

# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

Registered for Australia Post Publication No. VAR 0761

Volume 91, No. 21

November 26, 1988

## Turning the World Upside Down

### 12th World Convention of Churches of Christ

Auckland, New Zealand

November 2 — 6

Almost 2,000 delegates attended the recent World Convention in Auckland, New Zealand. The vast majority of those attending were Americans with 300 New Zealanders attending and almost 300 Australians attending. Organising World Convention has been a large task for the New Zealand churches who have just 42 churches with some 3,000 members in the country. Many of these churches are on the South Island and there are only five churches with about 300 members in the Auckland area. The organising committee performed a great job and World Convention appeared to flow smoothly.

Lyndsay Jacobs, World Convention President from Christchurch, New Zealand, set as his theme "Turning the World Upside Down". Acts 17:6 (KJV) has the early Christians in Thessalonica described as "These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also". Lyndsay was calling for those



Lyndsay Jacobs,  
World Convention  
President

churches that belong to our Movement around the world should have a zeal for God that will lead to us being recognised as changing attitudes and beliefs to such an extent. In the opening session on the Wednesday evening during his address Lyndsay mentioned his theme at which point a large globe of the world that was hanging above the stage was reversed and on the reverse side of the globe the world was depicted upside down. This visible reminder of the theme remained above the stage for the rest of Convention. It was noticeable that several participants preferred to express the theme in terms of "Turning the World Right Side Up".

World Convention is primarily a time when people from the various streams of our movement can come together in a time of worship and of inspiration. In Amer-

ica our Movement is split into three wings and World Convention had many delegates from each of the three wings. This is an opportunity for discussions between the groups and a time of learning more from each other. The three streams of the Movement in America are the churches of Christ/Christian churches, the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) and the churches of Christ (non-instrument). All told there are some 24,000 congregations in America and Canada with some 3.5 million members. Other figures I have seen quoted are that in the rest of the world there are some 6,700 congregations in 91 other countries with some 600,000 members. However the churches of our Movement in Zaire are said to have 1 million members and it is expected that membership will climb to 3 million by the year 2000. (In our

issues from next year we hope to bring a regular feature to "The Australian Christian" which will feature each country in which our Movement is operating. This feature will be shared with other papers of our Movement around the world).

Each evening of World Convention there was a special meeting in the Auckland Town Hall. On each evening a different speaker spoke on an aspect of the theme. On the Wednesday evening the speaker was Convention President Lyndsay Jacobs; Rod Huron, Director of the North American Christian Convention, spoke on "Turning the World Upside Down Through Christ's Spirit" on the Thursday evening; Bill Tabbernee preached on "Turning the World Upside Down Through a Contemporary Reformation" on the Friday evening (this address is included as a Pamphlet Club contribution in this issue); on the Saturday evening "Turning the World Upside Down Through a United Church" was the theme of Joan Campbell, who is Executive Secretary of the US Office of the World Council of Churches and a Disciples of Christ minister.

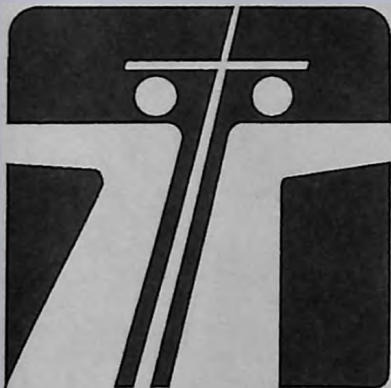
Guest soloist for World Convention was Stephen Kechullus, an operatic baritone. He is currently employed by the 5th Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York and also conducts concert

•Continued on Page 5

Managing Editor:  
CHRIS AMBROSE

ISSUE	DEADLINE
December 17	December 7
February 4	January 25
February 18	February 8

ADDRESS FOR ALL  
CORRESPONDENCE  
(Including all  
subscription payments)  
P.O. Box 101,  
ESSENDON NORTH, VIC.,  
3041  
Telephone: (03) 379.1219  
After hours: (03) 337.8349



National Logo of Churches of  
Christ in Australia

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

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

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

#### ADVERTISING RATES DISPLAYED

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

### Love is demanding

—Steve Warwick

Steve is married to Val and they have four children. After graduating from Woolwich in 1974 they spent four years working at the Maryborough, Vic., church. Then, with the Sudan Interior Mission, they worked in Nigeria and Sudan. Following this they spent a further four years in ministry at Maryborough. Two years ago they moved to Tasmania to work with the Huon Community Churches (which have a co-operation with the Huon Parish of the UCA). Steve is senior minister there and has just been appointed Tasmanian Conference President for a two-year term.



Recently it was said, of someone we know, "He loves too much." That comment caused me to think again about the place of love in my life and in the life of the church.

I'm interested in church growth and have read as much as I can on the subject. At present I'm leading two Bible studies on spiritual gifts. When possible I give people an opportunity to do an evangelistic study on Jesus. But, no matter what I look at, I always seem to come back to the idea of love. I just can't seem to get away from it.

I'm sure that it sticks in my mind because of what Jesus said, "A new command I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

And then, of course, as Paul was dealing with the idea of spiritual gifts in Corinthians he inserted that section on love:

"If I speak in the tongues of men and angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing."

I think of Moses and Paul who, when pleading with God for their people, would gladly have suffered being cursed and blotted out of God's book of life if only their people could be forgiven and saved.

A lot is said about love, but the more I think about it the more I see it as a very costly and demanding thing. Therefore, I do not think that it is possible for us to love too much, for as followers of our Lord Jesus we are called upon to follow in his steps.

God is love. As we follow him maybe we should aim at changing that verse so that we can insert our own name there, so that we become an expression of God, who is love.

It's tough! It's demanding! It's not something that many people will be really interested in for it is far from easy and comforting. But I believe it is what we are called upon to do—to love as Jesus loved. How the tongues wagged that day the local prostitute came up to Jesus and kissed his feet and washed them with her hair! Just imagine the talk of the town if the local prostitute came and gave you a big kiss in the middle of town. Jesus was misunderstood—and despised for it by the religious of his day. As we seek to love as he did we will be misunderstood. Love is prepared to forgive regardless of the hurt, but to get to the point of doing that isn't easy.

For me to try to love in that way isn't easy for I'd rather be selfish, but if Jesus had been selfish—thinking of himself—where would I be today?

No! It's not possible to love too much, but it is too easy to not love enough.

I'm convinced, by comments that I hear, that people take more notice of whether we love than they do of what we say. After all, isn't that what Jesus said would be the case?



## Kaleidoscope

The Mildura, Vic., Church of Christ Gospel Choir, Kaleidoscope, has recently presented its latest Christian musical drama, "First Love", in Mildura's Art Centre Theatre over a two-night season. Presented to two capacity audiences, members of the choir were unanimous in the opinion that "First Love" is one of the most meaningful gospel musicals it has been their experience to share. It was compiled by well-



Kaleidoscope leading a service at Barmera

era Primary School Gymnasium for the churches of that area. The morning church service was also taken by the choir before returning to Mildura.

"First Love" is a gospel presentation requiring much prayer and dedication from those presenting it and much growth has taken place within the group. Soloists include David Ling, Ruth Milne, Carol Collins, Doug Clark, Lorraine Kingsland, Michele Diggle, Mark McWilliams, Carolyn Hunt and Allan Holingworth.

Due to demand "First Love" will be repeated in the Arts Centre Theatre in late November. Kaleidoscope has also featured at Sunraysia Annual and Half-yearly Conventions.

—A. McWilliams

## GROWING SPIRITUALLY

### Forgive and remember

My memory does play tricks on me from time to time. I suppose that proves I am growing older. (My 50th birthday gets nearer each time I look at the calendar!) I forget people's names, where I put my car keys and what I wanted to buy at the supermarket. Last week I even forgot what day it was and missed an important appointment.

But I never seem to forget when someone has done something to hurt me.

I wish I could. I have worked hard at learning how to forgive people. With prayer, time and practice it has become a little easier. I don't believe it will ever be easy—that's not how it works. But when the pain and hurt have been overcome and love has taken their place I still find that I remember. At the oddest and most inconvenient times the whole event will replay itself in my mind. It is quite frustrating.

It occurred to me that, if the memory persists, perhaps I have not truly forgiven people for what they have done. Forgiving and forgetting have always gone together in my mind—after all, that is what God promises to do for me. Surely I should be trying to do the same for other people.

But it is much harder to take that second step and wipe out the memory of the wrong that was done.

I wonder if that's what Jesus was talking about when he said we should forgive "seventy times seven". Forgiveness may be something I have to keep on doing each time I remember what has happened. In that way the little hidden bits of resentment would be stopped from building up into something bigger and more dangerous—bitterness, for instance. Eventually the unpleasant feelings that surround the memory would fade away. It would give me more practice in forgiving, too. That would be helpful.

After all, it hardly seems sensible to ask God to bless me with a bad memory!

—Janet Thompson  
(Nunawading, Vic.)

known New Zealanders David and Dale Garrett, producers of *Scripture in Song* chorus books and is made up of Christian songs, dialogues and drama scenes.

In late September Kaleidoscope took the musical to Barmera, SA, and staged it in the Barm-

## Bus for Mooroopna



A much-needed bus for the ongoing work at Mooroopna, Vic., has been provided by the Federal Aborigines Board. Volunteers Brian Flelder and Harold Taylor, from the Chelsea, Vic., church drove the bus

from Perth. Harold Taylor, Secretary of the Vic-Tas. Aborigines' Mission Department, presented the bus to Denis Atkinson, minister of the Mooroopna church.

## JACKMAN & TRELOAR

PTY. LTD.

LICENSED AGENTS & AUCTIONEERS M.R.E.I.

66 GREENHILL RD., WAYVILLE 5034

Established 1901

SERVING SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ADELAIDE — METROPOLITAN — HILLS — NEAR COUNTRY  
FOR ALL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Selling, Buying, Auctions, Valuations, Transfers,  
Renting & Letting. Finance Arranged.

Make use of our long years of experience through

NEIL McLEAN — Phone (08) 272.6900.

## Zimbabwe appointment

The Overseas Mission Board has announced the appointment of Bill Keddle to the position of Teacher/Chaplain at Dadaya High School, Zimbabwe. Bill will be teaching Divinity at the final high school level that is examined in England under the A level system.



Previously the Keddies served at the Bulawayo Bible College in Zimbabwe for five years. Prior to that they had ministries in Victoria and also a term of mission service working with the Churches of Christ in Papua New Guinea. Bill has completed a B.A., M.A., B.D. and presently has a Masters Thesis submitted.

Bill and his wife, Ria, will travel to Zimbabwe early in December 1988 in time to resume their residency status there. Dadaya High School is a co-educational boarding school with around 800 students. As well as teaching, Bill will be involved in pastoral care for the students. It is also hoped that Bill and Ria may be able to be involved in leadership training among the 37

Churches of Christ in the area.

You are encouraged to support and pray for the Keddies as they represent the Australian Churches of Christ in Zimbabwe.

## Ministry appointments in Brunswick and Coburg Region

The Brunswick and Coburg, Vic, Regional Board have appointed Louls Clun and Catherine Mee to part-time ministry within the Region in 1989. They will join Vic Quayle in the ministry team.

Louis and Cathy will marry in January.

Louis is currently studying at the Bible College of Victoria and he will be involved in a three day a week ministry in the Region. Louis will be involved in preaching and worship at the Coburg and Pascoe Vale churches, in

## Harmers to PNG



Together with their children, Sarah (11), Matthew (10) and Catherine (8), David and Robyn Harmer are returning to Papua New Guinea in the role of Pastor Advisor. The Harmers were previously in PNG from 1981 to 1983. They have applied to the Board to return to the field for one year, with the hope of completing a full term of two years and eight months.

Provided the necessary visas are obtained they will go to Madang in January and then be stationed at Chungribu.

We encourage you to pray for them and to be supportive of their ministry. Perhaps your church could adopt them as a Living Link and become personally involved in praying for and financing their ministry.

pastoral care in both churches and in the development of outreach opportunities within the region. Louis is currently involved in a student ministry with the Baptist Church in the Knox region. During 1989 he will complete his studies at the Bible College of Victoria.

Cathy Mee is currently working part-time with an Anglican church in the field of Christian Education. She will be involved in pastoral care in the Region and in

exploring the possibilities of the development of youth work. Cathy's father Brian is involved in ministry with the Ringwood Church of Christ.

Vic Quayle will continue his three day a week ministry within the Region. He will be co-ordinating the pastoral care of contacts of the regional churches and he will also minister at the Brunswick church. Vic will also continue his development of outreach opportunities in Brunswick.

### 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



### SWANSTON STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Melbourne  
(Cnr Swanston & Lt. Lonsdale Sts.)

#### 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

## Christian calls to Christian

Those of us who are disciples of the Prince of Peace pray that peace will be the experience of all people on earth. In particular we will be praying for peace in the land of the birth of our faith.

Christians, among the three monotheistic religions which revere the Holy Land have the unique distinction that only their founder was born, lived and died in this land. Jesus taught and commissioned his disciples, as well as offering new life because of his resurrection, in this small country. Since that time there has always been a witness to Jesus Christ in the land of the Bible.

Now the Christians of Israel and the occupied territories are crying out to the Christian community around the world for support. The majority of Christians in the Holy Land are Arabs, there are a few expatriates and very few Jews, who are Christians.

A group who require special mention are the Armenians. This nation was the first to ever declare itself a Christian nation; it is a nation which has suffered much persecution and has now been incorporated into the USSR. In both Israel and Lebanon the number of Armenians has been halved in the past 50 years.

In fact the overall number of Christians in the Holy Land is decreasing. One Christian leader commented, "We are faced, for the first time since Jesus, with the prospect of there being no Christian witness in the land where our Lord lived."

We are aware of conflict between Arab and Jew in Israel. The

issues are complicated and I am not competent to discuss them. One thing is clear: Christians suffer along with their fellow Arabs, from curfews, lack of education and other restrictions. So, as we see members of the household of faith suffering, we are called upon to help. Such help begins with prayer, but also includes becoming more aware of the situation which confronts Christians in that land. It may even mean political lobbying.

One of the concerns of Christians in the Holy Land is the way some Christians, by word and deed, give encouragement to extreme elements in Israel. This occurs when we promote the return of the Jews to Israel, as fulfillment of prophecy, without due regard to the position of Christians in that land. The encouragement given to those who would deny the land to Arabs means further suffering to all the Arabs, including the Christians.

Since the time of the Crusades, Western ideas coming in with Western Christians, whether Roman Catholic, Protestant or Evangelical, have caused confusion and division and at times have driven people from Christianity.

We may well be at a watershed in the life of the Church in Palestine, when the future of the Church in the land of its birth will be determined by Christians who live in freedom and by the support they may or may not give to others in the household of faith.

—Trevor Banks

The depletion of business leadership in Hong Kong due to the emigration of young Chinese concerned about the possible changes in 1997, has created vacancies that are being filled by returning Chinese who have become citizens of other nations. With the freedom to leave at will, they are not threatened by the 1997 issue. Thomas Lawrence of the Chinese Church Research Center urges the Church to pray that God will "call mature believers from Chinese churches abroad to return to labour unselfishly for Christ in Hong Kong."

Cuba is to receive 50,000 Bibles for its evangelical churches. Rev. R. Saurez, President of the Ecumenical Council of Cuba, said that the visit of Denton Lotz, General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, with Fidel Castro in March of this year was the 'spark' that began the project. At that meeting Dr Castro said to Lotz that an educated person should read the Bible. The Bibles will be shipped by the United Bible Societies, with the first lot of 10,000 expected in Cuba between January and March of next year.

## World Convention

•Continued from Page 1

tours of churches in America. He attended World Convention in Hawaii in 1980 with his father who is a Disciples of Christ minister. Stephen's wife Carol Jansen Kechullus, who accompanied him on the piano, is a student at the Juilliard Conservatorium.

Another feature of World Convention was the Jessie M. Bader Lectureship on Contemporary Evangelism. These lectures were presented by Lloyd Ogilvie, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, California and a television evangelist. Dr Ogilvie also preached at the final communion service on the Sunday morning and at a minister's breakfast.

A special dinner was held on the Friday evening to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Alexander Campbell. A birthday cake was cut by Allan Lee, General Secretary of World Convention. Hiram Lester shared some little known facts about Alexander Campbell and Ron O'Grady, New Zealand, shared a few thoughts on Alexander Campbell in the 21st Century.

On two mornings a series of

### Jim Dow

We have been advised that Jim Dow died suddenly on November 17. He had been serving as the chaplain to the Aged Care Homes of the South Australian Conference. We will run a longer obituary in our next issue.

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

L.M.C.T.  
6549

**Ken Geyer**

SELECT USED CARS

49 Bond Street, Ringwood 3134

Telephone: (03) 879 4004

A.H.: (03) 722 1780.

**CONTACT KEN IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR  
A USED CAR OR NEED TO RENT ONE**



Heritage Breakfasts were held. At these discussion groups examined the teachings of Alexander Campbell and their implication for our Movement today. On the other day a minister's breakfast was held and at the same time a men's session with John Humbert, General Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as speaker. The World CWF held their session with Alison O'Grady, New Zealand, as speaker.

The climax of World Convention was the communion celebration on Sunday morning. Following a tradition that was commenced in Mexico in 1974 each participant kept their hand-made pottery communion cup as a memento of the occasion. Each were thrown by Lorraine Jacobs.

One delegate to World Convention who received special attention was Sir Garfield Todd.

Citations were awarded to people for their service to Christ and to World Convention. Among those receiving citations were Ed Roffey, Australian Secretary of the World Convention Committee, Allan and Joan Yewbank, missionaries in Thailand; Richmond Nelson, Jamaica and Alfred DeGroot.

The next World Convention will be held in Long Beach, California, August 2-6, 1992 with Dr Harold Watkins as World Convention President. At this time Dr Allan Lee will step down as World Convention Secretary after serving for 18 years.

## Missionaries - reincarnated ancestors?

—Graeme Batley, PNG

Before whites came to Papua New Guinea the people were poor in material goods. Life was to be accepted as it was. In the 1920s the Catholic Mission entered these parts. They came with compassion. They handed out Western clothes, salt, soap and other small items completely free. These missionaries explained their goodwill by saying, "We are your brothers."



The local people thought about these new brothers and decided that they must actually be deceased Papua New Guineans who, in the land of the ancestors, had felt great concern for their living relatives. In this far off land it was thought the skin colour of these deceased had changed from black to white. The fact that these missionaries were returned Papua New Guineans would also explain why their commodities could be gained freely, rather than by trading. A neat solution!

In 1968 the news circulated in this area that the Churches of Christ were interested in working here if there were villages keen to receive them. Indeed a number were and today there is an extensive work here. At the time, one of the rumours that came with this new mission was that they had a special book, in which it was said that to obtain its real blessings you must not just lop the branches off the coconut palm, but go down to its base.

This is the type of picture language that Papua New Guineans usually revel in. However, on this occasion it was misunderstood. Here at Samban the aid-post orderly was anxious to obtain such a

book for he understood that should he sit down and open it underneath a coconut palm, he would suddenly find that these 'blessings' were money in its pages. He expected other material goods to magically appear about him!

People here laugh at these stories today because they say they then knew no better. Now they understand the purpose of the coming of the missionaries and their Book. Now they know that to receive the real blessings it is not sufficient to read their Bibles superficially (lop the branches), but it is necessary to go all the way down (to the base) and find its true meanings.

The 600 German Lutheran churches in the Soviet Union will soon have their first bishop since 1937. He is Harold Kalnins, 77, a Latvian who has been looking after the 600 churches in Siberia since 1966. It is the "largest Lutheran parish in the world". There are about 2 million Germans still living in the USSR. Half are Lutherans, 200,000 are Evangelicals, Baptist, Brethren, Pentecostals and Mennonites. The rest are Catholic.

## Israeli election results cause alarm

Results of the election this month in Israel were to be expected, according to General Secretary Gabriel Habib of the Middle East Council of Churches. He said "the significant gains made by the right-wing and religious-based parties" reflect "developments in Israeli society towards positions and policies espoused by right-wing and fundamentalist groups."

He spoke of an "alarming direction" in Israeli politics "which signals an increasing historical and religious justification for the oppression of the Palestinian people and a denial of their right to self-determination."

Habib noted that after nearly a year of the Palestinian *intifada* (an Arabic word usually rendered in English as *uprising*) against Israeli rule, there are indications from the Palestinian leadership of a clear willingness to make concessions.

"Similarly," he said, "we had hoped that recent developments in

Israel would also have led Jewish society to rethink its attitudes and policies in a way that would have allowed it to liberate itself from the position of an oppressor, and from the syndrome that separates Jews and Gentiles, to a situation of solidarity for justice and peace among all suffering people in the Holy Land.

"One would think in principle that the success of the religious parties should mean a greater emphasis on God's common justice and peace," Habib remarked.

Habib called for people not to forget "that nearly half of the Israeli electorate voted for parties who are in favour of negotiations, and who are therefore ready to consider making concessions in the interest of peace. One would like to think that this is indicative of the potential for securing peace, and for fulfilling our hope for a better future for both Arabs and Jews in the Holy Land," he concluded.

—EPS

## Amateur radio at World Convention

Amateur radio played a part in making World Convention a memorable event. Operated by two New Zealand Churches of Christ radio operators, station ZL1AK transmitted each day from October 21 to November 3.

It was labelled a 'Special Event Station for the World Convention of Churches of Christ' and radio amateurs from different countries made contact. As a result they will receive a commemorative certificate. Several Australian church members who are amateurs will gain one. Contacts were made with 169 amateur radio stations during the operation.

The New Zealand operators who manned ZL1AK were Ralph Bradley, minister of the Gisborne church, and Ian Ogler, high school teacher and minister

in the Whangarei Uniting Church.

The station was an activity of the Disciples Amateur Radio Fellowship (DARF). DARF is a worldwide organisation of amateur radio operators from the Churches of Christ and other churches who make radio contacts for fellowship and enrichment and try to use radio to promote missionary work.

DARF can be heard by amateur radio operators in Australia every Sunday. If you would like information concerning times and frequencies, as well as the aims and projects undertaken by DARF, a brochure is available. Write to "The Australian Christian", PO Box 101, North Essendon 3041.

IAN F. KNIGHT, LL.B., B.COM.

BARRISTER & SOLICITOR

REGISTERED TAX AGENT

Conveyancing, Common Law, Estates & Wills,  
Taxation, Personal Injuries, Business &  
Company Law.

10 BEST STREET, 48 MADIGAN DRIVE,  
NORTH FITZROY, 3068 GLEN WAVERLEY, 3150  
PHONE : (03) 481.0854 PHONE: (03) 561.5879



## Just for Him

*Just for Him* is a token of the love and desire toward God that Reda Boulas and Stephen Reilmuth of the Ascot Vale, Vic,

church have expressed.

It is a result of a weekly mid-week worship service that has been held at Ascot Vale since

early this year. During this time the worship experience of those attending has deepened and Reda and Stephen's expression on piano and drums has also matured.

The ball was commenced rolling for the production of the cassette *Just for Him* by Maggle and Ross Bourdon, ministers at Ascot Vale. Finance was offered to produce copies after the recording was completed by another couple. The bass player, Rohan, whom they had met whilst ministering in Tasmania, was flown over by another couple's gifts.

Reda and Stephen comment, "Whilst in recent years most worship tapes have been produced with a 'big' sound and lots of vocals *Just for Him* has a purity and simplicity that we believe is an experience of worship from start to finish. It is a challenge and an expression of our deep desire of wanting to be changed into his likeness and live just for him."

The cassette cost is \$12 including postage and packaging and can be ordered by phoning (03) 354 7169 or 336 3260.



Stephen Reilmuth and Reda Boulas in front of newly purchased grand piano at Ascot Vale

### Home Nursing Service

The Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department commenced their first Home Nursing Service at St George in Western Queensland in October.

The Department is working to build a 25 bed hostel in the town and the situation arose where the small existing service had to be terminated. Seeing the urgent need of six people the Department responded to provide the service. By the end of October the

service was serving 12 people in need of home nursing.

The Department has since made application for support for this service as well as the provision of a day care service for the people of St George and surrounding districts.

Rob Warwick is the administrator of the new program. Don Stewart, Executive Director of the Department, said that it was out of such local initiatives that the work of the Department grew.

## WHITE PAPERS

### The Pavilion of Promise

We managed to get to Expo just before the final rush in October. Our arrival coincided with a 'down' day. There were only 83,811 visitors. The absence of the other 20,000 was hardly noticeable!

The main activity at Expo was queuing, if activity is the right word. The concept was that if you didn't have to queue for at least two hours to see a pavilion, the exhibit wasn't worth it!

I have it on the most reliable authority of the cousin of a cleaner who heard that someone knew of a man who stopped to admire a palm tree and within 10 minutes 250 had lined up behind him! They thought they were queuing to see the South Pacific Village.

I skipped the queues for the Aquacade and the Australian and New Zealand pavilions. There was a four-hour queue to see the latter. It had the largest staff, all NZers, and not one had to be brought across the Tasman. They were already here!

There was no need to go to the pavilions to be entertained. Out in the streets were bands and music groups, mimers, comedians, jugglers, trick cyclists, human 'sculptures' etc. In the Piazza, day and night, first-class Australian and international artists performed before large and appreciative crowds.

There were more than 60 pavilions. Of the few I visited, Canada, Queensland, Magna Carta and Captain Cook were the ones I rated as best. Two were related to faith: the Pavilion of the Holy See and the Pavilion of Promise. In keeping with that modesty we have come to expect of churches, the Pavilion of Promise was located at the extreme eastern end of Expo, alongside the Monorail Maintenance Unit and the Brisbane River Dry Dock. Nevertheless people found it and queued for 90 minutes to enter. The 500,000th visitor was welcomed in September.

The Pavilion of Promise was based on a similar program at the

Vancouver Expo and was brought to Brisbane through the vision and sacrifice of two Christian businessmen who mortgaged their homes to provide the initial capital for the venture. It was regarded as a 'Corporate Participant' which means that it had to pay its own way in company with Ford, IBM and Fujitsu (of course it was not in the same financial league as these others).

Most pavilions measured their success by counting heads. The Pavilion of Promise also counted heads and is judged successful, but it also touched hearts, and the hearts were the real targets. There were many stories of men, women and young people who found faith, or had their faith enriched, as they shared in the three-theatre presentation of "The Scroll" through high technology vision and sound.

One businessman was visibly shaken by the Promise challenge and phoned later to say that he had become a Christian. A pastor at Hervey Bay told how a man recently released from prison was moved to make a fresh start. One of the Aquacade staff gave her life to the Lord after a Christian friend had taken her through the Pavilion.

The Pavilion's influence spread far beyond Expo. By the beginning of September, 68 Queensland churches were using "Christianity Explained", the study program promoted by the Pavilion. TAFE College conducted three classes in Brisbane in October using "Christianity Explained". If successful, this program will be expanded through TAFE.

But... and there is a but... at the beginning of October \$400,000 was still required to meet the total budget of \$938,000 and a call for help has gone out to the churches to bring the venture to a successful climax. It is expected that the churches will respond generously. I hope that the two businessmen who started it all will be able to keep their homes!

—A.E. White

The Letters to the Editor limit is 200 words.

## CLERGY COMPUTER USER GROUP

To the Editor,

There are a significant number of clergy who use a computer in the parish and find this modern technology useful in a variety of ways.

It has been suggested that clergy, pastors and ministers, together with interested church members, should form an interest group focusing on the ways in which computers can free the church to give more time to individuals and less to administration. Computers can speed up the routine administrative tasks of the church office, freeing clergy to devote their time and skills more productively.

The Clergy Computer User Group is ecumenical and is open to anyone, clergy or church members, who is interested. You do not have to own a computer to be a member. The group puts out a newsletter.

If you would like more information about the Clergy Computer User Group contact Rev. John Sapsford, PO Box 118, Mooroopna, Vic. 3629.

—Rev. John Sapsford  
(Co-ordinator)

## FACING THE FUTURE

To the Editor,

I was interested to read "Anticipation—Facing the Future" ("A.C." October 29), but found it very disappointing. Such a significant theme made me expect some word from the Lord to encourage, challenge and motivate. Instead I discovered all the signs of a social gospel, which is unacceptable according to Gal. 1:8,9.

If we believe that God has provided "the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3) to indicate its final authority, it stands to reason that no human being has the right to tamper with its teaching or alter its message. Changed conditions in Christendom or altered circumstances in the world were not intended to

lead to any departure from God's word.

I would have preferred the report to have given more biblical ways for the New Testament church to face the future e.g.,

1. A deeper commitment of its members to Jesus and his way of life.

2. A more faithful stewardship of all that God has given.

3. A greater desire to restore New Testament Christianity in faith and practice.

4. A stronger resolution to implement the great commission of Jesus.

5. A patient waiting for the Lord's promised return.

What more is needed to face the future with anticipation?

—F.D. Craig  
(Newcastle, NSW)  
**HEADSHIP**

To the Editor,

Ray Hawkins contends ("A.C." July 9) citing 1 Cor. 11:3, that there is no "incompatibility within scripture for women preachers, presidents etc. if they are under the headship of the elders".

1. Paul is writing here about the subordination of wives to husbands, not that of women preachers etc. to elders (who for Hawkins are presumably all men).

2. Paul's main interest is not in the proper headdress for men and women in public worship in the church at Corinth. It is the headship of Christ and how this should be expressed in worship that is his primary concern.

3. But he has difficulty making his argument. (i) He says that his hierarchy of God, Christ, man (husband), woman (wife) is validated by Jewish scripture, namely Gen. 2:21-23; 18:8-9. (ii) Then, in a textually difficult and obscure verse (10), he bases his argument on the position and authority of angels. (iii) He then revises his "biblical" hierarchical stance to say that the Christian position is one of equality of the sexes and their interdependence (v.11). (iv) Finally, he falls back upon "nature" to substantiate his position

(vv.14-15). (If "nature" then told men to wear their hair short and women theirs long, it no longer says that unequivocally and persuasively today.)

—Ronald W. Graham  
(Johnston, Iowa, USA)  
**THANKS FROM MORNINGTON**

To the Editor,

It is with joy that we write to you and express our thanks to so many who have contributed to the commencement of the Mornington Fellowship.

This is our third month of meeting for worship and each week we enjoy having new people coming to our services, enjoying fellow-

ship and returning for more!

Through your column we say a sincere thank you to the people of the Frankston church for their provision and serving of communion and of afternoon tea on our opening day. The 'guesstimate' of 200 proved to grow to 300 and the principle of the loaves and the fishes surely applied to the afternoon tea! Morwell, Ormond, Red Hill, Toolgarook, North Balwyn and Camberwell churches have all given us practical support and we say sincerely "thank you". For the many prayers on our behalf we also express our sincere thanks, and know that the Lord has answered.

## LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

### WHAT THE WORLD HAS COME TO

To the Editor,

Our minister is usually more positive than negative, more optimistic than pessimistic and more often looking for the good than the bad.

Hence our surprise last Sunday morning when he announced his title as "What the World has Come to". He was eloquent as he gave us a run-down on violence and vice and greed and marriage break-up and corruption in high places. Our congregation likes that kind of preaching. It gives us a spell from our minister's gentle nudgings about the respectable, harmless little sins that Christians commit.

Well, he was half way through his doom and gloom about the world when he stopped and said, "You heard all about what the world has come to. But that's nothing. You should see what has come to the world!"

Then he went on for the rest of his sermon reminding us that Jesus Christ has come to the world and is still coming. He is stemming the tide of violence by changing violent people's lives. He is in the majority of marriages that are not going wrong. The corruption that he has prevented by being Lord of people's lives would have set the headlines alight had it developed. And today Jesus Christ is stirring the conscience of the world about war and peace and justice and hunger and discrimination, as never before.

He's a shrewd operator, our minister. He let us wallow for a while in pessimism, just to let us feel by contrast what real faith in the living Christ is all about.

Yours hopefully,  
**TERTIUS**

It is such a wonderful feeling to be part of the Brotherhood and of the larger family of Christians, and look forward to sharing with you in many of the plans we have for the future.

—Mavis Peet  
(Secretary, Mornington, Vic.)  
**VISITING ISRAEL**

To the Editor,

St George's College is certainly an appropriate place to begin an understanding of the Holy Land, as Trevor Banks suggests ("A.C." November 12).

The College is committed to helping people understand not only the Palestine of the first century, but also the occupied territories of the 1980s. Its staff, all committed Christians, ensure that participants have opportunities to meet with representatives of all the major faiths—Christianity, Islam and Judaism—claiming a historic link with Jerusalem.

However, recently meeting with the Palestinian churches in the West Bank, Gaza and Israel proper, it was made quite clear to me the extent of the disappointment they feel towards many Christians who visit Israel. By all means visit the churches of the Nativity and the Holy Sepulchre, Galilee and Capernaum. But what of the living continuing faith of Palestinian Christians?

Why not stay in one of the hotels run by Palestinian Christians? Or have your visit organised by Palestinian Christian travel agents? Why not worship with orthodox Christians in Gaza or Anglicans in Nazareth?

The churches in Jerusalem, coordinated by the Middle East Council of Churches, now have staff who are very happy to assist visitors to see not only the historic beginnings of Christianity but also to meet with worshipping communities of Palestinian Christians.

—Alan Matheson  
(Hawthorn, Vic.)

### FLAT EARTH

To the Editor,

One niggle remains about the flat earth concept—what supports the pillars that hold it up? Perhaps

G.E. Platt ("A.C." November 12) can tell me—he may even have a text to quote.

An ancient Indian legend says the earth is slightly curved, like an inverted saucer. This is held up on the backs of four huge elephants, who in turn are standing on the backs of four gigantic crocodiles. And the crocodiles are swimming in a great sea. And what holds up this sea? The great sea, sahib, goes right down to the bottom.

—Robert E. Schurmann  
(Ferntree Gully, Vic.)

### JAMES 5

To the Editor,

I was pleased to read Graham Agnew's comment on James 5 ("A.C." November 12). I cannot agree more, let's restore the teaching given. Let the elders be involved in a prayer ministry for the sick.

But if we are restoring go all the way. We immerse because that is the meaning of the Greek *baptizo*. The Greek for anoint in James 5 is *aleipho*, not *chrio*. It is the medicinal use of the word. James is

giving wise council here. There are some Christians who ignore medical help and the non-Christians ignore the Great Physician. James is saying when Christians are sick, we bring them to the Great Physician (with the elders) and we also get the best medical help. There is nothing in the text about running around with a little bottle of olive oil!!!

—Bruce Roberts  
(East Ipswich, Qld)

•Continued on Page 13

## THE COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE

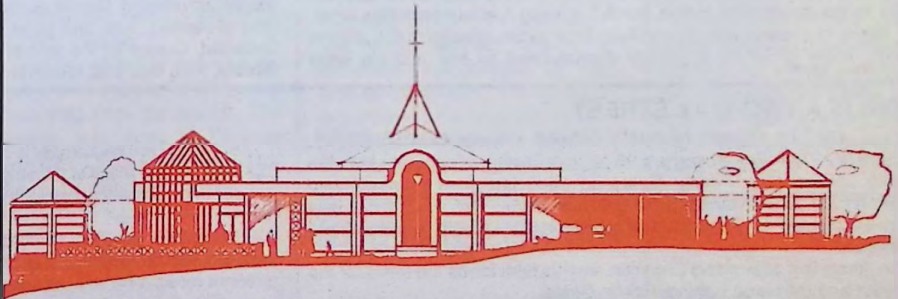
### MULGRAVE CAMPUS

is offering

## SHORT-TERM COURSES

one night per week for six weeks 7.30–9.30 pm in 1989

FOR: Leaders, members and friends of our churches



1st Course: **Church Leadership** with Ian Allsop Feb 14, 21, 28  
March 7, 14, 21

2nd Course: **Evangelism & Mission** with Ron Elbourne  
May 10, 17, 24, 31  
June 7, 14

3rd Course: **Spirituality** with Graeme Chapman Aug 7, 14, 21, 28  
Sept 4, 11

**ENROLMENTS ARE NOW BEING RECEIVED**

Contact Mr Graeme Wigney (03) 25 6085

## CROP AT SUNSHINE

In February 1989 Ian Corlett commences at Sunshine. This is a second major CROP initiative designed to strengthen Sunshine and begin church planting in the Western Suburbs. \$25,000 is needed for Sunshine—Kensington now.

**DEPARTMENT OF MISSION, EDUCATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT**

52 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne, Vic. 3000



## PAPERS

### CHRISTIANITY AND ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIA

The Zadok Institute has just released Part 4 in the series on Christianity and Aboriginal Australia. As the 20th century began, relationships between Aboriginals and white Australians were most clearly seen in two different contexts—the frontiers and the fringes.

On the pastoral frontiers, then mostly in the far north, Aboriginal people were still being dispossessed of their lands. A few courageous missionaries fought for justice but theirs was a small voice compared to the cry for aggressive pastoral expansion.

On the fringes of southern settlement, the remnant of Aboriginal people were being forced onto reserves, the regimented and often unwilling recipients of a minimal charity designed to make less public the presumed extinction of the race. This gross injustice the churches either condoned or ignored.

"Christianity and Aboriginal Australia. Part 4: Justice and Injustice at the Beginning of the 20th Century," written by John Harris, is available from the Zadok Institute, Blackall St, Barton, ACT 2600 for \$2 plus 78c postage.

## BOOKS

### SING ALLELUIA

A Supplement to the Australian Hymn Book

(Collins Dove) Harmony Edition \$29.95  
Melody line Edition \$5.95

Church leaders and musicians in all denominations will welcome the publication of the 'New Improved Edition' of "Sing Alleluia: A Supplement to the Australian Hymn Book". Having had our appetites whetted, some 12 months ago, by publicity prior to the release of the original edition, many of us were greatly disappointed to find that we were

expected to either purchase two copies of the music edition or hire a permanent page turner. This was due to a layout problem, the words and music of a large number of the pieces appeared on opposite sides of the same leaf. Unfortunately this one fault blinded many potential users to a large numbers of strengths in the publication.

The latest edition earns its label 'New Improved' by virtue of its modified layout. Wherever possible words and music are on facing pages. Other features of its presentation remain unchanged. The score is large and clear, eliminating the need for magnifying glasses! The book is spiral bound for easier use on a stand.

Contributions of words and music for this supplement are from many countries. A few will be familiar to congregations which already use one of the many chorus books now available. Others will be new works in familiar genres, and still more may be useful in introducing some very different musical idioms to local congregations. Two such examples are responsorial Psalm chants and musical settings from the Taizé community in France. The same high standard of musical arrangement as was featured in the Australian Hymn Book is found in the supplement. Guitar chords and organ pedal notes have been included where appropriate. A number of indexes are included as a resource for those planning services. Especially useful is the subject index, which organises pieces into over 50 categories.

Whilst "Sing Alleluia" was compiled primarily as a supplement to the Australian Hymn Book, it should also prove to be an invaluable companion to the Churches of Christ Hymn Book, or any other musical compilation currently being used by congregations.

—Belinda Gillam

### STATISTICAL SURVEY OF RELIGIOUS PRESS 1988

(Christian Media) \$10.

This is a statistical survey of 27 major Protestant publications who accept advertising. Details of costs of advertising, distribution, demography of readers, size and page formats and publication schedules are included. Copies of the survey are available for \$10 from Christian Media, P.O. Box 126, Caulfield South 3162.

### LOVE IS A TWO-WAY STREET

by Ian Jones (Pearly Gates Promotions) \$4.95.

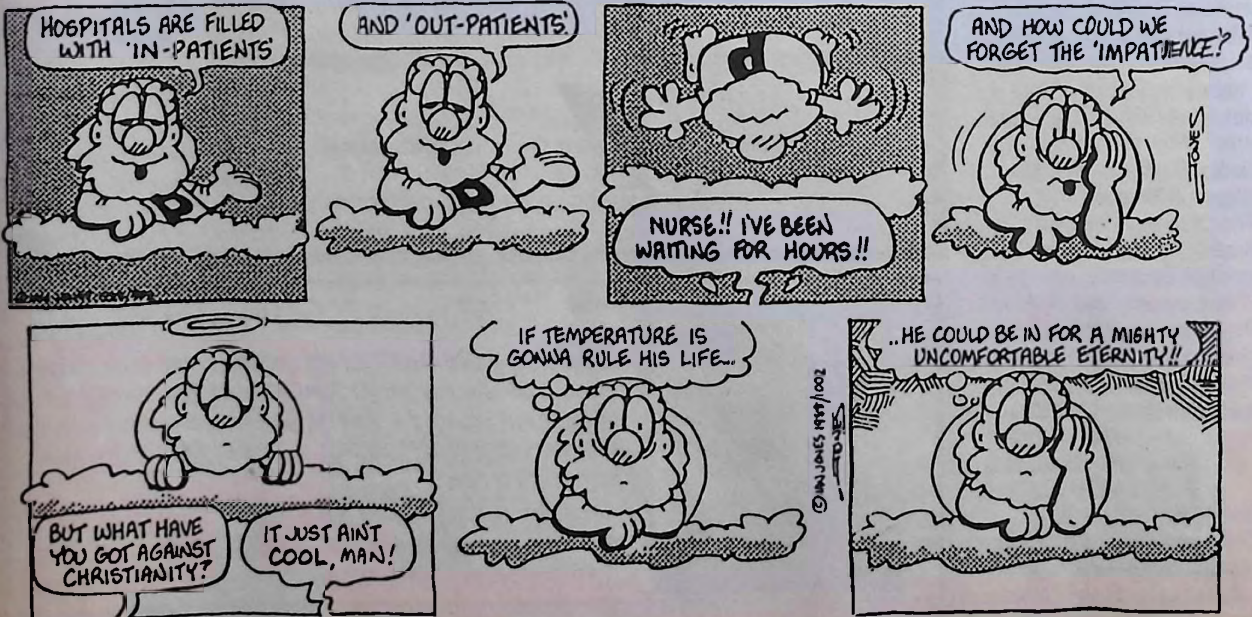
*Love Is a Two-Way Street* is a 96 page collection of cartoons from the regular cartoon strip *Pearly Gates*. In 1980 Ian Jones commenced selling a daily cartoon strip a Brisbane newspaper. This column has now been syndicated to a number of newspapers in both Australia and overseas.

Ian Jones is a committed Christian and his faith forms the basis for the concept and message behind *Pearly Gates*.

*Love is a Two-Way Street* is an excellent cartoon strip that has many puns and jokes. Many of the strips raise important matters that make the reader think about their attitudes whilst at the same time they are quite funny.

This book is excellent value at \$4.95 and should be available at local newsagents up until the end of February. It would make an excellent present for anyone with a sense of humour.

—CBA





## Touring in New Zealand

The Australian Touring Party (Tour 1), whose travels in New Zealand preceded the World Convention of Churches of Christ, enjoyed some special times of worship and fellowship together.

### Christchurch

Ken Masterton has described the events of October 16: Sixty-six Australian delegates experienced uplifting fellowship with the Moorhouse Avenue, Christchurch, congregation around the Lord's Table and then in the homes of members for the midday meal. The minister Ross Heyward presided and Gordon Stirling preached. Ross Heyward spoke of the Australian preachers who had, in the past, shared in the development of the church in Christchurch.

During the afternoon Graham Carslake (minister at Warwick, WA) conducted a Church Growth Seminar for the Christchurch churches.

Gordon Stirling spoke at the evening service at Bishopdale. There were 26 Australian churches represented by the 63 delegates present.

### Queenstown

Ralph Potter writes that on October 23 a communion service was celebrated by the tour members in a conference room at the Lakeland Regency Hotel. It was a simple, impressive celebration.

Marks of revival are seen in various ways in the Philippines. Overall Protestant church membership is up to 11% of the population, compared to 20 years ago when it was 4%. More and more evangelicals are finding effective service in

Three members of the group contributed brief, favourite scripture excerpts on the theme of praise.

### Nelson

On October 27 the group were in Nelson. May Searle reports that they were given a sunny, warm welcome as they shared a meal with the Nelson people. Some of the young people entertained the group with mime and drama.

Of special interest was the historical link between Nelson and the beginning of Churches of Christ in Australia.

### Wanganui

October 30 was when the group visited the church at Wanganui, a city of 40,000 people on the western side of the North Island. Freda Carslake has written that the group half-filled the church. Some had met the minister, Bryan Kirby, and his wife, Val, the previous day.

A time of praise and worship was led by a group of six young musicians from the church. The sermon was given by Graham Carslake. Lunch was provided for the group after the service. The tables were sagging with the food provided by the congregation. The group were made to feel very welcome.

To conclude their tour the group travelled to Auckland to join World Convention.

government. A number of churches and organisations are doing community development. Another good sign: there are now about 670 Filipino missionaries, 180 of whom serve in other countries.

## Cold feet

—Geoff Maxwell, PNG

That title may sound strange coming from someone who lives and works in Papua New Guinea, a place where there is high humidity and a fairly constant stable heat throughout. If you have lived, or are living, in the tropics you know what it is like.

My cold feet were mainly due to fear—fear of the unknown. I was asked by Atibam (Chairman of the Conference of Churches of Christ of PNG) to run some youth camps. Personally I didn't think I was the right person, but he must have seen something in me to make him ask, and there is certainly work needed in the area of youth.

I've been asked to co-ordinate four camps throughout this year, three of which have already been held, the last one will be in November (a month before I go on furlough). I believe that the camps that have already been held were successful, not judging by the number of people, but because they created an awareness, a challenge and commitment to serve Christ amongst the spiritual battle

we face daily.

The activities were many and varied. We had time set aside to study what they had heard, there was time set aside to make puppets, to play various games and sport (basketball, volleyball and soccer).

Please pray for the youth, not only in Australia, but also in PNG. The youth have always seemed to be the most attacked by Satan and at times subject to much criticism. Pray that the young people will take the spiritual battle seriously and fight, that they will be God's "flaming messengers" in a dark world.

## Marriage Seminar

From 19–23 September a Church Leaders' Workshop was conducted at Yamen, PNG, with between 40 and 50 attending. Those who came felt they were richly rewarded as the workshop successfully focused on courtship, marriage and family life. Each of these areas was examined against the scriptural teaching, but considered in the light of the customs and thinking of Papua New Guinea.

During the workshop many leaders expressed the same opinion that teaching of this nature was much appreciated throughout our churches. Many felt that if, in the home, marital and family relationships were in discord, harmony could never be attained at the church and village levels.

Some time ago a missionary friend said to me, "Christian ide-

als on the side of courtship, marriage and family life have not caught on yet in PNG. When they do, they will revolutionise this country." May we pray for the hastening of that day.

—Graeme Batley




Two separate events may well signify the continual progress of Christianity in the People's Republic of China. The Amity Printing Press in Nanjing has become a Sino-Foreign Joint Venture with the United Bible Societies as a partner rather than just a helper. The press was formally opened in December last year and has already printed several hundred thousand Chinese Bibles and New Testaments in response to orders from Christian Provincial Councils in China. On Christmas Day, a religious program will emanate from China, believed to be the first since World War II.

### WORD bookstore

Books • Bibles • Records • Cassettes • Music • Gifts  
Discount Prices, Mail & Phone orders welcome, Credit cards accepted.

**Christian Video Library**  
Movies for Youth, Children, General audiences. Studies by top speakers.

18-26 Canterbury Rd, Heathmont, Vic. 729 3777  
200 Hamlingdale Road, East Oakleigh, Vic. 544 5844  
65 Grenfell Street, Adelaide, S.A. 223 4249  
2422 Logan Rd, Eight Mile Plains, Qld. 341 8500



The Katoomba Youth Convention, to be held from January 27-29, will have as its theme "Sin in the Life of the Believer". The speakers will be Michael Raiter and David Short (both Anglican ministers). The six-pole marquee has a seating capacity of 7,500 and it is anticipated that between 5,000 and 6,000 will attend each meeting over the holiday weekend.

The Christian Blind Fellowship of Queensland have a deputation team willing to visit meetings to explain their work and encourage sighted people to be aware of the needs of handicapped people. Phone (07) 371 3213 or 349 6765.

As at June 30 of this year, world sales figures for the Good News Bible since its introduction were 26,159,365.

300 children are bought or kidnapped in Guatemala every year to be sold in North America and Europe, according to a report by the International Federation of Human Rights. The report says children are stolen off the street or purchased from their impoverished families for about \$50 each. They are resold to foreign couples for as much as \$10,000.

In Brazil 1.2% of rural landowners control more than 45% of arable land while 50% of farmers work only 2.4% of the land. Cardinal Arnos, of Sao Paulo, says Brazilians are depressed by the government's failure to carry out real social change after 21 years of military rule.

Nikolai Georgievich Baturin, a longstanding leader of the unregistered Baptist churches in the Soviet Union, died in October. Aged 60, Baturin had spent 21 years in prisons and labour camps and 3 years in exile, serving five sentences alto-

gether. His father, also a Baptist pastor, died in a Siberian labour camp in 1941.

Pastors in the Church of Norway are asking for extra pay for working on Sundays. The Church of Norway is a national church and the 1,500 pastors are paid by the Government's church and education budget. Pastors' salaries do not compare favourably with those in similar occupations.

There are currently 2.4 million Australians over 65. By the year 2021 that number will have grown to 5 million.

In order to raise funds for some underprivileged young people to attend the YFC Gold Coast camp this summer, one camper has opted to cycle the 1,800km to Brisbane from Melbourne. Sponsorship is requested. If you can help contact Peter Goldsworthy (03) 529 2466 (BH).

Two dioceses of the Episcopal Church and the Conference of the United Church of Christ in Massachusetts, USA, have announced 7 guidelines for ecumenical celebrations of the eucharist, recommended "action proposals" for congregations in dialogue and issued a statement on "consensus in ministry". Joint celebrations of the eucharist are encouraged under the guidelines.

The Global Greenhouse Network, a coalition including religious leaders, has been formed to address concerns prompted by indications that the global climate is gradually warming. Religious groups have been called on by a representative of the WCC to "work with environmentalists and other constituencies to respond to the global warming trend."

The British Council of Churches has spoken

out in support of Viraj Mendis, who has been in sanctuary in a church in Manchester for 20 months. The BCC accepts that Mendis' fears of persecution should he return to Sri Lanka may well be justified.

US evangelist Arthur Blessitt visited Moscow in July, complete with his wooden cross. He preached in the open air in Moscow's Arbat district and was approached by a number of Christian passers-by. He hopes to be allowed to return to the USSR one day to take his cross through the whole country. So far he has carried the cross to more than 100 countries.

Valeri Barinov has announced his intention to visit the Soviet Union where he was held in a labour camp in order to take part in an international Christian walk of witness next year.

The Church of God, America's oldest Pentecostal denomination, has decided that wearing jewellery, using cosmetics and going to the movies can be compatible with personal holiness. This decision, which marks a major change in the 102-year-old denomination's moral code, was supported by more than 3,000 ordained ministers who voted, last August, for sweeping revisions in the church's 'practical commitments'.

Religious News Service reports that relations between the government and the Roman Catholic bishops in Nicaragua 'have sunk to the lowest point in more than 2 years'. In recent weeks the government has accused the bishops of collaborating with US efforts to destabilise it. The bishops say the government has launched a campaign of defamation against them and the church. The RNS report notes 'the controversy has continued to self news-

papers here, with journalists doing each side's dirty work.'

Israel's Film and Theatre Review Board has banned the film "The Last Temptation of Christ" on grounds that it is offensive to Christianity. Israeli law forbids offending any religion.

The next Qld CWF Rally will be held at the Bible Island church on Monday, February 13, 1989. Morning tea at 10 am, BYO lunch.

The Pine Rivers, Qld, 1988 Bethlehem Market Place will be held on December 17 from 10 am to 6 pm and December 18 from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm, followed by Carols by Candlelight. Admission is a gift of canned food to be distributed to the needy. Christmas gifts, novelties, tea and coffee will be for sale on Saturday.

Evangelist Billy Graham told 1,000 students at McMaster University that the world cannot justify spending billions of dollars on armaments when so many die of starvation every day. "We're spending billions on bombs that will never be used," he said, "and yet millions of people are on the verge of starvation. We cannot justify that from a Christian point of view."

Increasing numbers of groups in the community are seeking areas of investment that meet their ethical requirements. Religious orders, environmental groups and investors concerned about the areas in which their funds are invested can contact Interim Mortgage Finance (IMF) Limited concerning the investment of ethical funds. Contact Steve McGregor on (02) 239 2465 (BH).

The General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, Dr Emilio Castro, has called on all Christians around the world to identify them-

selves with the poor and the powerless. In his Christmas message Castro said, "As Christians commemorate this year's festival, they should join Jesus in his path of liberation, through identification with the poor and powerless, through the proclamation of forgiveness, through the cross and through the in-breaking of the resurrection with its empowerment for endurance, resistance and hope."

The Christian Council of Ghana (CCG) will spend \$US 520,000 to rehabilitate migrants, refugees and displaced persons in the country. There are about 6,500 migrants and refugees in Ghana out of which 1,000 are settled in Accra.

The church in Namibia has emerged as a leading institution in the fight against the South African illegal occupation of the country. The church is also serving as a unifying factor in a country often divided along ethnic lines. According to a South African journalist who visited the country, an intense battle to win the hearts and the minds of Namibia's 1.5 million people was going on, and the outcome may well determine the future of the country. 90% of Namibians are Christians.

Albania is still a closed atheist society which rejects any idea about God. A tourist bus from Holland was taken apart after Albanian police caught the tourists distributing New Testaments to factory workers near Berat. The whole area was sealed off by the Secret Police and the Scriptures were burned in front of the Dutch members of a Reformed Church. They received a severe warning and a lecture on Albanian law which classifies Christian literature as "filth and pornographic literature".

## LEADERSHIP 2000

To the Editor,

Members of the self-nominated 'Senior Ministers Consultative Fellowship' object to Ken Dundas naming them elitist, yet their image building language, eg: 'the heavies'; 'the successful ministers'; and ministers of the 'growing churches' conveys that.

Perhaps Ken Dundas is concerned like many of us, that the church growth movement justifies certain behaviour because it achieves numerical success.

All elders and ministers should read Shiva Naipaul's book *Black*

and *White* which outlines how a 'successful' charismatic minister (at one time associated with our American churches) persuaded 4,000 church members to give up their right to think for themselves, and submit to his personal authority in the name of promised further success, and how 900 of them lost their lives in the Jonestown tragedy.

They should then read Vincent Donovan's book *Christianity Revisited* which tells how he, a Roman Catholic missionary, led a tribe of 3,000 Africans to Christ, after years of resisting Western-

ised Christianity, by encouraging them to find the New Testament faith for themselves and to develop their own church structures. At least this would make everyone a little less sure what success is, and that would be a good thing.

In the meantime, keep on ensuring the "A.C." affords us the opportunity for healthy differences of opinion to be heard.

— Bruce McIntosh  
(Boronia, Vic)

## THE LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST

To the Editor,

Regarding the blasphemous film that has caused such controversy, there is a vital point to be made.

Our Lord, even though he entered this world in the form of man, John 1:14, he was not of this world. Being brought into the world in the same biological manner as mankind, does not mean he inherited our sinful nature.

He was conceived by the Holy

Spirit, Matthew 1:18, Luke 1:26-31. Living amongst men for some 30 years as the supposed son of a carpenter, he could appreciate mankind's problems and frailty. To suggest that he took on man's sinful nature or lost knowledge of his divinity, is a lie. Luke 2:41-49 attests that as a child he knew his identity.

We know of his temptation after his baptism, and how easily he turned temptation aside. Luke 4:1-12 and Matthew 4:1-11 attest this.

Those who profess Christianity, and make suppositions, or misinterpret the Bible, are guilty of blasphemy. Those who pretend to find merit in this film should study 2 Peter 2, and beware that they are not the ones referred to, as this film is an evil heresy. Read Revelation 22:18-19. This could well apply to the whole of Scripture.

— J.H. Luxton  
(Biggenden, Qld)

## WA

MORAWA November 6 Des Croot & Ian Moysey from Perth visited. Des preached & Ian presided at the piano ... Nov 13 15 folk from Kalamunda present. They arrived at 5 pm on Saturday for barbecue tea at Lindsay & Noeline Carslake's place. Dean Smith, minister at Kalamunda, brought message for communion service, two guitars provided the music & the visitors brought us several messages in song.

YORK (J. Tocknell) Andrew Nicholson baptised on Sept 15 & he & his wife Andrea welcomed into the church. Andrew presided for the first time on Nov. 27 ... Ladies raised over \$1,000 to reupholster the chairs in chapel ... Progressive dinner was held in Nov. as an outreach & inter-church fellowship ... There has been a baby boom in 1988 with the following additions — Donna Elsegood, Ben Roediger, Leah Nicholson (all April) & Laura Trail (August).

## QLD

TOWNSVILLE (Greg Muller) AGM held August 13. New board members Dave Matthews, Ray Palmer, Simon Moore ... Anniversary morning tea held August 14 also farewell presentation to Macquires who have moved to Brisbane ... Visitation program is well under way in our local area of Pimlico. There have been favourable responses to date ... Garry, Lynn, Jenny & Timothy Hinspeter will be in PNG for eight weeks

visiting & assisting our missionaries.

## VIC

DAWSON ST., BALLARAT (Jim Cunningham) In Feb. new morning worship services were implemented resulting in a 25% increase in attendance throughout the year ... Ministry of Alex Wilson concluded on Oct. 23. During his ministry the church has gone from decline to growth & in his last eight weeks the church witnessed 12 baptisms & three rededications ... Jim Cunningham commenced a 15 month interim ministry on Nov. 6. The church looks forward to continued growth under his leadership. ASCOT VALE (Ross Bourdon) We are excited by the addition of an ivory grand piano after the Lord gave us the vision ... Brian White led a Parenting Seminar, a valuable time for those who attended ... All night prayer meeting held Nov. 25 ... Worship cassette of Stephen & Reda now complete ... Mrs Ryan has fractured arm.

RECOMMEND THE  
AUSTRALIAN  
CHRISTIAN

L.C.F. Higgins  
Chartered  
Accountant  
7 The Parade  
Norwood, S.A. 5067  
Phones: (08) 42 1665  
& 362 8619

Cheltenham Church of Christ

presents  
**Christmas In  
Song 1988**

SUNDAY DEC. 11th at 6:50 pm

Beumaris High School - Crn. Reserve & Balcombe Rds.

Program Includes

CAROLS

Items by THE MARTIN FAMILY

ADONAI

and

by popular demand the exciting  
AUSTRALIAN BUSH OPERA



OFFERING FOR CHRISTMAS BOWL APPEAL



## QLD

**CALOUNDRA** (Jeff Welden) President Don Cranston opened new buildings with Colin Smith conducting dedication service in August ... Average attendance morning service now 90 ... Gospel services commenced September, well attended ... Jeff Welden's ministry, in association with chaplaincy Bribie Island Retirement Village, extended to February 1991 ... Meetings recently held to discuss role of church in community brought wide-ranging ideas, currently being discussed by board for programming.

**WITHCOTT** (Steve Fahey) Celebrated sixth anniversary in November ... October & November saw tremendous growth in congregation. 20 added to membership (15 by faith & baptism, five by transfer) ... Church continues to meet in small local CWA hall ... Due to increased growth two morning services are now held (7.30 and 9 am) ... Church to run local Carols by Candlelight on December 16.

## TAS

**NUBEENA** (Gordon Henderson) Leprosy Mission speaker visited, offerings at meeting totalled \$783 ... Five ladies attended CWF camp, Bicheno ... Herb Parker spoke on his work (administrator of church Homes

in Bunbury, WA) ... Minister & wife attended wedding of son, Bruce & Sandra Clarke, Queenstown ... Minister flew to Melbourne for his mother's 90th birthday ... Muriel & Stan Ryles returned to WA after helping here for five months.

**CAVESIDE** (John & Colleen Harrison) J. & C. Harrison commenced ministry with church following induction service conducted by G.R. Stirling on October 9. Service followed by lunch in hall ... Church filled for Sunday School anniversary, November 6, Ken Preece, pastor of Sheffield Baptist Church was speaker ... A number of members attended funeral services in Launceston of Jessie Byard who was organist at Caveside for 25 years. **LAUNCESTON** (Gordon Stirling) Church family camp & Brigades Camp held at long weekend ... Travellers to World Convention have returned to Tasmania ... Boys' & Girls' Brigades paraded on November 13 & 'Power Within' provided a musical segment.

## SA

**COLONEL LIGHT GARDENS** (Danny Wilson) The 50 Plus group enjoyed a weekend at Victor Harbor ... Over \$850 raised from Garage Sale ... Picnic lunch with CLG Baptists was fun & fellowship ... Kate Voysey spoke at a mid-week church tea of her experiences as an exchange student in America ... One of a series of interdenominational prayer meetings held in our chapel.

**GOOLWA** (Graeme Ritche) Visit from State Conference President, Colin Dredge, & wife Marg ... Bush picnic enjoyed on holiday weekend ... Ladies catered for lunch for Polio group of 40 ... Fellowship lunch held at Jean & Colin McKinlay's after morning service ... Bill & Janet

A Christian theatre group in Willunga, SA, hopes Willunga will become the Oberammergau of SA with its six-hour dramatic marathon, "The Ring of Fire", performed by the Karis Players in October. The group intends to repeat the spectacle, involving almost 100 performers, every two years.

Bule spoke at a meeting with theme "Together in Christ—Sharing Good News".

**SALISBURY EAST** (Ron Saunders) Ladies Fellowship have been busy making craft items for the trading table to be held December 2 at Parabanks Shopping Centre. Weekly Bible study on Joseph, leader Ruth Bishop ... Glenn & Jackie Cannon, John Owens welcomed into the congregation ... Barbara Cannon baptised ... Thomas Edmunds came on November 11 to sing, enjoyed by all present ... Sweets & cake stall served by the Boys' Brigade.

**DULWICH/ROSE PARK UNITED PARISH** (Ted Bray, Roger Brown) Ron McLean (Cowandilla), guest preacher for Missions Thanksgiving Service, gave insights into his 23 years as OM Director ... Colin & Wendy Wormald received into membership by transfer from Keith ... Dr Tapen Mukherjee addressed our Fellowship Group on chronic fatigue syndrome.

## VIC

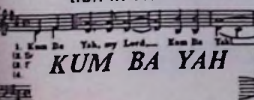
**PRESTON** (J. McCormick) Our minister Jack McCormick attended a two-day conference at Belconnen, ACT, of ministers of middle city churches from Melbourne & Sydney ... Rev. Peter Gabriel, Minister of the Greek Evangelical Congregation that meet in our church on Sunday afternoons, was guest speaker at our morning service ... Isabel & Les Stirling attended World Convention in NZ.

**BOX HILL** (J. Edwards) Five young people baptised & welcomed into membership ... Board retreat to review year & plan for future added to value of AGM ... Jim & Michelle Longbottom & family will serve our church, 1989, when Jim commences at COB ... Michelle Kane, part-time worker, supervises play group, visits & is cell group co-ordinator ... New car park completed ... Building renovations planned ... Minister accepted extension of ministry till December 1991.

**BRUNSWICK, COBURG, PASCOE VALE REGIONAL** (Vic Quayle, Geoff Crossman) Outreach programs developing nicely ... Alex Kenworthy guest speaker last month, Ian Corlett this month ... Recent auxiliary street stalls have been successful ... Social Games Nite at Coburg was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed ... Brunswick celebrated 106th anniversary with Gerald Rose & the Oakover Choir ... Looking forward to welcoming Cathy & Louis Clun in February.

**CHELSEA** (T. Frazer) Sixty past & present members attended Explorers reunion tea & service, speaker Andrew Augustine, founder of the club ... Street stall raised over \$660 ... Church picnic at Jell's Park on Cup Day ... Evening service led by 23 YP of Rowville Baptists ... Bill Gollan welcomed into fellowship ... Good Companions celebrated Jubilee with tea & service, Dot Brooker guest speaker ... Large congregation attended memorial service for previous member Wal Fielder.

Comfortable, very reasonably priced holiday accommodation in W.A. at

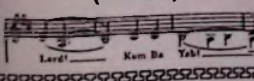


12-14 Lennard Street, Marmion, 6020.

- \* 7 well appointed motel units
- \* Close to beach, shops and public transport
- \* Only 19 kms from Perth G.P.O.

For bookings and further details contact Miss Merle Peacock.

(09) 447 1500  
(home)



## PEDIGREE MOTORS GUARANTEED USED CARS

658 CANTERBURY RD., SURREY HILLS 3127  
AUTOMOTIVE SPECIALISTS

Whether it be your first car or you wish to "TRADE IN" let TED GRAY and STEVE GRUNDY give you the benefit of long experience in the trade.

ADVICE FREELY GIVEN

Phone (03) 898.9391 or A.H. 878.4807

Great Range of Cars — medium priced range  
PHONE NOW

"TELL YOUR FRIENDS" L.M.C.T. 4378



## Focus on Lismore

Ian Phillips graduated from the NSW Theological College, Carlingford, last year and took up his appointment as minister of the Lismore, NSW, church. He grew up in the area and was glad of the opportunity to return to the 'northern rivers'. Lismore is a city of 37,000, west of Ballina and two and a half hours' drive from Brisbane. It is a large provincial centre in an area which was opened up by logging, many years ago, later developing a dairy industry. These days beef farming and macadamia nuts are two of the major industries. Six Churches of Christ in the northern area join for an annual rally.

The Lismore church is situated in the main block of the city, in a flood area. The church building, which has a National Trust classification, was constructed in 1926. Since then, when there have been floods, the basement has flooded and the fire brigade has had to be called in to pump out the water. Two halls have been added and these are useful for the church and community. A playgroup was started by some mothers in the church several years ago and continues, the leadership now coming mainly from non-members. Another playgroup is held in the hall as well as a government-sponsored Occasional Care Centre.

The Lismore Ministers' Fraternal is working towards the aim of establishing an interdenominational chaplaincy for the high schools in Lismore. Eventually they hope to see a chaplain at the College of Advanced Education also.

A local bus company allows the use of one of their buses, on Sunday mornings, to collect scholars for the Sunday School, which

commences at 9 am. The Sunday School caters for a wide age range, average attendance is between 20 and 30. The church family includes young and old. Active membership is 72. The morning service commences at 10.30 and the evening service at 7.30 (earlier during the winter months).

On October 15 and 16 the church celebrated its 104th anniversary. Richard, Shirley and Jacqueline Pearce were the guests for the weekend and presented their *Celebrate Australia* concert on the Saturday. Richard Pearce preached at the two anniversary services and the visitors also gave items at these services.

As well as a CWF group there is a ladies evening fellowship which developed to meet the needs of women who are unable to attend meetings during the day. A recent visitor to this group was Peter Hill, a Baptist chaplain working at a Lismore hospital, who spoke about counselling cancer patients.

Another group meeting is called *Harmony* which, among other activities, includes social and fund-raising events. Young adults meet fortnightly. The monthly pastoral care and prayer group meets at the church. From there people are sent out in pairs to make pre-arranged visits in the community. Generally one pair will stay in the chapel in prayer for those who have gone out. In time the church is hoping to develop home fellowship groups.

Ian Phillips has been impressed by the quality of the eldership at the church. There are two elders who meet weekly with the minister for discussion, prayer and planning. He has found this one of the greatest helps during his first year of ministry at the church.

## HAPPENINGS

On December 2 at 8 pm Ted Terry, a member of the Bamba Rd, Caulfield, Vic., church, will be giving an audio-visual presentation and an exhibition of colour prints featuring the Red Centre. The presentation will be at the Caulfield church hall. Donations for the New College Campus Campaign will be accepted. Next year this presentation will be shown around Melbourne and in some country areas to raise funds for COB. If you would like the presentation at your church contact Ted Terry, phone (03) 523 8028.

Devotion in Motion Christian Dance Company's 1988 production features "Living Tapestry". The emphasis will be on Christian living. The production runs for 2 nights only December 16 and 17, 8 pm, at the

**Hartley Playhouse, SACAE, Magill, with entrance off Brougham St. Tickets available from BASS and Word Bookstore. Devotion in Motion aims to be a strong witness amongst Adelaide's performing arts community.**

The proposed visit to Melbourne next year of Carl Lewis, US Christian Olympic athlete, will be one of the Sports Ministry subjects. Rev Dr Mark Tronson will be speaking on at two seminars to be held on December 13. The Sports & Leisure Ministry is holding one seminar for full-time ministry personnel at the Uniting Church offices, 130 Little Collins St, Melbourne, commencing at 10 am. The other meeting for all interested in sports for the ministry will be held at the High St Road Uniting Church, Mt Waverley at

7.30 pm. For further information contact Ian Collins (03) 232 8424.

High profile US Catholic priest, Henri Nouwen, lives and works amongst the poverty and human misery of Bolivia. From there, he says, the face of his home country becomes uglier daily. "Words remain extremely dangerous," says Nouwen. "We hear words about a nuclear warning attack, about occupying Cuba or invading Nicaragua. Such words, by people in power, with their subsequent denials, create an ongoing atmosphere of anxiety and may eventually lead to mistakes."

32,000 Bibles in Ukrainian, destined for the Russian Orthodox Church in Ukraine, have reached Moscow. 50,000 Russian

Bibles for the Baptist church were sent from Finland. The Hungarian Baptist Union has sent 2,000 Hungarian Bibles. These Bibles have been received in the USSR after official permission for the import of Bibles was given by Soviet authorities earlier this year.

The World Council of Churches has launched an appeal for \$US 1 million "to assure the continuation and the survival" of 19 church-related schools in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. The schools have a total enrolment of more than 5,400 (both Christian and Muslim students). Seven are Lutheran, five Eastern Orthodox, five Anglican and two Quaker. The schools' financial situation is critical. The WCC appeal says that

the schools "are essential for the existence and survival of this Christian community".

World Home Bible League Australia has set a goal of \$200,000 for its China project following the resurgence of the Christian gospel in the 'house churches'. The Bible League supplies about 80% of the Bibles being sent into China.

The SA Christian Men's Society annual Christmas service will be held at the Hawthorn church on December 1 at 7.45 pm. Jim Keatch will speak on 'The Year of the Supersonic Santa'. Items will be presented by John Mathieson, the Unley Salvation Army band and choristers. All men and women are welcome.

## BIRTHS

**OKE (Priestley)** Sharyn and David rejoice with Claudia, Colin, Heather and Ralph, for Keeta Jade. 24.10.88, Gawler and Elizabeth, South Australia.

**WEST (MASON)** 10.10.88 To Susan and Adam, a son Addison David. Grandson for Barbara and David West, Bexley Nth. First grandchild for Dal and Ken Mason (Telopea), nephew for Robert (Warwick, WA), Eleanor and Wes Beavis (Wollongong) and Anne.

## ENGAGEMENTS

**LUDGATER - GAYTHER** Sharon and Russell have much pleasure in announcing their engagement. Keith and Shirley, Les and Margaret wish them God's richest blessings.

**WADDINGHAM - WELLS** Sandra and Michael, together with their parents, have pleasure in announcing their engagement—Doncaster, Victoria.

## RUBY WEDDING

**HEARD - BERRY** Dorothy & Ted praise God for 40 years of marriage and shared experiences. Married at Lygon St church, Victoria on December 4, '48 by Principal E. L. Williams.

## SAPPHIRE WEDDING

**PARKER - BOX** Tom and Joy live in thankfulness to God for His blessings following their marriage

## FOOTSCRAY

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

### Day of Thanksgiving

110 years

Sunday 11th December 1988

11 am & 6.30 pm

Past members and friends invited

Inquiries

(03) 68 1746

(03) 391 1397

## Church of Christ SOUTHPORT

now meets in  
Parkland Drive

9.00 a.m. Worship &  
Communion  
6.30 p.m.

Gospel Celebration

Minister: Noel Newton

(075) 32 5660 or

31 4353 (Home)

at St Kilda church on December 4, 1943 by the late Harold Hunt.

## DEATHS

**MARR, Victor** Hartley. On November 4 at Mildura. Loving husband of Valda. Loved father of Barry, Allen, Christopher, Douglas and Suvena (Mrs Wilson) and their families. Aged 74 years. Safe in the arms of Jesus.

**MORFFEY, Elvie** Victoria, aged 91 years. On November 14 at Churches of Christ Nursing Home, Murrumbidgee. Beloved wife of Les (dec.), loving mother and mother-in-law of Beryl & Len, Sylvia & Ray, Linda & Norm (dec.). Dear Nanna of ten grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. In God's care.

**WILTON, Frederick Ernest** (formerly of Ballarat and Sydney), September 13, 1988, at his home, Range St, Burrawang. Dearly beloved husband of Mary, beloved father and father-in-law of Margaret and Frank Stimson, loving grandfather of David, Kyla and Edward. "Forever with the Lord."

## Church of Christ PARKDALE

### Homecoming

27 November 1988

10.15 am

Speaker: B. Crowden

Luncheon after

Inquiries:

(03) 580 6224

## Bendigo Church of Christ

are making available  
a series of four tapes on  
"Marriage"

presented by

J. Sweetman

Cost of tapes \$3.50 plus \$1

postage & packing

Set of four \$12 plus \$4

postage & packing

Send for your copy now to

Tape Ministry, Bendigo

Church of Christ, Short

St, Bendigo 3550

or phone (054) 43 5245

Tues-Fri. between 9 am

and 12 noon

## IN MEMORIAM

**THOMAS** In precious memory of our mother, Hilda Thomas, passed away November 17, 1970, and our father, James E. Thomas, passed away November 27, 1944. "Reunited in glory, still loved and missed by children, grandchildren and many friends."

## FOR SALE

**TAPES** Bendigo Church of Christ tape ministry, messages by J. Sweetman. Tapes available from church office, Short St, Bendigo 3550, or phone (054) 43 5245, Tuesday to Friday mornings between 9 and 12 noon. List of topics also available by request.

## TO LET

**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.

**HOUSEBOAT "White Heron"** 10 berth. Moored at Blanchetown, S.A. Phone (08) 380.5009 or (085) 40.5100 or write P.O. Box 65, St Agnes 5097.

## BUILDERS

**IAN & L.A. McDONALD** Carpenters and builders. Renovations - kitchens and bathrooms. All jobs large and small. For free quotes please ring (03) 557.1257. 41 Somers St, Benteigh.

A recent study by the International Labour Organisation has shown that the rural-urban gap in Africa is closing—downward to lower incomes and more poverty. In Sierra Leone, for example, food providing the standard 2,200 calories per person per day represents 100% of the budget of the typical unskilled worker's family, compared with 60% in 1970. In Uganda the minimum monthly wage has dropped to less than 10% of its 1972 value. In Tanzania the real incomes of farmers rose by 9% between 1975 and 1980 while wage earners' real incomes fell by nearly 50%.

A Dutch Catholic priest, Father Cornelious Spill, was shot dead by 5 armed men on October 22 at his residence at Bwasale mission, about 180 km east of Kampala in Uganda. Medical drugs, clothes, money and other items were taken after the attack.

## Calypso Court HOLIDAY UNITS DICKY BEACH, CALOUNDRA, QLD



### Special rates available during February and March 1989

\*\*\*\*\*

1 bedroom unit — \$200 for 3 weeks

\*\*\*\*\*

2 bedroom unit — \$230 for 3 weeks

\*\*\*\*\*

For bookings and inquiries phone:

(07) 378 1988 (office hours)

Write to: Churches of Christ in Queensland,  
PO Box 441, KENMORE 4069



## Five minutes or seven months?

Time passes all too quickly, doesn't it? Things looked forward to with a great deal of anticipation soon pass, those that one awaits with a sense of misgiving or dread take a little longer, but they too soon pass.

It is almost a year since I left PNG for furlough. Furloughs come and go, but are begun in anticipation a good few months before the event. Seven months seemed to be a long time to be thinking of being away—that was from the other side of it!

I began to think, about a day after I returned to Madang, that I'd only stepped out for five minutes. I was off-loaded from our charter—the pilot's comment, "Again, Ro?" Kumbal, a school-teacher, was asking me for exercise books on the radio—didn't he realise I'd not been around for seven months and knew nothing of the current state of supplies? Listening to the radio conversations I occasionally asked myself, "Is that matter still going?" The layout of the stores in Madang

was much the same—the man who attends to our orders in Steamships greeted me as if he'd seen me only yesterday.

Had I actually been away? Two days back and Australia was a distant dream. Maybe I had only stepped out for five minutes as my experiences suggested.

On reflection, though, I realised something that I hadn't realised before—the PNG Church is well and truly alive. She has her leaders, capable men who care about her and are equipped and able to

—Rosalie Rofe, PNG

nurture her, and she will continue to grow under them whatever may come to test her. I rejoiced as I realised this. God has given us, and still gives us, the opportunity and privilege of working in Papua New Guinea, but it is good to see he has the future provided for in the men and women he is raising up as leaders. Please pray for us all, particularly that we'll know when it is the right time for us to cut back our missionary staff, change our direction, or even pull out, if that is the right thing to do.

## MINISTERS' WORKSHOP

### Delegating

#### JETHRO

Exodus 18:1-27

Now I imagine few of us  
Would care to lead an Exodus.  
For who among us really craves  
To lead a horde of former slaves  
With all their problems, hopes and fears  
A-wandering for forty years?

Directing an emerging nation  
Is a prophetic occupation,  
And he who takes the job will be  
Assured a place in history.  
He'll have no little claim to fame;  
Most everyone will know his name.  
Prestige, at first, will seem quite nice;  
But then, he'll have to pay the price.

Moses did not want to grip  
The lonely role of leadership,  
But God, one brilliant desert dawn,  
Commanded him to take it on;  
And feeling he could ill afford  
To disobey His Living Lord,  
He acquiesced to His request  
And gave the job his very best.

No enterprise will long survive  
Whose leader works from 9 to 5.  
So Moses, being in his prime,  
Began to work some overtime.  
His office soon became the site  
Of meetings nearly every night.  
And then he'd take a healthy tome  
Of paper work to do at home.  
It wasn't long before he'd scoff  
At any thought of taking off.  
With so much work that must be done  
He hadn't time for play or fun,  
Nor could he laugh, relax or frolic.  
Moses was a work-a-holic.

Now men with hefty power drives  
Are seldom heroes to their wives.  
The man who leads a busy life  
Has little time for home or wife.  
Spouses do not have a yen  
To join in praising famous men.  
They give success a cool reception  
And Zipporah was no exception.

The placid Moses whom she married,  
Was tired, edgy, tense and harried.  
And she suspected he was very  
Ready for a coronary.  
And so, she felt, 'twas time she had  
A little chat with Mum and Dad.

She journeyed, where her parents dwelt  
And told her folks just how she felt.  
'I didn't want a bed of roses  
When I agreed to marry Moses.  
I know it takes a lot of gall  
To argue with a Holy Call:  
But Moses, as you clearly see,  
Has time for God ... but not for me.  
I cry myself to sleep at night.  
Tell me ... do you think that's right?"

It caused those parents great distress  
To see their child's unhappiness.  
And Jethro, dear Zipporah's dad,  
Was more than just a trifle mad.  
'The time,' he thought, 'is overdue  
To teach that boy a thing or two.'

Jethro's temper rankled raw  
As he sought his son-in-law.  
But then he saw, to his dismay,  
How Moses spent the working day.

People came from far and near  
In hopes of catching Moses' ear.  
No problem was too small to mention.  
They brought them all to his attention.  
The sheer amount of people who  
Were waiting for an interview  
Caused Jethro to feel rather dizzy.  
'My son-in-law is much too busy!  
I think I'll play a bit of cupid.  
That boy's not bad ...  
He's simply stupid.'

And so, I'm happy to relate,  
Jethro told it to him straight.  
'Whoever said you were commanded  
To run this country single-handed?  
You know you're just the protégé  
Of God ... Who rests the seventh day.  
Why you've become (That's very odd.)  
More indispensable than God.  
This schedule you are keeping will  
Put you to bed in Ulcerville,  
And that's a price we can't afford.  
So get some help! Thus saith the Lord!'

Under Jethro's gentle nudges  
Moses chose some able judges,  
And discovered to his glee  
They did the job as well as he.

There's ample help for any task  
Once we have the sense to ask!

—from *God Must Have a Sense of Humour*, David Steele  
(Illuminations Press)  
Used with permission.

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



## Commanded to care

Very often the people who claim to belong to a warm, friendly, welcoming, caring church are the people who are 'in'. For these people church can indeed be all of the above. But for exactly this reason the outsider may find that the same church is closed, cold, unreceptive and exclusive.

Have you ever been to an organisation about which you know very little and where you only have a passing acquaintance with the people involved? Imagine, for instance, how you would feel trying to go, for the first time, to a meeting of the Lions Club, meeting in the front bar of the local pub. And to make it worse you do not know what is likely to happen. I am sure that you (and I) would feel unsure and uncomfortable, afraid and probably a bit intimidated.

I suggest that is the way many 'first timers' feel when they approach the church door. Over the past four years I have had to approach many different churches and groups for services and meetings. There have been times when it would have been really easy to find an excuse not to stay because I have felt uncomfortable.

It seems to me that there are a number of rules to follow if we are going to be successful in accepting strangers into our midst.

• It is always easier to go into a new situation with someone who knows the ropes. Don't invite people to come to church—offer to come with them.

### COMMANDMENT 1

*Thou shalt not leave thy friend to find his own way to church.*

• It is embarrassing for newcomers to have to ask unnecessary questions. Signs showing the location of such things as toilets and car parks should be clearly visible.

### COMMANDMENT 2

*Thou shalt honour thy guests by providing them with clear and explicit signs.*

• A church's front door can be incredibly intimidating. Don't allow the regulars to clutter up the doorway. Keep traffic moving so that the visitor can see what is happening and where to go.

### COMMANDMENT 3

*Thou shalt prevent regulars from getting in the road of strangers.*

• It's nice to be recognised and welcomed. Someone should always be at the entrance to meet new people.

### COMMANDMENT 4

*Thou shalt never assume that someone else will look after the stranger at the door.*

• Whoever welcomes must be able to follow through for the whole of the service. This is not the job of the duty officer. The

duty officer is there to fix hymn numbers, unlock doors, turn things on or off, drag out attenders who cannot cope with the sermon and have vapours, fend off vandals in the car park and cope with the situation if the power fails.

### COMMANDMENT 5

*Thou shalt not presume that the duty officer is there to welcome the passer-by who hesitates at the gates. This burden is laid upon the heart of other disciples.*

• It feels special if someone cares enough to sit by you in church.

### COMMANDMENT 6

*Honour the stranger in thy midst that his days may be long in the congregation of the godly.*

• Nothing confuses like ignorance. Those leading the service should explain what is happening. It can't be assumed that everyone knows when to stand, whether they're welcome to take communion and when to take it, or whether the three-fold amen is sung.

### COMMANDMENT 7

*Thou shalt, at all times, take care to explain to the stranger the intricacies of the (unwritten) liturgy.*

• It takes an enormous amount of courage to open a closed door. The external doors of churches are often closed as the service starts. Churches should not only be open and receptive, they should look it!

### COMMANDMENT 8

*Thou shalt not close the outside doors of the foyer unless Cyclone Tracy be forecast.*

• People 'shopping around' appreciate efforts made to follow them up. Every new person in the church should be given the opportunity to provide details of name and address and should be followed up by a visit or contact within two days.

### COMMANDMENT 9

*Thou shalt not let the fish slip through thy net when fishing for men.*

• People often feel that they need time to settle in to the life of a church. Be careful to maintain contact with new people over an extended time and try to make sure that this contact includes the development of social and personal relationships.

### COMMANDMENT 10

*Honour thy new guest for many days, that he may eventually be able to say to all,*

*Lo, look on me, for once I was lost and now I have found some friends,*

*Once I was hurting alone and now I am able to share that hurt,*

*Once I was out of the church and now I am a part of the Kingdom of God,*

*Once, someone cared for me when I came to this church.*

—Brian Phelps

## FRANKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST



**GREENWAYS RETIREMENT VILLAGE**  
330-356 FRANKSTON-DANDENONG ROAD,  
SEAFORD 3198  
1 & 2 BR Villas  
Motel type Hostel Suites  
PHONE (03) 786.8679  
Waiting List Now Open

## Correction

On page 14 of the November 12 issue there was a photograph incorrectly included in the report of the Queensland Department of Church Development and Education. The gentleman pictured was not Trevor Meares.

## The Burden Bearer

This small book of poems was reviewed last month ("A.C." October 29). Unfortunately the address to contact was omitted.

If you would like a copy of *The*

*Burden Bearer* by Beryl Bollen send \$3.50 (includes postage) to B. Bollen, 1/2 Smith St, Thornbury 3071.

## Les Lawlor says ...

I stand behind every Lawlor Pest Control job personally — all types of buildings — anywhere. Everything unconditionally guaranteed! Weeds — birds on roofs — Argentine and all other ants — "White Ants" — Borers — Carpet Pests — Lawn Pests, in fact, any pest that grows, walks or flies.

### LAWLORS PTY. LTD.

THE PEST CONTROL PEOPLE  
6-10 Henley St., Torrensville  
Phone (08) 43.9636.





## His Social Thought

As with all great religious reformers, Alexander Campbell possessed a strong Christian social conscience. He deeply believed that God is involved in human history and will judge mankind according to his righteous demands.

The reformer voiced this conviction in 1852 when he gave an address entitled "The Destiny of our Country". "The universe is founded upon a moral idea," he declared. No nation ever survived the death of "justice, truth and piety" [*Popular Lectures and Addresses* (Cincinnati, 1879), pp.164, 180]. With St Paul, Campbell sought to "bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor 10:5).

Campbell's hope for human society centred in the conviction that the Gospel proclaimed and exhibited by a united Church would bring in the Millennial Reign of Christ. Only then, under his Lordship, would man's fondest social aspirations be realised.

This millennial vision was so real to Campbell that he described it in an "Oration in Honor of the Fourth of July, 1832". When human governments have been supplanted by the reign of King Jesus, it will be like "the removing of a tent to build a temple ... the falling of a cottage after the family are removed into a castle". Campbell continued:

*The sun itself and the systems of worlds which revolve around it we can well dispense with when we arrive in the palace of the universe, where God is the Sun, the Light and the Glory. So our best political institutions we can part with without a tear or a sigh, when Jesus reigns on earth, and has placed a throne in every heart and built a temple in every family.*

But meanwhile there remained the provisional task of doing what one could to ameliorate the human social condition. To this responsibility Campbell gave himself in four major endeavours.

The first was his debate with the British Utopian Socialist, Robert Owen. Even though this encounter took place in 1829, it remains remarkably significant for the 20th century. It was there that Christian faith first confronted the claim of modern Marxists that religion is a major barrier to human progress. It was also there that faith first confronted the doctrine of social conditioning now popularised by 'brave new world' writers.

The second was Campbell's significant participation in the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1829-1830. There, amidst an eminent body of American political leaders, the reformer strongly advocated extension of suffrage, equal taxation, provisions to insure judicial integrity and establishment of free public education. In all of these Campbell was defeated. But subsequent history was to vindicate him.

The third arena was his lifelong struggle to eradicate the institution of American slavery. In 1832 he wrote

*As sure as the Ohio winds its way to the Gulph of Mexico, will slavery desolate and blast our political existence, unless effectual measures be adopted to bring it to a close while it is in the power of the nation ... while it is called today.*  
[*Millennial Harbinger*, 1832, p.240]

Campbell did not believe that Scripture condemned "the simple relationship" of master and slave. But he condemned the institution of American slavery in words which yet echo with eloquent passion. He condemned slavery as:

*... that largest and blackest blot upon our national escutcheon, that many-headed monster, that Pandora's box, that bitter root, that blighting and blasting curse, under which so far and so large a portion of our beloved country groans ... that deadly Upas, whose breath pollutes and poisons everything within its influence ...* [*Millennial Harbinger*, 1840, p.102]

But Campbell was not an abolitionist, demanding immediate and unconditional liberation of slaves. He was an emancipationist, believing that slaves should first be educated and then liberated. Campbell rightly saw that liberation without education would doom freed men to

new forms of bondage. So in 1832 Campbell proposed a federal program designed to purchase, emancipate and educate all slaves and settle them on land. For this he was roundly berated by both slave owners and abolitionists.

When Campbell returned to Britain in 1847, large crowds gathered to hear him. The London Society of Skeptics invited him to speak. Upon conclusion of his address on the question "Has God ever Spoken to Man?" the Society voted its thanks. But some fellow Christians were not so kind. In Scotland a group who opposed him on religious grounds sought to turn the people against him by misrepresenting his views of slavery. Everywhere Campbell went he was 'welcomed' with placards such as the following:

**CITIZENS OF EDINBURGH—BEWARE! THE  
REV. ALEX. CAMPBELL, OF VIRGINIA,  
U.S. OF AMERICA, Has Been A Slaveholder Himself  
And Is Still The Defender of Man-Stealers.**

Obviously these critics were ignorant of Campbell's long and earnest struggle on behalf of emancipation.

But the problems of being an emancipationist amidst radical extremes were no less difficult in America. Thus, when Kentucky determined to rewrite its Constitution, Campbell wrote a "Tract for the People of Kentucky" in which he urged provision for emancipation. Circulated throughout the South, Campbell's Tract was greeted by another, written by "A Southern Clergyman" (I.L. Brookes), entitled "A Defence of Southern Slavery Against the Attacks of Henry Clay and A. Campbell". Brookes took "the liberty of suggesting to Messrs Clay and Campbell and the whole clan of abolitionists" that it was "a serious business for short sighted worms of the human race to set themselves up under any motives as censors of God's Institutions and judges to decide upon his providential arrangements".

Despite such criticisms Campbell faithfully stood in the tradition of the prophets who declared that human historical decisions stand under divine judgment.

The fourth area of Campbell's social thought was his advocacy of peace. In 1848 the reformer delivered an "Address on War" before the Wheeling Lyceum. He could not see how a Christian, whose "shield" was faith, and whose "sword" was the "Word of God" could fight the battles of Caesar. "War is not now, nor was it ever, a process of justice," he declared. It is not "a test of truth ... a criterion of right". The loss of "one human being in the amplitude and magnitude of his whole destiny" was beyond comprehension.

One may therefore well imagine the enormous shock Campbell suffered on the outbreak of the American Civil War. He wrote,

*Civilized America! civilized United States! Boasting of a humane and Christian paternity and fraternity, un-sheathing your swords, discharging your cannon, boasting of your heathen brutality, gluttonously satiating your furious appetites for fraternal blood, caps the climax of all human inconsistencies inscribed on the blurred and moth eaten pages of time in all its records.*

[*Millennial Harbinger*, 1861, p.348]

Mournfully the reformer repeated, "I shall never see peace in this land again." But Campbell did survive the war. Then, amidst the horrendous carnage, faith reasserted itself. The Gospel is yet perfectly suited to the needs of man. Let the Church arise in renewed faithfulness to its missions. Then, he said,

*The present material universe, yet unrevealed in all its area, in all its tenancies, in all its riches, beauty and grandeur, will be wholly regenerated. Of this fact we have full assurance, since He that now sits upon the throne of the universe has pledged his word for it, saying, Behold I will create all things new!* [*Millennial Harbinger*, 1865, p.348]

—Robert Oldham Fife



## Multiculturalism and the Churches

*This article is a summary of points made by Alan Matheson in notes he prepared for the Victorian Council of Churches Assembly, November 17, 1988.*

### Relics vs living faith

The reality of the religious dimension of multiculturalism has been largely overlooked by the Australian churches. Most of the recent studies of the church in Australia see only the Anglo expressions of Anglican, Catholic, Uniting and Baptist Churches, despite the reality of the Orthodox Christian presence in Australia as early as 1820. The 1986 census shows that Orthodox Christians are the fifth largest group in Australia behind the Catholic, Anglican, Uniting Church and Presbyterian groups.

The preoccupation with the

'relics of the Holy Land' has enabled Australian churches to largely ignore that part of the church which is represented in the Orthodox Churches of the East. These churches are a living vibrant reality in Australia and in Australian church life, but are largely ignored by the extensions of colonial Methodism or Church of England. For their part, with all of the challenges of the migration experience, the Orthodox churches have been preoccupied with their own survival.

A uniquely Australian church will only emerge when two distinct streams of Christian experience begin to have their influence. One is the contribution from Aboriginal theologians and the other is from the Orthodox Churches, which seek "to convey the splendour of the Apostolic tradition and to offer the fullness

of God's truth through its Liturgy".

### Discrimination

Too many Australian churches are preoccupied with their own concerns and insensitive to the discrimination and racism experienced by others. Religious discrimination is very closely linked with racial discrimination. As such it cannot be ignored by Australian churches, whether it is Greek Australians getting access to local Government resources or Islamic communities struggling to get planning permission to build places of worship

### QUATROS

One of the paradoxes of religious life in Australia is the ambivalent way in which Eastern Churches have been received, in the way they have been marginal-

ised, in contrast to the immigration of people and ideas from USA. The wholesale importation of QUATROS (Quasi Autonomous Transnational Religious Organisations) from USA into Australian church life is insidious and pervasive. These organisations are rigid in belief and rejection of any authority or discipline as found in the usual accountability structures of synods, assemblies, presbyteries or bishops. Equally disturbing is their frequent alliance with the League of Rights.

There is no other country in the Western world which has so attracted the activity of QUATROS, been so generous in its financial support, or been so naive in its relations with QUATROS as Australia.

Lord Chancellor Mackay of Clashfern, who presides over the House of Lords, has been disciplined by the 6,600-member Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland, of which he is an elder, because he attended Roman Catholic eucharists marking the deaths of 2 lawyer colleagues. Despite unanimous support of his own congregation's session, he has been suspended for six months and barred from communion.

The Pope has ruled out any immediate prospect of inter-communion between Protestants and Roman Catholics, declaring it "not yet possible" according to the convictions of the Roman Catholic Church. Addressing a recent ecumenical meeting in Strasbourg, France, Pope John Paul II stated that "a common basis of faith for inter-communion" did not yet exist.

The prevailing human rights abuses and other forms of injustice in independent Africa undermine the liberation struggles in Southern Africa, the Anglican Archbishop of South Africa, Desmond Tutu said during the opening of the All Africa Conference of Churches General Committee meeting in November. He observed that human rights violations, oppression and exploitation were rampant on the continent and failure to reverse the trend "creates negative repercussions on African countries still trying to liberate themselves. We should guard against making glaring mistakes which our enemies will use to deny leadership to those of us still under the colonial yoke."

Uganda has returned to relative peace, but the rehabilitation of an economy once known as the "pearl of Africa" will be slow. In December Force Ten will support a rural development and nutrition project of the Ugandan Catholic Secretariat (UCS). As 9 out of 10 Ugandans work on the land, the main emphasis is on improved agriculture. UCS holds training courses in livestock care, improved farming techniques and nutrition. Force Ten can be contacted at Box C199, Clarence St PO, Sydney 2000.

## Deputation

The Vic.-Tas. Aborigines' Mission Department is anxious to continue deputation visitation in the new year and invites churches to make early application for speakers. Aboriginal pastors are not always available, but speakers provided will have a good knowledge of the work of the FAB.

Applications should be addressed to the Secretary,

Harold Taylor,  
35 Arnold Drive,  
Chelsea 3196.

Telephone (03) 773 2728.

Enjoy God's creation  
in the peaceful surroundings  
of

**FERN VALLEY  
GUEST HOUSE**

Balook

Comfortable accommodation,  
home cooking, open log fires.

Your hosts: Des, Prue  
and Aileen Davidson

Phone (051) 96 6141

Grand Ridge Road,  
Balook 3971.

## FOR NEW HOLDEN & HONDA SEE MURRAY ECKERT

OVER 16 YEARS EXPERIENCE

as a master sales consultant.

**Competitive Prices**  
in a competitive market.

**Guaranteeing Integrity, Service  
and Sound Advice.**

Member of Blackwood  
Church of Christ.

CALL IN OR PHONE MURRAY ON (08) 272 1600  
FOR YOUR NEW OR QUALITY USED CAR



**Claridge Holden & Honda**  
363 Unley Road, Malvern  
Phone (08) 272 1600 A.H. (08) 278 4515

## DISCIPLESHIP

•Nick Baird, John-Paul Felstead, Swan Hill, Vic. •Jill & Collin Brown, Mrs Brown Snr, Mark Showell, Reg Angove, William Dale, Amanda Smith, Phillip & Janet Brown, Bendigo, Vic. •Len Millar, West Preston, Vic. •Dean Rowbottom, Sandra Elliot, Diana Elliot, Carly Elliot, Sheryl Body, Christine Body, George Parry, Colin Wakeley, David Wyllie, Robert Morrison, Katherine Nash, Matthew Nash, Joy Bolte, Lorraine Asling, Mark Bones, Portland, Vic. •Rebecca Nunn, Rachael Baines, Leanne Oakley, Danielle Powell, Vicki Robinson, Roy Townsend, Kalamunda, WA. •Phillip Armstrong, Launceston, Tas. •Evan Mudie, Rachel Mudie, Jennifer Clare, Lyndell Virtue, Emma Clarke, Box Hill, Vic. •Barbara Cannon, Salisbury East, SA.

## MARRIAGES

•Christine Arnett to Andrew Robb, West Preston, Vic. •Mandy Glover to Brendon Quartermaine, Kalamunda, WA. •Elsie Fatcher to Harry Schilling, Alison Pitts to Michael Edwards, Dandenong, Vic.

## DEATHS

•Jack Sanlead, Mandurah, WA. •V. McCulloch, V. Pollock, M. Martin, Bendigo, Vic. •Margaret Griffiths, Launceston, Tas. •Netta Lightburn, Dulwich/Rose Park United Parish, SA. •Wal Fielder, Chelsea, Vic.

### Changes of Address

**SARGENT, Kathryn & Ross**, 47 Commercial Rd, Mt Evelyn 3796. Phone (03) 736 4020.

**HARRISON, J.N. & C.A.**, 12 Henrietta Grove, West Launceston, Tas. 7250.

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

**CAMERON, Ian Keith.**

(7.11.88). Ian Keith Cameron died of a heart attack at his place of work. He was 62. A memorial service was conducted at the Northside Community Church where almost 200 of Ian's workmates, Lions colleagues and Christian friends gathered to thank God for his life. We know that he is with Christ. Ian's contact with Churches of Christ goes back to his orchardist boyhood in the Box Hill, Vic, area. Ian and his wife, Peg, have been active in church life at Box Hill, Lane Cove and Northside. The prayers and love of many will be extended to Peg and their four children and their families. And we will miss him too — we loved him.

— Jay Back

**OLSEN, Neville**

Neville died (aged 50) of a sudden heart attack. For him the greatest day of his life was in 1982 when he accepted Jesus Christ as the Lord of his life, joining the rest of the family in the Launceston, Tas, church. He was soon involved in youth leadership, and later as property manager, and more recently as a Bible study leader. He was a Tasmanian leader in the Christian Business Men's movement. His great joy was in his wife Dorothy and their children, Suzanne, Denise and Geoffrey,

their spouses, and the four grandchildren. After the packed funeral service a city business man said, "Neville was one of the few business people I could trust implicitly."

— GRS

According to a recent Bible Usage and Attitudes Survey undertaken by the Bible Society and Scripture Union in Australia, 87% of clergy and 39% of lay people are reading the Bible daily (1.1 million Australians). Church attenders' attitudes to the Bible vary, 91% agreeing that the Bible is God's message to all mankind, 2% said the Bible seems like a very boring book. A limited number of copies of the Survey Report are available from the Bible Society, GPO Box 507, Canberra 2601. Cost is \$25, including package and postage.

Trans World Radio began broadcasting a program this year for Romanian children. The weekly 15-minute program is produced by a native-born Romanian woman who was forced by the government to leave her country because of her involvement in a Sunday School ministry.

## Churches of Christ National Ministers Seminar

### "A Pilgrim Ministry for a Pilgrim People"

Birrigai Centre, ACT

Lunchtime Thursday, 12 January to  
Lunchtime Sunday, 15 January 1989

With major social pressures on society and the church Christians in general and ministers in particular are being called to re-evaluate styles of ministry and church life. What changes are needed in order to more effectively reach our communities with the message of God's love?

The National Ministers Seminar will provide opportunities to address issues relating to contemporary ministry, a chance to share in fellowship with others in ministry and inspiring worship.

#### REGISTRATION FORM

Surname ..... Initials .....

Name for Badge .....

Surname ..... Initials .....

Name for Badge .....

Address .....

State ..... Postcode .....

Phone (Hm) ..... (Bus.) .....

Church/Dept .....

Is twin accommodation required

YES ..... NO .....

#### FEES

Live in at \$85 .....

Spouse \$65 .....

Amount Enclosed \$ .....

Please make cheques payable

to: "42nd Federal Conference".

POST TO:

Federal Conference

Arrangements Committee

82 Limestone Avenue

Ainslie ACT 2606

PHONE ENQUIRIES:

Kevin Caulton

(062) 82 1502 (OH)

(062) 85 1035 (H)

### POSITION AVAILABLE 1989 VANUATU

#### Secondary Teacher

Ranwadi Junlor Secondary School on Pentecost island in Vanuatu is also a co-educational boarding school. Ranwadi has around 150 students. Formal teaching qualifications are essential. A key part of this task is to exercise a Christian witness among the student body.

For further information please write to:

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

### Hey, Christian Single!



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

### CAMP SOLO

JAN 15-22

\$195 for 7 nights shared accommodation and 8 days of fully catered meals at the National Fitness Camp, Burleigh Heads, Qld. 180 Christian singles in the holiday capital of Australia ... lighted tennis courts, squash courts, full gym facilities, lighted swimming pool ... and all at a beach-front facility.

Private caterers will ensure our sumptuous fare, including 'pig on a spit' and a 'formal banquet' night. Sightseeing in the day ... bonfires on the beach at night ... good Biblical preaching ... great Christian fellowship. Definitely a holiday with a difference.

Speaker: Rev GRAEME CARNELL

Camp Counsellor: Dr JAMES RIDGWAY

Applications: CAMP SOLO, Amanda Bridges, Flat 1, 40 Southey St, Elwood 3184 Phone (03) 531 5629



## NSW

**THORNLEIGH (F. Elliot)** The Kindergarten School & Cradle Roll celebrated their anniversary on Sunday November 6 at 9 am ... The guest speaker was Geoff Case from the Thornleigh Baptist Church ... There have been two baptisms recently, one during the evening service on November 6 & the other on November 10 ... Guest artists at November 13 evening service were Penny Disney & Roger Craig of Newcastle.

**WAGGA WAGGA (R. Whan, N. Williams)** N. Williams concludes his ministry in Wagga on January 8 1989 & will join the RAAF as chaplain for a period ... A good response received to completion of ministry involvement forms—now being put on church computer ... R. Whan coordinator for 1988 Carols by Candlelight in Victory Memorial Gardens ... Visit by Alan Webb has heightened interest in missionary outreach & Faith Promise Plan.

**ENGADINE (Kevin Slington, Terry Grant)** Sunday School has over 100 scholars ... Boys' Club recently enjoyed a weekend camp ... Geoff Simpson from Scripture Union guest speaker at November 13 service ... Girls Brigade presentation night November 22 ... Sunday School picnic November 26 ... Ladies Fellowship Pool Party/Luncheon planned for December 6.

## WA

**MANDURAH (Roger Ryall)** M. Cotter recommitted her life to Christ ... Dorothy Lee welcomed by transfer from Southport ... Church enlarging its circle of contacts ... Janet & Bill Bule (Vanuatu) joined prayer meeting ... Lyn Williams finishing as secretary ... Several members attended COB Dinner at Balcatta ... Roger conducted funeral of Jack Sanfead, Oct. 7 ... Roger has been asked to be assistant Area Chaplain for Hospice Care Service ...

*Give a gift  
subscription  
to a friend.*

Summer evening services at 7pm. **CARNARVON (D. Bone)** Outreach film "Jesus" shown two nights at Civic Centre. Follow up program to those who made response ... Rex & Judy Ugle conducting help ministry from ex mission hostel ... Ex mission staff, Tony & Francine Riches on tour in itinerant ministry ... CWF prayer & ministry team, Caryl Kilworth, Joyce Bolton & Vanuatu missionary, Janet Bule, held meetings in Carnarvon.

**WEMBLEY (J. Timms, M. Willson)** 39 decisions for Christ since October 1987 ... Mark Wilson leading growing youth work: Discoverers (aged 8-12), 50-60; Intermediates (aged 13-15), 25; Koinonia (aged 16-30), 30-35 attending ... Special Sacrificial Offering raised \$16,700 ... John Timms ministry extended to December 1989 ... 49th anniversary, November 11-13, guest speakers Jack Bond & Don Parker (Conference President) ... Church has appreciated messages from David Timms on a visiting basis ... Outreach Christmas Concert planned for December 18.

**KALAMUNDA (Tim Hanna, Mark Proud, Dean Smith)** John Thornhill appointed senior pastor, commencing February '89 ... Dean & Heather Smith to begin church planting ministry at Quairading early '89 ... World Mission Week faith promises totalled \$178,992 & 20 responded to challenge seeking God's direction for their lives ... Seven to study full-time next year at Bible Colleges ... Musical "Son of Man" presented two nights in November ... Bicentennial Testaments distributed in district as part of Visitation & Outreach program.

**FREMANTLE (D. Good)** Church's 96th anniversary celebrated on November 6, our minister being the speaker. Happy fellowship at luncheon at the evening service. Doug showed slides of former cave churches in Turkey. At the supper he showed more of his recent experiences in that country ... The CWF total 'Talent Money' was \$1,092 ... Shirley Caddy & Gwyn Gibson attended the World Convention ... The gift of a new PA system appreciated.

## VIC

**EASTERN SUBURBAN REGIONAL HARTWELL (Graeme Rogerson)** "Coping With Loss" seminar conducted by Allan Anderson of Tobin Bros was much appreciated ... CWF group's Special Effort Dinner raised \$457 for COB : Bicentennial Afternoon successful & well attended, speaker Neville Lilley, Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship ... Offering \$250 received for this work ... Graeme Rogerson attended a Bethel Study Course in Sydney ... Visiting speakers: Rev. Norman Pell, Rev. David Best, Fred Drummond (Overseas Mission).

**ASHBURTON (Ken Barton)** 750 people from nine congregations joined a Bicentennial worship service at St Michael's Catholic Church, organised by local Ministers' Fraternal. Rev. G. McAnally preached, lay people from each church participated, offering for Bangladesh flood victims ... At AGM work of Ken & Edith Barton commended & Board unanimously re-elected ... Choral service featured congregation as choir, with help from Eric Hancock ... CWF entertained at Nursing Home.

**BALWYN (Graham Woodward)** Graham & Sheila will minister at Morwell next year. Keith & Shirley Ludgater coming to Balwyn ... A few members have been in hospital recently ... World Community Day service with Mrs Blow, Aboriginal Liaison Officer for the Uniting Church, very interesting ... Ozzie Kidz Klub had a True Blue Dinner with many parents & church members attending ... Friendship hour & involvement with Balwyn Care Group are continuing to meet community needs.

**SURREY HILLS/WATTLE PARK (Milton Ollver)** Camberwell members shared in the Bicentennial weekend at the Fete on Saturday & the Sunday morning service ... Recent guest speakers have been Mike Folland (COB), Gerald Rose (Conference President) & Graeme Frecker ... Special Projects offering will be divided between COB & the Department of Community Care ...

Four people recently welcomed into fellowship.

**CAMBERWELL (Milton Ollver, Viney Longthorp)** The CWF stalls were highly successful ... Camberwell's anniversary is to be held in conjunction with Surrey Hills/Wattle Park on November 13. It is part of a sector celebration of our Bicentenary. Graeme Chapman of COB will be the speaker.

**EAST KEW (Ed Roffey)** The Rev. Wittaker is Chaplain at the East Kew High School & our church contributes towards his finance ... Margaret Tudor is a hard-working member of the Chaplaincy Board. The Tudor family this year raised over \$600 for the 40 Hour Famine fund, an excellent effort ... C.R. Prince has become Treasurer of the Federal Literature Board & E. & J. Littlejohn are serving on the Overseas Mission Department.

**SHEPPARTON (John Inman)** This year our minister officiated at nine weddings, eight baptisms, five funerals ... New CFA, 21 members giving \$1,700 ... Speakers: Bill Tabbernee, Ian Tippet, Gideons, World Vision, Wycliffe, Stephen Yarren (WA), Cheryl Johnson, Peter Cannon, August Ben ... Ian Allsop helping in planning for year 2000 ... Family camp well attended, leaders Peter Cannon, John Inman ... CWF very active ... Wednesday Club growing.

**BELMONT (R. Clymer)** Church held an International Night Dinner to raise money for missionary support. \$970 was contributed from the 120 who attended ... 29 went on an all day Drive, Walk, Discover & finished

Have you thought of helping  
"The Australian Christian"  
in its ministry among  
Churches of Christ?

Why not include us in your will?  
The following wording could be used  
in your will:  
I give and bequeath \$ ..... (or a  
percentage of the total estate) to  
"The Australian Christian", the national  
journal of Churches of Christ  
in Australia, absolutely for the use  
and benefit of the organisation free  
from all debts, funeral and test-  
amentary expenses.



up at Hepburn Springs. We were grateful to Cliff Warmbrunn for organising an interesting & informative day ... Church has commenced a series of studies: Handling Loss, Making Sense of Prayer and Creative Bible Study. **SWAN HILL (L.J.Mayes)** Maeline & August Ben (Vanuatu) & Julie Trinnick visited during October ... Chapel filled for Guest Service on October 31 & many new contacts made ... Young people with eight-piece band provided musical content ... Two young men baptised and welcomed into fellowship.

**BURWOOD (Peter Wing Tang)** Helpful articles on history of Brotherhood movement prepared for church paper by E.L. Williams greatly appreciated ... Bruce Grayden, translator of Southern Kalinga language of the Philippines, guest speaker at CWF meeting ... Very impressive board dedication service conducted by pastor ... New board members are Owen Jones (elder), Heather Birkett, Jean Grayden, Joy Hammer & Jim Tipping (deacons) ... All necessary documents now approved for building extensions.

**SOUTH YARRA (A.B. Clark)** Minister back from holidays, thanks to those who took part during his absence ... Anna Proft,

back from Germany, spoke of her experiences ... Church has appreciated the services of Mark & Anthea Thompson & family from COB during 1988. The former for their speaking ability & the children for helping with singing & playing the recorder, also Mark as pianist ... Gospel Singers Christmas Concert December 13, 8 pm. **NORTH BALWYN (Paul Burnham)** Bangladesh children & minister Smith Adhikary from International Needs led morning service ... Helen Price spoke on work with Teen Challenge ... Owen Clark led four-week seminar on "Growing Gently" ... Additional elders elected: Malcolm Barlow, Phyl Davis, Kerry Wilson ... Church full for Bible School anniversary, theme "We are all Children of the Lord", speaker Reg Gore ... Minister & family on holidays.

**GREENSBOROUGH (George Warren)** Family camp at Cowes well attended; focus on 'Gifts' led by minister ... Peter Breen guest speaker & soloist at evening service November 13; launching of new church logo & name, followed by BBQ lunch ... Val & Alan Bush in New Zealand for conference ... Des & Alan Purnell, Janine & Andrew Birks welcomed into membership ... Tim & Mark Warren won music

scholarships at Balwyn High. **BORONIA (Kelth Milne, Mike Folland)** Cecil Grant guest speaker at Spring Festival services ... Presentation made to Ruth Finger for her years of work in church as she moves to Drouin ... Max & Nell Collyer celebrated Golden Wedding Anniversary ... Mike Folland appointed Student President of COB, 1989 ... Self Esteem Seminar led by Brian White commenced, over 50 present ... Alan Matheson, Bruce Rumbold recent guest speakers. **BENDIGO (J. Sweetman)** Planned giving review successful ... Certificates presented to Goldminers Gang at church parade ... Bible School presented "Kids Praise 2", well attended ... Special guests: John Marshall, Martin Family Singers, Stephen Higgs, Trevor Ginn, Broad family ... Parenting Seminar conducted by Brian White ... Deputation from COB showed video & slides at evening service ... Many members involved in "Churches Celebration '88" with Bill Newman ... Successful series of sermons on Christian Marriage held. **WEST PRESTON (Chris Field)** Tuesday Ladies Spring Fair raised \$4,020 ... 70 people (aged 12 months to 80) attended camp at Healesville ... Sunday School average 25-30 ... Geoff Best run-

ning study on prayer ... Mid-week study well attended ... We give thanks for safe arrival of babies Rebecca Bone & Jacob Best ... Jack Brideson slowly improving ... 120 adults & children attended family service—surprise visit from Moses—followed by park luncheon.

**PORTLAND (R. Hough)** Sunday School anniversary, October 23, buildings filled. Children presented musical "Jack in a Box" ... Guest speakers: Jim Samways (Language Recordings), Peter Breen (CBMI) ... Encouraging AGM November 13; at evening service 15 were baptised & welcomed into fellowship ... Church hired two buses to attend College graduation in Sydney. Two local men will graduate & go on to full-time ministry ... R. Hough graduates with Diploma of Ministry on November 18.

**DANDENONG (P. Pitts, M. Esbensen)** Young adults combined with Frankston for camp at Monbulk ... House groups commenced ... Sympathy to Lorraine Whittaker on the death of her mother ... Gala concert to be held December 10. Items by auxiliaries & Sunday School ... Missionary committee raised over \$5,800 for mission ... Young people gave Alison Pitts & Michael Edwards a kitchen tea.

## 42nd FEDERAL CONFERENCE

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



**CONFERENCE PRESIDENT:** Neil Gilmora, Federal Conference Office, 82 Limestone Ave., Ainslie, A.C.T., 2602. Phone (062) 48 7658

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

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

**FEDERAL CONFERENCE SECRETARY:** Joan Pys, 52 LaTrobe St., Melbourne, 3000 Phone (03) 662 2377.

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

### DIRECTORY OF FEDERAL AGENCIES:

**FEDERAL ABORIGINES MISSION BOARD:** Executive Director, M.W.Rocha, P.O.Box 267, Mt. Lawley, W.A.6050. Forward donations (tax deductible) to: Qld: Treasurer, Mrs E. Paddock, 373 Kingston Road, Kingston, Qld. 4114; N.S.W.: Mr R.Powell, 18 Clarence Street, Burwood, N.S.W. 2134; Vic: Acting Treasurer, Malcolm Anderson, 22 Gee Street, Caulfield Stn., 3162; S.A.: Mr J.E.Wehr, 4 Cleo Street, Firls, S.A., 5060; Tas: John Harrison, Lalla Road, Lalla, 7254; W.A.: Acting Treasurer, H Folland, 9 Cantlebury Road, Bayswater, W.A. 6053.

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST OVERSEAS MISSION BOARD:** Executive Director: J. May, P.O. Box 320, Unley, S.A. 5061. Send donations to - Vic/Tas: Val Wilson, P.O. Box 362, Springvale, 3171; S.A. D. Lewis, 9 Cilsby St, Vale Park, 5081; W.A.: J. Davenport, 90 Victoria Street, Toowoomba, 4350; N.S.W.: D. West, 28 Bayview Avenue, Earlwood, N.S.W. 2205.

**BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE:** 7 Elm Road, Glen Iris, Vic., 3146. Chairman Mr R.A.Williams; Principal: Dr W. Tabbernee. Phone (03) 25 6085/25 6541.

**FEDERAL BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** Executive Director: D.H.Smith, Churches of Christ Centre, 52 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne, Vic., 3000. Phone (03) 662 2377. Chairman: Dr C.E.Warmbrunn.

**FEDERAL HOME EVANGELISM:** Treasurer: G.E.Page, 8 Tanner Street, Glen Waverley, Vic., 3150. Secretary: Ian Allsop, 7 Elm Road, Glen Iris, Vic., 3146.

**BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF "THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN":** Chairman: F.J.Stephenson, 409A Sailors Bay Rd., Northbridge, 2063; Secretary: D.W.Burdett, 22 Ferdinand Place, Campbell, A.C.T., 2601.

**CHURCHES OF CHRIST PROVIDENT FUND:** Secretary: J.R.Ashley, P.O. Box 140, Carlingford, N.S.W. 2118. Phone: (02) 630 7784.

**FEDERAL LITERATURE DEPARTMENT:** Chairman: K.J.Cilinton, 149 Jollmont Road, Vermont, Vic., 3133; Secretary: Mrs E.M.Rankine, 5 Aikins Avenue, Glen Iris, Vic., 3146

**FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN UNION:** Chairman: Ian Allsop, College of the Bible, 7 Elm Road, Glen Iris, Vic., 3146. Secretary: D.Allison, 28 Potter Street, Black Rock, Vic., 3195 Phone (03) 598 5594.

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** Secretary: Mrs F. Morris, 27 Albert Street, East Malvern, Vic., 3145. Treasurer: Mrs A.Allison, 28 Potter Street, Black Rock, Vic., 3193 Phone (03) 598 5594

**AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:** President: Pat Ker, 13 Ogilby Cres, Page ACT 2614. Phone (062) 54 2213. Secretary: Laura Gardner, C/- 82 Limestone Ave, Ainslie ACT 2602.

# YOU WERE ASKING...???

by **Graham Agnew**

**Question:** How can I know God's will?

**Answer:** If ministers were asked to list the 10 questions which they are most often asked I'm sure most would put the above question among their top two or three.

I really envy those Bible characters who tell of hearing the voice of God and/or seeing dramatic demonstrations of his might and power in order to advise them of his will at any given time. Such revelations have inevitably given rise to very zealous people claiming with all the enthusiasm they can muster that, "God told me to do it!"

But the fact is that the overwhelming majority of Christians never experience anything even remotely resembling that sort of thing. For me, discerning the will of God has frequently meant 'nudging doors' that I felt could be about to open and fairly hammering on other doors that I would like to see open! In practical terms this means using the greatest gift that God has given to us, as far as our personal make-up is concerned: our ability to think, plan, dream and create.

To me, if an idea is going to help hurting people; if it's going to allow people to experience God's love; if it's going to stretch me and my gifts; if it's going to allow me to further develop towards my full potential as a human being—then more than likely it's going to be in the will of God.

Naturally, in big issues, the above factors (and a whole lot more) are considered in the context of prayer, reading the scriptures and seeking the counsel of trusted friends in Christ. Through it all, I place great weight on that marvellous verse in Philippians where Paul says: "... it is God who works in you, inspiring both the will and the deed, for His own chosen purpose" (Phil 2:13, NEB).

So, if we are genuinely seeking the will of God in our lives and we get a great idea that is going to enhance the Church of Jesus Christ as well as build faith and self-esteem in people, then there's a very strong chance that it has



come straight from God—part of his special work of inspiring both the will and the deed.

As a backdrop to all of this, I like the words of Robert Schuller when he talks about praying to know God's will:

- When the idea is not right, God says NO!
- When the circumstances are not right, God says SLOW!
- When we are not right, God says GROW!
- When everything is right, God says GO!

✱

If you have a question for Graham Agnew's column please send it to:

"The Australian Christian",  
PO Box 101,  
Essendon North 3041  
or phone (03) 379 1219.

# THE LAST WORD

I have always thought the actions of men the best interpreters of their thoughts.

—John Locke

**Author:** Have you seen the new play I wrote about the couple who were always quarrelling?

**Neighbour:** No, but I heard you and your wife rehearsing it.

★★★★★

**Did you hear about the new toothpaste that has shoe polish in it? It's for people who put their foot in their mouth.**

★★★★★

**Father:** Sue, what are you doing out there?

**Sue:** I'm looking at the moon.

**Father:** Well, tell the moon to go home. It's half past eleven.

★★★★★

**A pessimist is one who, when faced with two evils, chooses both.**

★★★★★

**"That horse you sold me is almost blind."**  
**"Well, I told you that he was a fine horse but that he didn't look good."**

★★★★★

**A tired guest at a formal function spoke to the man next to him:**

**"This is a bore. I'm leaving."**

**"I would, too," said the man, "but I've got to stay. I'm the host!"**

★★★★★

**Remark about a TV star:** "He's the sort who calls Dial-a-Prayer to see if there are any messages for him."

★★★★★



★ "EVERY time you cook our dinner, you declare war on the white men."

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

A CHRISTMAS GIFT THAT LASTS ALL YEAR

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

Send "The Christian" for 1989 to

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

POSTCODE .....

A gift for 1989 posted costs just \$20. We shall send a gift card saying that "The Christian" is from.....