

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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New Church starting at Mornington

An enthusiastic group of 26 endorsed a proposal for the planting of a new church in the area. Ian Cartmel, the minister elect, reported that up to 40 could be involved in the project commencement. Support for the proposal came from neighbouring Churches of Christ congregations at Tootgarook, Red Hill and Frankston. Greetings were received from the local Catholic, Anglican and Christian Revival Crusade congregations.

Those present voted to approve the proposal in principle, commence meetings on September 4, and begin preliminary planning. I.B. Cartmel's appointment by the Department of Mission, Education and Development as the founding minister was also endorsed. Enquiries about the project should be directed to Ian Cartmel, Main Road, Red Hill 3937, or telephone (059) 89.2433. Ian is currently the minister at Red Hill.

Once the project commences Ian will undertake secular work until such time as sufficient funds



Ian Cartmel

are found to support the work full-time. Don Smith of the Department of Mission, Education and Development indicated the Department's commitment to the project. The development of the church is a part of the new joint initiative of the Properties Corporation and the Department of M.E.D. in its Church Reach Out Plan (C.R.O.P.) proposals.

Good Companion's Jubilee celebrations begin.

"Whose dream resulted in the beginning of Good Companions?", "What was Initiation?", "Who remembers escaping the bushfires at Monbulk?" — these questions, and many others, will be part of the conversation exchanged at a dinner which brings together people who have been members of the executive of Good Companions during the

last 50 years. The dinner will be one of two events held during the weekend of March 19 and 20, beginning the celebrations of the Good Companion's Jubilee.

The second event, to which all interested in Good Companions are invited, will be a service of celebration and thanksgiving. The service will be held on March 20 at the Nunawading, Vic., church, beginning at 3 p.m.

Church Heads call Vigil of Prayer for Australia

The Heads of Australian Churches have called Australian Christians to a special vigil of prayer for justice and reconciliation in Australian society on Monday March 14 from 7 p.m. till midnight. The church leaders, representing 14 major churches, will themselves be holding a vigil that night at the Ave Maria Retreat House at Point Piper in Sydney. They are asking Christians to join them in their own homes and churches around Australia.

Since last year, when the Heads of churches embarked on a series of studies of the need for recon-

ciliation in Australian society, two important statements have been issued on this subject. The first of these drew attention to the growing polarisations in Australian society, to racism, isolationism and family breakdown. The second paper, issued in January, emphasised the need for repentance on the part of non-Aboriginal Australians, for the injustices done to Aboriginal people since white settlement of this land. It is these issues on which the Church Heads particularly call Christians to meditate as they pray for God's reconciling power in Australian society.

A Celebration for a Nation

— A Meditation on the Bicentenary.

Reading, but thinking bicentenary,
I note: 'A.D. 33 was to be a Jubilee'
Is that not the year Christ died?

A Jubilee, the dictionary declares,
a celebration of Jesus' nation;
sold land returned to rightful owners;
bonded people set free from servitude.

Pity it was not honoured in practice.

I remember Jesus told his townsfolk
he had come to proclaim a jubilee;
to set free the oppressed.

Here is a celebration for our nation:
our bicentenary made into a jubilee;
tribal lands returned to rightful owners;
2 million poor set free from poverty.

Pity it will not be honoured in practice.

(References: Leviticus 25; Luke 4)

— Bruce McIntosh
(Boronia, Vic.)

Managing Editor:
CHRIS AMBROSE

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April 16	April 6
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GUEST EDITORIAL



Lessons to be Learnt

—Neville Aubrey



Neville Aubrey was born and raised in Wales. He began his spiritual pilgrimage within the Anglican Church, but his theological studies led him into the Baptist ministry in the U.K. where he served for 12 years. In Australia he has worked as supply minister within the Presbyterian Church while undertaking post graduate studies at the University of Newcastle. He is currently engaged in further theological research and is ministering with the Taree, N.S.W., church. Neville Aubrey is married with four children.

I am the minister of a church that has previously split. Charismata, personalities, styles of worship, a power struggle and other factors all contributed to the eventual break when the former minister and half the congregation left to do their own thing. The story is in no way unique, and since the problem is likely to continue and effect more churches, the following is written by way of help, and in no way intended to be judgemental. There may well be churches on the very verge of division. To all within such congregations, I would ask -

Consider First what the Scriptures teach about Unity

Apart from our Lord's desire that his disciples should 'be as one' (John 17.21), the repeated appeals of Paul to the churches show how much he abhorred division. By the authority of Christ (1 Cor 1.10), and not personal preference, he pleads that the Corinthians should be of 'one mind and thought' (1.10). Two women should settle their differences and agree at Philippi (Phil. 4.2), and believers at Ephesus should seek to 'maintain the unity the spirit gives' (Eph 4.3). Furthermore, to be part of the church is to place no value upon the worldly divisions of culture, class or sex (Gal 3.28). For Paul unity and harmony within any congregation was a priority. The church was in a sense Christ himself (Acts 9.5) and to split a church was to dismember Christ and crucify him afresh! A divided church hurt Paul because it hurt Christ.

Consider Second our Message of Reconciliation

We preach good news of the need and way of reconciliation between man and God (2 Cor 5.10). Now when a church divides, Christians are effectively preaching one thing, and doing something else. Apart from the obvious condemnation of such hypocrisy by our Lord (Matt 23.3), common sense and experience teaches us the bitter lesson that a split church presents a pathetic image to the community it serves, and is without doubt 'bad for business'. I ask, can we reasonably expect the world to be reconciled to God, when as Christians we are not reconciled before him? When a church is on the verge of division, is enough consideration given to the miserable impact such an event will have upon unbelievers? Has the church not enough to live down without showing the world that we cannot live in harmony with each other, and are therefore really no example? We live in a society divided by politics, wealth, moral and social issues. A society that desperately needs guidance and example. What of the church?

Consider Third the Effect of Division within the Church.

When a church splits, Christians on both sides get hurt. Wounds go deep, and while time helps, often tension and suspicion remain to hinder the ongoing work and witness. How justified are we in hurting other Christians for the sake of our own theological and liturgical preferences? Paul seems to have gone out of his way 'not to give offence'. When a church divides, is enough consideration given to the long

•Continued on Page 6



N.S.W. Political concerns

Recently a delegation of leaders from the New South Wales Council of Churches met with both the Premier Mr. Unsworth and the Opposition Leader Mr Greiner to discuss issues they see affecting the people of N.S.W. The members of the delegation were Council President Charles Wilson (Church of Christ), Secretary Tom Cardwell (Baptist), Bishop John Reid (Anglican),

Bruce Ballantine Jones (Anglican), Peter Davis (Uniting Church) and Peter Dixon (Church of Christ).

Six key issues were raised and addressed with each politician.

Discrimination and Religion

The Council has vigorously opposed the proposals to include religion as a ground of discrimination under the Anti-Discrimination Act. The delegation warmly

welcomed both leaders' commitments not to proceed with the recommendations of the Anti-Discrimination Board's Report.

Gun Laws

The Council commended the Premier for the Government's steps to introduce tougher gun laws and encouraged him not to give way to the gun lobby. The Premier welcomed this support. Whilst disagreeing with the Opposition's stand on the lack of support for tougher gun laws we welcomed Mr Greiner's intention to tighten shooters' licensing procedures.

Casinos

The churches' implacable opposition to casinos is well known. It was pleasing to hear Mr Greiner state categorically that a government led by him would not proceed with a casino. While Mr Unsworth would not accept the Council's point of view he did state that there would be only one casino in N.S.W. and that his government would ensure that no unscrupulous practices occurred.

Housing

Despite the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless it is glaringly obvious that the State's housing crisis is worsening. Mr Unsworth gave the impression that he felt his government was doing as much as necessary and didn't give any assurances that the situation would change if he was re-elected. Mr Greiner said he was particularly concerned for the homeless and would be releasing detailed policies before the election (now set for March 19).

Prostitution

The delegation expressed the opposition of the churches to the legalization of prostitution, and particularly to the recommendation that any legislation be administered by local government. They were encouraged to hear both leaders give a commitment that prostitution would not be placed in the hands of local government. Mr Unsworth said that his Police Minister was looking at the Prostitution Act to enable the Police to deal more effectively with the problem. Mr Greiner stated that if elected he would welcome representation to himself and the Police Minister con-

cerning this issue, but felt that the Offences in Public Places Act would be sufficient to deal with the problem.

A.I.D.S.

The Council drew the leaders' attention to the fact that the A.I.D.S. campaign has missed the mark in emphasizing the use of condoms while not promoting chastity before marriage and fidelity within it. In this connection attention was drawn to the A.I.D.S. kit presently in use within schools. Mr Unsworth said that he would arrange for the Council to meet with the Department of Education to discuss this matter. Mr Greiner stated that he would take it up with the shadow Education Minister.

— Charles Wilson

GROWING SPIRITUALLY

Prayer Conditioned

We were driving behind a small bus with a sign on its rear window, "Prayer Conditioned". No doubt whoever put it there was affirming that those responsible for the bus and the safety of its passengers were praying people. Hopefully they drove in the spirit of prayer ... but with eyes wide open!

We liked the phrase "Prayer Conditioned" for other reasons.

To be conditioned means that one's life style has been formed by various external and internal stimuli. We are all conditioned one way or another. Pavlov's dogs were fed meat to the ringing of a bell. Eventually every time a bell rang the dogs salivated. They were conditioned by the bell ringing.

Lots of things happen to us if we are prayer conditioned.

For instance if we regularly pray for people and mean it, we automatically become caring people. If we mean our prayers for a better world we are likely to become more responsible people. The more we pray for our church the more church-conscious we become. Praying people are more likely to become quality people ... as long as they are not in the category described by James who pray with their own selfish ends in mind.

Obviously prayers that are "grocery lists" to God will condition us to be religious spoilt brats.

But prayer is adoration of God, conditioning us to be truly spiritual.

Prayer is thanksgiving, conditioning us to be grateful people.

Prayer is confession, conditioning us to be humble people.

Prayer is intercession, conditioning us to be caring people.

Prayer is listening to God, conditioning us to know God.

Air conditioning does wonders for our cars, but Prayer Conditioning does a lot more for our lives.

— G.R. Stirling

SOLO

The Mt Gambler, S.A., church on May 9, 1987 commenced SOLO after seeing a great need within their church and the community. SOLO — Seeking Other Lonely Ones revolves around an old time sing-along, fun, devotions and choruses.

50 have come through the doors since SOLO was started.

Many have expressed their desire that SOLO meet more often than the first and third Saturdays in the month. The committee have agreed to meet on the off Saturdays with Solo Christian Home Fellowships hoping that many lonely non-Christians will feel comfortable coming into the group and so may be reached for the Lord.

There are so many hurting people within the group who need to find that peace that can only be found through Jesus Christ.

SOLO has been blessed with a great deal of talent. This was seen last year when SOLO gave a presentation of carols in the church.

Looking back we see lives have been changed since coming to SOLO and seeing caring Christians within the group. These people have been happy to show they care and to listen to anyone who wishes to talk.

SOLO would like to hear from other churches who have a singles group. Contact Mrs R. Marshall, 24/43 Derrington St., Mt Gambler 5290.

Tasmanian Commissioning

For over 20 years the work of the Bible Society in Tasmania has been undertaken from Canberra. Now Tasmania has its own Bible Society Secretary in Bill Howard.

On February 14 at 3.30 p.m. a Commissioning Service was held in the Launceston Church of Christ chapel to set Bill apart for this ministry. It was presided over by Max Bushby, Chairman of the State Committee of the Bible Society, and also a National Councillor.

Gordon Stirling welcomed the assembly to the Margaret St. church. The preacher was Ernest Horth, chief Executive Officer of the Bible Society, who came from his sick bed to bring his message.

A large number attended, representing most of the churches in Launceston, many came from surrounding country areas and from North West Coast towns.

On the morning of the commissioning Bill and Margaret Howard were received into the membership of the Launceston church, having already endeared themselves to their new church family.

The Tasmanian office of the Bible Society is on the ground



Bill Howard

floor floor the Howard home, which looks out on the beautiful Tamar Valley. Their address is 5 Teal Cres., Newnham 7250.

Bill graduated from the N.S.W. Bible College in 1951. He ministered at Newcastle, Taree and Canberra before becoming National Administrative Officer of the Bible Society in 1984. He also served as Chaplain with the Duntroon Military College. While in Canberra Margaret worked in the Bible Society Translations Office.

Thornleigh inducts new Minister

The 1988 church year at Thornleigh, N.S.W., commenced on a high note on February 7 with the induction of Franklyn Elliott as minister at the morning service. All the Elders shared in the service.

John West presided over the service. Greetings were brought by Warren Murray, N.S.W. Conference President, and Bruce Baird, local member for Northcott. Guest artist was Bill Pettersen who rendered two trumpet solos.

The whole of the Elliott family, Franklyn and Deanne, Stephen, David and Lyndell, were wel-

comed into fellowship.

The induction service concluded with the laying on of hands by each Elder (John Ellerby, Don McElvenny, Ed Newton, Alan Norton, Ted O'Donnell and John West). Franklyn brought a challenging message after his induction.

During the evening service the church was introduced to the Elliott family in an informal way. Robert Garrett was the worship leader at this service. At the close of the message one young girl made her decision and there were two reconsecrations.

Addition to Ministry Team

The current State Minister of the South Australian Conference, Dean Hamilton, has accepted a call to the Nunawading, Vic., church as a member of its ministry team, commencing in 1989.

Dean, who has extensive experience with ministries in South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania, will mainly have responsibilities in preaching and pastoral areas, as well as developing the small group life of the congregation. Both Dean and his wife, Glenys,

have had advanced training in developing Bethel study programs in churches.

Dean Hamilton will be replacing Garry Harris who declined an invitation to extend his ministry at Nunawading. He will be joining Ted Keating, Shirley Ludgater, Jim Wright (both part-time) and Cathy Bentley (part-time youth worker).

**JOIN THE
NETWORK
ABORIGINES MIS-
SION OFFERING
MARCH 20**

Doncaster Youth Ministry



Glen Wegner (right) with Richard and Sharyn Parker

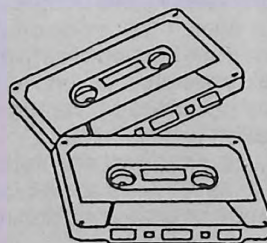
On February 17 Richard Parker was commissioned into youth ministry at the Doncaster, Vic., church.

Richard comes from the Mitcham Baptist Church and will spend this year at Doncaster prior to full-time training for

ministry. Some years ago Richard worked for Telecom, but more recently he and his wife Sharyn worked in a missionary capacity in the Philippines for the Far East Broadcasting Company.

The appointment of Richard creates a unique situation in the

Australian church with a ministry team make-up of persons from the Uniting Church, Churches of Christ and the Baptist Church.



MINISTRY ON TAPE

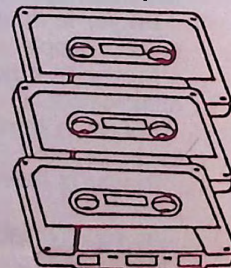
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Exciting February Forum

Robert Smith, Director of the Department of Development and Education in N.S.W. has submitted a report on a Conference which he chaired at Point Lonsdale, Vic. It was called the "February Forum". Invitees included selected and well-known 'heavies' such as Graham Agnew (Marlon, S.A.), George Mathieson (ex Director of the Overseas Mission Board), Barry McMurtrie (Wollongong, N.S.W.), Geoff Rowcroft (Berwick, Vic.) and Dr. Don Stewart (Director of the Qld. Social Services Department).

The groups deliberations resulted in a declaration of motive and intentions to which they have given the title "The February Forum - The Manifesto". Working papers from the conference are not included but more information on details discussed, can be obtained on application to Robert Smith at his office at Car-



Graham Agnew
lingford or from Ian Henry, Chairman of the CP Trustees.

The February Forum - Manifesto

1. This group (The February Forum) believes the timing is right for a substantial advance by Churches of Christ in Australia. A sympathy with an all Australian growth pattern is desirable and should be fostered. The time is opportune for a concerted, unified witness to the Kingdom of Christ throughout all Australia. The impact of such a program would assist all States.

2. National growth of Churches of Christ and the extension of their mission is essential in three areas viz:

- * Greater co-operation between the states,
- * Communications between all Churches of Christ congregations.
- * Adequate and independent financial support for an all-Aus-



George Mathieson
talian program in witness and image.

3. The CP1000 has demonstrated what is possible in a small way if funds are available from independent self funding sources. Leadership and training are national issues. The Overseas Scholarships, ICEM, Encouragement Awards and Awards of Excellence, and the Projectors are all new ideas. These are examples of the type of support which is essential for Australian growth and progress. The funds have been self earned.

4. A continuance of the CP concept, without State bias and dedicated to leadership training, and talent development and encouragement, must be good for Australian Churches of Christ. A continuance of CP innovations (and many more are possible) involving local churches, will promote the development and growth of Churches of Christ in Australia in a most exciting manner.

5. The Point Lonsdale Conference brought together a group of church leaders who believe there is a need for an independent body, such as CP to act as a catalyst to



Geoff Rowcroft
accelerate the growth, witness and image of Australian Churches of Christ in Australia at this time. It is an exciting prospect possessing boundless potential. The Forum believes its recommendations will be supported by the great majority of members of our churches.

6. The members of the Forum see their role as voluntary, honorary and advisory. They believe that Christian Projects is well equipped to initiate the campaign for a CP10,000. They believe it will encourage a surge of interest and activity on the part of local churches and of the talented, dedicated and experienced individuals who comprise its membership.

7. The Forum applauds the work of Christian Projects and urges support for its target of a distribution of \$10,000 each week. They recommend financial backing from CP1000 for the initial administrative machinery to establish a committee of honorary business men, representative of all States, to determine the methods and the priorities by which Christian Projects shall achieve its targets.



Robert Smith

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Barry McMurtrie



Don Stewart

Step Out In Faith '88



Gordon Moyes greeting Geoff and Sherylyne Moran who performed a drama at the rally.

The Albury, N.S.W., church launched its 1988 program with a "Step Out In Faith" weekend held February 5-7.

The guest speaker was Dr Gordon Moyes, Superintendent of Wesley Central Mission, Sydney, while guest artists were the Jordan Band from Melbourne. A generous grant of \$1,000 from Christian Projects assisted with expenses relating to the weekend's activities. These activities began on the Friday evening with a launching service followed by a half night of prayer.

An early morning breakfast on Saturday attracted ministers and leaders from several churches of the district

The Albury Civic Theatre was the venue for a public rally on the Saturday evening with an attendance exceeding 600.

On Sunday morning the church

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Leaders Breakfast

was full to capacity and excess seating could not cope with the crowd. As well as a challenging message from Gordon Moyes and inspiring music from the Jordan Band there were three baptisms and a faith offering which amounted to \$2,300. This offering will be used to support Nell and Lyn Dickinson, church members, who commence ministerial training at Carlingford College and also Max and Bev Winch, who having been commissioned from the Albury church, have served for over 10 years with R.B.M.U. International in Irian Jaya.

The weekend's activities concluded with a family picnic held in delightful surroundings. This was a time to relax, enjoy fellowship and share informally with Gordon Moyes.

Ethiopian authorities have released 55,000 Bibles held at the border for the last 4 years according to the Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. The Bibles were handed over to the Ethiopian Bible Society. The Bibles, in the amharic language are intended for the 717,000 member EECMY.

A new population policy which pegs the number of children a woman should have at 4 has been approved by Nigeria's Armed Forces Ruling Council.

Guest Editorial

• From Page 2

term effects of such action on believers, and the children of believers? Have we Christians not enough to do without quarrelling among ourselves? And when we hurt each other (all be it regrettably) have we not in some way diminished ourselves? Here again the words of the master often fall on deaf ears. When a church divides, how acceptable is our worship to Almighty God? (Matt 5.23-24)

The cause of division within many of our churches I suspect can be attributed to the thoughtlessness of men. That many Christians need to be educated (and some re-educated) in the things of God is without doubt. That sound teaching is absent in many a divided church is plain. And when things go wrong, I for one hold the pulpit to be primarily responsible. I have no quarrel with charismatics or non-charismatics, but I appeal to all members of any church who may be 'going through it' at this point in time. Think! consider! and give no opportunity to the Devil to rejoice in the breaking up of any church. 'How good it is when brothers dwell together in unity' (Ps 133.1). Make that your foremost aim, for Christ's sake and glory.

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Centennial Film Productions

It is now five years since nine ministers from a range of denominations met together to plan a religious production during the Bicentennial year.

Steve Downie, minister of the Mayfield, N.S.W., church, was a foundation member of the project called Centennial Films Productions. It was planned to produce six one hour television programs and offer video material to churches and schools.

Churches of Christ at the Federal Conference level and at State Conference Executive Committees endorsed this ecumenical project with generosity and enthusiasm.

It was always believed that the religious content of the celebrations of 1988 would be minimal. The lack of attention given to the Christian presence is already proving to be correct.

The intention of the project was to tell the story of the church, warts and all, and offer a lead to the nation for repentance, forgiveness and the way ahead to reconciliation. With mixed feelings and inhibitions being experienced by Australians, it is showing that the church would be well placed to give a prophetic lead to the nation.

The plans were progressing to a point where everything was coming together and then the ABC



Steve Downie

Launching Sunday School



The Nunawading, Vic., church chose a novel way to celebrate the beginning of Sunday School. The children filled dozens of balloons with helium, attached a message to the balloon and launched them on a windy Sunday morning. Already they have received replies from finders of balloons with one from as far as Preston.

Commissioned for Service

February 14 was a big day in the life of the church at Launceston, Tas. Sunday School resumed after holidays; two morning services recommenced after a period of 10 a.m. services during the holidays and Brian and Julia Coats were commissioned at a special service as they leave for Switzerland, with son Chad, in preparation for missionary service in Zaire with Africa Inland Mission.

In the afternoon a large crowd

dropped the bombshell that their intentions to purchase the series for \$600,000 was to be reduced to \$250,000. The project was caught at a time of squeezed funding within the ABC. In the end the project could not proceed with a shortfall of \$350,000 and it was not considered desirable to place credibility at risk by using an overdraft.

Currently the directors of Centennial Films have a submission before the Department of Aboriginal Affairs for a grant of \$50,000 to produce a new project to facilitate new beginnings for Australians with Aboriginal people.

attended the commissioning of W. (Bill) D. Howard as Tasmanian Secretary of the Bible Society, conducted by Rev. Ernest Horth, Chief Executive Officer of the Bible Society.

In 1987 the earth's population topped the 5 billion mark — and it is currently increasing by 165 people each minute!

**PLEASE ADVISE ANY
CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Mrs Vonda Mason, an Aboriginal singer from South Australia, will be the main soloist at the Christian Women Communicating International in Australia Convention. The Victorian Convention is being held March 18-20 at the Hawthorn Institute of Education. The international speaker is Helen Cooke who, with her husband, is involved in the production of Christians films. For enquiries, other than registration, phone (03) 25.7133.



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The Letters to the Editor limit is 200 words.

WHICH RIBBON?

To the Editor,

Thank you Graham Agnew ("A.C." Feb. 6) for explaining your confusion after Barry Chant's two appeals.

How regrettable, after a straight forward gospel message that Dr Robert Schuller is noted for, in great simplicity.

The "Full Package" is always there for us to receive and as I believe it — we're continually able to receive the Holy Spirit (greater measure) when we seek his help and want a closer walk with God.

Gordon Stirling and Geoff Whiting in their Youth Director days and most of our ministers would never cast a doubt on the "full package" given to all on acceptance of Jesus Christ as Saviour.

Dr Barry Chant's charismatic, pentecostal presentation, to me seems to automatically cause a loss of "self esteem" effect i.e. not fully equipping a Christian unless you go for the red ribbon!!

As quoted in Acts 2:38 and also in Matt. 28:19 and 20, we have received the "full package". Jesus said "Lo I am with you always" — no delay, no waiting for a red ribbon!

— E. Collins
(Victor Harbor, S.A.)

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

To the Editor,

I write with concern for theological education within our churches and Colleges. In recent years, together with other denominations, some of our men have pursued an American award known as Doctorate of Ministry (D.Min). While they have I'm sure found their studies rewarding, most will admit that its value is professional, and not academic.

With respect to our American brethren, it should be noted: (1) That this award has no academic value in terms of the University standards here; (2) That those engaged in thorough academic research would normally pursue a Bachelors and Masters Degree before proceeding to Doctorate

level. The requirements of the D.Min are far below those of a Ph.D. so that the D.Min is really something of a backdoor Doctorate; and (3) It is therefore highly questionable whether or not holders of this award should use the title Dr.

I ask if in the long term we are really raising standards in our churches and colleges with this award, or creating for ourselves a situation of theological embarrassment and pretence? If holders of the D.Min wish to enjoy the prestigious title of 'Dr', they should work for it (if able) in accord with other academic disciplines.

— N. G. Aubrey, M.A. B.D.
(Taree N.S.W.)

CO-OPERATION — NOT COMPETITION

To the Editor,

As a member and Chairman of the Federal Conference Executive for many years, I clearly remember a letter from the Overseas Missions Department asking for permission to make an appeal for a fund to provide aid for special needs on our overseas fields. Permission for an appeal for this confined area of overseas aid was readily given.

For 30 years I served as a representative of Churches of Christ on the Committee of World Christian Action in formulating the Australian program and promoting the Christmas Bowl appeal. Since the launching of the Bowl in 1951 December has been generally recognised as the month of the Bowl appeal. As a co-operative program it has been accepted as a responsibility of Churches of Christ who emphasize Christian unity and co-operation.

As a staunch supporter of Overseas Missions and also the Bowl appeal, may I respectfully suggest that in all our local churches where the Bowl appeal is promoted, that competition be avoided by presenting the C.O.C.O.A. appeal at a time other than December. It is embarrassing to be involved in both co-

operation and competition and, for many, it may be confusing.

— E.L. Williams

WHICH RIBBON?

To the Editor,

I was quite amused by Graham Agnew's letter "Which Ribbon?" (A.C. February 6), but also it concerned me. Graham is quite right — at repentance (or baptism) we do receive the "full package". It's like a harassed mother whose child is given a train set — one of those ones where whistles sound, bells ring and lights flash all over the place. Being harassed, this mother pockets the batteries, but the son has a wonderful time pushing and shunting and play acting for many months. Then one day she shows him what happens when the batteries

are in place. What a change!! What he has already learned to love suddenly has a dimension which had been unlooked for, unimagined yet is infinitely more full of wonder!

Sure, we have the "full package" but how many of us are plugged into the power source? Why are there so many struggling churches and struggling ministers, if we are truly "filled with the Holy Spirit", the greatest power on this earth?

At the Adelaide Convention Robert Schuller offered the package to those who hadn't received it. Barry offered people the opportunity to find out how to plug in the batteries.

— Gaye Allison
(Brighton, Vic.)

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

Amazing Grace

To the Editor,

Our minister writes for the church paper each week and always ends his piece with "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all." I've always liked it and gave him the credit for making it up. That was until I was idly flipping the pages of the Bible while waiting for church to begin. And there it was, the last Bible verse.

It is certainly a beautiful prayer, but as usual I got to wondering what the words mean. What is this grace of the Lord Jesus that our minister wants to be with us all? Obviously it is not something packaged in the sky and sent on angel's wings to our lot at the request of the minister.

I reckon that the grace of Jesus has to mean the graciousness of Jesus. What else? I looked up graciousness in the dictionary and it means kindness, generosity of spirit. Then I thought that someone's kindness can't be with you unless that someone is with you too. So when our minister prays for the grace of the Lord to be with us he must be praying that our Lord will be with us sharing his kindness and generosity of spirit. Unless of course there is some other mystical or deeply theological meaning of the prayer that eludes me.

So it is no packaged magic out of the sky, but Jesus Christ being kind and generous to the likes of us, that grace is all about.

Yet half the time I forget that Jesus Christ is there. I think I learned too well what they said in Sunday School, that Jesus is up above somewhere! Or maybe I didn't listen right when I was a kid!

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

— TERTIUS

Religion only Marginal in Australia?

Too often it seems that religion (including Christianity) is regarded as of only marginal importance in Australia. In all our celebrations of the Bicentenary it is interesting to note that it was some time after the first landing before the first church service was held. It appears that the first minister in Australia had little to do on those first few days and that many saw his role as a supplementary authority to the penal administration.

Australia has never witnessed a great religious revival that has swept nearly every other country, especially those with the European background like us. There has been no great religious surge that has shaped our national thinking or our moral outlook as a nation.

We cannot look back at the development of a national church or the saving of our nation for God. A comment that I heard recently seems to sum up the situation of the church in Australia today: "The church in Australia has been compartmentalised into a fairly well defined area." Some recent events and surveys seem to indicate that this trend is continuing and even growing.

Proposed A.B.C. Changes

The recently announced discussion papers on the A.B.C. include once again a marginalisation of the religious. Among the suggestions is one that would remove religious broadcasting from the charter of the A.B.C. and the implication is that religious material would then only be broadcast if it was sponsored.

I do not intend to comment here on the quality of the religious broadcasts on the A.B.C. other than to say that they cover the whole range from excellent to absolute rubbish. This probably comes about because they are trying to cater for all the varieties of religious expression and thought that exist in Australia. That is the intention of the current charter.

It seems to me that one of the implications of the discussion paper (which A.B.C. management are vehemently opposing) is to say that religion is not important therefore why fund any broad range of programming from the public purse. In the light of the shenanigans that have emerged on the religious broadcasting scene in America I would hate to see that sort of broadcasting being the norm here in Australia.

The Census

At present the only noncompulsory question on the Census is that relating to religious affiliation. At present, in the stated interests of producing a more streamlined questionnaire, the Bureau of Statistics are advocating that in the next Census the religious affiliation question be dropped. Again the implication is that the question of religious affiliation is unimportant. This will mean a loss of vital information and it will make our understanding of Australian society and the current trends a less complete picture. All who are involved in research that looks at the place of religious belief in society are appalled at this move.

Combined Churches Survey

Recently the Christian Research Association conducted a major survey of church life and ministry. They are having a series of meetings around Australia to discuss some of the implications of this major survey (over 6,000 responses) on church life and strategies. (We will publish a review of the initial report in a future issue. This report is available for

\$10 from C.R.A. at either 1 King St., Newtown 2042, Phone (02) 51.2360, or 161 Sturt St., South Melbourne 3205, phone (03) 699.8522).

One comment that I noted at the report meeting was that the research has indicated that church affiliation makes very little difference in many areas of life. This is true when compared across denominations and also with those not attending churches. It is true that there are some differences between attenders and non-at-

tenders in some attitudes but more often the correlations are stronger for such differences as social backgrounds etc.

I wonder then what this says about Christian beliefs and the impact they are having on our attitudes in Australia. Does it mean that our society is thoroughly Christian in all its attitudes? My feeling would be that this is certainly not the case. This then has some very important implications about how effective we preachers and teachers have been in sharing the true message of the gospel.

The report has some fascinating insights that certainly should be considered by all churches.

I was struck by some of the concluding remarks by John Smith of God Squad at the Melbourne meeting. He talked about the picture of the church and its beliefs that the survey presented. He then went on to ask the question: "Is the picture presented of the church today in Australia in any way true to that shown by the biblical picture?" The implications he drew were that this was not the case and that we should then be looking closely at this question.

As a Movement that has advocated a return to New Testament Christianity I wonder how much of our message has been absorbed by regular attenders let alone the rest of the community, including other Christian denominations.

This year is the bicentenary of the birth of Alexander Campbell. Later in the year we will be running a series of articles on the implications of what our early pioneers were advocating and how we today can still make this message relevant. Maybe then we as a movement will not be so marginal in Australian society.

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FULL TIME WITHOUT SUBSIDY

Ocean Grove's growth is such that a subsidy is unlikely to be required when Andrew Henley commences full-time ministry in March. Funds will be diverted to other projects. Gifts are needed now to establish the proposed new Mornington church.

DEPARTMENT OF MISSION, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

52 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne, Vic. 3000.

RADIO

ABC RELIGIOUS PROGRAMS RADIO

Sunday Morning

Broadcast every Sunday morning on Radio National 5.30 - 6.55 a.m. this is a program of sacred and religious music presented by Stephen Watkins.

Sing to the Lord

Broadcast on 3LO (Melbourne) only on Sunday mornings 6.30 - 7 a.m. Traditional and modern hymns presented by Lawrie Bruce.

Encounter

Broadcast on Sunday mornings (8 - 8.45 a.m.) on Radio National and repeated on Wednesdays 11.15 p.m. - midnight. Also broadcast on Regional stations on Sundays 9.15 - 10 p.m. Features and documentaries about religion and life.

Insights

Broadcast on Radio National on Sundays 5.10 - 6 p.m. Insights to belief, religion, spirituality and theology prepared and presented by Ronald Nichols.

Sacred Music

Again broadcast on a Sunday on Radio National 6 - 6.58 p.m. Prepared and presented by Kay McLennan (Kay also presents the occasional series For the God Who Sings on ABC FM 7.05 - 8 a.m. Sundays).

Sunday Night

Broadcast on Metropolitan and Regional stations 10.10 - 11.58 p.m. Stephen Godley gathers together the threads of Sunday with a mix of contemporary music, talk and meditative, and a repeat of Forum (10.10 - 10.40 p.m.).

Sacred Readings

Broadcast Monday to Friday on Radio National 7.10 - 7.14 a.m. and on selected Regionals 5.56 - 6 a.m. Readings from great sacred literature including the Bible.

Caroline Jones

Radio National 9.03 - 10 a.m. Monday to Friday except Wednesday, Radio National 9 - 10 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and on Regional stations 9 - 10 p.m. Thursdays only. Caroline Jones in conversation with Australians about their beliefs and the things that give meaning to life.

Forum

A weekly report on religion in society on Radio National on Fridays 9 - 9.30 a.m. (repeated as part of the Sunday Night program). A topical magazine presented by John Cleary.

TELEVISION

Worship Sunday

All States 11 a.m. - Noon on Sundays. Telecasts of public worship around Australia.

Compass

Broadcast in all States on Sundays Noon - 1 p.m. Religious current affairs magazine, documentaries, discussions and commentaries.

BOOKS

MINDING GOD'S BUSINESS

by Ray S. Anderson (Eerdmans)

Professor Ray Anderson has been my mentor for the writing of my dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Ministry at Fuller Theological Seminary. He is Professor of Theology and Ministry at Fuller.

It seems to me that he views theology as that which undergirds and assists the practical application of ministry in its many forms. Ministers generally have viewed the administration work of the church as a time consuming second rate ministry activity. Anderson is providing an important theological understanding to this vital area of the minister's and the church's work.

Besides the local church Professor Anderson also has in mind the "para-parochial" organisation, by which he means those organisations that are "mission-specific" which are a part of the church but work along side of the local church in assisting the local church to carry out its mission. He objects to the term "para-church".

Anderson seeks to deal with five basic issues:

1. How does the paraparochial organisation relate to the Kingdom of God and to the church?
2. How can Christian organisations use secular aspects of management without compromising integrity?
3. Are there "Christian" management principles?
4. Is it "spiritual" to use management practices that are used in non-Christian organisations?
5. How are the values and goals of Christian organisational management determined when an organisation has to be "successful" to survive but also is called to "die with Christ" to the world?

It seems to me that Anderson deals with these issues and others such as "leadership" and the need for "excellence" in the church in a helpful and informative way, however we should note with Anderson, that "theological reflection requires that we 'gird up our loins', as Job was urged to do".

— Don. E. Stewart.

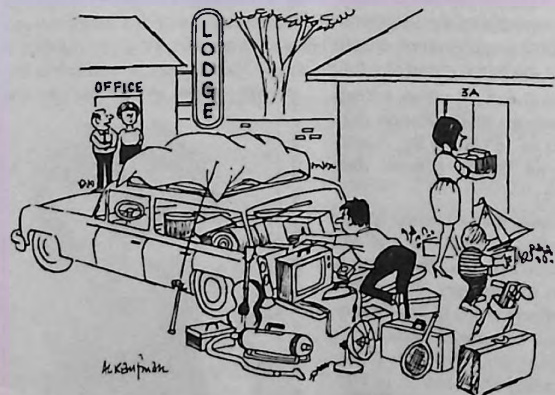
MAKING JESUS SAVIOUR & LORD

Bible Basics for Tweens and Teens.

by Don Herbert (Theos Print Shop) \$3.60 set

Don Herbert, currently the minister of the Goonellabah, N.S.W., church, has written a series of five studies for older children and young teenagers. The aim of the studies is to lead the reader to Jesus Christ in a clear and simple presentation of the steps to salvation. The discipleship studies are designed to encourage the student to respond to God in a positive and practical way. Study one contains lessons on commitment and a lesson on assurance; study two looks at believers baptism and the Lord's Supper; study three looks at the church and the Holy Spirit with study four examining lordship and worship with the five study covering prayer and lessons on the Word of God.

Sets are available from P.O. Box 212, Lismore 2480 at a cost of \$3.60 a set which includes postage.



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Aid Agencies blast Governments for neglecting Kampuchea.



Children at play around a newly completed well in Svay Rieng Province.

A new book, "Punishing the Poor: The International Isolation of Kampuchea", recently launched in 10 different countries. Editions have been published in five languages.

Author of the book, Eva Mysliwicz, is an American who worked in Kampuchea as field director for Oxfam, UK.

She says, "Ordinary Kampuchean are tragically condemned to act as pawns in a game of power politics. The fact is that the conflict is tolerable to all parties, excluding the Kampuchean people".

She was commissioned to write the book by major non-government organisations from Europe, North America, Thailand and Japan. In desperation and anger at the policies of their governments, they had come together at a meeting in Amsterdam in September 1986.

They determined to put Kampuchea back in the world's spotlight, where it was in 1979. Early that year the horrors of the Pol Pot regime were revealed, after Vietnamese forces had driven him from Phnom Penh and most of the country. International relief poured into Kampuchea to succour the survivors.

But today, almost a decade later, the people still suffer needlessly. One child in seven dies before the age of one. And the major killers are diarrhoea and dysentery, because only 1% of Kampuchea's 7.6 million people are able to drink safe water.

The tragedy continues simply

because Kampuchea is the only Third World country which is denied United Nations development aid. Moreover, India is the only non-communist country giving bilateral aid to Kampuchea.

The people are denied what they need to help themselves to rehabilitate their country simply because the United Nations and almost all Western governments do not recognise the government in Phnom Penh.

The pressure exerted by "Punishing the Poor" is meant to change this shameful situation.

The book demands of the United Nations and Western governments that they give development aid on the basis of need and without regard for politics. It demands a quick, negotiated political settlement. It speaks for the silent, suffering people of Kampuchea.

Australia does not recognise any government of Kampuchea and therefore has no bilateral aid program with Kampuchea. However, Australia provides assistance for the programs of multilateral and non-government organisations for shelter, food and water, health care and education. Government aid in the period 1979-1986 amounted to \$20.5 million as payments to NGOs and assistance to refugees in border camps, \$7 million in food aid and \$10.5 million in emergency humanitarian assistance.

"Punishing the Poor" is available for \$12 (includes postage) from A.C.F.O.A., GPO Box 1562, Canberra 2601.

Encouragement — Long Distance

— Geoff Maxwell (Bunapas, P.N.G.)

Having several stations spread out over large areas, it is most vital that we have radio contact with each other. Each day there are four time slots set aside when we can talk with one another and also with our national Christian brothers and sisters.

I remember one of our national friends coming up on our radio expressing their concern, and sharing some problems arising out of a new area of ministry. His name is Peli and he is working in the area of Kalkal. I also remember well that another of our national friends, whose name is Simbai, spontaneously responded with words of encouragement. He was encouraging Peli to stand close to Jesus in the middle of the difficulties. Simbai was assuring Peli of his constant daily prayers for him.

I am grateful that Peli and Simbai were able to encourage each other. I am also glad because



Geoff Maxwell

they were an encouragement to me.

I often see this clear evidence that God continues to work among his people here in Papua New Guinea.

The Case of the Missing Mailbags

In late December some mailbags went missing from the Post Office in Madang, P.N.G. This may well mean that a letter you wrote to a missionary in Papua New Guinea did not arrive. It is possible that this is the reason that you have not had a reply. It is also possible that the person to whom you wrote did get your letter but has not yet had the opportunity in their busy lifestyle to communicate back to you.

Missionaries love to hear from

people in Australia. Why not write a letter of encouragement today.

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12,000 scientists worldwide, including 21 Nobel Prize laureates, have signed a pledge refusing to accept Star Wars research funds.

Over 500 soup kitchens and food pantries are currently operating in New York City. In 1980 there were just 30.

"Simply Sharing" is the theme of a weeks program devised by Force Ten for May 22-29. A kit has been prepared to encourage people, and particularly young Christians, to think about their own lifestyle and its global implications.

In a move that reverses the trend in most churches Queensland Baptists voted recently to restrict the term "Reverend" for their ministers to official documents and correspondence. The growing use of the word "pastor", considered a "warmer" title, is now official.

In Melbourne an ecumenical service for peace will again be held on Palm Sunday (March 27). The service will be held 1.30 pm - 2.15 pm at St Peter's Cathedral under the theme "Lord, make this land holy!"

Marriage and Family Week is being held May 1-8 this year with the theme 'Families making History'. A leaflet prepared by the National Council presents 3 studies for use during the week is available from The Children's Bureau, 225 Beach Rd., Black Rock 3193. Phone (03) 599.1164.

Prescott Memorial Church of Memphis, Tennessee, recently invited Nancy Hastings Sehested to be its full-time pastor. In response the county's Southern Baptist Association voted to expel the 235 member church. The action reflects the Southern Baptist Convention's bitter debate over the role of women in the ministry.

The Ethloplan Government has reformed agricultural policies claimed by critics to be the main reason for food shortages and famine deaths. The Government has increased the prices it pays for crops, reviewed its obligatory crop quota system and relaxed restrictions on private enterprise in agriculture.

Homelessness afflicts 20% of the human race and is a structural problem of poverty and exploitation, according to a recent Vatican study by the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace. The study says 900 million live in substandard housing and 100 million have no home at all.

Refugees continue to pour into Malawi from Mozambique following continued atrocities by Mozambique National Resistance rebels. Since the new year, massacres, crop burning and attacks on villages have forced thousands to flee in Malawi where almost half a million Mozambican refugees are sheltering.

Almost 200,000 Tamils have fled Sri Lanka since the nation's sectarian violence first erupted in 1982 according to the UNHCR. The Tamil refugees have fled to India, Germany, France, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Denmark.

Communist leaders in Laos have told Christians at a church service in the capital Vientiane that they must follow the example of Jesus Christ and obey their Christian doctrines. The comments are considered significant because Christianity has been forced underground in nearby Vietnam and Vietnamese controlled Kampuchea. The Laotian Government has links with Vietnam.

Tetanus in the newborn is estimated to cause

800,000 deaths a year. Nearly 100% of newborn babies who get it will die. It is caused by unsterile methods of cutting the umbilical cord or by applying germ laden substances to the stump. Immunization of the mother will protect the baby.

Tuberculosis attacks as many as 10 million victims a year and is particularly lethal for infants. In the lungs TB can trigger a rapidly fatal pneumonia or a slow wasting disease. In the bone it can lead to severe deformities. When TB occurs in the brain the results are usually fatal.

Church leaders predict thousands of people may die this month in war induced famine afflicting the Sudan, a divided nation of 25 million, which straddles the boundary between black Africa and the Middle East. Several million Sudanese are cut off from outside help in the country's civil war ravaged south. Actions by both armies make mass starvation virtually inevitable.

A survey reported by the United Bible Societies says that 85% of New Zealanders have a Bible in their home, but fewer than 11% read it.

Volodymyr Fedorchenko, senior legal consultant to the Council for Religious Affairs of Ukraine, declared that no register of believers exists in the USSR, and that religious belief is a private matter for each individual. However, speaking on an overseas broadcast on Dec. 23 last year he stated, "according to the results of certain sociological polls carried out by scientific establishments, there are in the USSR approximately 40 million who to one degree or another regard themselves as believers."

Yevgeni Zakharov, an 18 year old Baptist, has been viciously beaten

and threatened with death after attempting to preach the gospel in the call-up office to which he had been summoned in connection with compulsory Russian military service.

Churches in the Castle Hill Shire, NSW, commenced their publicity for the Good News Bicentennial New Testament distribution program by sharing in the Shire's Party in the Park on Jan. 30. Church members dressed in colonial costume, drove horses with drays and carts around the locality. Arriving at the Party, the group re-enacted the settlement of the Hills district and read Psalm 90 from a black covered Bible.

The USSR has announced that abortions are to be made easier. They will now be legal up to 28 weeks.

6 out of Kenya's 42 districts have been hit by drought and famine and over 42,000 are living on relief aid. Already relief distribution committees embracing chiefs, church leaders and relief officials have been set up to facilitate relief operations.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is giving "well wishing attention" to the 1988 Millennium celebrations of the Russian Orthodox Church, according to Metropolitan Filaret of Minsk, chairman of the church's Foreign Relations Dept.

Western Europe would have the first priority for Christian missionary activity in today's world, according to Dr Emilio Castro, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches. He said the continent is in need of having its disillusionment transformed into hope.

Cardinal Jaime Sin of the Philippines has said that people who see visions of God and the Virgin Mary should eat more.

"When you are hungry you see visions, he said.

The United Reformed Church in the U.K. (which includes a great many Church of Christ people) and the Congregational Union of Scotland have released "proposals for unification" of the 2 denominations into a United Reformed Church in Great Britain. The union could take place before 1990.

Positive reports from recent international Lutheran-Anglican dialogues could make full communion a possibility between the 2 traditions by 1991.

There have been a range of church reactions to a recent decision by the Canadian Supreme Court that effectively leaves Canada with no restraints on abortion.

According to a Finnish poll the church is often seen as old-fashioned, wealthy and rigid. 70% of Finns say they believe in God but a quarter of those who say that also indicate that their understanding of God is different from what the church teaches.

For the first time the Hungarian parliament has discussed official church policy and the work of the State Office for Church Affairs.

The Christian Council of Zambia has warned that the high rates of divorces in Zambia will continue unless the churches take up the challenge of consolidating marriages.

**BECOME A
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MARCH 20**

Best ever Summer Family Camping



Governor Phillip (Malcolm Gray) and Rev Johnson (Chris Ambrose) at the re-enactment of the landing of the First Fleet at the third Banksia Family Camp on Australia Day.

The 1987-88 summer camping program of the Vic.-Tas. Department of Mission, Education & Development saw an increase of 14% in attendance over the previous year. Over 300 were involved in four family camps and one single parent family camp.

Great locations played a significant part in this success. Banksia, a camp of tents and caravans on the great lake of South

East Victoria was excellent for swimming, sailing and walking. Halls Gap in the beautiful Grampian mountains provided good bushwalking, and the nearby Lake Fyans was popular for swimming and canoeing.

Activities ranged through Bible studies, open forums, bushwalking, swimming, sailing, canoeing, trivial pursuit, a launch trip, a mini musical, bush dancing and the essential camp concert. One camp even took a computer to produce their camp newsheet.

Reports have been filtering in that families enjoyed their time away relaxing in the company of other Christian families. They invariably expressed appreciation for the quality of the leadership at the camps. Leaders have included Bruce and Marilyn Bertram, Louis van Laar, Rod Brown, Glen and Margaret Wegner, Malcolm and Jill Gray, Noel Wolstencroft, Cheryl Johnson and Nell and Jan Galbraith.

It's been a great summer in Victoria — especially in our D.M.E.D. family camps. Next year could be even better!

— Brian White



Aboriginal (Craig Farmer, Epping, N.S.W.) welcoming First Fleet to Banksia.

**REGISTER YOUR
SUPPORT
ABORIGINES OFFER-
ING
MARCH 20**

Prayer Tree planted



L.to R.: Dennis Galliford (Board Chairman), Ted Heard (minister), Claude Purdle, Eddy Brand and Alex Davey at tree planting.

Members of the Colonel Light Gardens, S.A., church gathered before the morning service on February 14 to plant a prayer tree in the church courtyard. This was to mark the national Call to Prayer to mark the Bicentenary.

Eddy Brand, the longest serving board member and Deacon Emeritus, planted the tree, a Callistemon Viminalis (bottlebrush).

Following the planting the congregation joined together in a responsive prayer for the church and the nation — it's past 200 years and it's future.

Also taking part in the ceremony were Claude Purdle, a founding member of the church, Alex Davey, the manager of plants around the church building, and Ted Heard, the interim minister.

.....
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Rev John A. Balchin from New Zealand

Dr Gary Inrig from Canada

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**Mrs Elizabeth Inrig will address the Ladies
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Meetings times are 10.45 a.m., 3.00 p.m. and
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 C.S.S.M. and Teenage programme.

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Convention Office

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Phone (03) 836.6839.

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Obituaries limited to 100 words.

BRAND, Florence May (8.2.88). The Croydon, S.A., church was overflowing with neighbours and friends for the funeral of its oldest member, Mrs Flo Brand, who died 'unexpectedly' at the age of 99 years. Shortly after the establishment of the church she transferred from Balaklava in 1912. A credit to her and her family, she was able to live in her home, and attend her church each Sunday until the time of her death. Her humble, patient and caring approach to life endeared her to many in the church as she supported her late husband's work in youth and Sunday School activities. For many associated with Croydon Mrs Brand 'has always been there', and so a deep sense of loss was felt amid the joy of the triumph of her faith.

— Keith Ridge

DRAKE, Francis Robert (Frank) (3.12.87). The members of the Maryborough, Vic., church were saddened with the passing of a loved and valued member. Frank was born at Warragul, Vic., February 3, 1901, and at the age of nine committed his life to Jesus at the Callums Mission in Melbourne. Frank served in both World Wars, with the Navy in the First and the Army in the Second. Arriving at Maryborough in 1940 from Stawell with his wife Elsie and family, Frank worked with the Post Office until his retirement in 1964. He served many years as a Councillor, serving four times as Mayor. Frank will be remembered most for his unswerving faith. For over 30 years he visited the sick in hospital every Sunday without fail. Frank loved to preside at the Lord's table. He served well in the capacity of Elder and helped many churches in the district as a preacher. Frank is survived by his wife Elsie and eight of their 10 children.

GAIRNS, Alan James (31.1.88) Alan was born at Burnley, Vic.,

in June 1908, the eldest of three children. When the family moved to Caulfield they were all baptised on the same day in the Bamba Rd. church by A.L. Haddon. Alan was secretary of the Sunday School there for many years. In 1936 he married one of the teachers, Phyllis Waterston, H. Clipston performing the ceremony. They moved several times during their 52 years of marriage, living at Bentleigh, Ormond, Croydon and Vermont. In all these years they were actively associated with the church, Alan being secretary of the Ormond church, treasurer at Croydon for 25 years and loyal members at Nunawading for the past 13 years. Alan had a very successful career as a Chartered Accountant. He wrote for Rydge's Journal and was the author of a book on accountancy. He was secretary of the Australia Day Council for 25 years and initiated the idea of Australian of the Year. But the big things in his life were his family and the church. He was a faithful husband and loving father. His faith in Christ never wavered. We will always remember him as one of God's gentlemen, kindly, solicitous, gentle and genuine. To his wife Phyllis and children Marilyn, Bernice and husband Richard Watson, David and wife Ross, we offer the deep sympathy of our hearts.

— C.H.J. Wright

TOAS

HUON COMMUNITY (Steve Warwick, Jeff Gray). Steve has returned from Korea where he was teaching English as a part of the SIM Australia team & sharing his insights into the West Africa missions. Val & children have returned from holidays in Sydney ... Huonville church full for induction service of second minister Jeff Gray. Jeff & his family have settled into Huonville manse ... At Huonville Scott Cure has obtained his Certificate of Accountancy & Helen Collins her second part B.Appl.Sc. ... At Geeveston Mick Riley received Citizen's Award on Australia Day.

WA

DALKEITH RD. (B.K. Ryall). 6,000 leaflets distributed advertising local churches Christmas program ... Ministry term extended to 1992 ... Bicentennial special series included guest speakers Sonny Graham (Esperance) & His Excellency Professor Gordon Reid (Governor of WA) ... Outdoor worship conducted on banks of Swan River after BBQ tea ... "Club 4" childrens holiday program averaged 185 per day with 20 leaders ... New manse reticulated ... Alan Morris providing interim ministry at Midland & Alinjara.

BULLCREEK (Phillip Bradley). Discipleship programs in place for 1988 ... Crossways Bible Overview course commences Feb. 25 ... Faith-friend follow up training offered to help members in the nurturing of friends who have come to Christ ... Graeme Johnson (Leighton Ford team) preached Jan 31 ... Ian Lethbridge preached & sang Jan. 24 ... Elders & Brian Kirchhofer gave messages during Phill's leave in Jan. **PERTH (G. Powell)**. Church rejoicing at arrival of George & Gladys Powell from Hobart. About 80 attended induction service Feb. 14 & lunch afterwards ... 6 Ethel St., North Perth leased as temporary manse ... Marj Calladine welcomed after recent illness ... Jack & Betty Sewell's ministry (Sept. - Dec.) greatly appreciated ... Lydia Leonhardt received into membership by transfer ... Church encouraged by increasing numbers of Asian students meeting with us.

NOLLAMARA (D. Althorpe, I. Polmear). Church participated with other local fellowships in a

Community carols evening in Dec., also singing in local shopping centres ... Many members coming & going on holidays over the Christmas period ... Leaders Commitment service held including presentation of goals, to challenge leaders & congregation for a new year of service ... Deacons have been appointed & are establishing areas of service & responsibility ... Rachel Croot left for missionary training at New Tribes Centre.

Omission

In the report in our last issue (February 20 Page 4) on Harold and Joyce Long's ministry a line was omitted. This was that they spent a very happy five years ministering to the Horsham, Vic., church, in a circuit with Haven and Dimboola, following their ministry at Warmambool and prior to moving to the Home Mission Committee in New South Wales. Their only daughter Heather was born during their stay there thus they have a perpetual memento of their years at Horsham.

We apologise for this omission.

Index

Free copies of the 1987 Index to "The Australian Christian" are now available from the office. All who have requested a copy in the past will be sent the 1987 index. If you would like a copy of the index please contact "The Australian Christian" at P.O. Box 101, Essendon North 3041 or phone (03) 379.1219.

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New Campus Contract signed



At an historic occasion held in the offices of K.A. Reed (Group) Pty. Ltd., architects, on February 4, Russell Williams (C.O.B. Chairman) signed the contract engaging Bowden Fraser Constructions Pty. Ltd. to build Stage 1A of the College's new campus at Mulgrave. Pictured with Russell Williams are (L. to R.) Don Mansell (Deputy Chairman), Ray Drayton (consultant architect), Dr Bill Tabbernee (Principal), Alan Fraser (managing Director, Bowden Fraser), George Jenkins (Director Bowden Fraser) and Russell Croker (Director of architecture K.A. Reed (Group) Pty. Ltd.).

Stage 1A consists of the teaching/administration component of

the new campus containing lecture and tutorial rooms, library, student centre, dining facilities and offices. The fixed price contract figure of \$2,866,285 submitted by Bowden Fraser, a Christian firm, was approximately \$750,000 less than the highest tenderer.

Stage 1B, some residential units, will be negotiated soon and the whole of Stage 1 should be completed well before the end of 1988 to enable the 1989 College year to commence at Mulgrave.

Tax deductible donations to the Building and Building Maintenance Fund may be sent to Glynthea Flinger at the College of the Bible, 7 Elm Rd., Glen Iris 3146.

Gisborne reaches self support

A special service on February 14 attended by members and representatives of the Vic.-Tas. Department of Mission, Education and Development recognised the Gisborne, Vic., church reaching self support. To accommodate the large congregation the church moved to another nearby hall.

Services will shortly commence in a new school facility, prior to the church completing its own new building.

The minister of the church, Ray Smith, thanked the Department representatives for the help given through the years and noted plans for expansion and new church planting. The Gisborne minister and leaders are also assisting the Kyneton congregation. In reply, Don Smith of the Dept. of M.E.D.



Ray Smith

paid tribute to the faithfulness and energy of the church.

The financial assistance given to Gisborne will now be diverted to other new projects.

TAKE THE TRUST TEST
"BY THROWING YOUR NET WITH US"
ABORIGINES OFFERING
MARCH 20

What is Happening?

What is happening to me?
I who was so strong,
So self contained and so sure?

What has penetrated me
So that my comfort is
disturbed, my peace muffled?

What has cracked
My wall of isolation,
Independence from care?

I know what it was!
The Lord — He took a
Tear, and wet my heart.

— Ray Hawkins

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BIRTHS

WARNE Ken and Jan welcome with joy, God's gift of a daughter, Shelley Justine, born at the Toowoomba General on 13/2/88, 8lb. 2oz. Baby sister for Leanne, Alyssa and Daniel.

ENGAGEMENTS

BAGLEY — MOYES The engagement is announced with great joy of Leisl Bagley and David Moyes of Sydney. Olive and Graeme Bagley and Gordon and Beverley Moyes wish them God's blessing on their future together.

APPROACHING MARRIAGES

McKENZIE — BAGULEY Ray is pleased to announce the approaching marriage of Adelle to Alan, son of Ron and Marie, on Saturday April 9th.

RUBY WEDDINGS

HUMPHREYS — MACKLEY Norm and Esther were married March 20th, 1948 at Horsham by Mr G. Mathieson. They thank God for 40 happy years together.

SMITH (TRENWITH). Lois and Col. Married March 6th, 1948, at Kadina Church of Christ by M.T. Lawrie. Congratulations Mum and Dad/Gran and Grampy. Love and best wishes Val, Wayne, Gwen, Peter, Kim, Diane, Carol, Sam, Tim, Joshua, Greg, Jason and Elyse.

CLEAVER Peggy and Don. Congratulations to our special Mum and Dad, and Nanny and Poppy, on the occasion of your 40th wedding anniversary. The marriage was celebrated on 21st February, 1948, at the Margaret Street Church of Christ, Launceston. Love and best wishes from Julie, Michael, Martin, daughter-in-law Robyn, and grandchildren Emily, Nicholas, Erica, Laine and Georgia.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

BARHAM Beatrice and Charles Irvine were married at the Hartwell Church of Christ on the 12th March, 1938, by the late F.E. Buckingham, being the second wedding celebrated in the new church. Her sister Beryl and the late Frank Haycraft was the first wedding conducted. Giving thanks for God's guidance and continuous care.

DEATHS

COCKS Dorothy Jean on 27th February, 1988. Aged 87 years. Daughter of Andrew and Annie Scambler. Loved wife of Harry Cocks (deceased). Sister of Gor-

don, sister-in-law of Hazel. Loved Aunt of Elinor, David and Raelle.

IN MEMORIAM

CHALK, Doreen June. 29th March 1987. Thank you Lord for the years you gave her to us. Beautiful memories, precious forever, of love and happiness we shared together. Safe in the arms of Jesus. Your loving husband Graham, daughters Bev, Jenny and Denise, sons-in-law and grandchildren.

SIMMONS (LUNN) Helen. Passed away 15.2.1985. Your presence we miss, Your memory we treasure, Loving you always, Forgetting you never. "Beyond the sunset — Peace" Your loving mother, father and sister Judith.

HOLIDAYS

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Changes of Address

THORNLEIGH: Minister — Franklyn Elliott, 43 Willis Ave., St Ives, N.S.W. 2075. Phone (02) 484.4882 (church office; 449.9185 (home).

HUON COMMUNITY CHURCH: Ministers — Stephen Warwick, Brownell St., Geeveston, Tas. 7116. Phone (002) 97.1717 (office), 97.1756 (home).

— Jeff Gray, 81 Main Rd., Hounville, Tas. 7109. Phone (002) 64.1374.

MAROOCHYDORE: Minister — Geoff Risson, 29 Maud St., Maroochydore, Qld. 4558. Phone (071) 43.3121.

BALWYN: Secretary — The Secretary, Church of Christ, P.O. Box 226, Balwyn, Vic. 3103.

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CHURCH ON THE MOVE

The Southport Church of Christ is moving as from the 3rd April, 1988 and we desire to advise our regular visitors to the Gold Coast to take particular note of our new address, which will be **Parkland Drive, Southport, off Smith Street Connection between Gaven Way and Gold Coast Highway.** We are opposite the new College of Advanced Education (CAE). We have also changed our Morning service times as follows:

9 a.m. Communion and Worship (One service only)
6.30 p.m. Gospel Celebration

Grand opening and dedication will be held on **Sunday 12th June, 1988 at 3 p.m.** during the Churches of Christ South Queensland Convention.

Enquiries: **Pastor Noel Newton (075) 31.4353**

Administrator Ray Riltmeyer (075) 32.5660

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TEACHING CONCERNING THE HOLY SPIRIT

To the Editor,

After reading Graham Agnew's letter and the Guest Editorial "On the Crest of the Third Wave" ("A.C." Feb. 6), I too was confused. It seems to me that what is needed to end this confusion is a sane biblical examination of the teaching concerning the Holy Spirit, and a complete disassociation from what people are teaching, experiencing and practising today.

I don't want to appear cynical but I must ask the question — If this is the "third wave" of the Holy Spirit which is being witnessed today, what later manifestations are still to come in say the fourth, fifth or sixth waves? Come on now, isn't it time we moved out of the speculative, which seems to be based on denominational terminology, and into the reality of God's New Testament revelation, which clearly states that the Holy Spirit is a **divine person** who desires to produce in Christians the fruit that is described in Galatians 5:22 and 23 - "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control". It is these Christ like characteristics that the world is going to see, the difference Christ makes when he is allowed to enter a human life. This

gets rid of all my confusion.

— F.D. Craig
(Newcastle, N.S.W.)

ATTITUDES

To the Editor,

The local congregation is the sum total of the attitudes of each member of the congregation, at any given time. Or, the congregation is what each member thinks, feels and reacts.

The work and witness of the congregation is not a responsibility — be that of one person, a committee, or a board — rather it is the response of every member to God.

If we, as members of the body of Christ, project an image of anticipation and excitement at what is happening, then God will use that spirit of anticipation.

However, if we exhibit a spirit of despair, or anxiety, or defeat, then we are opposing and defeating the purposes of God. If we see our individual roles as being closely associated with the Kingdom of God, then we become an ally with God in the sharing of his message to a world in need of his grace.

If we are too caught up in the things of the world itself, then we frustrate the redemptive work of God.

God will use us as we allow him; but he will not, without our approval, make us what we are not — not even for the sake of his

kingdom.

For the Kingdom is the sum total of the attitudes of each member of the Kingdom at any given time.

— M. Keatch
(Dareton, N.S.W.)

VARIETY

To the Editor,

What a variety of thinking we get within Christian circles. In "The Australian Christian" (Feb. 6) there was a Guest Editorial by Allan Norling. In the same issue was a Letter to the Editor by Graham Agnew.

Allan's comments concerned the Signs and Wonders Conference. Toward the end he said, "We may not all agree entirely with all of Wimber's practices and theological explanations. However ..."

Graham's letter concerned his difficulty with one area of one meeting of the Charismatic Convention in January. The tone of the letter at first made us quite angry, then sad.

And the contrast between the attitudes couldn't have been more complete.

We would, in love, suggest Graham (and others not able to attend) listen to the teaching tapes, especially those led by Bob Mumford. He taught on unity in a practical, sensitive way, and challenged everyone who listened. In

his unique style he reminded the delegates that when we buy the field (Kingdom of God) we not only get the treasure but we also get the weeds, broken bottles, barbed wire, etc., and people whose practices and theological explanations may not be ours.

— Reg and Kaye Wray
(Owen, S.A.)

WHICH WAVE DO WE RIDE?

To the Editor,

Allan Norling has chosen to ride the modern charismatic wave ("A.C." February 6). He endeavours to show the wave he rides is a new one because it has a mixture of traditional conservative churches involved. Is he getting a little confused though? It seems to me the wave he rides has the same questionable doctrines and experiences as other charismatic waves — only new words are being added.

It was heartening to read Graham Agnew's astute observations at the meeting he attended ("A.C." February 6). How we need the Holy Spirit's wisdom to see through false doctrine and "my experience proves it" happenings, so we will not mount waves that crash upon these rocks.

I am interested in a new wave (or is it an old and proven wave?) that is gaining strength in Britain, America and elsewhere. God is

•Continued on Page 18

1989 AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Christian Projects through "The Australian Christian" is providing a Scholarship available for overseas study during 1989.

The Scholarship is for a short-term period of study for up to one year.

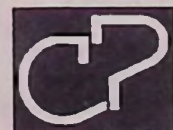
The Scholarship is open to any member of Churches of Christ in Australia for any area of study that will assist the Scholar in their sphere of service within Churches of Christ.

The Scholarship is designed to assist applicants who would be otherwise unable to travel overseas.

Applications close May 1, 1988

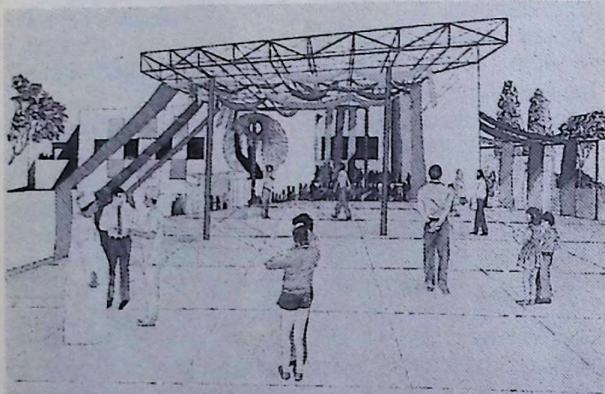
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With less than three months to go till World Expo 88 gets under-

•From Page 17

raising up great Bible teachers who are expounding the word in power and with authority. Most of these men are not within our Movement, but their teaching is so similar to that of our pioneers; that Bible based message that made us a people; apostolic doctrine that consistently made Christ its central theme; good sound hermeneutics that set out the New Testament message clearly and simply.

I had the privilege recently of listening to one of these world travelled speakers. The hall was filled each night with people hungry for the word. No miraculous physical healings were witnessed but the people went away whole.

I believe those who ride this tried and proven wave will know the security and power of being in Christ, no matter what happens to them in this life.

— Norm Flett
(Mackay, Qld.)

ABORIGINAL ISSUES

To the Editor,

In September my husband and I took a comprehensive seven week tour around Australia. We left Sydney with open, yet enquiring minds regarding the Aborigi-

nal problem.

From our first encounter with Aborigines in Northern N.S.W., through Queensland, the Northern Territory, the Centre and on into South and Western Australia I made it my business to talk to as many people, both black and white, as possible on the problem.

In many large inland towns I spoke with Aboriginal men and women who were just sitting around. Some were happy with life and the way that they were treated by the authorities, others were not. But the white people with whom I spoke all felt that they (the white Australians) were the disadvantaged people. One reason given were that Aboriginal children are provided with all the essentials for school including fees, clothing, books etc., which are not made available to the children of white people.

Brick houses were built for Aborigines in many areas and in most cases they do not live in them but shack up outside and use the floor boards and other timbers for their fires. In such cases it seems the best solution would be to supply very simple structures of their own design.

•Continued on Page 20

way the Pavillon of Promise, a Christian presence, is faced with an urgent need to raise \$1.5 million to keep the project on track. The shortfall in budget was primarily needed to meet the costs of the hi-tech equipment and its servicing.

The Pavilion of Promise is based on the pavilion of the same name at World Expo 86 in Van-

couver, which was rated amongst the top 10 pavilions there.

At World Expo 88 over 1 million will pass through the Pavilion of Promise and 27,000 are expected to make a commitment to the Lord, based on experience in Vancouver two years ago. These people will then come under a nurture program being established within the participating local churches.

The Pavilion of Promise is an inter-denominational project and at present 300 local churches are involved in some way. But as this is a significant international and national event, participation and assistance is encouraged from all Australian churches.

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Portland's Coffee Shop funded by Christian Projects

The youth group and other members of the Portland, Vic., church have had a growing awareness of the problems facing young people in their city. Recent surveys have highlighted significant drug and alcohol problems.

From this awareness came the vision of an outreach program in the form of a regular Saturday night coffee shop and activity program.

Theos (Scripture Union) had already had a significant impact on the community by providing alternative entertainment over the Christmas holiday period.

Through the Shekinah Coffee Shop young people can meet together in a friendly atmosphere and share against a background of Christian music and drama. In the hall activities such as indoor cricket, basketball, table tennis and pool can be enjoyed. Incidentally Shekinah means the presence of God.

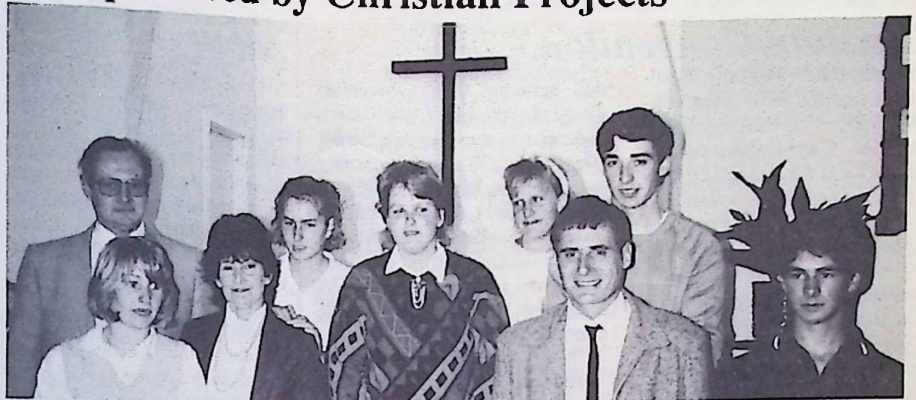
Counselling will also be available together with a network of referral and backup services.

Bob Pfelfer, Chairman of the Christian Projects Promotion Committee, recently visited Portland and presented a \$1,000 grant from the CP1000 Project.

Bob indicated that the aim of Christian Projects was to raise money that would not be otherwise available to the Brotherhood and to support programs that will build leadership and increase the witness and profile of the church. Portland's application had exhibited a great depth of planning and dedication by the Youth Group.

The project has support from the community with the Drill Hall being supplied by the Council rent free. As well as the financial support from the CP1000 grant grants have been obtained from the Victorian Health Dept. Rage Without Alcohol program and the Portland Youth Support team.

Since the coffee shop opened on February 6 four young men have been regularly attending church services.



Youth group involved in Shekina Coffee Shop (Back row L. to R.) Bob Pfelfer, Angela McKenzie, Tracy Whitbourn, Malcolm Vale, (Front row L. to R.) Michelle Sheahan, Joy Sheahan, Leonie Whitbourn, Kevin McKenzie (leader) and Ken Crouch.

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Ballarat Begonia Festival Christian Convention.

The Ballarat Begonia Festival Committee have given official sanction to the Ballarat Christian Convention, permitting the local Churches of Christ to use the Festival name and logo for the planned event. The Convention will now be known as the Begonia Festival Christian Convention. To be held on the weekend of March 18-20, the Convention is timed to coincide with the final activities of the Begonia Festival, a 10 day celebration which attracts thousands of visitors to the Central Highlands of Victoria and the world famous Ballarat Botanic Gardens.

The Ballarat churches have invited Geoff Morrow to be the guest speaker. Geoff Morrow is the Director of Ministries for Wycliffe Bible Translators. Gospel artists, Endless Praise and Steve Grace, will complement an array of local talent to make up an ideal program of Bible input and musical celebration.

The Convention program will commence on Friday evening at 6.30 p.m. with a board members' and leaders' tea at the Peel Street church. Geoff Morrow will speak on "The Local Church Can Change the World!" Music will be provided by the "Sunshine Kids" from Peel Street.

Saturday morning the activities

•From Page 18

Many of our lunch stops were at outback pubs and on these occasions we couldn't help but notice the large numbers of Aboriginals just lolling about, men women and children. The adults were mostly drunk and it was not a pretty picture. We were told that many hotels had drinking yards where Aboriginals could drink for 3-4 hours a day so as to save arguments in the bar. This has only happened since laws were brought in allowing all people into hotels. In my opinion the only ones doing well out of this law are the hotel owners. Alcohol is indeed the Aboriginals' downfall.

One town we visited had been greatly influenced by the Australia-

lian Inland Mission. This was a pleasure to behold. The Aboriginals living in town had clean tidy houses and were presentably dressed, as were the local whites. There is no doubt that a problem exists, and I am sure that it won't be solved by giving more and more money, nor in the building of houses that they do not want.

Perhaps if the Governments liaised with some of the missionaries, who over the years, have worked very well with and to the betterment of the Aboriginal people, they may come up with some worthwhile improvements.

— N. Souness
(Hurstville, N.S.W.)

Although the Convention program is full, there will still be

plenty of time for visitors to take in the sights of the Ballarat Begonia Festival. The Botanic Gardens will be in full bloom and the Festival Procession on Sunday afternoon is not to be missed.

Registrations for the Convention are just \$1.00. Inquiries and registrations should be directed to The Registrar: Roger Risson, 410 York Street, Ballarat 3350. Phone (053) 31 1079 or 31 1406.

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Christian Projects supports Albury

On January 31 Bob Pfeifer, representing Christian Projects, visited the Albury, N.S.W., church and presented a cheque for \$1,000 to the church to assist in its programs of outreach and leadership development. The church had applied for a CP1000 grant to assist in a number of separate outreach activities.

Late in 1987 17 leaders from the church hired a minibus and travelled to Sydney to attend the Roy Pointer Church Growth Seminar. Each participant contributed \$150 towards the costs with the church underwriting the balance. An application was made to Christian Projects to support this venture.

The church was also planning a Step Out in Faith weekend during February. This was aimed to have a high community profile to raise community awareness of the church as a source of hope.

Dr Gordon Moyes was to be the guest speaker and the Jordan

Band was to participate in the public rally in the Civic Theatre and also in various other parts of the program. The whole program was to be heavily promoted through the local radio station and newspaper and through the distribution of handbills.

Rod Foster, minister, commented that churches such as Albury face particular problems when arranging special programs due to the high costs involved in using visiting artists and speakers. The CP1000 grant would assist in meeting these costs.

In making the presentation Bob Pfeifer offered the support and encouragement of Christian Projects who commended both the outreach activity and leadership training.

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akovic, George Wallace, Cowandilla, S.A. •David Greatbatch, Kareena Yates, Elizabeth, S.A. •Peter Edwards, Box Hill, Vic.

MARRIAGE

•Michelle Gordon to Jon Bennett, Dalketh Rd., Nedlands, W.A. •Sher Erikson to Maurice Davin, Bullcreek, W.A. •Sandra Kruger to Graham Johnson, Joanne Thomas to Christopher Aird, Blackwood, S.A. •Judy Phillips to Mark Anderson, Nollamara, W.A. •Michelle Hearps to Ted Innes, Launceston, Tas. •Elaine Sheraton to Stephen Sheridan, Elizabeth, S.A.

DEATHS

•Mary Ellen Fitch, Grote St., Adelaide, S.A. •Mrs Flo Brand, Croydon, S.A. •Yvonne McCarthy, Charles Beasland, Dorothy Nelthorpe, Nollamara, W.A. •Mrs Brecknell, Kedron, Qld. •Mrs Patison, Mrs Treloar, Hamilton, Vic.

An important airlift operation carried out by the International Committee of the Red Cross was closed down after threats from the South African backed Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) that the airplanes would be attacked. However the Italian Government and the Christian Council of Mozambique are still operating airlifts to the cut-off areas. Only a fraction of the needs of the 4-5 million war and drought victims in Mozambique are presently being met.

Pope John Paul II has warned the media against misuse of its power. He said brotherhood and solidarity should exceed all attitudes of clannishness, all nationalism and racism, as well as all individual, cultural and religious fanaticism. The Pope

called for "wise use" of data banks because this form of communication condones pressure and use of force on private and collective lives.

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125th ANNIVERSARY

Church of Christ
TAREE, N.S.W.

June 11 & 12, 1988

Taree invites all past members and friends to help celebrate its 125th Anniversary.

SATURDAY 11th June 6 p.m.

Thanksgiving service featuring 50 voices from the Waratah Girls Choir. Followed by Dinner at 7.30 in fellowship centre.

SUNDAY 12th June

Worship and Communion 9.30 a.m.

Speaker: Colin Bowser; President: Neville Aubrey
7 p.m. President & Song leader: Neville Aubrey

Speaker: Colin Bowser

Please advise Secretary Bob Merry of your intention to be present as soon as possible.

Bob Merry, P.O. Box 396, Taree 2430,
or phone (065) 52.4356.

CHURCH OF CHRIST TAREE

VDU OPERATORS

Temporary

As we prepare for the 1988 40 Hour Famine several vacancies are available for experienced VDU Operators, aged 20 plus. Tasks include VDU work, telephone and some general clerical duties. Applicants need to be capable people with a mature approach to work.

These positions are temporary beginning in April through to June. Flexibility is essential with working hours as evening and some weekends are required. We are located in South Melbourne and these positions would possibly appeal to committed Christians wanting to contribute their abilities to a Christian Overseas Aid Organisation.



Interested applicants please apply to Malcolm Wilton on (03) 699.8522.



NSW

EPPING (S. Curkpatrick). Stephen Curkpatrick & his family started their ministry in Feb. & were welcomed at a Sunday luncheon ... A series of social evenings is being held for members & friends to meet them ... Sunday School times have been changed to fit with the new single service on Sunday morning. Primary aged children join the first quarter of service then go to lessons ... A new high school group has been well attended, meeting at 5 pm Sundays.

TAREE (N.G. Aubrey). As a church we have much to be thankful for ... Under the leadership of pastor Neville Aubrey we now have a full program of weekly activities to keep us busy ... New faces appearing in our congregation ... Candidates preparing for baptism ... Formation of choir ... Healthy signs of church growth. All signs indicate a speedy and healthy recovery after a bad illness. We give thanks to God.

SD

HENLEY BEACH (Brian Hill). On Feb 7 Brian & Merle Hill & their family were welcomed in by Eric Hollard, who represented the Brotherhood at the induction service ... After 96 years of wear & tear the floorboards of the original chapel were taken up. With help from the Mobile Missionary Maintenance team & our menfolk the new floor was laid. Underneath the old floor remains of papers dated 1892 were found & read with great interest ... Jill & Roger Bawden, home on furlough from Vanuatu, were guest speakers on Feb 21.

CROYDON (Kelth Ridge). Good News 88, the first of a series of studies on Mark's Gospel, is being held on Sundays at 7 pm ... "The Great Croydon Garage Sale" in March will augment funds for the new College of the Bible.

BLACKWOOD (R. Combridge). Despite severe injury to hand Rob Combridge was inducted into ministry Feb. 7, among happy crowds of people ... Church manse to be used in 1988 as 'half-way' house to some of

Adelaide's homeless ... 12 Growth Groups to meet in various homes (including three on church property) ... Visit of Roger Bawden valuable aid to understanding work in Vanuatu of Living Links, Julie & Doug Walladge ... Continued illness of several members causing concern.

COWANDILLA (R.S.A. McLean). Jan & Feb evening services held in church driveway providing an opportunity for open air witness ... Two adults baptised Feb 7 ... Reflections on Wimber Signs & Wonders Conf presented at morning service during Jan., followed by series on the Kingdom of God in Feb ... Grace Fellowship Malaysian students actively assisting in establishing a new Chinese church in Western Suburbs.

MAYLANDS (Richard Lawton). Minister involved in course on Pastoral Ministry at QEH ... Friendship Centre still an effective & relevant activity with 117 attending opening session of its 11th year ... Response to Sun-

day luncheons most encouraging ... Mr & Mrs Keith Skillicorn enhanced the fellowship & shared their experiences ... Jeff & Betty Benjamin from New Zealand also have attended ... Preliminary arrangements are in hand for the 80th celebrations next year.

ELIZABETH (S. Tregloan). In January we had a pot luck lunch to farewell one of our members, Anne Webster, as she left to take up studies at the College of the Bible at Glen Iris.

QLD

KEDRON (Noel Baxter). On Feb 7 induction/ordination by Col Smith of Noel Baxter, first full-time minister for five & half years ... Family camp at Coolum enjoyed by 19 adults & 20 children ... Our Kenmore College student specialising in Sunday School is Stephanie Palmer ... \$200 worth of library books dedicated to memory of Eric Enchelmier ... Members preparing Community Cottage (No 12) to be used in outreach.

WITHCOTT (Steve Fahey). During Jan-Feb 11 adults welcomed into membership (seven by faith & baptism, four by transfer) ... Celebrate Australia concert with Richard & Shirley Pearce to be held March 11 at local State School ... Minister was speaker for Celebrate '88 Crusade run by Sunnybank church ... Building committee formed to investigate options for future multi-purpose building for church & community needs.

TAS

LAUNCESTON (Gordon Stirling). Church looking forward to coming of Foster family to minister early 1988 ... Young people who attended NYC at Stanwell Tops conducted evening service Feb 7 ... Julie Powell & Beth Higham appointed church librarians ... Mr & Mrs Harold Street have moved to Judge Book Village, Eltham ... Several new members welcomed by transfer recently.

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VIC

CROYDON (W. Gibney). Loan on property reduced by \$12,000. Board has accepted challenge to clear remaining debt in 12 months ... "Upper Room" prayer ministry continues to bring blessings ... Increasing number of members using "Everyday with Jesus" Bible study booklets ... Many members involved in training & prayer for Bill Newman Crusade ... Vin Wilson farewelled on her departure for WA.

KANIVA (R. Patterson). Special Bicentennial service with display of memorabilia in Jan ... Groups recommenced Bible studies in Feb. which is special hospitality month ... David Harmer guest speaker Feb. 14 ... A. Williams celebrated his 91st birthday ... CWF began again.

SWAN HILL (L.J. Mayes). Church board & Elders met with Graham Hyman for a day retreat on Jan. 30 to discuss Jeff Deuble's book "Effective Eldership" ... Two decisions during Feb ... Eight small groups meet weekly ... Minister has commenced sixth year of fruitful ministry.

SANDRINGHAM Stephen Rose, COB student, with us during 1988. His help & enthusiasm appreciated ... Bicentenary BBQ

proved popular ... CWF began year with luncheon in garden setting. Guest speaker Phyl Davis, State Pres., spoke on communication with all people ... Vic Gole recovering slowly from eye surgery ... Church extends sympathy to Nell Larke on death of her father.

CHELSEA (T. Frazer). "Living Faith" lesson books now being used in Sunday School ... New timber flooring has been provided for church hall ... Youth group has recommenced under leadership of Scott Milan & others ... At special service Wayne & Cheryl Allen were honoured as they enter COB ... Dr W. Tabbernee was guest preacher Feb 14 when Wayne Allen was inducted as student minister ... Intermediate Explorers will recommence under leadership of R. Scott, K. & D. Holt.

BELMONT (Bob Clymer). The church has just concluded a Planned Giving program with Ian Tippett. It looks as though a goal of \$1,100 per week should be reached ... Cliff Warmbrunn organised a series of walks on Saturday afternoons around the coastal areas ... Sunday School is growing ... Nel Dobson is in the Geelong Hospital having had surgery to her hip ... A numbers of members are involved in the coming Leighton Ford Celebration.

WARRAGUL (David & Debble Buesnel). David Buesnel continuing studies at COB ... Four young women studying at Melbourne Tertiary colleges ... Dora Harris moved to Greenways Retirement Village after 67 years at Warragul church ... Jean Milne guest speaker at World Day of Prayer in our chapel ... Community preschool now operating in complex ... Play group plans underway ... Monthly family service & nightly gospel service or tea meeting alternating fortnightly.

HAMILTON (Ray Eldridge). Church overjoyed at having minister after being two years without. Induction conducted by Ian Tippett. Joint ministry with Portland church. Portland church subsidising salary ... "Getting to know you" luncheons held in members homes to meet Ray, Rhonda & family ... Church saddened at loss of Mrs Patison & Mrs Treloar, both longstanding members ... Quarterly meeting held, attendances & finances improving.

CASTLEMAINE (P. Haylock). Christmas holiday services taken by board members & well received ... Discipleship group commenced in the new year ... Neil Critchley commencing four year course at Bible College of

Victoria ... March of Witness & combined service for Castlemaine's Bicentennial celebrations well attended. Neville Lilley the preacher ... Prayer chain growing & seeing encouraging results.

BOX HILL (J. Edwards). Minister's son Peter baptised Feb 21 ... Every Member Present Sunday Feb 7. Share the challenge. 126 present am, 77 present pm ... Sunday services are being planned three month ahead ... Both services on Sunday have many participating ... A car park & church improvements are planned for 1988 ... All auxiliaries & four cell groups have recommenced ... Morris Stuart of TLC was recent speaker.

Gavin Stafford of the Lenswood, S.A., church has been accepted in Radio HCJB's Working Visitor program for April - June this year. Gavin, a journalist, is currently working in an Adelaide radio station. During his 3 months visit to the Quito, Peru, headquarters of HCJB he will be involved in the English Department. Under the program volunteers with acceptable skills travel at their own expense to assist mission personnel. Visitor visas are available to a limit of 90 days.

42nd FEDERAL CONFERENCE

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

JANUARY 15 — 21, 1989 — CANBERRA

THEME: GOD'S PEOPLE — GOD'S WORLD



"GODS PEOPLE GODS WORLD"

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Successful 1988 Commencement



At the Garden Party

The final inaugural service of the College of the Bible at the Glen Iris Campus was held on February 8 when a large gathering filled the chapel. This celebrated the opening of the 82nd College academic year. The Principal Dr. Bill Tabbernee gave an appropriate address entitled "The end The beginning".

The orientation weekend at Monbulk shared with a large intake of new students from Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia was an exciting experience.

The final Garden Party on the following Saturday (February 13) brought together many former students and friends to meet the new students.

Principal Emeritus E.L. Williams led in the opening prayer and Alf White and Joe

Shaw reflected on "As it was in the 40s".

Year prizes for the highest marks in each year group were presented to **Mike Folland** (first year), **James Pearce** (second year), **Kim Thoday** (third year) and **Marj Buckingham** (fourth year). The Preaching Prize was awarded to **Andrew Henley**.

16 students in their third and fourth years of study received scholarships covering 35% and 70% of their fees for 1988. The scholarships are provided by investment of funds from the **Allamby Family**, **Black Rock Chapel** and **Will J. and Audra L. Moore**.

The **Dalketh Road, Nedlands, W.A.**, gift to a Western Australian student was presented to **David Reynolds** from **Albany, W.A.**, who commenced his studies this year.

THE LAST WORD

Faith that is faddish can be as dangerous as faith that is false.

—Og Guinness

Sign in a Norfolk field: "Trespassers admitted free. The bull will charge them later."

★★★★★

We've just moved into our dream home. It costs twice as much as we ever dreamed it would.

★★★★★

"Your farming methods are out of date," said the agricultural student to the old farmer. "I'd be surprised if you got eight kilos of oranges off of that tree."

"So would I," said the farmer. "That's a pear tree."

★★★★★

A diplomat is someone who thinks twice before saying nothing.

★★★★★

Two goats in the desert found a tin can full of film. One of them nuzzled it until the lid came off. The film leader loosened around the spool, and the goat ate a few frames.

The second goat ate some, too. Soon they pulled all the film off the reel and consumed the whole of it.

When nothing was left but the can and the spool the first goat said, "Wasn't that great?"

"Oh, I don't know" replied the second goat. "I thought the book was better."



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