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Christians Gather in Nation's Capital

30,000 enthusiastic Christians from all denominations poured into Canberra to participate in the National Gathering on May 7—an event which linked Christians, black and white, in praying for the spiritual well-being of Australia. In comparison with the number of people who attended the Gathering, 20,000 attended the opening of the new Parliament House on May 9.

The National Gathering was estimated to be the largest of its kind in Canberra.

People began arriving in the city on Friday evening. Most came mid-morning on the Saturday. Over 100 buses from as far away as Perth and North Queensland converged on Canberra.

Everyone joined together in a human chain to completely surround the new Parliament House for a moving half-hour of prayer for the future of our national leaders. A feature of the ceremony was



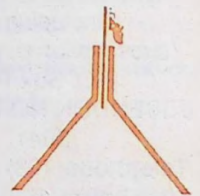
Crowds eight deep in State Circle surrounding Parliament House

an act of reconciliation between white and black people of our country.

Conference President, Nell Gilmore, gave the keynote address, exhorting all present to pronounce that God loves Australia. He called on us to reflect on



Yes, we were there!



200 years of white presence and what that has meant to Aborigines. He shared the emotion he felt during the earlier act of reconciliation.

Many Christians stayed overnight for a prayer vigil. 15,000 attended a dawn service on Sunday morning.

I WAS THERE

I was there with 30,000 others at the National Gathering at Canberra the weekend before the opening of the new Parliament House.

The National Gathering was arranged by Fusion, Youth With a Mission and also the Joint Commission for Church Development in Canberra. It was good to see Churches of Christ people from several states and a large group from Carlingford NSW Theological College.

The purpose of the National Gathering was to express our concern as Christians to pray for our leaders. The Gathering also featured a ceremony of reconciliation. Amongst the Aboriginal

leaders who were there were Rev Charles Harris from Queensland, Pastor Ben Mason, Rev Cedric Jacobs, former senator Neville Bonner and Don Hayward from Carlingford.

The National Gathering was also a beautiful expression of the unity of Christians. There were large groups of Catholics, Charismatics and Evangelicals. All of these were clearly identified and all of them happily prayed and witnessed to their faith in God together.

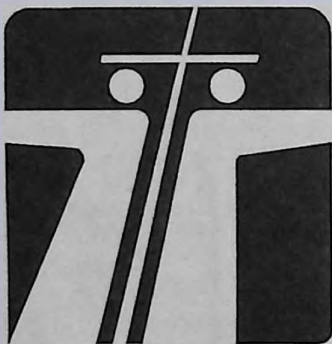
Right through the night thousands of people gathered around four large candles under the starry sky on the land bridge which joins

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Managing Editor:
CHRIS AMBROSE

ISSUE	DEADLINE
June 11	June 1
June 25	June 15
July 9	June 29

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COMMENT

I WAS THERE

•Continued from Page 1



Justice, mercy and compassion — the theme of the National Gathering

the old Parliament House and the new one. As they gathered together around the candles they were led by a great variety of Christian leaders: Barry Chant, Bill Newman, Barbara McKay, Mal Garvin, Bishp Owen Dowling and many other leaders

In spite of the large crowd there was involvement of each person who attended through the medium of FM radio. Around the candles, throughout the night, the larger gathering frequently split up into smaller groups which meant each person in the group was able to pray his or her prayer. There were also the prayers of many thousands, who had written them following the Cooee marches in the various states, to be prayed at the opening of Parliament House.

—Barry Jenkins

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

•Continued from Page 9

Reviewing my own 38 years of full-time ministry from 1934 — 1972 my salaries ranged from £182 (\$364) to \$6,400. In 1937 one church made an unacceptable offer of £104 (\$208) p.a. At the time I was a married minister with two children.

Neville Aubry notes that ministers do not have a union. Quite so, but some states have Salaries and Allowances Committees which make recommendations for minister's salaries.

— Tom Weir
(Oakleigh, Vic.)

GOSPEL CELEBRATION

To the Editor,

I would like to commend the Conference of Churches of Christ for their excellent presentation of this year's Conference Gospel Celebration. Their choice of singing group "Glass Canoe", was in my opinion, excellent. The relevance of this group's music to the Australian culture, blended terrifically into our bicentenary celebrations.

At last I have been to a Conference Worship Service where the music has been relevant to those under 35! Perhaps if you keep this up, there will be more youth from our churches attending Conference.

I'm sorry to note that not everyone enjoyed "Glass Canoe" as much as my husband and I, as the decibel level kept many from understanding the words. However, I

feel that it is important if Churches of Christ are going to move ahead in the future, we need to keep pace with contemporary styles.

— Lee-Anne Henley
(Ocean Grove, Vic.)

CHURCH PLANTING

To the Editor,

Thank you to the Editor for your editorial in the issue of May 14.

It has been a source of amazement to me that we, as Churches of Christ, have, in the recent times, been so slow to realise that church planting is vital to church growth.

It is surely self-evident that if we do not move into new and growing areas then our members will link up with other groups when they settle in these areas.

To me it was a great encouragement to hear of new groups forming in various places around Victoria and of positive plans to move into other critical areas. I commend those who have taken the initiative in some of these exciting developments.

Obviously we do have a problem, though, when we have to be defensive on the floor of Conference in regard to these plans.

—A. Rackemann
(Croydon, Vic.)

The church should use all avenues possible to overcome the ignorance of Aboriginal issues among 90% of White Australia, according to Uniting Church Rev. Charles Harris, speaking at a press conference on the eve of the opening of Australia's new Parliament House.

Nursing Home Opened in Toowoomba

The Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department has opened a new 42-bed Nursing Home which replaces the former Mylo Nursing Home.

The new Nursing Home was dedicated by Don Cranston, Conference President and architect, and was opened by Barry Wight, the State Manager for the

Department of Community Services and Health in Brisbane. The Nursing Home, which has a pleasant decor (the work of Ken Stewart, Administrator, Toowoomba Region, Social Service Dept), complements the Independent Living units in the village.

The Nubeena Retirement Village is located in Middle Ridge,



The activities area, including kitchen, of the Nubeena Nursing Home

Toowoomba, near the site where the first Churches of Christ service was held by Stephen

Cheek in 1882. The name of the village commemorates that visit by Cheek, who ministered at Nubeena in Tasmania.

GROWING SPIRITUALLY

Evangelism

There is an elderly man somewhere who, although he is unaware of it, was used by God to teach me an important lesson about evangelism. One I pray I won't forget.

It was January and along with thousands of others I had been blessed in so many ways by being a part of "Celebrate '88". Superlatives to describe the atmosphere, teaching, worship, fellowship and sense of Christian celebration ran out as people shared with each other.

By the final evening rally I was thinking there was probably only one thing I'd have changed (apart from the heat wave!). And of course it was a change to suit my bias!

The convention consisted of teaching in the day sessions and an emphasis on evangelism in the public rallies at night. And although I greatly respected and admired the evangelist preaching on that final night I was thinking how much I would personally prefer to have had a teacher speaking. As I said, to suit my bias.

The call for commitment came and people from all over the huge building surged forward. But it was the elderly man, certainly in his eighties or nineties, being helped down that long aisle, who caught my eye.

The knowledge of the importance of a gifted evangelist preaching the message of salvation at such a gathering dealt me a spiritual rap over the knuckles. I had been bathed in teaching during the convention so I'd been wonderfully blessed. But what if the message of salvation hadn't been preached so powerfully that night?

Perhaps that man (a first decision? a rededication?) may never have accepted Jesus, or restored his relationship with him. As I repented of my selfishness I thought of Jesus' command—to spread the gospel throughout the world.

Evangelism—surely the life blood of God's people—and may we never forget it.

—Kaye Wray
(Owen, SA)

Ministers Theological Conference

On April 28 the Vic.-Tas. Ministers Association held their yearly Ministers Theological Conference at the College of the Bible.

The overall theme: "Ministry, particularly in Churches of Christ", stimulated much interest due to the presentation of Ian Allsop. Ian developed various aspects of ministry that are important as we continue to rediscover our identity and togetherness.

Helen Chapman raised various issues that have risen from her participation in the Minister to Ministers Scheme. A paper prepared by Peter Burnham was presented highlighting various concerns for ministry.

John U'Ren, the State Director of Scripture Union, provided issues for reflection concerning

broader issues of ministry in the Kingdom of God.

The Ministers Annual General Meeting elected the following members for their committee: Cheryl Johnson - President, Barry Jenkins - Vice-President, Nell Galbraith - Secretary, Graeme Rogerson - Treasurer, Peter Bradley, Wally Gibney, Ron White, Rod Brown.

The 1989 Ministers Camp will be held at the Monbulk Centre, May 8-10, with Rowland Croucher being the keynote speaker.

—Cheryl Johnson

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Marana Gardens

The Social Service Dept., Qld., has announced the commencement of a new retirement village by Churches of Christ on the Gold Coast. The new village, to be called Marana Gardens, will adjoin the present Golden Age Retirement Village.

Approval has been granted by the Federal Government for the building of a 50-room hostel in the new village. Design work has commenced and will seek to develop a homelike environment for the future residents of the village.

Not Forgotten

The theme chosen by the young people of 'New Gene' (Launceston, Tas), for the 7pm service on May 1, was 'For those who are not forgotten'. Those not forgotten are the senior members

of our church, members living at Prospect Court Retirement Village and other homes, as well as members who are over 80 years of age. They were entertained to tea at 5pm.

A.W. Stephenson Memorial Fund

A special library memorial fund has been opened by the NSW Theological College as a means of paying tribute to our former Principal Emeritus, A.W. Stephenson.

A Brotherhood memorial service was conducted to honour his life of service. Dr Keith Farmer, the present Principal, conducted the service and Roger Foletta, Harold Hayward and Don Smallbone assisted. Dr Farmer paid tribute to the gracious life, dedicated service and profound influence of A.W. Stephenson throughout our Australian Brother-

hood. The honour in which he was held was indicated by the large crowd which attended, there were many from interstate and also members of his family from overseas.

The family and the College Board felt a fitting way of showing our affection and appreciation would be to establish a library memorial fund. All donations should be sent to: A.W. Stephenson Library Memorial Fund, Churches of Christ Theological College, PO Box 140, Carlingford, NSW, 2118.



Mrs Byard

After the tea, prepared and served by the young people, there was singing of old favourites. Kylie Birtwhistle led the 7pm service in the church and Scott Dubbeld made presentations to Mrs Byard, 93, and Mr Bruce Annear, 91, our oldest members.

John Alderton paid a moving tribute to Aunt Iris (aunt to John and all young ones) and presented her with flowers. Lady Mollie Foot was interviewed by Natalie Hayes on her years of membership from the age of 13.

Collin Cripps (manager of Prospect Court) thanked Eileen Cumming, his secretary for six years. This position will be taken over by Margaret Howard. Jack Edwards has been jack-of-all-trades at Prospect Court for 11 years. Leonle Cripps expressed appreciation of his, and Mrs Edwards, contribution to the welfare of the residents for so long.

Gordon Stirling spoke on 'The best is yet to be' and a very happy service concluded with the singing of 'Great is Thy Faithfulness'.

P. Harrison

Conference Day in the West

Friday April 29 was the day appointed for the WA Women's Auxillary 83rd Conference. On a wet and windy day women gathered from around the state to celebrate. The flowers which had been done in yellow, gold and white, were a splash of sunshine. The President, Caryl Kilworth, graciously welcomed all, and Conference was under way. 220 were present. Less than expected from the country attended because of the rain.

Encouraging greetings, sent from interstate and locally, were read by the secretary, Norma Ellement.

During the morning session Des Croot, the new Mission and Extension Officer for Home Mission in WA, spoke to us, as did Frances Graham—Aborigines Mission; Rosalie Rofe—Overseas Mission; and Matron Jackle Rackham—Guest Homes. They all spoke to the reports as submitted by the various superintendents.

The position of president for 1988-89 is vacant. The theme for the year: 'God's Promises', helped all to remember that God has promised to supply all our needs. Past presidents will chair meetings through the year. Elsie Taylor has taken on the task of secretary.

A dramatised version of Waltzing Matilda was presented to celebrate the Bicentenary. Joyce Bolton presented Mrs Alexander Campbell and Mrs Thomas Campbell to those assembled to celebrate the 200 years of the Restoration movement.

Rosalie Rofe, from Papua New Guinea, brought the afternoon's program to a close with a stirring message, in which she urged us to remember that God works in new ways as well as in old ways.

—Norma Ellement

VISITING CANBERRA?

Stay with a Church Family

A number of Canberra church families offer accommodation in their homes at basic bed and breakfast rates to help raise funds for "Home Mission" extensions in the ACT.

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Department of Christian Union

The Department operates within a large area in the exciting task of helping to bring to fulfilment the prayer of our Lord Jesus, "that they all be one that the world may believe".

We are mindful of our heritage as we work with Christians from other communions who enrich and encourage us. We record appreciation of the contributions made by Dr W. Tabbernee (seven years), M. Dunn (five years) and D. Pallot (eight years) on the department.

Louis Cochran writes, in *The Fool of God*, that Alexander Campbell turned down an offer of a job with status and good salary with the words: "I expect to spend my life working for the unity of Christians. I feel that God has called me to that work ... I am too weak to turn aside even once." Later, Thomas Campbell tells Alexander, "The goal (to establish unity) may seem ever receding but history reveals that each attempt actually brings it closer to attainment."

The DCU stands with both these statements and calls upon each of the Churches of Christ to stand with them too, that the world may believe.

Churches of Christ and Councils of Churches

A clarification

Churches of Christ in Australia, themselves a loosely-knit body of autonomous local churches, is a member of the Australian Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches and the Christian Conference of Asia through the Federal Conference of our churches. Many local churches participate in inter-church councils. Not all, but some, State Conferences are members of State Councils of Churches.

These Councils follow the membership criteria of the World Council: "The World Council of Churches is a fellowship of churches which confess the

Lord Jesus as God and Saviour according to the scriptures, and therefore seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit." Over 400 churches are presently members.

Bodies such as Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons and Hare Krishna are not, and cannot be members of councils of churches such as the ACC and VCC. Neither can Buddhists, Hindus, Jews or Muslims, but meaningful dialogue is maintained with these latter bodies to explore issues of common purpose and genuine human development.

Springtime Seminars

In July 1987, at Hartwell, Vic., church, a successful seminar was held when three key speakers presented papers, led discussion and answered questions about the past, present and future of Churches of Christ. This related especially to the Australian scene. Later many spoke with pleasure about the event. Arising from the feedback a proposal is now being developed for a springtime seminar at Camberwell, Vic. Extension to other states is seen as an early next step.

Teaching of our Heritage

Prompted also by the good reactions to the Hartwell seminar, a survey of all affiliated Churches of Christ in Australia is being prepared to reveal the extent that teaching is being done, at present, of our heritage and reason for existing as a separate Christian church. The bicentenary of the birth of Alexander Campbell would seem to be an excellent year to do such a survey.

Membership within Churches of Christ

A study of 28 constitutions of Vic.-Tas. churches revealed a wide range of conditions for voting and leadership positions applying to Christians from other denominations who adopt that church as their spiritual home. Seven made no reference to Christians-in-fellowship. In the other 21, fourteen restrictions applied. The main six are: elder; voting on the distinctive witness of Churches of Christ; voting on constitutional matters; deacon; disposal of property and voting at elections.

The Department sees these responses as reflecting the

range of thinking within our churches on our understanding of church membership of those whom God regards as Christian. It also reflects on membership in Churches of Christ and poses the question as to whether there is a difference between Christian membership and Churches of Christ membership.

On this issue a discussion paper is before our State Executives and Christian Union Committees. We await response so that we can give leadership to those congregations who now face the issue, or may in the future.

Re-establishment of State Committees

Two states have recently re-established committees for inter-church understanding and state-to-state communication within Churches of Christ. South Australia now has an Ecumenical Affairs Committee and Queensland a Christian Unity Committee. Western Australia, Vic.-Tas. and the ACT Conferences have committees. At this stage New South Wales is the only state which has not established a Christian Unity Committee.

Conversations with the Uniting Church of Australia

In 1982 a report was published on discussions by these two churches about baptism and ministry. At the invitation of the UCA a working party of five from each church has been set up. Preliminary talks on the scope and agenda have been held. Six meetings are proposed over two years. Morning sessions will involve theological and theoretical issues, while the afternoon segments will 'earth' the thinking and ideas arising.

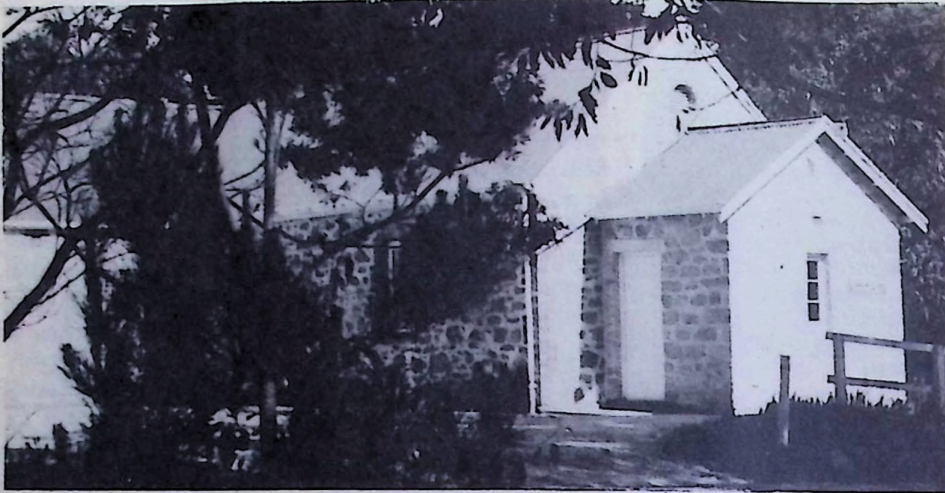
Ecumenical

When different communions work together on specific activities or joint worship experiences they are functioning ecumenically. This word derives from the Greek 'oikoumenikos' meaning 'the inhabited earth'. When Jesus directed his disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel, he was saying, in effect, "Be ecumenical in what you

do." Further, when we repeat the prayer which Jesus gave to his disciples saying, in part, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven", we just know that there is no division in heaven. Thus this prayer is telling us that there should be no division on earth. Truly, therefore, churches ought to act ecumenically.

Churches of Christ Department of Christian Union,
Secretary, David Allison,
25 Potter Street, Black Rock 3193.

Aldgate Valley Centenary Program



The Aldgate Valley, SA, church in the Adelaide Hills, often described as 'the church that is hard to find' by visiting speakers and 'the church in the wildwood' by visitors because of its unique, picturesque location, plans to make its presence felt this

year. 1988 is its centenary year and the main celebrations will be on September 10 and 11. Leading up to that date the church is launching many projects with an outreach perspective within the brotherhood and local commu-

nity. May 1 started things moving when minister John Gillmore launched a talent scheme, challenging church members to use their various talents to multiply \$10 notes given out in a 'reverse offering'. The target is to raise

\$1,000 to provide a well at Banmatmat in Vanuatu and \$1,000 to replace equipment in the Aborigines' Aged Hostel at Carnarvon.

Another project is to give \$2,000 as a special Temple Day gift for the new College of the Bible building. The local community has not been forgotten. The church plans to provide a feature rose garden for a newly opened Retirement Hostel nearby.

Church members are sorting out unnecessary articles in their homes to turn into cash in a big 'Bargain Bonanza', to boost centenary finances. The Valley church has been blessed over the years as its members and families have faithfully witnessed. We would like to hear from all past members and friends so that they can join in the celebrations in September. See the advertisement in this issue.

—R.T. Caudle

Bible Society Bike Marathon

Fifteen cyclists left Canberra on May 7 for a Round Australia Marathon to raise \$500,000 for the Bible Society's Aboriginal Support program.

The Bible Society is currently engaged in 19 Scripture translation projects among Aboriginal communities in Central and Northern Australia. The Aboriginal Support program includes literacy development, translation work and Scripture distribution.

There are seven Australian cyclists and eight riders from overseas on the pedal-powered odyssey lasting five months and covering 16,000 kms. Known by the code name "CYC-RAM



One of the cyclists, Sue Kennedy

'88", the project is endorsed by the Australian Bicentennial Authority and hosted by the Bible Society in Australia.

The cyclists, after travelling through Victoria in early May, will be in SA in late May, WA and

NT in June and July, Qld in August and early September, then NSW, ending in Canberra on October 8, where they will attend a civic reception at the new Parliament House.

Bushcraft Day



A group of boys from Werrilbee learning the skill of tent-pitching

Lysterfield Lake Park was the site for the Victorian Explorer Bushcraft Day on April 16. Leaders and boys from metropolitan clubs participated in a range of activities including canoeing,

billy boiling and a five-kilometre run. Werrilbee club won the total aggregate points for the day's activities. The program was under the direction of Explorer Chief, Russell Croxford.

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FEDERAL CONFERENCE Canberra January 1989 Electives and Workshops

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These and many other issues will be under discussion in the program of electives at Federal Conference in 1989. When registering for Conference—and now's the time to be doing that—you will be asked to select from these electives:

Creative Programs for the Local Church

Share practical, successful program ideas and obtain a manual of all the creative programs currently working in our churches.

Churches of Christ Strategy on National Issues

We lament many features of our society but what are we doing to influence its tone and shape? How can we, as Churches of Christ, make an impact on the nation?

Family in Australian Society

What is the typical family? How does the church cope with single parent families? What about ministry to those who are separated?

Church Members

Customers or staff?

Each of the electives will be conducted by church leaders with outstanding track records of service and achievement in the relevant areas. The electives promise to stimulate, encourage, educate and equip church members to be more effective as God's people in God's world.

Are you one of those practical people who see their commitment to Christ in terms of action? If so, the workshop program at Federal Conference is for you!

The workshops will be hands-on experiences, so when you complete your registration form (do it now) make sure you include your preference for:



Pat Kerr, Federal CWF President
Music

The use of music as a means of communication, especially to young people. We will look at all types of music and ways of presentation.

Drama

The use of drama, dance and mime to make worship more effective, and to communicate the gospel to people of all ages.

Banners

Making banners, using skills such as design, selection of materials, stitching and finishing; includes collage, stick-ons, threads and all sorts of materials.

Movement

Exploring and learning movement skills to enrich the church's worship life and communicate the gospel.

Experts in each area will lead the workshops and participants will be able to present the fruit of their workshop sessions to the full Conference, in worship and reflection. So come and join in this

Playing Basketball—More Than Sport

Experience the different cultures of the Philippines and Hong Kong; spend a month with basketballers; play before a crowd of 8,000; try to understand the poverty and primitive conditions in which people live; share your faith in Christ.

This has been the challenge for Australian Venture for Victory Basketball Teams who have shared in such a missionary tour.

Missionary Tom Randall writes: "We played 40 games in 23 days. We had typhoons, floods, two jeepney accidents, plenty of dysentery, sunburn and a lot of sore muscles. But we played in front of 47,000 and shared the love of Jesus Christ. 11,000 have taken the Bible course as a result."

Recently missionaries returned to the area where the team toured to do further follow-up assisting local pastors.

The Association of Bible Churches on the two islands want to plant churches from the Bible



studies started from the response of people at our games.

The Board is planning the 14th tour to South East Asia from December 26, 1988 to January 27, 1989. Strong basketballers who desire to share their Christian faith should make inquiries to Venture for Victory Board Secretary, Bruce Townsend, G.P.O. Box 1717, Adelaide 5001 or phone (08) 212 4611.

New Units for Fassifern Retirement Village

Dr Don Stewart, Executive Director of the Queensland Social Service Department, has announced that a start is to be made on the construction of a further five independent living units at Fassifern Retirement Village at Boonah.

When the units are completed the retirement village will have a 38-bed nursing home, 19 hostel

creative, wholly enjoyable activity and help inspire others through your special gifts and skills.

rooms and seven independent living units. Over the past five years the Regional Committee has been working to develop landscaping of the 13-acre campus for the village.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The Letters to the Editor limit is 200 words.

GOSPEL CELEBRATION

To the Editor,

We would like to protest about the so-called entertainment we were forced to listen to at the Conference Rally at Dallas Brooks Hall.

Why do we have to pay groups more suited to a hotel bar to come from Sydney to give us such a performance.

We had a talented orchestra and choir of young people who delighted us, under the expert leadership of Lyn Oliver; a wonderful address by Ian Corlett; and a most enjoyable segment on Alexander Campbell; only for the night to be ruined by the over-amplified ear-splitting sounds, the content of which did nothing to add to the atmosphere.

The ultimate in bad planning was to place such an item between the Bible reading and the address. Regretfully, in future we will stay away unless more suitable artists can be found.

—Russell and Betty Clinton
(Ivanhoe, Vic)

GOSPEL CELEBRATION

To the Editor,

What wonderful expressions of worship and celebration were the closing moments at the Victorian Conference Rally, with the congregational singing of Amazing Grace, and the passing of the peace!

And how we needed them!

It was a good thing it was impressed on us that our visiting guests were a Christian group. Were they there as entertainers, or to be part of our praise to God?

I strained to catch, above the cacophony, at least some words of their items that would challenge us, or be part of our worship and celebration. But I had to be content with the efforts of their excellent mime artist. However, the message was confused. No doubt the words would have helped me to decide.

Is it too much to ask that future Conference rallies bring us guest

artists or groups, not forgetting our own churches' talents, not to entertain, but either to challenge, or share with us in worship and celebration?

The thrust of the night's program was excellent. Many thanks to our soloist/song leader, and also to our young people for their earnest and promising contributions; not forgetting a different induction for our incoming President and the very challenging message from Ian Corlett.

May the Lord be worshipped in all we do.

—Dorothy Wood-Burgess
(Montrose, Vic)

GOSPEL CELEBRATION

To the Editor,

We respond to a number of telephone messages and letters we have received relating to the recent Vic-Tas Conference Gospel Celebration.

We are grateful for the many comments of encouragement eg, "The singing and the way in which it was led, the orchestra, the choir, the interviews with 'Alexander Campbell' and Gerald Rose, the induction of the President and the address of Ian Corlett all exhibited an air of excellence".

The negative comments centred on the musical group, and some we understand. Let us affirm that the three members of the group are fine Christian young men who use their talents to convey their commitment to Jesus Christ to audiences which the church never reaches. On this occasion they may have failed to adjust their presentation to a different audience, resulting in the sound problem which has been the major cause of concern. It must also be appreciated that the acoustics of any auditorium can be a problem when a group has not appeared there before.

There is a continuing dilemma on the part of those responsible for the arrangement to meet the expectations of a wide range of ages and emphases. The Conference Executive and the planning group will note all of the com-

ments made and take them into consideration in future planning.

To the large number of people who devoted their talents, time and skills in planning, rehearsing and presenting the service, the writers express their grateful appreciation.

—C.L. Ward (Past president)

—I.A. Tippett (Past secretary)

MISSIONARY FAMILIES

To the Editor,

I read with some concern the article by Jill and Roger Bawden ("A.C." March 26) prior to their return to Vanuatu.

Whilst I admire their willingness to sacrifice their family life for the purpose of preaching the gospel, I wonder at the wisdom of such decisions that missionaries have to make.

Over the years I have seen a number of children of missionary

parents who have been hurt emotionally by the situation in which they have found themselves.

I would like to see all missionary bodies seriously consider the families of missionaries in field placements and also consider the effect of splitting families.

I realize that my reaction is not backed by hard statistical evidence, but my experience leads me to believe that research would readily reveal the deleterious effects of absent parents and siblings.

—Joan Allan

(Dulwich-Rose Park, S.A.)

(This letter was written about a total situation and in no way did the author wish to criticise the Bawden family. — Editor).

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

Church People

To the Editor,

Bill was fuming. Not unusual for Bill.

Someone at the church had rubbed him up the wrong way. I tried in vain to comfort him. All he had to say was, "I get on better with the heathens at work than I do with that lot at the church!"

Come to think of it, I often find the people at work easier to get on with than some people at the church. That thought worried me a bit. Church people should be a whole lot better than pagans.

Then it dawned on me. I expect a lot more of church people than I do of the ones at work. If the people at work stop and help you, or show a little kindness, or give some indication that they think there may be a God, you get quite excited, because you don't expect it. But church people! You expect them to go a second and third mile. You expect them to be easy to get on with. You expect them to be radiant, believing paragons of virtue. They are Christians, aren't they? So if someone forgets to speak to you, or if someone is a bit tactless, or if someone is a bit hard to get on with, you get all uptight!

I talked to my wife about church people and the people at work. Her only comment was, "Comparisons are odious". I'm not sure what she meant, but I've got a hunch that in spite of the different expectations we have of them, the church people are just a cut above the others after all.

I must tell Bill.

—TERTIUS

YOU RESTORE OUR FAITH

To the Editor,

On behalf of all at Williamstown, Vic., church I thank the people who have financially supported our tea rooms and deli venture.

It has been a long frustrating journey but your response has restored our faith in our sense of togetherness.

Opening day on May 10 was nerve-racking, but we praise God for this new exciting experience.

Come to 124 Douglas Parade, Williamstown for a cuppa.

—Cheryl Johnson
(Williamstown, Vic.)

A PARABLE OF WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

To the Editor,

As I sat at the State conference listening to the debate on Aboriginal land rights, this vision came to me:

It is the year 2142, the bicentenary of the Japanese occupation of the great south land.

The annual conference of the Shinto faith is in session in the one-time christian cathedral in Kamikasi Street, New Nagisarki (formerly called Melbourne by the original occupants). Delegates debate whether to return the Imperial Cultural Centre at the northern end of the street, a one-time church of christ, to the remaining christians.

A delegate produces evidence that the Wacs (white anglo converts) are happy in the Shinto faith and against anything that would divide their people.

Meantime the christians gather on the banks of the Tokio River, at the dreaming place of their forefather, Batman, and pray to their god Jesus that their request will be granted.

—Bruce McIntosh
(Boronia, Vic.)

P.S. The non-use of capitals above is deliberate.

GOSPEL CELEBRATION

To the Editor,

I would like to voice my disapproval of the guest artists, Glass Canoe, who spoil a lovely night at Dallas Brooks Hall on May 1. Are

you trying to keep people away from these nights? The night was nothing but a lot of noise and certainly not fitting for such a solemn and reverent occasion of our changing over of Presidents.

The choir and band would have been lovely on their own.

I for one will not be attending another evening like this.

— G. Lindsey
(Karingal, Vic.)

PRAYERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

To the Editor,

It was a privilege to be in Canberra for the National Gathering on May 7, when upwards of 30,000 Christians shared in the 'march' on the new and the old buildings of Federal Parliament.

Despite the evident opulence of the new buildings I am sure that a new building was needed to replace older, leaking, outmoded one.

Prayers given to me on that day evidenced the concern and interest of young people of NSW in the affairs of our country. I pass them on as a series of prayers that may induce some action!

Dear God, my prayer is that there be no war and we all live in a peaceful world and that there is no famine.

Dear God, please help people in poorer countries than ours and I hope that we can raise enough money for them to have enough food ... and for the doctors to help stop the diseases the children and adults are dying from.

Dear God, please help people to stop 'doing' drugs and help get rid of AIDS. Help the bicentennial to be successful and fun, and

please stop crime.

—Bruce Burn
(Morwell, Vic.)

(Edited to fit the 200-word limit—Editor)

GOSPEL CELEBRATION

To the Editor,

The Conference program at the Dallas Brooks Hall on Sunday evening, May 1, reflects poorly on the organisers. The standard set by Ian Corlett was marred by the inappropriate items rendered by "Glass Canoe". I am sure that the reputation of Churches of Christ suffered badly from this unfortunate program.

May I suggest that Conference Executive take appropriate action to avoid any repeat of such an event.

— Ingrid Gilmour
(Gardiner, Vic.)

HOW MUCH ARE OUR MINISTERS WORTH?

To the Editor,

Referring to N. Aubry's letter ("A.C." April 16) I would like to make some observations.

By all means pay our ministers top salaries if and when our church congregations are able to do so.

•Continued on Page 2

MINISTERS' SEMINARS ON LEADERSHIP IN CHURCH GROWTH

Two top quality seminars led by international authorities in Church Growth leadership and consultancy will be held in Melbourne from July 5 — 8 inclusive...

* "How to Lead and Manage the Local Church"

July 5 & 6. Led by Drs. Eddie Gibbs and Carl George.

Costs: \$105 (\$95 before June 1st).

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Further details and registration forms from the Rev. John Connan, 26 High St., Frankston 3199. Phone (03) 783 3400, or Major David Perry, P.O. Box 1287K, Melbourne 3001. Phone (03) 698 7222.

Sponsored by the Aust. Fellowship for Church Growth

COME TO ANDREW'S INDUCTION



Andrew Ball, B.Sc. (Hons.) will be commissioned as a Field Director at his home church, Carnegie, on **Sunday, June 19** at 7 p.m. Your church is invited to be represented. Andrew will have responsibility for youth ministry.

DEPARTMENT OF MISSION,
EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT
52 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne, Vic. 3000

RECORDS

EIGHTY GOLDEN HYMNS

Hammar (CAS HAM 171) \$29.99

This is a five-cassette collection of traditional hymns, with a few newer songs included, performed by the Australian Boys Choir, Choir of Kings College Cambridge, Huddlesfield Choral Society, Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Cregagh Presbyterian Church Choir.

The selection of hymns would appeal to many. It's enjoyable listening, with the hymns being presented in the traditional style. There are many favourites amongst the selection and one or two less familiar to some listeners.

The presentation pack includes a sixth cassette, a head cleaner. The one fault with the layout of the information is that it is very difficult to read which choir is presenting each number. For the price, the quality is quite good, in our sample only one or two hiccups were noticed in the sound track.

This pack will probably be available through a special TV offer or major retailing outlets.

BOOKS

WHITHER ECUMENISM?

edited by Thomas Wieser (WCC Risk Book Series)

The book has a fitting subtitle: "A dialogue in the transit lounge of the ecumenical movement". It is an interpretive account of questions and responses provoked during a symposium on Cultures in Dialogue, held to honour Phillip Potter upon his retirement from the position of W.C.C. General Secretary in October 1984.

In addition to the discussion on Cultures in Dialogue, related themes handled at the symposium were: I. One Inhabited Earth which dealt with the rich North and poor South conflict (Australia and New Zealand being considered part of the North in this context); II. Towards a New Community, dealing with the new shape of relations between women and men in the church and community; and III. Action and Icon which looked at the oldest of the ecumenical issues, the Eastern and Western churches in conflict. This last is heavy going!

The overall message, so very well presented, is that within true Christianity progress towards union is possible across boundaries of culture, social status and worship styles. The openness and depth of the discussions is edifying and encouraging.

Commenting that a final report on a study of "Community of Women and Men" could have gone out with the Lima Document "B.E.M.", one woman said, "I see here a concrete sign of what it means to be women in the church. One so-called official report, high church, clerico-theological; the other: women playing theology but not accepted seriously, or patriarchally played down." (p.45). The point comes through that resolving this problem within the church will greatly assist moves towards church union.

This book is of great value in understanding the big ecumenical issues in the world today. Ecumenism is going on in great style and is indeed a Christian movement.

The Risk Book Series are available in Australia through the Australian Council of Churches, P.O. Box C199, Clarence St. P.O., Sydney 2000.

— D. Allison

JOURNEY WITH THE POOR

by Peter Philp (Collins Dove) \$9.95.

Peter Philp is Media Director for World Vision in Australia. In this book he relates some of the stories of oppressed people he has encountered on his visits to Latin America. Peter not only tells their story but also tells the story of the church (Roman Catholic, Baptist and others) who are fighting for justice and for a true understanding of what it means to be Christian. Peter also lets the reader see the way that his journeys and meetings with people have affected his life and his understanding of the Christian faith.

The blurb on the back of the book states well some of the emphasis that Peter Philp brings in this book: "Journey with the Poor" is the story of one man's developing understanding that Jesus' teaching extends far beyond the boundaries set by denominations, neighbourhood or even nation. Today, the world is our neighbour. To love our neighbour as ourselves means loving the poor, the disinherited, the oppressed and imprisoned — and not merely loving in an abstract way, but trying to change the conditions, the material circumstances which limit and oppress.

This book is not hard to read but it does certainly challenge the reader as to the way they see the Christian faith in action. An excellent book that gives a great understanding of the pressures on the caring churches and Christians of Latin America, an area of the world that we know very little about in Australia, especially the state and action of the church.

Peter reveals a great deal of himself in this book and I would highly recommend this to our readers.

— C.R.A.

THE WAY OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

by John H. Timmerman (Eerdmans) \$14.50

There are many books on the market concerning the gifts of the Spirit; but there are not so many describing the fruits of the Spirit which should exemplify the life of every Christian.

John Timmerman, in his study of the fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control—attempts to both understand the fruits of the Spirit in their biblical context and understand the relevance of these biblical fruits for everyday life.

The author demonstrates how the biblical view of the fruits of the Spirit gives contemporary guidance with examples from his own experience, even though some of the anecdotes appear to be a little lengthy and remote from the point.

The chapters are helpfully brief and reflective, concluding with questions and comments to stimulate personal or group study.

—G.R.M.



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When you were a heathen

—Graham Batley (Samban, PNG)

In 1 Cor 12:2 Paul reminded the Corinthians that during the times of their heathen days they had been led astray to dumb idols. You and I usually find that this verse has little value for us, so it is easily passed over. But the apostle's point was that if the Corinthian Christians were not properly informed on spiritual matters, it would be only too easy for their past thinking and practices to corrupt their present worship.

With this in mind, 116 pastors, church leaders and interested people met at Kekten for a workshop from 21-25 March. In all, people from 10 different churches in the area came. Leaders from Kaimbai church were attending such a function for the very first time!

People met together for four sessions per day; worshipped together, prayed for each other, and grappled objectively with the problems in their churches. During teaching sessions they were fascinated to discover just where traditional thinking has mingled with their Christian understanding.

For example, the customary 'big man' deliberately stayed

away from his wife and family as much as possible. Regular spouse contact was believed capable of destroying a variety of powers from the supernatural world. Without being conscious of the projection, many Christians here have assumed identical behaviour is necessary to retain God's power in their lives. Each day they gained fresh insights into where their culture has brought them.

Gaining an understanding and appreciation of their background then paved the way for them to reconsider what the Bible has to say to their situation. It was lovely to see the smiles as they began to recognise anew the generosity of God's teaching in many areas.

During the workshop some cramped uncomfortably into canvas, some made the long trek walking all day in the rain and sleeping overnight in the bush on the way. Others found a little money to buy benzine and come and go by outboard motor.

These pastors, church leaders and others have now returned to their various villages with a new task in hand. Please remember them in your prayers.

Unrest in Vanuatu

Worrying news came from Vanuatu recently when it was reported that there had been serious rioting in Vila on May 16, in which one man was killed. The Prime Minister, Walter Lini, requested riot gear from Australia to assist in controlling the situation.

We telephoned Wilson Wayback, the pastor of the Sarabetu

church, Vila. One concern had been that the Conference of the Churches of Christ in Vanuatu was being held in Vila this month. Wilson reported that Conference had ended on May 13. Most of the delegates from other islands had returned to their homes by ship or plane on May 14 and 15. Our Australian missionaries in Vanuatu were not directly affected by

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Himalayan Thigh Stretch

—Dooky Holstein (Herbertpur, India)

Seven metres of cloth in my long skirt, heavy silver buttons decorating my blouse, loopy earrings, a big scarf and strong shoes. "Am I expected to climb in all this gear?"

"It's easy", I was assured. "The hill women go up and down all the time dressed like that."

Did eighteen years in Maharashtra (on the plains) fit me for this? Walking, yes, but climbing? Already we had travelled two hours by jeep. After that there was no more road. The ascent now before us was to be on foot. The first village was perched above us, two thousand feet higher than we were at present. The second one, which we were to visit that day was a little beyond the first.

Conversation was rather spasmodic as we steadied ourselves by hanging onto the small trees around us, climbed over rocks, ever on and up following the narrow path which clung to the edge of the hill. My feelings varied between enjoying being out with this community health team, thinking it was pretty tough on the shoes, admiring the scenery—beautiful—and being scared stiff.

Did I not have reason to be scared? "We have to be careful here." "This is rather a bad patch." "If we slip here it's curtains!"

the rioting, as they were on other islands.

The Vila church members have not suffered unduly from the trouble, people stayed inside on Monday. Just as well, because all the windows in the main street of Vila were broken. One result is that there are now plenty of men in the "calaboose".

The causes seem to have been located and, hopefully, the situation will settle down. Our contribution to this process can be through prayer for the leaders of the country and for those who work to spread Christ's message of peace and justice in Vanuatu.

God's People -
God's World



Dooky Holstein

"This is landslide country, you know." Lord, I hope at least ten people are on their knees!

After another two hours we reached our first village. Everyone turned out to welcome us. The women were most excited. Usually the male members of the team visit their village. This time two of us were women. Cups of tea, friendly chatter, hundreds of questions, an opportunity to talk about the children and their nutrition. Then a warning to us that we should not leave before having a meal, which all and sundry were about to start preparing.

"Still another village after this and hopefully a meeting with their health committee if enough of them are sober." "Lots to get through today." "That tiny speck on the road below is our jeep. Somehow by evening we will climb into it and set off for home." "The meal preparation will take ages." All such thoughts passed through our minds as we settled down to wait for the food to be prepared.

What a privilege to be here with these delightful people! There will be more visits in the future enabling the cementing of friendships. They will come to trust us more. We will endeavour to meet their health needs. At least one of their women will be trained as a Village Health Worker. Yes, today we will take time. We will spend time in their village rejoicing that in God's great plan of things he would have it so. In this hill village, isolated and tucked away, Jesus would touch lives and bring them to himself.

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news..." (especially feet with worn-out shoes).

"Our goal is to wipe poverty housing off the face of the earth," says Habitat for Humanity's founder, Millard Fuller. 12 years and over 3,000 houses later, Habitat has brought that challenge to Australia. Currently in 19 countries, volunteers are building low-cost, no-interest housing for the poor at the rate of about 4 a day in an effort to meet Habitat's goal of eliminating poverty housing. To qualify, families have to earn enough to make the small monthly payments, and they are required to invest several hundred hours of 'sweat equity' into the construction of their own home and that of another Habitat project. By 1996 Fuller expects Habitat to be operating in over 2,000 cities and 60 countries.

With one phone call to Sydney's Wesley Central Mission in 1963 a unique Australian enterprise was born. This skilled 24-hour telephone counselling service has grown to embrace 223 centres in 12 countries—taking over 3,000,000 calls a year and staffed by 25,000 trained volunteers. In 1987 over 377,000 Australians have reached out to Life Line for someone to stand with them in their hour of crisis.

At the Winter Olympics in Calgary during March 1988, the easy winners were the Christians. There 1,500 international competitors, 2,500 photographers, reporters and media representatives joined with 5,000 full-time Christian witnesses. In the 30 degree below freezing temperature at the top of the mountains, nothing was more welcome than the sight of a Christian dispensing free hot chocolate. In Edmonton and Calgary more than 200,000 copies of newspapers on the Christian message were given to citizens, 400,000 tracts, and

58,000 New Testaments in foreign languages were distributed.

Australia's first Aboriginal studies course available for students from beginners to Year 12 was launched in South Australia early this month. The new course for primary and secondary students will highlight the social and spiritual lives of the Aboriginal peoples of today and the past rather than emphasising "spears and boomerangs".

Because of the confusion and curfews caused by the coups in Fiji, SU activities such as camps and evangelistic rallies have temporarily ceased. However, SU groups are continuing to grow in schools.

Two of our Victorian churches, Berwick and Dandenong, were featured in the May-July SU News. The stories reported the way they have used, and encouraged the use of, SU materials. Liz Smith at Berwick was concerned to promote personal daily Bible readings amongst children. She took a segment at a morning service, introducing the materials by means of a Treasure hunt. At Dandenong a QUEST club has commenced and, during sermon time, the children discuss what they have been reading during the week.

More relief assistance is needed from aid agencies to deal with increasing numbers of Sudanese refugees fleeing into Ethiopia. The Ethiopian government claims there are at least 266,000 Sudanese refugees in 4 camps in the Gambela region of southwest Ethiopia. Over the past 3 months alone, more than 30,300 have walked into Ethiopia from southern Sudan, to escape civil war and starvation and most of the refugees are believed to be severely malnourished.

A massive campaign against meningitis in Chad appears to be having some success, with authorities saying the number of cases reported has decreased.

Two years after they were first detected, desert locusts still threaten parts of Africa, the Middle East, the Indian sub-continent and even parts of southern Europe. A report released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization says the current infestation by the desert locusts could become the biggest locust plague for 100 years. Director-general of the FAO, Edouard Saouma, says fighting the locusts is "almost a superhuman task" and he says "swift and decisive action is needed to avoid a major regional food crisis later this year".

Hungary's Prime Minister recently met with Christian and Jewish religious leaders to discuss the growing problem of refugees from Romania. There are now officially 10,000 refugees in Hungary, although many reports say the real number could be up to 10 times higher. The Romanian government has been exerting increasing pressure during recent years on its ethnic Hungarian minority in Transylvania, triggering the flow of refugees from one socialist country to another.

A demonstration in Manila backed by the city's Archbishop, Cardinal Sin, has called on the Congress of the Philippines to enact a land reform bill. Almost 3,000 took part in the march, which culminated in a Mass where another senior clergyman, Bishop Teodoro Bacani, told the congregation it was the first time the church had lobbied Congress for a specific piece of social legislation.

The Catholic church in Cuba has recently received permission from the government to import 30,000 Bibles and to bring in 20 missionary priests from Spain and Italy. Secretary to the Cuban Bishops' Conference, Monsignor Manuel de Cespedes, has mentioned these changes as evidence of an improvement in church-state relations. Cuba has some 400 Catholic priests in a country with a population of almost 10 million.

A study by the Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research at Melbourne University recently put the poverty line at \$285.20 a week for a single income family of two adults and two children, including housing costs.

In a highly unusual encounter, Patriarch Pimen and five other leading hierarchs of the Russian (Eastern) Orthodox Church met, in Moscow in April, for two hours with the Soviet Communist Party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. The last such publicised meeting between the country's top church and state leaders involved Josef Stalin and three hierarchs in 1943. Soviet TV showed a report of the meeting at the beginning of its main evening news program. The country's newspapers carried prominent reports. Gorbachev said Soviet policy on religion must assure the church's right to "carry out its activity without any outside interference".

"The earth is soaked with the tears and blood of the former and present generations", said Namibian Lutheran theologian Zephaniah Kameeta in a testimony that held the attention of a packed hearing room in Washington, USA. Kameeta was one of the witnesses during 3 days of hearings on Namibia sponsored by the World Council of Churches.

South Africa's control of the former German colony was decreed again and again by witnesses during the hearing. "If we should be silent, even the stones of Namibia would start shouting", said Kameeta, alluding to the attempts of the South African government to keep Namibians from revealing conditions in the mineral-rich land.

Although some Jews criticise Israel severely for its handling of the Palestinian uprising, and many take issue with Israeli tactics in the current turmoil, the Jewish community on the whole insists that the basic problem remains the refusal of Arab countries, except Egypt, to accept the existence of Israel. They argue that any analysis of Middle East violence errs if it highlights the "disproportionate and often brutal" action of the Israeli military, and does not call attention to Arab responsibility for the plight of the Palestinians. Critics of Israel in the churches, however, argue that the basic problem is Israeli refusal to recognise the rights of the Palestinians. So these critics see Israel's shooting and beating of the Palestinians not as the desperate necessities of Israeli security, but as outrageous attempts to suppress the legitimate Palestinian struggle for self-determination.

The Roman Catholic bishops of Sri Lanka have issued a pastoral letter calling for peaceful coexistence among the island's various ethnic and religious groups. The bishops say they "cannot remain silent in the atmosphere of violence and hate, fear and suspicion, and political confusion" currently existing in the country.

**RECOMMEND
THE
CHRISTIAN**

Informing Children about Mission

SUSAN AND ASNET— STORY OF VANUATU

Susan is very excited. She and her parents are going to a country called Vanuatu to help build a new school and church. They are to live on Tanna Island, one of the islands that make up Vanuatu. They only have one school there which was started by two Churches of Christ Pastors. There are so many people that one school is not enough. Susan's mother is a teacher and her father is a builder so they will be a great help to the people.

They have had many things to do before they can leave. Susan and her parents have had to learn Bislama, a pidgin language spoken in Vanuatu. The people also speak English and French—but Bislama will be more helpful in communicating with them. Susan has read all she can find about Vanuatu. She found that

there are about 80 islands and the population is around 120,000, about as many people as in Newcastle in New South Wales. There are many villages in Vanuatu but only two main towns: Port Vila, the capital, and Luganville, which is very different from Australia.

After only a short flight, about 8 hours from Sydney, Susan and her parents land in Port Vila. They can catch a light plane to Tanna Island. A large crowd of villagers come to greet them. Susan looks around at all the brown faces and dark curly hair, so different to the people at home. But they are all smiling and happy so she immediately likes them. The men and boys are wearing Tahitis and jeans and shorts and the women and girls are wearing brightly coloured dresses. Susan feels the odd one out with her blonde hair and blue eyes.



A large crowd of villagers came to greet them.

The Federal Board of Christian Education has just published a two-lesson study for children on Churches of Christ missionary work. This material is designed to give the children of our Sunday Schools and Clubs an understanding of our missionary work in Vanuatu and of the biblical missionary challenge.

It has been many years since we have had Sunday School material produced by, and for, the Churches of Christ. This project is

not intended to replace the material currently used in our churches, but rather to supplement it by providing specific lessons about our work which is not covered in other curricula.

Called "Susan and Asnet - Story of Vanuatu" it is designed to be used with children principally in the age group 8-11 years, although it could easily be adapted for younger or older children. It is suitable for use in Sunday Schools, Girls' and

Boys' Clubs, Brigades and mid-week after school activities groups. The material comes in two parts: a four-page teacher's guide and an eight-page student's booklet.

The lessons, written by Jadle Hyman from material provided by Julie Trinnick, are easy to follow and will give students who use them a solid basic understanding of our overseas missionary work. They are interesting, and the graphics work by Malcolm Salmon makes them visually stimulating. The teacher's notes are easy to use and designed to take a lot of the pain out of preparation.

The four-page illustrated story in the student's book is about Susan, a young girl who travels to Vanuatu with her parents, and Asnet, a Ni-Vanuatu girl. Susan's parents are missionaries who are constructing a new school and church on Tanna Island. As the children read the story they will learn about life in Vanuatu, the roles of Churches of Christ missionaries and the tension between the Christian faith and native religion. The four-page activity sheet consists of maps, research exercises, puzzles, Bible readings and colouring exercises.

In the teacher's notes those presenting the lessons will find a statement of the purpose of the lessons, background material on Vanuatu and the work of the Churches of Christ there, together with a list of further references. They will also find lesson plans for two lessons. The lesson plans are arranged under the headings: Objectives, Materials Needed, Method (a step-by-step guide to presenting the lesson), Activity and Results.

All teachers will find this well-written and attractively presented material easy to use and very educational. "Susan and Asnet - Story of Vanuatu" would be an excellent resource to use in the general children's education program or as part of a special educational focus on Churches of Christ missionary work.

"Susan and Asnet - Story of Vanuatu" is available now from the Federal Board of Christian Education, 52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne, 3000. Phone: (03) 662 2377. The student's booklets are 95¢ each, one set of teacher's notes is included, free, with every set of 12 children's booklets ordered (postage extra).

MY PART IN GOD'S MISSION?

is the theme chosen for
**THE 17TH ANNUAL
MISSIONARY CONVENTION**
of the
**SWANSTON STREET CHURCH OF
CHRIST, MELBOURNE**

Friday	June 3rd	7.30 p.m.
	"The Great Re-mission"	
Saturday	June 4th	7.30 p.m.
	"The Great Com-mission"	
Sunday	June 5th	9 & 11 a.m.
	"The Great O-mission"	
Sunday	June 5th	7.00 p.m.
	"The Great Sub-mission"	

This year's guest preacher will be
DAVID BROOK

The Regional Director for Australia of T.E.A.M.
Please come and share with us.

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 Rittmeyer (075) 32.5660

COME AND WORSHIP WITH US IN OUR NEW COMPLEX



Bethesda Hospital

Bethesda Hospital is a registered 77 bed private hospital that comes under the auspices of Churches of Christ in Western Australia. Bethesda was established by Matron Beryl Hill after she became inspired to establish a Christian Hospital within the vicinity of Perth. It traces its roots to January 1, 1943.

The "Daily News" reported on the origins of Bethesda:

"Said to be the first of its kind in the State, Bethesda Hospital in Subiaco combines spiritual with physical healing.

It is in the charge of Matron Beryl G. Hill, who originated the idea of including spiritual healing as part of the patient's treatment.

She had no funds but, with the co-operation of Sister Murray of the Mt. Margaret Naive Mission, and interested friends, she took over St Andrew's Private Hospital on the 1st January last."

Matron Hill was a member of the Subiaco, W.A., church and asked the current minister Roy Raymond about joining an inter-denominational management committee. It was then decided that it would be preferable to be linked with one denomination and

in 1944 Bethesda Hospital was incorporated. Its constitution clearly states that it is operating under the auspices of the Churches of Christ in W.A. (Inc.).

Very early on the name was changed from "St. Andrew's" to "Bethesda" meaning "House of Mercy".

Over a period of years the original "Lucknow" residence in Claremont overlooking the picturesque Swan River has been converted into a hospital. Since 1945 the property has undergone four major renovations and Le Donaldson, the Administrator, is fully engaged in preparing for a major \$8.2 million extension program that will take some 18 months to complete.

The new alterations will give Bethesda a total of 62 beds to be administered from two nursing units. Each room will have magnificent views of the river and will have their its bathroom attached. The rooms will be single occupant rooms. As well the hospital will also be equipped with six day beds for minor surgery cases. This is an increasing need for many surgical procedures. Many funds are now only allowing day surgery reimbursements for various surgical procedures.

The major renovations to Bethesda, will provide new operating theatres, a new administration area, a physiotherapy room, and five consultants suites, to be let out to surgeons. Management structures are also being streamlined and provision is being made to gain more medical expertise at the highest levels.

Bethesda is a large establishment with 120 on the staff in either full-time or part-time positions. The staffing load is the equivalent of 93 full-time positions and is the only private medical and surgical hospital linked in any way with our churches. At present about one third of patients are medical patients and two thirds are surgical patients.

The original aim of Bethesda being a hospital that provides both spiritual and physical healing is still adhered to. Over the years there have been several ministers who have been chaplains to the

hospital with Allan Morris currently fulfilling this role. A chapel is available in the grounds and is open during the day for patients and staff to have private prayer and meditation. It is hoped to see an increase in the chaplain's role as a part of the medical caring team. However as it is a private hospital with each patient under the care of his/her own doctor, he decides to include the chaplain in the rehabilitation process.

Since the commencement of the hospital there has been a daily

devotional broadcast on the headsets at each bed. As well attractive scripture portions are given to each patient with their breakfast tray. These have been very well received.

Currently the Director of Nursing is Joyce Brown.

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Messages on Israel

Packed attendances recently shared in a mini-series of three sermons on Israel's Past, Present and Future, preached by the senior minister of the Swanston St, Vic., church, Allan Webb.

These three sermons 'A Nation Born in a Day', 'The Uniqueness of Israel' and 'The Russian Invasion of Israel' are available on tape at a cost of \$8.50 for the set of three.

An extensive range of other tapes including expository series of various books, series on Islam, The Church, The Holy Spirit etc., are also available on request through the church office: 194-196 Little Lonsdale St, Mel-

bourne 3000. Phone: (03) 663 3884.

SWANSTON ST (A. L. Webb, A. Baker, P. Wakeley). Communicant averages highest for several years (434 during April) ... 43 new members this year ... Packed attendances for mini-series on Israel's Past, Present & Future ... Intensive preparations for this year's 17th Annual Missionary Convention, preacher: David Brook (TEAM) ... Five members expected to be added to missionary family ... Negotiations proceeding concerning future of church on present site; \$800 million development surrounding the church proceeding.

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ENGAGEMENTS

BURRELL — WING-TANG Ron and Rowan with Peter and Margaret announce with great joy the engagement of their children, Fiona and Michael. May they know God's continuing blessings as they walk in His way.

DEATHS

DEANE Dorothy Grace. Peacefully aged 94 years on May 16th. Dearly loved wife of the late Frederick Stanley. Loving mother and mother-in-law of Stan and Elsie, Dorothy and Frank (Halls), Marjorie and Ray (Job) and Terry. Fond Grandma and Nannie to her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Loved and cared for by all her family. Beautiful memories to keep her close to us always.

EDMUNDS, Cyril Roy. At LGH Sunday, May 1, 1988. Loved and loving husband of Kath (11 Sadler St., Mowbray Heights, Launceston, Tas. 7248). Loved father and father-in-law of Lois (dec.), Colleen and Chris Peart, Maurice and Marlene. Loved grandfather of Darryl and Helen, Leonie and Joe, Jeanette, Karen, Anthony. In his 83rd year. *Resting in the everlasting arms.*

MITCHELL, Elsie, of Shepparton. Passed away 21.3.88 aged 84 years. Loved mother of Zoe, Norma (dec.), June, Lurine, Roberta Forrest and Kay Weiland (Shepp.).

WANTED TO RENT

SYDNEY Churches of Christ Bible College student, to be married in July, requires accommodation until November. Student at Burwood Church of Christ, N.S.W. Up to \$100 per week. Ring Richard Brown (02) 630 6230.

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June 29th to July 1st...2.00-9.30pm; July 2nd...9.30-5.30pm

Westgate Baptist, 16 High Street, Yarraville

Co-ordinator: Rev Ken Luscombe, Urban Baptist Coalition

2. Developing a plan for ministry in the city

How to reach the city and the use of strategies of networking, community organization and evangelism and social action.

July 6th to 8th...2.00-9.30pm; 9th...9.30-5.30pm

94 Hodgkinson Street, Clifton Hill

Co-ordinator: Mrs Ruth Sampson, Pastor, Box Hill Baptist

Two Seminars in August 1988

Dr Paul Hiebert, Professor of Anthropology and South Asian Studies, Fuller Theological Seminary. A world renowned lecturer in practical anthropology, contextualization and urban mission.

1. Anthropology for Cross-cultural Mission

August 23rd to 26th...2.00-9.30pm; 27th...9.30-5.30pm

High Street Road Uniting Church, Mt Waverley

Co-ordinator: Mr Doug McConnell, Director of APCM

2. Dynamic factors in Church Growth

Issues that limit the penetration of the Good News in Modern Secular society.

August 30th to September 2nd...2.00-9.30pm; 3rd...9.30-5.30pm

Doncaster Church of Christ, 2 Short Street, Doncaster

Co-ordinator: Mr Geoff Renner, World Vision

A Seminar in August 1988

Dr Thorwald Lorenzen, Professor of Systematic Theology and Ethics, Baptist Theological College, Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

1. Christian perspectives on Human Rights

A seminar that will underscore the theological and Biblical basis for those concerned about the ministry of justice.

August Fri 12th...6.30-9.30pm; Sat 13th and 20th...9.30-5.00pm; Sun 14th and 21st...2.00-5.00pm;

Wed 17th...2.00-5.00pm

Malvern Holy Advent Anglican Church, St Georges Road, Armadale.

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word

ALVES, James Geoffrey

(1.5.88) Jim Alves was born on June 27, 1917. At the age of nine he attended the first meeting of the North Essendon, Vic., church Sunday School beginning a lifetime of service to his church and to others. In 1941 he married Alice Forster and they had three sons—Geoff, Robert and Ian (now minister at Chatswood). Jim started work with Sidney Cooke, but after the war he became a grocer in Strathmore. In the North Essendon church Jim served as a deacon, Sunday School teacher and youth club leader and was a valued player in the tennis club. When North Essendon commenced an outreach at Keilor East, the Alves family involved themselves in the work there, and Jim was the chairman of the committee of management. On retirement Jim and Alice went to live in Pambula, NSW, and Jim soon became involved in the community and in the Pambula Uniting Church. A kind and practical man at work, at home and in his church, Jim Alves will be remembered for his good humour and a very active life of friendship to others.

—G.T.A.

ARMSTRONG, Frank

(6.2.88) Born 1935, died in a car accident as they were starting out for a holiday. 12 years a member at Merredin, WA. His children's attendance at Sunday School and his strong sense of family led him to join the church. A railway worker for 35 years. A community-minded person, he joined St John's Ambulance, becoming a qualified instructor and on regular call duty as a driver. He enriched our lives in many ways. Cremated in Fremantle—D. Good officiating. The Merredin church was filled with his friends and workmates at a memorial service. Our love and prayers are with Lill, Robin, Lyndsay, and Peter. Lill is still recovering from her injuries received.

—A. West

ATKINSON, Anne Elizabeth Marguerite (30.4.88). Anne died aged 85. She was the eldest of six, raised in the Seventh Day Adventist church. When she was 18 her mother died and for the next five years she took a lot of responsibility for the rest of the family. Her first marriage took place in 1925 to Stan Wooders. An active member of the Harvey, WA, church, she taught Sunday School, was treasurer of Ladies' Guild. Anne and Stan had two children: Eugene and Shirley. At Mandurah Anne taught Sunday School until she was 75. She was a keen student of the Bible. She also played the organ. In 1982 she was married to Ted. All through her life Anne loved the church.

—Roger Ryall

FORDHAM, Stanley Montague

Born at North Melbourne in 1906, baptised in 1920. His partnership with Ruby lasted 51 years and formed a dual discipleship. They were at the Moreland, Vic., church for 12 years and Stan became a

deacon. At Oakleigh, Vic., church Stan served as deacon and elder during a period of 37 years. He cared for church property, helped where needed and used his car and workshop generously. Stan and Ruby's home was opened for church gatherings and hospitality. We will miss and mourn him. Sympathy to Ruby, Joy, Bovane and Rigby (South Africa), Glenys and Bob, Julie and Deanna.

—L.S. Dewberry

HANDASYDE Helen Frances (Nellie)

(17.4.88). Nellie was born at Gordon, 1897. She served for many years at Bayswater, Vic, church as SS teacher and organist. In 1923 Nellie married Gilbert. She supported her husband in community affairs, was actively involved in Save the Children Fund and CWA, as well as raising a family of one daughter, Lucy (Milne), and five sons: Gilbert, Robert, Ted, Don and Russell. She had 21 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren. Nellie moved to Boronia, becoming a well-loved member of the church and Day Care. Iris Lawson and Keith Milne led a Thanksgiving service; family members participated; many people paid tribute to a quiet and gracious Christian lady.

—K.R.M.

LEACH, Margaret

Wife of Jack (dec.), mother of Beverley, Helen, step-mother of Robin, Athol, Juliet and Dallas. Margaret was born at Waite, Vic., in 1915 and lived in various places around the Mallee. She became a Christian at a Hinrichsen mission in Bendigo. Margaret's first husband, Reg, died in 1951. In 1957 she married Jack. The two families blended well under Margaret's loving care. The church at Swan Hill has benefited enormously from Margaret's servanthood in many ways. Margaret's courage, commitment and faith in God ought to be acknowledged. Her own families and our church family deeply miss her.

—L.J. Mayes

LEACH, Jack

Husband of Margaret (dec.), father of Robin, Athol, Juliet, Dallas, step-father of Beverley and Helen. Jack was born at Ultima, Vic., in 1913. He worked mostly on the family property. Jack married Marion in 1941 and became involved in the Ultima church, especially youth ministry. Marion died in 1954. In 1957 Jack moved into Swan Hill and married Margaret. Jack was involved in the Swan Hill and Woorinen churches in many capacities. In 1973 Jack contracted encephalitis and received love and support from Margaret which helped him to pull through. Jack's faith in God was always evident throughout his troubled final years.

—L.J. Mayes

McWILLIAMS, Betty

(23.3.88) At a thanksgiving service held at the Mildura, Vic, church, March 25, 270 gathered to pay tribute to Betty. From an early age she was associated with this church. She served many years as teacher and deaconess, a singer and

organiser with 'Kaleidoscope'. Betty was an encourager, unselfish in her dealings with others, gentle and kind, giving of herself to her family, church and Lord. We give thanks to God for the privilege of knowing Betty and sharing our lives with her. Through Betty's life, her suffering and death, we have been drawn closer to the Saviour whom she loved and served.

—David Ratten

ROBERTSON, Fred

Loving husband of Clarice (dec.). Father of Keith and Judy. Fred was born in 1907 in England. He migrated in 1925 to WA. After serving in the army he married Clarice in 1942 in Melbourne. Fred was deeply involved in the church at Pascoe Vale. Later they became foundation members at Strathmore. On retirement Fred and Clarice moved to Swan Hill where they became involved in service. About a year before Fred's death, Clarice discovered she had motor neurone dis-

ease. Fred's love and devotion during the next year was sacrificial. Only 12 weeks after Clarice died Fred joined her.

—L.J. Mayes

WHYATT, Dorrie E. (Doss)

Born in 1911, baptised at 10 years; attended Mile End, SA. Married Clarie in 1934. They attended Kadina, Unley, Colonel Light Gardens, where Dorrie served as teacher and secretary of Ladies' Guild. Later attended Grote St, her childhood church. For 20 years she suffered increasingly from rheumatoid arthritis, demonstrating her faith by her life in the face of adversity. When Clarie died she moved to the Home at Joslin. She lives on in her children: David, Lyle, Bruce and Ruth, and their contributions to church life. They, with their respective spouses: Margaret, Jeanette, Alison and David, and the eleven grandchildren are assured of our prayers.

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Vic-Tas Conference

The 1988 Vic-Tas Conference began with the 102nd CWF Conference on April 28 (see report this issue). The CWF continues its significant financial support of conference departments.

New Churches

The business sessions were conducted on April 29 and 30. Clive Ward presided and expressed the importance of our churches continuing to move forward together with Christ. A feature of the first session was the affiliation of Howrah, Tas, Numurkah and St Kilda, Vic, churches. The church at St Kilda has been recommenced in the old church property under the guidance of Prahran church, and regularly has 60 people meeting for services on Sunday evenings.

E.L. Williams

The address 'Who? Where? Why? A Bicentennial Focus' was presented by Principal Emeritus, E.L. Williams. The address encouraged our churches to reaffirm our commitment to unity in this the bicentenary of the birth of Alexander Campbell. A fitting response to the address and the man was a standing ovation by Conference.

Present representatives of the Explorers and Good Companions were interviewed by Brian White as they celebrate the jubilee of the two movements. Past chiefs Rita Roberts, Perc Foster, Lyndsay Smith and Les Stewart were in attendance and acknowledged.

During conference a number of departments and groups not reporting were introduced through

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Recognition

Copies of the scriptures were presented to Ron Strongman for his 46 years service to the Department of Community Care and to Ray Brough for 22 years as Assistant Secretary of Conference.

The Social Questions Committee called on Conference to take responsibility within the land, alerting us to the needs of the original dwellers, the new settlers and the dispossessed.

Worship segments were led by Marjorie Buckingham, Glynthea Finger and the members of the Noble Park church. Incoming President, Gerald Rose, commented on the Committee of Review that has been established. At Conference 1989 it is hoped to present a report outlining an administrative structure for discussion.

New President

At the Saturday evening session Gerald Rose was introduced as the new president for 1988-89. He thanked Clive Ward for his year of service and for his continuing work as secretary.

Reports were received from a number of departments who also focussed attention on some aspects of their work. The Properties Corporation and Department of Mission, Education and Development introduced a joint proposal for new church development; C.R.O.P., Church Reach Out Plan, is a long-term plan to develop new churches and redevelop some present congregations which will have significant impact upon the conference into the year 2000.

Resolutions

The following resolutions were presented and carried by Conference:

Equality: "On the basis of the unifying principles of the New Testament faith, this Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria-Tasmania affirms the equality of all persons in the life of the Church with regard to our salvation, our kinship and our inheritance in Christ, and calls on all groups in Churches of Christ to:—recognise the potential of all

persons regardless of sex, race, colour or class,

—be sensitive to people and races who feel excluded."

Unity of All Christians: "In recognition that 1988 is the bicentenary of the birth of Alexander Campbell, member churches of this Conference and members individually are asked to recommit themselves to the call for reformation of Christ's Church and the unity of all Christians on the basis of the New Testament."

Emphasising our Heritage: "Each Church of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania is asked, as a sign of recommitment to the call for reformation of Christ's Church and unity of all Christians, to include in its 1988-89 program studies of our heritage and plans for special activities as a particu-

lar Church of Christ in its local community."

Gospel Celebration

2000 gathered in Dallas Brooks Hall for the closing celebration of Conference on Sunday, May 1. The theme 'People with a Vision' was background to a visit from Alexander Campbell and the induction of Gerald Rose as president. An orchestra led by Geoff and Lyn Oliver, Berwick, represented 12 of our churches. Compered by Malcolm Gray and produced by George Mallaby, the evening was an occasion of joy and celebration. Ian Corlett shared his vision for the church in the future. His address called us to new repentance, new trust in the authority of scripture and an acceptance of new standards of living and concern for others.

Department News

The Vic-Tas Aborigines' Mission Department has the following office-bearers: A. Carr-Chairman, B. Alcorn-Assistant Chairman, H. Taylor-Secretary, M. Anderson-Treasurer, K. McGregor-Project/Maintenance

Convenor, R. Clinton-Deputation Convenor, L. Fisher-Field Officer.

Visiting speakers for deputation to morning services can be arranged. Contact the secretary on (03) 773 2728.

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VIC

EASTERN SUBURBAN REGIONAL CHURCH

SURREY HILLS/WATTLE PARK (Milton Oliver). May evening regional gospel service held here, theme: 'It's Time' ... Several members of congregation have presented sermonettes at evening services ... Julie Adam, second year theological student, preached ... Eldership meeting weekly, have set Outreach, Pastoral Care & Spiritual Growth goals ... Youth group, Explorers & Good Companions are all growing ... Members meeting weekly for prayer ... Jean Sneddon dislocated her shoulder, is improving ... Small groups to commence for winter.

CAMBERWELL (Milton Oliver, Viney Longthorp). Lance & Enid Fisher departed for a family reunion in the USA last Sunday ... The distribution of the Bicentenary Bibles is proceeding smoothly—and widely ... Dot Reynolds continues to be unwell, but latest reports are encouraging. **BALWYN (Graham Woodward).** The congregation wondered—a clown in the middle of the sermon—the first monthly Inter-generational Service was drawing to a close ... The next day children were entranced as 'Wowie' participated in the first weekly 'Ozzie Kids' Klub' program. Attendances have been encouraging ... Friendship Hour

people, plus other church members have been spending time travelling throughout Gippsland & the Healesville Sanctuary. **ASHBURTON (Ken Barton).** Church combined with Uniting Church for Good Friday service ... Regional youth group met at Ashburton first term ... Harvest Thanksgiving: help given to Alamein Community Flats, COB & Dept of Community Care ... Visiting speakers Julie Trinnick & Graeme Chapman ... Tennis team premiers of their section of VBCCTA South District Competition ... CWF entertained Gardiner ladies with display of 'Treasure of Time'.

HARTWELL (Graeme Rogerson). Family service on Palm Sunday followed by hot cross bun morning tea ... Three large crosses on church lawn attracted passers-by ... Letter-box drop brought neighbourhood families to special services ... Easter Sunday luncheon, proceeds to COB ... Church team involved in 'Operation Good News '88', responses encouraging ... Harvest thanksgiving: goods to College & Dept of Community Care ... 110 enjoyed Friendship Group program & fellowship.

OAKLEIGH (L.S. Dewberry). Church saddened by death of Stan Fordham ... Frank Hodges readmitted to hospital ... Play group held successful Tupperware party ... CWF tendered farewell to Vi Brown who has moved to Queensland & will be greatly missed ... Margaret Sharman spoke at morning service after conducting special BS service ... Harvest festival service held. Proceeds given to Homes & Bible College.

DANDENONG (Peter Plitts, Mike Esbensen). New youth group launched successfully, ages 12-15. Numbers growing every week ... Bethel Bible studies going well ... Easter service well attended ... Increased attendances at all services have been encouraging ... CWF took evening service for Mothers' Day, presenting a drama & duet ... Choir also made their debut that day ... Alan Bond & Denise Batten have been welcomed into fellowship.

PRESTON (J. McCormick). Open Door group of 23 enjoyed a week in Gunning. They visited the

new Parliament House, but highlight of the trip was seeing the queen present the new colours to the Royal College, Duntroon ... Sally Weir spoke to CWF on her working holiday in Israel on a kibbutz ... Recent visitors Olwyn & Peter Shannon from Dalkeith Rd, WA.

NUNAWADING (E. Keating, J. Wright, S. Ludgater, C. Bentley). Easter family camp at Banksia. On Palm Sunday choir presented Cross of Christ ... 12 cell groups fortnightly, kerygma group weekly ... Response Sunday resulted in increased offerings ... Visitation includes Monday night outreach ... Divorce Recovery group led by Ted Keating ... Hospitality months May-June ... Springfield Rd CWF cake stall raised \$1320 for COB ... Extensive renovations at Springfield Rd by voluntary labour.

RICHMOND (Daryl Colless). For financial reasons the church has regretfully decided to change to a part-time ministry ... Play group has recommenced ... Trilingual communion service with Greek & Vietnamese fellowships was followed by luncheon ... Ecumenical service for churches in Richmond marked the beginning of Week of Prayer ... CWF birthday meeting with Bicentennial theme was a great success.

THORNBURY (P. Rama Rau). Successful Garage Sale for improvement to our kitchen ... Mission Update with Aboriginal & Overseas Directors well attended ... Ian Tippett conducted two very practical Sunday afternoon sessions on leading in worship ... Mothers' Day stall—proceeds to our project ... Two baptisms,

Dawn Sweerts & Janine Luke ... Explorers went on bike ride. **CROYDON (W. Gibney).** Johanne & Andrew Tunne received into membership following Johanne's baptism ... Four others associated with the church made first commitments at the Bill Newman Crusade ... A further confession of faith on May 15 ... Planning for introduction of house churches nearing completion.

CHELSEA (T. Frazer). Members attended combined Gospel Celebration, Dallas Brooks Hall ... Congregation doubled by visitors at dedication service for John & Liz Steer's first child, luncheon followed ... Monthly fellowship Music Hour commenced—35 attending—comic acts by Merle & Ted Male ... T. Frazer retired as chairman of Chelsea Community Contact Lunch ... Mothers' Day service led by all-women team ... Parkdale & Chelsea exchanged presidents & readers, May 15.

GLEN WAVERLEY (R.B. Elbourne, R.L. Croxford, D.J. Fitzpatrick). Small group leaders given fresh enthusiasm in their ministry following workshop led by Brian White at church ... Elders & deacons shared weekend camp at Hazeldell for spiritual renewal/friendship ... Church now advertising in local cinemas ... Bookroom ladies night out dinner featured books on Christian mothers; guest artists: Scott White & John Marshall ... Two-night Drama Workshop led by Andrew Barr (clown & mime).

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Rock, Bevis & Isabel Standen, Roger & Brenda Winfield, Simone McInnes, Warwick, WA. •Johanne Tunne, Croydon, Vic. •Jenny Appleyard, Alison Coult, Simon Cheung, Rodney Steele, Glen Waverley, Vic. •Jenny Head, Rebecca Faulkner, Narelle Hunt, Warren Wild, Aaron Childs, Craig Childs, Brett Peacock, Deanna Venables, Deanne Peacock, Ian Galbraith, Alex Galbraith, Derek McFadden, Suzanne McFadden, Shelley Leadbitter, Ian Mullins, Kirsty Mullins, Clarrie Poole, South Perth, WA.

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Phone:	B. (053) 39 5113
H. (053) 31 5121	H. (053) 42 4240

MARRIAGE

•Rosemary Mansell to Peter Anderson, Alison Nankivell to Steve Smith, Jenny Curtis to Greg Hawke, Mildura, Vic. •Norma Muller to Richard McSweeney, Mandurah, WA. •Lindy Watt to Phillip Weir, Preston, Vic. •Anne Anderson to Rod Trusler, Nunawading, Vic. •May Reed to Fred Rees, Tootgarook, Vic.

DEATHS

•Betty McWilliams, Stella Henderson, Mildura, Vic. •Anne Atkinson, Mandurah, WA. •Dick Lawrence, Baywater, Vic. •W. Frost, Camp Hill, Qld. •Stan Fordham, Oakleigh, Vic. •Stan Barnes, Vi Halmshaw, Nuna-

wading, Vic. •Frank Armstrong, Merredin/Bruce Rock, WA. •Marj Crouch, Happy Valley, SA.

Changes of Address

REES, May & Fred— 4/9 Cootamundra Ave., West Rosebud, Vic. 3940.

GLENELG: Secretary (acting)—Mrs Jean Langley, 38 Chopin Rd, Somerton Park 5044. Phone: (08) 295 1988.

ALBERT PARK: Church location (New address, same location): 36 West Lakes Boulevard, Albert Park, S.A. 5014.

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For further details or in making application please contact The Executive Director, Mr. Jeff May, P.O. Box 320, Unley, S.A. 5061. Phone (08) 271 3620.

TOAS

NUBEENA (G. Henderson). 65 attended Good Friday service, Sunday morning 85, evening 78 ... **YWAM** presented puppet evening, ... Minister attended State Convention at Devonport, Greg Jacobson & Alan Briggs spoke at services ... Visitors have included Iris & Alan Page, Bill Howard, Bible Society, Mr & Mrs Stan Ryle ... Men & Sunday School provided service, items & supper for Mothers Day ... Mr & Mrs Stan Ryle will help minister for six months.

WA

CARNARVON (Don Bone). At inaugural Men's Fellowship meeting plans made for further outreach programs ... Merv Vawser filling in as manager of Olive Laird hostel ... Joyce Luftrum returned to Melbourne ... CWF enjoyed 'wedding nostalgia' & three ladies modelled their own gowns ... Bones & Jones families attended State Conference & Ugles a convention in Bunbury ... Geoff McKernan & Karen White engaged.

MANDURAH (R. Ryall). Evening services now at 5pm ... Roger's ministry of conducting monthly services at Nursing Home and Coolibah Lodge is appreciated ... Treasurer N. Muller married R. McSweeney at Perth church ... GC club planning for 'Mother and daughter' after-

noon ... The local Uniting Church has given us some help during organist, Kath Workman's leave ... M. Hicks brought special message on Mothers' Day.

MERREDIN/BRUCE ROCK (D. Sonsee). Bruce Rock joined all town congregations for 'Blessing of the Plough' service, 80 attended ... Jan & Peter Arnold welcome baby boy ... Group from Kalamunda led Merredin morning service using their musical talents & sharing lunch ... Gary Dorr adding flute to our musical talent at evening services—well attended, excellent messages ... Sense of expectation in both congregations ... Pentecost Sunday service, Merredin, all churches joined celebration ... Red Cross Sunday at Merredin.

KALAMUNDA (Tim Hanna, Mark Proud, Dean Smith). Midyear mission weekend 'Proclaiming the Kingdom', speaker Brent McHutchison of TEAM; family tea & ladies' breakfast ... Dean Smith conducted rally meetings at Corrigin & surrounding districts. Drama group assisted there & also in outreach to Bruce Rock & Merredin ... Graham Spicer leading rehearsals for musical "Son of Man", planned for September ... Jim Longbottom & Peter Richardson & families accepted to study at COB & Carlingford respectively in 1989.

WARWICK (Graham Carslake, Bruce Eagles, Lyn Sara, Lyn Devlin). Graham Carslake, Bruce Eagles & Kevin Saville attended Seminar on Small Groups (Roberta Hestenes) in Melbourne ... Drama group 'Reflections' performing at Warwick and elsewhere ... 38 attended Young Singles camp ... Elders looking at future directions of church to cater for '1000 members by year 2000' ... Warwick has 23 basketball & netball teams ... Church supporting new cause at Alexander Heights, looking to start work also at Quinns Rock.

WEMBLEY (John Timms, Mark Wilson). Church blessed in April 'Deeper Life Crusade' with Carl Carmody ... Intermediate Youth Camp in May, Glen Smyth speaker, seven commitments ... Resignation of John Timms received, effective December 1988 ... 125 at Parents' night of Discoverers' Club (primary school group

of 170 children) ... Thursday morning prayer meeting recommenced, 6.30 to 8.30 ... Youth ministry of Mark & Karen Wilson proving very fruitful.

SOUTH PERTH (W. Gaunson, G. Smyth, C. Beavis). Work commenced on building to seat 600 ... Attendances continue to increase: Sunday mornings approximately 80 more than last year, gospel services increased by about 50 ... 15 young people to be involved in ministry in North West, late June & July ... Paul Sanders concludes seven-month internship at end of June ... Sunday School took part in Mothers' Day service ... CWF Quiz Night, May 14.

VIC

EAST KEW (Ed Roffey). An enjoyable 65th anniversary, over 220 attended morning service and luncheon. Some members renewed friendships of 50 years. \$422 given to the Department of Community Care from special offering ... Six members went to Sydney for a wedding: Andrew Stephenson to Bronwyn Perry at Carlingford ... Four couples away touring, including the Littlejohns in China, 'the land of thousands of people and bikes'.


MILDURA (David Ratten). Attendances at services continue to increase. 225 attended Mothers' Day service ... Church plans to increase seating accommodation by creating a large foyer between the chapel & hall, opening up present foyer for chapel seating ... Small groups training sessions conducted—one new group

started, two others planned ... Church saddened over loss of Betty Mc Williams ... Combined evening services held with Baptists and Salvation Army.

OCEAN GROVE (Andrew Henley). Minister coaching junior non-contact football, playing senior football ... Some members involved in planning future community hospice ... Church running Parenting Education Seminar, led by Brian White, in June ... Singles program running successfully ... Two home fellowship meetings commencing May 15, sharing tea, Bible study & worship ... Five Bible study groups going well ... Baptismal classes running ... Andrew & Peter Mitchell attended "Small Groups Seminar"; Lee-Anne Henley attended AIDS seminar.

BAYSWATER (Reg Combridge). Dedication baby Stephanie Riches and parents ... Seven decisions, two re-commitments, one commitment Mothers' Day ... Master Life Training course well attended ... Bible school & Good Companions thriving ... Harvest thanksgiving: \$740 donated to Aborigine EF and two missionaries with FAB ... Kay Jones in Bendigo hospital with broken hip ... Mrs Libby in William Angliss hospital ... Church saddened by passing of Dick Lawrence.

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NSW

FAIRFIELD (Ted Bjorem). A number of new people seeking fellowship, some attending regularly & participating in activities ... One couple assisting with organ/piano playing ... Baptism of a 50-year-old man brought great joy to church and family ... Several are door-knockers with Bicentennial Bibles ... Annual Conference at Stanwell Tops was enjoyed, especially by those staying the weekend at Boronia ... Fairfield helped Carramar flood victims.

THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliot). Young lady baptised on April 27 ... About 12 from church went to Canberra for National Gathering ... Ed Newton retired after 15 years' service as an elder. His contribution on the board will be missed; his continuing service in the church appreciated ... J. Humphries, Bible Society, shared in the morning service on May 15 ... Matthew Atkins has been accepted by the New Tribes Mission for training.

QLD

CAMP HILL (D.F. Smith). Guest speakers: Bill Keddie, AEF, Kenmore Ambassadors, Principal Randy Edwards, David Driver from Gideons ... Church hosted World Day of Prayer ... Church viewed Pavilion of Promise video ... Nearly all members involved in Christianity Explained course ... Minister taking a week of chapel services at Expo ... Seven ladies attended CWF camp at Caloundra; song leader Eleanor Smith ... Child dedications for Brent Lahner, Nerina Sherrin, Leah Courtenay.

SA

DULWICH/ROSE PARK UNITED PARISH (Ted Bray, Roger Brown). Joan Fewster, who recently conducted parish's elders retreat, was also Sunday morning preacher ... Dulwich board elected Neil Bright chairman, Cynthia Snow deputy chairman, Alan Hartley secretary, Pat White treasurer ... Fellowship group met at Crafers home of Ngaire & Ray Llewellyn ... Chris

Radbone congratulated on gaining economics degree, Adelaide University ... Successful parish concert held.

HAPPY VALLEY (Russell Allson). Church saddened at passing away of Marj Crouch—first death among our membership ... Geoff, Jan Edwards & family, Rowan & Coralynne Wellstead welcomed into membership ... 250 people attended first service in our church building on Mothers' Day. Although work not completed it was a day of

rejoicing & praising God that after nine years we now have our own building.

GLENELG (Neville Bradley). 60 attended Easter foot washing ceremony ... CWF Mothers & Daughters luncheon ... Play group active for young children as outreach ... 28 leaders attended successful retreat to formulate future plans. Led by minister with Barry Grear & George Mathieson as facilitators ... Board & church (at luncheon), gave approval for eight initiatives ... Church Bible

study, carers group implemented ... Service changes planned: time and format.

In recent weeks a church-related news service and four regional church newspapers have been visibly affected by East German government restrictions. These have included bannings of an issue, or white space in lieu of a censored article. A particular bone of contention has been church concerns about East German citizens wishing to leave the country.

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Vic-Tas CWF Conference

The 102nd Conference of CWF in Vic-Tas was held on April 28 in Wesley Church, Melbourne. All three sessions were well attended and the day proved to be one of great fellowship and blessing to all present. The President, Phyl Davis, welcomed all those present with a special mention of interstate visitors, interchurch guests and past presidents. At the afternoon session Clive Ward responded on behalf of the special guests. Pat Kerr, ACWF President, brought a greeting and encouragement to attend Federal Conference in Canberra, January 1989.

Tasmanian representatives were actively involved in the morning session when Naomi Neville led the meditation. Lilly Johnson and Lesley Stirling presented a Tasmanian focus.

Jeff May, on behalf of the Overseas Mission Board, brought a missionary update, and Trevor Giles, Director of the Dept of Community Care, interviewed Joy Butler about her work with the Kensington Network.

Cheques were presented to various Conference departments: COB, DMED, OMB, FAB. Don Smith and Maurice Rocha responded on behalf of their respective departments. The Conference Commitment offering for 1987-8 amounted to \$5268. This was received by Lindsay Mott on behalf of "The Australian Christian". Next year this offering will be given towards the establishment of Mornington Outreach.

The President acknowledged the contribution of retiring officers and introduced the new executive and office-bearers. Jean Witt led a



1987-88 CWF Conference President, Phyl Davis

dedication service and induction of Lois Smith as incoming president.

The atmosphere of the meetings was enhanced by the musical items of Glenys Reaby and Sandra Gibson, Jenny Fearn-Warren, Sally Wilson, Helen Price and their accompanists. Chek Chia, minister of Grace church, and Brian White, DMED, brought challenging messages to the afternoon and evening sessions of Conference. With their words in mind, and uplifted by the worship and fellowship of the day, we go forward mindful of our president's theme for the year: **Toward 2000 - Our Responsibility.**

A Polish nun who runs a leper rehabilitation centre in the Roman Catholic diocese in India here has been told by a local official that she may preach her religion, but not criticise abortion. The nun was circulating handbills, against abortion, during a local festival against. The official said the handbills were an example of anti-national activity prohibited to foreigners by Indian law.

The Christian Council of Asia has decided to relocate to 4 places following its expulsion late last year from Singapore. The general secretariat goes to Japan, communications joins urban-rural mission and international affairs in Hong Kong, development and service, mission and evangelism, and theology go to Thailand and education, women's concern and youth go to the Philippines, the site of the next CCA assembly in 1990.

THE LAST WORD

What greater rebellion, impiety or insult to God can there be than not to believe his promises?

— Martin Luther

Sign on a Sydney jewellery shop when the owner was on holiday: "The watchmaker is unwinding."

★★★★★

Chatting with a friend who is an ardent women's-libber about housework. Remarking that I really hated to iron. "Oh," she said, "I never iron any more. I believe that if God had wanted women to iron, She wouldn't have created permanent press."

★★★★★

As the plumber sized up the job we had called him for, he gazed out the window at our garden, which was full of children. "All yours?" he queried.

"No," I replied.

"Good," he said. "If they were, you probably couldn't afford me."

★★★★★

Loan applicant to bank manager: "Getting back to those interest rates, could you be a little more specific than 'it's going to cost a pretty penny'?"

★★★★★

Taxation official to businessman: "It's not sufficient, sir, simply to list expenses as 'astronomical' and your income as 'peanuts'. You must itemise."



★ "I ALWAYS wanted to write for a living."



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