesdays 8.25am to 2.45pm (approx.) weekly or fortnightly, Melbourne south eastern region. Apply C/- "The Australian Christian," PO Box 101, North Essendon 3041, phone.(03) 379 1219.

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now meets in  
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9.00 a.m. Worship &  
Communion  
6.30 p.m.  
Gospel Celebration

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31 4353 (Home)

### WANTED TO RENT House on Melbourne— Blackburn train line

The recently appointed Chaplain Coordinator at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute is wanting to rent a 3-4 bedroom house close to the Melbourne—Blackburn train line. Short or long term would be considered. House needed from January but this is negotiable. Please contact Chaplain Moss Amot (BH) (03) 641 5728 (AH) (03) 019 2070

## TEMPORARY ACCOMODATION

**BORONIA** 2-3 bedroom flat available until December 17. Self contained. Contact (03) 762 2201.

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**RESERVOIR** Church of Christ manse available for single person or married couple. Inquiries to Mervyn Davis (03) 460 7197. Close shops, transport.

**GOLD COAST** 2 bedroom unit, close to beach and all facilities, lock-up garage. Available from October 29. Phone (075) 52 6997, evenings.

**CALOUNDRA, SUNSHINE COAST**, Queensland 2 Bedroom units. 2 minutes' walk from Kings Beach. Rates from \$130 p.w. off season to \$390 p.w. holiday season. Phone (071) 91 7454.

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The site of the 2nd Lausanne Congress on World Evangelisation, 11-20 July next year, is to be Manila. The theme is 'Proclaim Christ Until He Comes: Calling the Whole Church to take the Whole Gospel to the Whole World.'

## Hey, Christian Single!

Interested in a Gold Coast holiday with other Christian adults (23+)?



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## NETBALL PLAYERS WANTED

The Eastern Suburbs Baptist Netball Association Inc. need more netball teams to join us for winter season 1989. We cater for all ages from under 10 years. If you would like further information please contact Jan Bodycoat (03) 842 6053

or Loris Humphreys (03) 878 8530.  
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## Department of Community Care ANNUAL FETES

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## National Ministers' Seminar

Registration forms are now available for the National Ministers' Seminar, due to be held from **January 12-15, 1989**. The seminar will be held at the Birrigai Centre, 40 kms from the centre of Canberra, adjacent to the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. The cost will be \$85 (\$150 for a couple).

Morning tea will be provided at the Lyons church between 10 and 11.30am on January 12. Transport will be provided to Birrigai from Lyons. Arrangements can be made to meet people at the airport, bus terminal or train station.

Speakers will be **John Harris, Ian Corlett, Beverly O'Connor, Ross Kingham, Lynette Glendinning and Nell Adcock**. Neil, minister of Canberra Baptist Church and President of the Baptist Union of NSW, will give the keynote address on "A Pilgrim Ministry for a Pilgrim People" at the opening session.

"We are encouraging churches to release their ministers and to assist in meeting their expenses so that as many as possible may attend the National Ministers' Seminar," commented **Kevin Caulton**, minister at Lyons church in Canberra. Kevin recently interviewed two seminar speakers, **Beverly O'Connor** and **Ian Corlett**.



**Beverly O'Connor**

Based at Canberra's Woden Valley Hospital, Beverly is AIDS Educator to ACT Health Care Workers. A registered nurse, married with four children, Beverly is an active Catholic. Part of her Christian commitment has involved prayer counselling and the organisation of retreats.

Kevin: Bev, why did you take



**Nell Adcock**

up the job of AIDS Educator?

Bev: I had been looking for a job and when I saw this one advertised I had a real sense of God directing me into this area. It must have been his will. It certainly wasn't mine!

Kevin: What has the job taught you about the Church and the world?

Bev: We are all God's children, all of us. All humanity is part of one family. We all need the love of Jesus to help us overcome our own inadequacies and prejudices and to help us love people in all situations in life.

Kevin: How has your work changed you and the way you relate to others?

Bev: The biggest change has been, and is, learning to depend on Jesus rather than myself and to see him in those around me. It's a matter of unconditional love—not that I achieve that all the time. But I have been able to respond to others' hurts, wounds and brokenness in God's strength.

Kevin: What has been the hardest thing, Bev?

Bev: Coming from a 'respectable' Christian background. It really is another world. It has never been difficult to love the loveable, the nice people. In this job I have had to learn to love with the love of Jesus.

Kevin: What do you think the issues associated with the AIDS epidemic have to say to the Church, particularly to ministers?

Bev: It is an opportunity for ministers to minister, and to do so outside their churches—a chance to reach out to the wider community, endeavouring to meet their needs. The Church will need to play a role in ministering to the families of AIDS victims.

**Ian Corlett**, is the minister of the Kensington Christian Network in Melbourne.

Kevin: Ian, how has working in the inner city area shaped your view of ministry?

Ian: Being in urban ministry means you are in the thick of life at a level where there is no pretence, and the Church has been pretty ineffective at that level. So I have had to grapple with what it means to be a Christian in a situation where there has been failure in the past.

Kevin: How has it influenced your view of society?

Ian: It generates a consciousness of evil that is very stark. There is also a very beautiful side to it all, so I wouldn't want to overstate the evil. But I am very aware of what we Christians call 'sin', possibly more so than in areas of greater affluence where that sort of thing is usually covered over to some degree.

Kevin: For you, then, what are the essential factors in ministry?

**12-15 January 1989**

Ian: I work with two presuppositions. First, most Australians don't go to church, though my experience is that they are not anti-Christian, but anti-church and anti-religious structure. Secondly, these people are having 'God experiences' all the time. They don't call them that, but they are having experiences of reality and meaning that are beyond their own identities and psychological make-up. They have no forum or cultural venue in which to express them. I see my role as unlocking some of those issues.

The 1989 National Ministers Seminar and the Federal Conference which follows it in Canberra will be times of great opportunity. See you in Canberra in January 1989!

For registration forms or more information contact **Kevin Caulton** on (062) 82 1502 (church) or (062) 85 1035 (home).

US Sunday schools have lost nearly 14 million (34%) in attendance since 1970, according to church-growth specialist **Win Arn**. In 1970 31% of church members attended Sunday school, but by 1986 that figure had slipped to 18%. Arn said a clearly defined sense of mission is needed to turn Sunday schools around.

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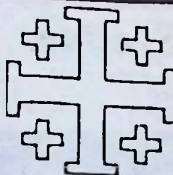
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# Crossroads

VICTORIA



The Crossroads movement has been in operation for 27 years, beginning in New South Wales and then at various times becoming established in Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia.

Crossroads Victoria is an interdenominational fellowship ministering with people with disabilities. Crossroads seeks to encourage individual growth, emotionally and spiritually. Their aims are to provide Christian Education and fellowship with disabled persons of all ages through:

- regular branch activities which have spiritual, recreational, educational and social aspects;
- holiday activities such as camping, bus tours and day trips to places of interest.

The Branches, though financially independent, are attached to a local church which provides pastoral assistance and oversight.

Activities are tailored to meet the needs of those members who attend the branch while interaction between able and disabled

persons is emphasised and specifically encouraged. In this way each branch develops its own unique character.

Programs cover a wide variety of activities such as games, music, cooking, visiting speakers, entertainers and devotions. Day and weekend trips, longer holidays and tours are organised through Crossroads. Summer camps are also run as part of Scripture Union's camping program and by the branches at varying stages throughout the year.

## Sue - a Crossroads branch member

Des and Bronwyn are parents of Sue, who is a mildly disabled young woman in the work force. She is employed by a local firm as a slow worker and consequently is on a lower wage.

Sue, still living at home with her parents, is now in her mid-twenties. Born brain-damaged, she has overcome most of her physical disabilities but is left with some intellectual limitations and a slight speech problem.

Despite all of this she is still an attractive, outgoing, young woman and is socially, reasonably well-adjusted.

However, although Sue has acquired many survival skills over the years, she is not yet able to be completely independent and still requires back-up support in certain areas.

Sue is currently involved in a continuing education program and enjoys swimming as her only physical education outlet. She is a member of a local church and also a Crossroads branch member. It is important that such activities be allowed to continue and that others develop.

Sue's parents are concerned that when they are no longer able to help Sue. Rather than her being completely dependent on other family members (some of whom may not be able to follow through with necessary programs) she should have the opportunity, if she so wishes, to stand on her own two feet. But most of all Des and Bronwyn seek a Christian environment for her where the neces-

sary back-up support system is available together with congenial company to alleviate the inevitable loneliness that disabled people can feel at times.

They feel that the time has come for the Christian church to address this and other issues and that, just as the church has become involved in care for the aged, now is the time to face up to the need for care for disabled at all levels under the auspices of the church.

## Seminar

In recent times Crossroads has been challenged to address the issue of appropriate accommodation for the disabled. Crossroads Victoria invites all interested people to attend a seminar entitled 'A Cause for Concern—The Churches response to the Accommodation Needs of the Disabled and their Families' to be held at the Burwood Heights Uniting Church, Cnr Burwood Hwy and Blackburn Rd, Burwood, on 12 November from 9.15am to 3pm.

For further information please write to Crossroads Victoria, PO Box 15, Vermont 3133, or phone co-ordinators Leonie Robinson (03) 873 1829 (AH) or Barbara Liddle (03) 288 3677.

## Projectors - An Image for the Future

Christian Projects is working hard through its Victorian Committee 'The Projectors' to establish programs that will assist our churches Australia-wide.

Included in its key tasks are:

1. A full and comprehensive travel service to church members

This is a joint venture with Australian Travel Connection. Church members may ring the toll-free number for Australia-wide plane and bus travel including overseas trips (see advertisement on page 21).

2. Computer facilities for your church

Has your church ever considered how useful a computer may be for administering all those menial tasks that nobody likes doing? Worship rosters, membership lists and financial packages

represent a few of the many functions that computers can fulfil. Projectors is currently negotiating with several key companies to provide both software and hardware options for churches. It is envisaged long-term that many churches will be networked to a centralised bureau and those smaller churches who are unable to afford their own equipment may utilise this service.

### 3. Talent Bank

Are you an employer looking for a committed Christian to add to your staff? Or are you in your final year at university, or about to finish your apprenticeship and looking for that long-awaited career opportunity? If so, Projectors can help you! Projectors will provide a professional service to potential employers with preparation and storage of curriculum

vitae. In addition, employers will be offered a service to link in with committed Christians and so provide useful employment opportunities.

### 4. Encouragement Awards

Details have been finalised to provide encouragement awards to individuals or churches for worthwhile effort and achievement in the service of Australian Churches of Christ. We all need encouragement, and the awards will provide a strong, positive impetus for future growth.

For more information about the Projectors and their activities, ring Andrew Ball (03) 563 2443 (AH) or Kim Stokle (03) 551 4526 (AH).

—Andrew Ball  
Co-ordinator,  
Christian Projectors

Namibian Lutherans called a special meeting last month to respond to charges against Deputy Bishop Zephaniah Kameeta. Government officials have blamed him for the 'burning of schools, and the continued disruptive school strike.' The meeting strongly backed continued 'positive defiance' against the 'disorderly government which controls, penetrates, poisons and disrupts Namibian society so that people suffer and die.'

## RENTAL CARS

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## On Women and their Role in Society

Campbell wrote two articles expressing his view of women and their role in society and the church. The first was a response to a group agitating for a greater recognition of women's rights. Campbell's spirited reply was published in the *Millennial Harbinger* of 1854. He argued that, while Americans were celebrated "for their gallantry and regard to the rights of women," the ginger group to whom he was responding were, "in their enthusiasm," over-romanticising the issue and courting peril through their excessive zeal. The other article was "An Address Delivered before the Henry Female Seminary, New Castle, Ky, May 30, 1856".

With regard to women and their role, Campbell was very much a product of his age. This was evident in his hierarchical view of the relationship between husbands and wives, which he argued was based on "the facts of the Bible, and the analogies of nature and of society". On the basis of a literary interpretation of Genesis 2, which saw Adam created before Eve, Campbell argued that "He is first and she is second. He is senior and she is junior." They were "neither equal in rank nor in age." Associated with this biblical precedent was the commonsense observation that "two sovereigns cannot sit on one throne".

### Lord Adam

Campbell contended that "the members of one human body have not all the same office". From this he inferred that while men's role was outside the house, the God-given role of women was in the home. "He is Lord Adam, and she is Queen Eve. His Lordship was earth wide, her queenship is naturally and rightly only housewide."

Campbell contended that Eve was intended as a "help meet" for Adam. She was "created to be a help suitable to such a being as man." Part of this role was to be an emotional support for her husband. Campbell argued that God not only made Eve "out of the left side of the first man", but that "in holy wedlock he placed her there to protect the wound and vacuum whence her personal being came". An interesting turn of phrase!

The principal domestic role of women, however, was the nurturing of children. According to Campbell, woman was "an extract of man, in order to form man; in order to develop, perfect, and beautify man". The influence of the mothers of great men supported this contention. In his ordering of human existence God planned to use the influence of women "in the moral government of the world". "Woman, like an angel of mercy, was sent into our world to be queen of the human heart, and mistress of the moral destinies of humanity."

### Society

Woman's mission and task was not public for, as Campbell explained to the young women he was addressing, "there is no necessity to mount the rostrum, to stand up in public assemblies, to address mixed auditories ... in order to fill up the duties of your mission." The one slightly public role he allowed women was in the area of social welfare, as "bread-givers", or dispensers of bread to the poor, which, in Anglo-Saxon literature and history, was the path to true nobility.

### Church

Campbell's view of women's legitimate role in the Church parallels his perception of their role in the home and in society. It was not their responsibility to stand "in the front rank of the battle field". After all, God had demonstrated that he did not intend that they should be "the depositories of his revelations". Their task was to "minister to [the] comfort" of those injured on the spiritual battlefield.

According to Campbell, women's place as wives and in the church was clear. As Paul had indicated, they were "to be chaste, keepers at home, obedient to their own husbands". They were "to adorn themselves with modest apparel, with good works, with a meek and quiet spirit". In addition, they were "to marry, to raise and educate children, and to teach their junior women to follow their example in similar pursuits."

### Stereotyping

These two articles by Campbell on women exhibit the stereotyping characteristic of the sexism of our patriarchal culture.

This is evident in the implicit assumption that women are weaker than men and that they need to be protected from the harsh realities of the outside world. According to Campbell, the female sex "is, constitutionally, legally and religiously, modest and retiring, in the presence of him whom God made first." He went on to argue that "it would be cruel, tyrannical, and unmanly, to do violence to female modesty, by forcing her to hold the helm of State, to carry arms, or to fight in the battle field."

The stereotyping is also evident in his view of women as temptresses. In Campbell's opinion, their fatal attraction was less a matter of intrigue and more a consequence of their sexual allure, of which they were barely conscious. In one comment he contended that God intended a woman's hair, her "glory", to be long to veil "her beauty" and protect "her eyes from the gaze of staring sensualists". I have to confess I have difficulty seeing how something that was intended as women's "glory", that is, as a principal focus of her adornment, could detract from her attractiveness!

It was the appeal of women's sexuality that, according to Campbell, made it imperative that they take no public role in ministry. He argued that God would not have "sent her on a missionary tour, or placed her in a rostrum, surrounded with ogling glasses in the hands, not of old men and women of dim vision, but in the hands of green striplings of pert impertinence!"

Campbell could also be accused of patronising women and of an unreal pedestalism. It is perhaps not unkind to suggest that both represented an attempt to sugar the pill. He described women as man's "better half, not in muscular power, not in physical strength, not in animal courage, not in intellectual vigor." Her strength lay "in delicacy of thought, in sensitiveness of feeling, in patient endurance, in constancy of affection, in moral courage, and in soul-absorbing devotion." He argued that woman was "of finer tissue" and "the most attractive spectacle ever seen".

### Positive contribution

While Campbell was caught up in perhaps the least odious elements of a patriarchal sexist stereotyping of women, it ought also to be pointed out that he was in advance of many of his day in his attitude towards women. First, he argued that males represented only half of humanity.

Secondly, and more importantly, he contended that young women should be educated in all the arts and sciences, which many others considered either impossible or detrimental. He suggested to the young woman of the Henry Female Seminary that they were as capable as any young men of studying "physical science, physiology, pneumatology" and suggested that he was sure some of them had already "encountered and vanquished metaphysics".

He even insisted that they were as capable as men of studying theology. Just how enlightened this was can be gauged from the fact that in the early years of the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, which was established in 1907, young women were excused from Doctrine classes on the ground that their minds were incapable of grappling with the material!

The reason given by Campbell for women needing to equip themselves to the limit of their abilities was so that they could be the best possible companions for their husbands.

Campbell's views on women and their role in society are both revealing and enlightening. They represent the thinking of the age, while at the same time reaching beyond it to pioneer a new deal for women in education. One consequence of opening education up to women has been that those educated have been in a position to challenge the sexism and misogyny inherent in patriarchal society, elements of which were reflected in Campbell's writings.

—Graeme Chapman

## Can the Church adapt to its new Environment?

• From Page 2

•Simpler churches—returning to the house church type of fellowship would be another approach. This too would have its costs—mainly change. Would people be prepared to meet in homes and dispense with church buildings; meet as families and dispense with Sunday Schools; have more spontaneous services and dispense with prepared sermons; use recorded music when there is no musically talented person available? What would people's reactions be to a once-a-week home meeting as their only regular fellowship? Perhaps these could be replaced once a month by a combined gathering at a community hall.

It seems to me that this approach would reduce costs and

man-hours in preparation for services. People would feel free to be absent, when necessary, because the running of the fellowship time would not be dependent on any particular individuals. Occasional smaller attendances would not frustrate one who has spent hours in preparation; those present would be free to have a shorter time of singing, sharing and prayer. Because of freedom from the costs of building and pastor maintenance, greater contributions could be made to missions etc., which would raise the morale of the church. They would feel they are doing something worthwhile by meeting needs beyond themselves.

What do you think?

About 2,000 chanting churchgoers marched through the capital of Haiti, September 25, to demand that outspoken priest Jean-Bertrand Aristide be allowed to lead worship. He has not been seen in public since and attack on his parish church (September 11) left 12 people dead. Aristide has been strongly critical of military rule in the country.

The World YMCA/YWCA Week of Prayer and World Fellowship is scheduled for 13-19 November. Theme of the week is 'The Chosen Shall be Known by their Choices.'

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Notwithstanding opposition from politicians, human rights workers, clergy and others, the Vatican has decided to go ahead with a plan to reduce the size of the world's largest Roman Catholic archdiocese, based in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Its head, Paulo Evaristo Cardinal Arns, is widely known for his ecumenical and human rights involvements. Opponents say the reduction will undermine activist, grassroots work the archdiocese carries out in poor areas surrounding the wealthier central city (which will remain as the reduced archdiocese).

A former executive director of World Vision Australia has been named international president of the organisation. Graeme Irvine is an Australian who has been living in Switzerland. He will take up his new position in January 1989, when the current president, Rev Tom Houston of Scotland, will step down after 5 years' service.

Giving to world outreach ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), USA, is lagging behind the giving level of 1987. Through the end of February, giving to Basic Mission Finance was down 7.4%.

The 16th Baptist World Congress will be held in Seoul, South Korea, from August 14-19, 1990.

## TASTE OF HEAVEN

I walk the rock jetty  
Almost every single morn about dawn,  
A pleasing piece of Christian discipline,  
Since I was reborn ...  
Just like a taste of Heaven,  
When fellow beings greet each other sincerely, eyes meeting,  
The tranquil acknowledgements shared,  
Just like a taste of Heaven ...  
The Splendour of your Sunset,  
Equalled only by the Beauty  
Of each new day's Dawn.

—Jean Tooland

### Ecumenism in Excelsis!

To meet a request by an Asian lady for baptism by immersion an Adelaide suburban Anglican rector has used the baptistry provided by the Church of Christ in Gartrell Church, main base of the Dulwich/Rose Park United Parish. In the same service the visiting minister used the Uniting Church's font for the Anglican rite of christening for the lady's infant daughter.

The minister was Kevin Giles of St Matthew's Church, Marryatville. It was a special Sunday afternoon service and the congregation was composed of members from St Matthew's. Speaking from the baptistry the lady gave a

sincere and clear testimony of the way God had touched her life and brought blessing to her family.

Songs of praise and adoration formed part of the service. Churches of Christ minister Roger Brown took part.

—J. Ludbrook

Tanzania's President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, amid protests from his fellow Moslems for his 'indulging in church activities,' has hailed church organisations for supplementing government efforts in the development of the country. The President has said that civic leaders are duty bound to serve all the people irrespective of their religious beliefs, atheists included

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 • Brett McArdle, Castlemaine, Vic.  
 • David Kolevski, Anthony Judge, Manifold Heights, Vic.  
 • Bernadette Daniel, Bob Daniel, Strling, SA.  
 • Jane Greatbatch, Selena Kroustalis, Hobart, Tas.

## MARRIAGES

• Jeanette Tunzi to Murray Dolling, Scarborough, WA.

## DEATHS

• Aub Graham, North Essendon, Vic.  
 • Emily Flack, Manifold Heights, Vic.  
 • Walter Fielder, Hobart, Tas.

## Letters to the Editor

• Continued from Page 9

a heritage of the Christian ethic, and it is the privilege and duty of every Christian to uphold and maintain it.

We are the salt of the earth, to add flavour to the way this nation is governed, and today's political dilemmas are the result of a lack of seasoning.

— T.A. Fraser  
 (Maitland, N.S.W.)

7 more members of the Pentecostal community in Cuguyevka in the Soviet Far East arrived in West Germany on 28 August. So far 175 of the 192 members of the church have arrived in Germany. 2 members are still serving sentences: Viktor Pavlovets in the labour camp in Chuguyevka and Nikolai Vins on compulsory labour in Khabarovsk.

In a 28,000-word Apostolic Letter, a papal teaching entitled *On the Dignity and Vocation of Women*, Pope John Paul II firmly proclaimed the dignity and equality on women, but has forcefully ruled out any chance of their joining the Catholic priesthood. The Pope also reasserted the church's insistence on priestly celibacy and its condemnation of adultery, divorce and abortion.



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For further information please write to:

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



## NSW

**SALT ASH (Max Hall)** Galeigh Crusade—26 commitments ... Annual meeting elected elders: Rex Grey, Craig Leggett; deacons: Dennis Gill, Geoff Pratt ... Church anniversary 14-15 August, speaker: Dennis Nutt ... John & Gail Napper family in Goroka, PNG ... Family camp held at Elim, speaker: Judy Gordon ... Congratulations to Sharon Hall & Murray Scott on their engagement ... Good News Testament distribution almost completed ... Sympathy extended to Cyril Threadgate on the death of his father.

**THORNLEIGH (F. Elliott)**. Well known film star James Fox shared in the am service Sept. 25. He was interviewed by Franklyn Elliott telling of his commitment to the Lord ... Over the long weekend in October about 20 of our young people attended the Black-stump at Appin, an inter-church youth camp.

## SA

**GOOLWA (Graeme Ritchie)** Good number of parents & families attended Sunday youth anniversary, theme: 'Working Together, Growing Together.' Children gave items using our puppet theatre. Barbecue lunch together was a good time of caring ... Friday youth groups continue to grow in numbers ... Bible Society film night held in Anglican Church, with local churches all combining & choir items ... Goolwa Christian Bookshop helpers held lunch to celebrate 10 years of trading.

**VICTOR HARBOR (A. Clark)** Sharing Sandwich service commenced—participants share tea and discussion at 5pm prior to evening service ... Adrian Clark accepted 2-year extension to current ministry term ... Church challenged to pray & plan for future of church property as needs of fellowship increase and alter ... Meeting held to discuss future of auxiliary groups, with emphasis on bridging programs to introduce contacts to the church.

**STIRLING (John Main)** Minister John Main visiting Vanuatu for one month ... Capacity con-

gregation appreciated Sunday School Anniversary theme 'The Bible—God's Word' ... John Marshall appointed as elder ... Married couple Bob & Bernadette Daniel baptised ... Two young women made recommitments ... Church building 120 years old ... Temple Day offering planned for November ... Laurie Higgins recovered well after heart surgery ... Garry Filmer visiting USA for further work experience.

**HAPPY VALLEY (Russell Allison)** Jim Keatch guest speaker ... Babies born to Megsue, Keith & Wellstead families ... Care groups working well ... SS took service on September 17; SS also selling scones after church as fund raiser ... Square dance will supported ... Pleasant Sunday Afternoon held ... Very interesting talk on children's television and effect on children at recent CWF meeting.

**KEITH (Ken Wray)**. In July meetings were held by Alan Bailey at the school & in homes ... Children were delighted to see "George" again who is Alan's talking doll ... Men's breakfast was held on Saturday morning ... Several families are away on holiday trips ... Our annual circuit communion service & luncheon was held at Mundulla.

**STRATHALBYN (C. Perkins)**. Cliff Perkins on holidays ... Church looking forward in anticipation to four members of WEC coming on Nov. 26—Dec. 12 for mission combined with Milang ... SS anniversary Oct. 23. R. Holmes speaker ... Church anniversary Oct. 30 with Herb Prime ... Working bees painted church throughout, potted ferns donated ... Wesleyan Church joining us for Christmas service at 9.30 am.

## TAS

**LAUNCESTON (Gordon Stirling)** John Minchin, secretary, Tas. Council of Churches, spoke on Sept 26 on what the Tas., Aus. & World Council of Churches do ... CWF Annual Meeting elected Gwen Foot President & Gwen Byard Secretary ... 110 at October 2, 7pm service arranged by young people, on their ideal partner in marriage; three couples suggested what things young people should look for in a future

spouse. G. Stirling spoke on relationships.

## WA

**SCARBOROUGH (L. Randall)** Great film, "What's up Josh," gospel sharing on campus ... Perth Bible College students presented evening service ... Stuart Wesley (home from Carlingford) shared ... Members hand-out educational ... Christian material at abortion clinic one week each month ... Christian welfare given groceries regularly ... Members nurturing shrubs for new church garden ... Administration centre in use, groundwork on block ... Sunday services in Scarborough High School.

## QLD

**CAMP HILL (D.F. Smith)** Special guest Hon. Don Cameron presented church with Australian flag & gave his testimony ... Several members attended seminar: 'The Effects of Charismatic Movement on Qld C. of C.' ... Allan Henmann, DCDE, speaker at morning service, SS & conducted session for leaders over fellowship lunch ... Lyndsay & Janet Dipple & Bob & Leanne Williams welcomed into membership ... Evelyn & Fay Sheriff both hospitalised recently but recovering well.

**WYNNUM (Charles Cole)** Open Door group has had great times: Deer Sanctuary bus trip; spoon morning, rock special, police youth club tour & talks on security ... Day of Discovery seminar held, Gary Hills (Margaret St, Toowoomba) leader ... Mothers honoured with special fellowship tea ... Slides of Holy land presentation by Ethel White (Tweed Heads) ... Minister presented sermon series on Kingdom of Heaven.

**BONGEEN (B.M. Nowitzke)** CWF enjoyed visit from Gloria Flett, Country Vice-President ... Ladies also attended craft day at local Uniting Church ... Family camp had Trevor Mears as study leader ... Many members shared in Western Districts fellowship meetings & Roma church centenary ... Guest speakers over recent weeks have been Ed Nash (Cornerstone, Dalby), Peter

Retchford (Pittsworth) & Brian Kronk (Bongeen). **ALBION (Peter Overton)** Series of studies & discussion on Expo theme 'Leisure in an Age of Technology' with local Anglican, Catholic & Uniting Churches ... Peter Overton led week's services at Expo chapel ... Visit from Kathy & Mark Knight while in Brisbane for birth of daughter ... They were on ship Logos when it sank and will rejoin Doulos for distribution of Christian literature in Philippines.

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## VIC

**ARARAT (S. Bannon)** Father & son tea, speaker Dr Whiting ... Family tea gospel service, speaker Conference President Mr Rose & wife ... CWF North Western District Conference held at Ararat ... Film "Heritage to Destiny", the life story of Alexander Campbell ... Pam Hyatt interviewed on work as Prison Welfare Officer ... Church congratulated Greg Jason & Carolyn Hare on engagement ... Congratulations to Don & Annette Davidson on the birth of son, Geoffrey Alexander.

**PORT FAIRY (Laurie Steel)** Monthly family services continue with young people participating ... Playgroup encouraging, new families attending—fire station visit popular ... CWF coffee afternoon, Joan Grace, Francis Foundation, Warrnambool, discussed work amongst disabled & drug & alcohol dependants ... Ruby Edwards hospitalised but able to attend services regularly ... Mrs Hindman visiting son & family in Meekatharra ... Pastor & family on two weeks holiday.

**CASTLEMAINE (P. Haylock)** Central & Northern District Conference hosted, day enjoyed by all; Noel Mitaxa guest speaker ... Feasibility study being conducted for church relocation ... Church saddened at sudden passing of Peter Haylock's mother ... Mark & Julie Best have taken on position as Missionary Department conveners.

**NORTH ESSENDON (Robyn & Hannes Schaefer)** Memorial service held in chapel for former member Joe Robottom, late of Lakes Entrance, July 24 ... Members & friends, along with Strathmore, Essendon & East Keilor churches packed approximately 125,000 show bags over August/September ... Congregation saddened by death of Aub Graham, shortly after returning from Queensland holiday ... Ecumenical musical evening and play October 2 attended by several denominations; supper followed.

**PRESTON (J. McCormick)** Ron Mill re-elected as church secretary at Annual Business Meeting ... Ron Weir, who

was dressed to portray Alexander Campbell, was interviewed in morning service by Nancy Garth. This proved a most informative way for members to learn of our church history ... Members have been meeting for Sunday evening studies on the passage to be used by minister on following Sunday morning.

**MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (Paul Downie, Max Ball)** September 18-21, 63rd anniversary, speaker Dirk Evenhuis (Friends of Israel); Gospel Celebration, YFC Travel-

lers youth tea, special fund raiser successful ... Sympathy extended to Harry Flack (wife Emily), Alma Ross (death of sister) & Glad Fraser (death of mother) ... Chairs purchased for Good News Club ... Film "Twice Pardoned", convicted murderer to Bible College graduate, excellent ... Two baptisms ... Successful church family dinner.

**BAYSWATER (Reg Combridge)** 3,000 leaflet drop for Sonny Pillay Mission, Sept 2-4, well attended, a number rededi-

cated to the Lord ... Sept 11, 5pm service, guest speaker Jacko, very challenging ... Successful youth camp Mt Martha, Andrew Ball study leader also speaker at youth service ... Youth delivered cake to elderlies ... E.A.T. Bible study going well ... Prayer requests for illness: Ron Watkins, Ted Handasyde, Wesley Jenkins.

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## "The Last Temptation of Christ"

Currently the film "The Last Temptation of Christ" is creating a storm in Christian circles. Many congregations are being urged to sign petitions against allowing the film to be screened at all, others are urging Christians to boycott the particular cinema chain that is screening the film.

I must state that I have not viewed the film (its commercial release is not until later this week and I was not invited to any media previews) and I have not heard much unbiased comment from anyone who has seen this film.

The film is based on a novel by Nikos Kazantzakis in which the central theme is the struggle between the two sides of Jesus' nature—the human and the divine. The Director of the film, Martin Scorsese, has sought to highlight this struggle in the movie. In a recent interview published in "The Age" he comments: "I believe that Jesus is fully divine, and fully human. At school (Roman Catholic) they emphasised the divine side of Jesus ... What Kazantzakis has done is to go for the human rather than the divine side. When did he know he was God? What if the human nature fights him all the way down the line, fights him tooth and nail, because the human nature simply cannot conceive that he may be God."

Martin Scorsese is very definite in pointing out that this film is not a version of the gospel. He also claims that the fantasy sex scenes in the film between Jesus and Mary Magdalene have been misinterpreted. He comments: "The last temptation of Christ is not to have sex with Mary Magdalene. His last temptation is to get off the cross, and live the rest of his life as a normal human being. To get married, to make love for the purpose of having children, and to live out the rest of his life peacefully until he dies in bed."

The whole issue related to this film concerns the theological question that has plagued the church from its very begin-

ning. If we believe that Jesus is both truly God and truly human how do we emphasis both parts of his nature? At times in church history we have had groups who have emphasised the humanity of Jesus and have been accused of heresy, whilst at other times people have so emphasised the divinity of Christ that they have fallen into the heresy of the denial of the humanness of Jesus.

It seems to me that to some extent the film "The Last Temptation of Christ" falls into the category of almost denying the deity of Christ. However much of the criticism of the film goes overboard on stressing the divinity of Jesus and not allowing any thoughts about his humanity. Hebrews 4:15 states: "Our High Priest is not one who cannot feel sympathy for our weaknesses. On the contrary, we have a High Priest who was tempted in every way that we are, but did not sin." (GNB).

In our churches we need to sort out our understanding of what it means to say that Jesus was tempted in every way just like us, and yet he did not sin.

One further comment I would like to make is on some of the demonstrations I have seen on news broadcasts against the movie in America and New Zealand. The violence and intolerance of those objecting to the movie was worrying and not a good advertisement for the Christian faith.

Interestingly I also heard two people discussing the film on radio. Neither reviewer claimed to be a Christian, in fact they both stated that they were lapsed church members. They both commented that seeing the film had raised questions in their minds on the place of Jesus in their lives. One of them also commented that seeing the film has prompted him to read the Gospels again.

I have also heard that the film is boring, not of a very high quality and that it is only the adverse publicity that is going to make it a box office drawcard.

# THE LAST WORD

Who lives content with little possesses everything.

—Nicolas Boileau-Despreaux

"I am a self-made man!"  
"Well, that relieves the Almighty of a great responsibility."

★★★★★

Eric is now old enough to go out by himself for the first time.

Mother: When you cross the road, be sure to look for the policeman.

Eric: Why mother? Can't he cross the road by himself?

★★★★★

Two sailors were adrift on a raft in the ocean. They had just about given up hope of rescue. One began to pray:

"O Lord, I've led a worthless life. I've been unkind to my wife and I've neglected my children, but if you save me, I promise .." The other shouted, "Hold it. I think I see land."

★★★★★

Man: There's a splinter in my cottage cheese!

Waiter: What did you expect for 55 cents ... the whole cottage?

★★★★★

We own a small foreign car, the door hinges of which are exposed to the weather and sometimes squeak.

One day I was oiling the hinges when our landlord walked by. "What are you trying to do?" he asked. "Take the foreign accent out of it?"

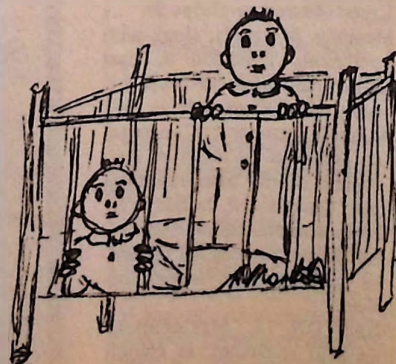
★★★★★

"My uncle is in prison because he made big money."

"How much?"

"About a centimetre too big."

★★★★★



"You keep them awake tonight, I'm too tired."

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