

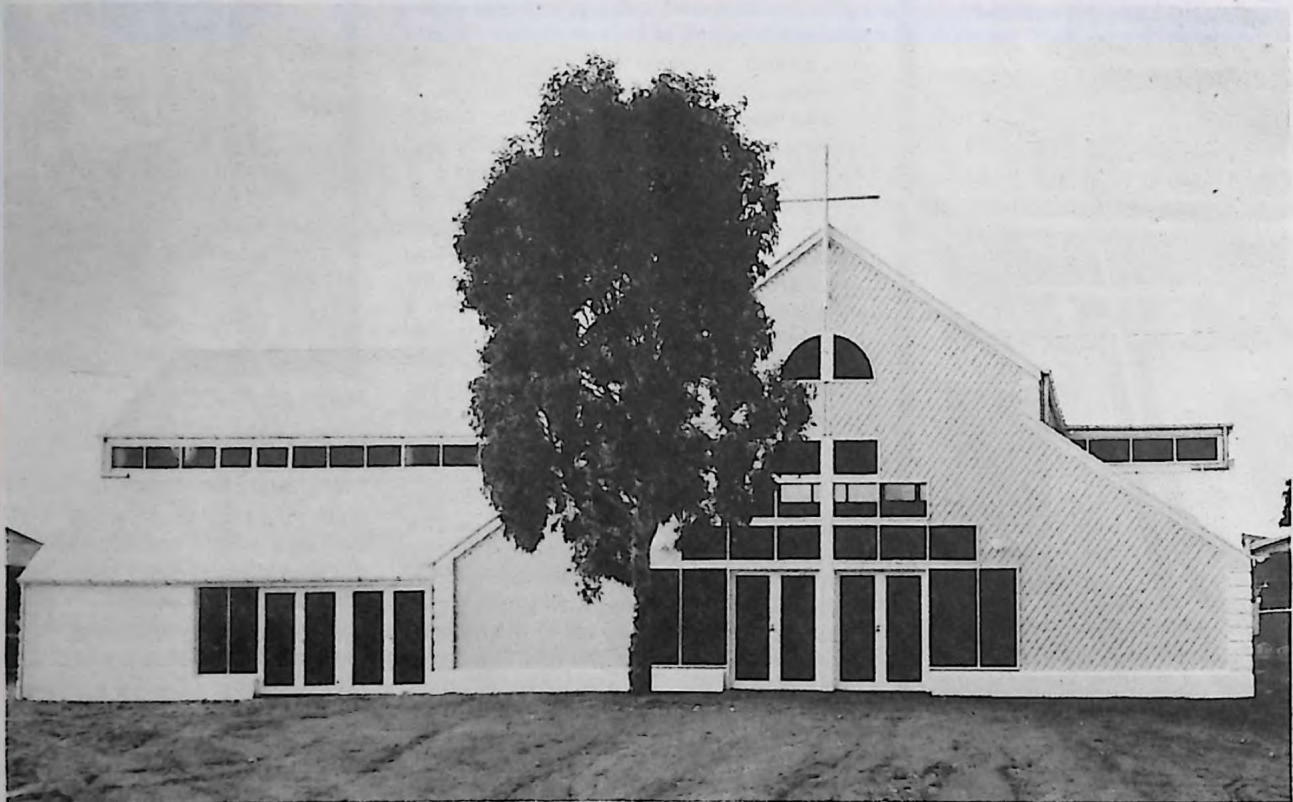
# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA  
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Volume 91, No. 9

June 11, 1988

## HAPPY VALLEY OPENING



Happy Valley, SA, church commenced in February 1979 with a small group of enthusiastic young people who had a vision for the area. Our first meeting place was the Happy Valley Institute. We soon outgrew that building and moved to a local kindergarten, where at least we had a separate room for Sunday School!

Within a couple of years we outgrew that building, too, and moved into the Happy Valley Civic Centre where we met for six

years. During that time land was purchased on the corner of Windbanks Road and Hub Drive, with the view to building a manse at a later date, and eventually our own worship centre.

The manse was completed in February 1985, ready for our present minister, Russell Allison. Our congregation has grown under the leadership of Russell and Dorothy. Some of our outreach activities include Sunday School, Hub Club (for primary

school children), Praise Kids, youth craft, sports and fellowship groups.

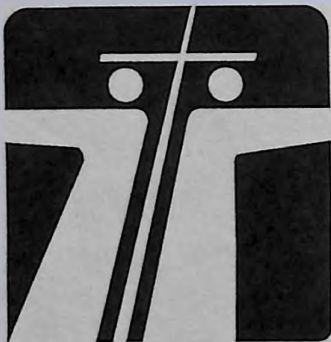
In 1984 a building committee was formed to examine the possibility of, and to plan and design, a multi-purpose church building. After much discussion we decided, in February 1987, to commence the building project. Many hours have been spent by the members erecting fences, painting, planting lawns, brick paving etc, to complete our building.

Our striking, yet practical, new home is set amongst new housing developments. In a prominent position it has become a feature and reference point for our area. The official opening for our new building will be on June 26 at 2.30pm. Everyone is invited to join with us to celebrate this day. Inquiries should be directed to Russell Allison, phone (08) 381 7907.

Managing Editor:  
CHRIS AMBROSE

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## COMMENT

### The Church and Art

—Ken Barton  
(Ashburton, Vic.)

#### Gift

This article was prompted by the gift to the Ashburton, Vic., church of a replica of Holman Hunt's 'Light of the World', painted by one of our members, Elizabeth Barks. To help mark the occasion, and in appreciation of the donor and her talent, I devoted a sermon to the story of Holman Hunt, this his most famous painting, and its traditional interpretation.

#### Interpretation

The painting is an expression of the words of Jesus: "I am the light of the world" (Jn 8:12). Holman Hunt believed that Jesus Christ is a light to illuminate the lives of people with spiritual truth and quality, and this is the central symbolism of his masterpiece. It also has another scriptural basis in the words: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him and he with me" (Rev 3:20).

The painting is an interpretation of that appeal made by Jesus. Christ is standing before the door of the human heart, which has not been opened for a long time. The crucial point of the interpretation is that the door has no handle. It cannot be opened from without. There is only one way to enter: it must be opened from within, and Jesus is knocking and waiting patiently for the door of the heart to be opened voluntarily, in recognition of the need of a Saviour.

I have a small copy of another painting, similar to 'The Light of the World'. It, too, shows Jesus standing at a door, but in this painting the door is open and the family inside is inviting Jesus to come in, illustrating that there are those who respond to the patient, persuasive words and invitation of 'The Light of the World'.

#### Christian Art

There has been Christian art ever since the paintings in the catacombs of Rome. Paintings on Christian subjects are among the greatest the world has ever known. Over the centuries the church has been the patron of the highest and best in art, and this was notably so during the Renaissance years of the 14th and 15th centuries.

In those momentous years when civilisation took such tremendous forward strides in various areas of culture, so many artists were encouraged and financed by their patrons—usually the church, the popes and the wealthy merchant families of the time, such as Medici of Florence. Leonardo da Vinci ('The Last Supper') and Michelangelo ('The Last Judgement') are just two of the many giants among the Renaissance artists who produced



Holman Hunt's  
'The Light of the World'

numerous religious works.

Obviously the Bible has been the source of much religious painting and other forms of art such as sculpture and icons. Christ has been the inspiration of more artists than all other personalities of the world.

The book "The Bible and its Painters" contains 200 paintings by over 100 painters and demonstrates that the extraordinary variety of stories within the Bible is matched by a variety of pictures and artists who have been drawn to it in varying degrees of commitment, skill and genius. It also confirms that most of the greatest painters in history were deeply involved with the Bible and that it inspired their finest works.

Many of these artists were devout people and they sought through their paintings to convey something of the inspiration and heart of the Christian faith. They were successful and Christians through the years have found devotional and spiritual inspiration in Christian art: Albrecht Durer's 'Praying Hands', Raphael's 'Feed My Sheep', Heinrich Hoffman's 'Christ in Gethsemane', Rembrandt's 'The Ascension', Harold Copping's 'The Hope of the World', to name just a few. They have illuminated and interpreted the scriptures and sacred truth.



## United Parish



Minister, Ted Bray, immersing one of the candidates

A Dulwich-Rose Park, SA, baptismal service on May 22 was an historic occasion for more than

one reason. It represented a blending of the traditions of the Uniting Church and Churches of Christ

without either surrendering any essential facet of their faith and practice.

Four candidates for baptism: three adults and a teenager, were all immersed by Uniting Church minister Ted Bray. Churches of Christ minister, Roger Brown, jointly leading the ceremony with Ted, gave a nurturing charge to the large congregation.

Two of those baptised, Netta Lightburn and Robert McCullum, had elected to join the Churches of Christ membership, Cameron Hayton joined the UC membership, and Janet Romanos was already a UC member. The baptism was in

the new baptistry constructed in the Gartrell church.

Gartrell is the centre of the united parish comprising the Uniting Church (former Rose Park Methodist and Congregational) and Dulwich Church of Christ. The two groups, while working in a great measure of unity and holding all services jointly, retain their separate identities for some purposes, including enrolment. Roger told visitors, including state minister Dean Hamilton and relatives and friends of the candidates, of the happy results of this co-operation and the bridging of understanding between churches.

—J. Ludbrook

## GROWING SPIRITUALLY

### That's an Idea!

In the realm of the spiritual—as well as in many other areas—growth can, and often does, come from a great idea.

This can be the launching place for action, the starting point for real growth.

That vital preacher of a past era, Halford E. Luccock, titled a chapter in one of his books on preaching, "In the beginning ... was the Idea". Luccock's ministry indicates that he himself had been gripped by a 'great idea'.

Yes—ideas have a habit of digging in!

At the World Convention in Adelaide in 1970, one gathering was addressed by another American preacher, Raymond McAllister, who introduced his address by saying that he had been cornered by an idea which had pestered him.

That he touched on the nerve ends of serious thought is sure. One friend, who was on the verge of giving up the ministry, told me that this stinging address changed his mind.

The gospels are the record of one who was called Master because he was mastered by a great Idea!

The rest of the NT (and, of course, the 29th chapter of Acts—in the process of being written) is about people—gripped by a great Idea!

The story of the church will always be fascinating because the Idea has a way of cornering people and urging action.

—L. Cooke  
(Howrah, Tas.)

## Aborigine Focus at Prospect



Max Newchurch being baptised by Bob Brown

Baptisms are always a time of celebration. When Max Newchurch was baptised at the Prospect, SA, church in February it was cause for double celebration. Max's baptism was the highlight of an Aborigine Focus Day. The morning service was addressed by Ron Roberts. The evening service was taken by the

Aborigine (Berean) church and featured the baptism of Max by the pastor Bob Brown.

Many bridges of friendship were built at these services, and at the supper afterwards, where items by members of the Berean and Prospect churches were enjoyed.

—Geoff Payne



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## Maurice Rocha Resigns



Maurice and Roxanna Rocha

At the Federal Aborigines Board meeting, held May 20-22, Maurice Rocha announced his resignation as Executive Director of the Aborigines Board, effective from June 30. This comes just prior to the second anniversary of his appointment in 1986.

Maurice, with his wife Roxanna and son Mark, came to the Federal Office in Perth from Brisbane and it is their intention to return to Queensland at the conclusion of their service. They will rejoin their older son, Phillip, in Brisbane.

Maurice travelled extensively and involved himself in the developing Aboriginal churches around Australia. He administered the FAB through two years of tremendous change in two key areas:

- in the Board Administrative structure, involving greater input from all the mainland states;

- in the change in ministry of Board personnel, away from child-care and toward church development and training.

That these two changes coincided brought great pressure to

bear on the administration.

The Federal Aborigines Board, on behalf of the Australian churches, thanks Maurice and Roxanna for their service. Please pray for them as they re-establish themselves in Brisbane.

Until Maurice's successor is appointed Avon Moyle has been asked to assume the duties of the Executive Director. All correspondence should be addressed to the Board office at PO Box 267, Mt Lawley, WA 6050.

—A.W.M.

### Alan Morris

Allan and Ivy Morris will be conducting an interim ministry at the Linwood Avenue Union Church, Christchurch, New Zealand from June 23 to September 5. This is the home church of Lyndsay and Lorraine Jacobs, President of World Convention.

## RECOMMEND THE CHRISTIAN

## Jean Middleton—Elder Emeritus

On April 10 David Davies, Chairman of the Flinders Park, SA, church, presented Jean Middleton with the title Elder Emeritus and a gift of a parallel Bible in recognition of her services to the church. Jean has resigned as an elder to take up residence at Parkrose Retirement Village.

She served for 20 years as a member of the board of officers, and for the past 12 years as an elder. She has also been involved in brotherhood committees with responsibilities both at state and federal levels. Jean has been active in CWF, President of Women's Conference and has served on the Christian Education, Home Mission and Evangelism Committees. She was a member of the State Board for 11 years and of the Evangelism and Church Resources Committee.

In 1982 Jean also served as Federal Vice-President of CWF. She was secretary of the SA Unit of Australian Church Women (an interdenominational fellowship), and national convener during 1986-87.



A member of Flinders Park since 1959, Jean, her husband Ralph, and minister Jack Baker, founded the first group of Cabin Boys in South Australia. This group has now been adopted in Western Australia.

Jean's valued contribution to the board will be missed, however it is still her intention to retain her membership at Flinders Park.

—Trevor Smith

## Family Seminar

The Bible College of South Australia has established formal links with the Fuller Theological Seminary in order to make the Doctor of Ministry program available to Christian leaders in Australia.

A 10-day seminar is to be conducted by Drs. Jack and Judy Balswick of the USA. It will focus on issues central to developing strong family life and the role of

the local church in this process.

The course will be conducted on the BCSCA campus from August 22 to September 2. The seminar may be taken for academic credit towards the Doctor of Ministry program or on a non-credit basis for those who merely wish to increase their understanding of this area and further develop their skills. For further details phone (08) 272 0188.



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## Fire

On Saturday afternoon (May 28) at about 2 o'clock an explosion started a fire in the Mt. Evelyn, Vic., hall property. The fire burnt out the rear of the hall and the front of the hall was extensively damaged by smoke and water. Fire brigade officials have stated that the fire was deliberate and that petrol was used to commence the fire. At the time of writing the report no indication has been given to the church as to who was responsible for the fire. About a fortnight before the fire some children were caught smoking under the building and a small fire was put out. Since then steps had been made to ensure that access under the hall was limited.

The building was insured but at present no report has been received from the insurance assessor as to the state of the building after the fire.

The Mt Evelyn church has been holding its Sunday meetings at the Lilydale High School. Also recently they have just built a church office in Fernhill Road. They had hoped to build a chapel on this site but planning permis-

sion was refused. This option will be raised again now the fire has virtually destroyed the hall. If this is not possible the church will examine other options in the area.

Up until the fire the hall was used for a variety of activities. On two mornings (Tuesdays and Thursdays) an early morning (5 a.m.) prayer meeting was held; Friday Club used the hall 3.30 - 7.00 p.m. for up to 50 primary school aged children; Junior Club (youth group for 12 - 15 year olds) with an attendance of 30 - 40 used the hall on Friday evenings; the youth group used the hall monthly on Thursday evenings as well as almost every Saturday evening; the ladies had a combined meeting once a month in the hall and two playgroups (Wednesday and Friday) used the hall in the mornings.

Alternative arrangements have seen the Friday Club able to use the Oasis Youth Club premises (run by the Reformed Church) and the youth groups and ladies will use the South Silvan Gospel Chapel. Most of the other uses of the hall can be accommodated in the new church offices.

## Good Companions Jubilee Weekend

Victoria's Good Companions celebrated their jubilee in special events held over the weekend of March 19-20. Dot Brooker, the Chief Good Companion, welcomed over 60 past executive members to a special Jubilee Dinner on the Saturday evening at Nunawading church. Those present were seated in groups representing the decade in which they served on the executive. Each decade was well represented.

Special recognition was made of Rita Roberts, the leader for the first 40 years of Good Companions. Some past executive members came from interstate for the meeting—a time of reflection and thanksgiving for so much achieved over the 50 years. The present executive is an active, capable group of mainly younger women who give much promise for the future of the work.



A Thanksgiving Service was held on the Sunday afternoon with a good attendance of past and present leaders and members. Mary Dewberry was the speaker. The Good Companions Clubs have accepted the renovation of Rita Roberts Lodge at Camp Waterman as a jubilee project and have contributed over \$2,000 for this work. On October 16 there will be a recognition of the completion of the work with a special service and afternoon tea. The Explorers will also hold a special event at Camp Waterman on that day.

## FEDERAL CONFERENCE

### Canberra 1989

Women's Day is for all women attending Conference to share in worship and fellowship together. It will commence with worship and song, praising our God as His People in His World. We will share in the ministry of our Living Link, Cheryl Garlett, and hear what it was like for her and Joy Sansome, our World CWF repre-



Pat Kerr, Australian Christian Women's Fellowship President

sentative, to attend World CWF retreat in New Zealand.

There will be reports, but we will endeavour to cut down on the time spent on business, and will keep you up-to-date with all notices of motion being brought to Conference beforehand, through The Australian Christian.

### January 18 - Women's Day

—Pat Kerr

Lunch together, then, in the afternoon, a time of praise in music, movement and song. We would like to invite the men to share in this time with us, to share in the joy of worship. As we dedicate the incoming Qld ACWF executive to the ongoing work we will ourselves come in dedication and support. We will share in communion together, renew our commitment to the Lord, to each other, to the roles in which we, as women, have been called to serve.

The evening session will be a panel of male and female speakers discussing the role of women in the church. What is our role, your role, as women in the church, and through the church into the community?

The day will end with praise, worship and joy—we are God's People in God's World. Will you join us? We do hope so.

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## Induction at Taree

On May 22 Ray Hawkins, pastor of the Maitland, NSW, church and NSW Conference President, conducted the induction service when Neville Aubrey was appointed minister of the Taree city church. This was his first official duty as Conference President and he was assisted in the service by W. Flett of the Hamilton church.

Neville Aubrey was born in Wales and has an MA from Newcastle University, a BD from the University of Wales and a Diploma in Theology from London University. He is married to Joan and they have four children: Anna, Sarah, Beth and Matthew.



Left to right: Mr & Mrs Hawkins, Mr & Mrs Flett, Mr & Mrs Aubrey

We are looking forward to our anniversary services on June 11 and 12 when we will celebrate 125 years of service for Christ and the community.



Induction service at Taree church

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## NSW Conference President

Born at Rockdale, NSW, in 1938, Ray Hawkins worked as a machinist and labourer before entering the Churches of Christ Bible College at Woolwich in 1960. In 1964 he married Mary Pedler whom he had met at College.

Their first ministry was at Carramar followed by ministries at Tamworth, Orange, Gladstone (Qld), Mayfield and Maitland. In the ministries at Orange and Gladstone Ray was self-supporting, working at such things as fruit picking and bus driving.

When he and his family moved to Maitland he became involved in the development of a retirement village at Green Hills, being undertaken by the Churches of

The Australian Council of Churches is conducting its biennial general meeting in Sydney, June 23-27. Jim Wallis, founder of 'Sojourners', Washington DC, will be the keynote speaker and involved in a day-long Consultation on June 24. For those attending the general meeting there is no extra charge for the Consultation. The keynote address is free and open to all those interested. The venue will be Labouré Inservice Centre, Eastwood. Inquiries to Mark Seton (02) 29 5169.

Christ Social Services Department. Ray is now chairman of the local board for the village and also chaplain.

He and Mary have three children, Lance and Craig at university and Gaylene, a Rotary Youth Exchange student in West Germany.

His hobby is writing. His historical biography about John Thompson, the Churches of Christ's first missionary with the Kanaks, has been printed.

On April 24, 1988 Ray was inducted as NSW Conference President at the 103rd State Conference at Stanwell Tops. His theme for the year, from Nehemiah 8:10, is: The Joy of the Lord is thy Strength.

## Musicians!

Readers are reminded that the Arrangements Committee for the 42nd Federal Conference of Churches of Christ is seeking musical compositions from which to select a theme hymn. The hymn chosen will be used during Conference in Canberra, January 15-22, 1989. The rights, including copyright, of the entries will pass to Federal Conference.

### Criteria:

1. The hymn/song should develop the Conference theme: God's People, God's World. Bible passages on this theme include: Ps 8; Jn 1:1-5; Col 1:15-20; 1 Pet 2:9-10.

2. The hymn/song shall be between 18 and 24 lines in length.

3. The music, either original or an existing tune, shall be suited to a keyboard, guitar chords would be useful.

In addition the selection panel will consider:

- (a) theological content;
- (b) poetic value and standard;
- (c) suitability for congregational singing.

Entries to: Federal Conference Theme Hymn Panel, 82 Limestone Ave, Alnsfle 2602. Closing date: July 31.

**FOCUS ON THE  
FUTURE AT  
FEDERAL  
CONFERENCE**

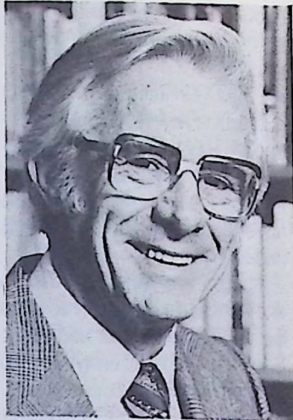


## Another Interim for Gordon

The Boronia, Vic., church is planning for a positive future. Church board members are heading up committees to assess all aspects of church life, ministry and community outreach for the next ten years.

As part of their ongoing program, Gordon Stirling will join the ministry team on a part-time basis in March next year. Kelth Milne serves as full-time minister and Mike Folland (student), as youth minister.

The ministry committee is continuing to look for a second full-time minister to commence early 1990—an ability to minister to young people would be essential,



but the appointee would also have other responsibilities.

—Bev Jeffrey

## Lord—Give me New Eyes! John Bassett, PNG

Oh, how many times I've uttered this prayer in the last few months. No, I'm not going physically blind, just blind to the untold opportunities for ministry. I am seeing everything through my Australian eyes. I'm not inferring that because my eyes were made in Australia they are inferior. Because my eyes have been conditioned to see everything from an Australian perspective I misinterpret so much of that which I see here in New Guinea. I see pastors smoking and chewing a narcotic plant, and I question their spiritual maturity. I'm still looking at things through my Australian eyes.

I guess the one thing that I've got going in my favour is that I recognise that my eyes are biased, and so I can rationally correct these misunderstandings.

What about you?

Did you realise that in Australia today the greatest barrier between

non-believers and Christians is not a theological barrier, but a cultural one? Christians and non-Christians tend to lead completely different lives, and the longer we have been a Christian the more likely it is that we will not be able to understand how a non-believer thinks. Think to yourself for a minute, "How many close friends do I have that are not Christians?"

Sure, we are called to separate ourselves from the evils of this world, but we are also exhorted to be in the world but not of the world. If we sever all links with that 'great evil world outside' how are we ever going to be the salt, or the light, that Christ commands us to be in Matthew 5?

The problem is that you, like me, see everything through your existing eyes. If we are ever to communicate across the great cultural chasms that face us, we must each ask the Lord for new eyes!

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## Conference President to Induct Church Planter

Ian Cartmel, the minister-elect for the new church at Mornington, Vic., will be inducted by Conference President, Gerald Rose, at Mornington's inaugural service on September 4 at 2.45pm.

At a meeting on May 9 further plans were approved by a group of members and friends who will make up the core of the new church. Those present gave \$237 towards the new project. A personal gift of \$500 was also received in May.

Plans for the inaugural service are in hand. The new church will need a wide range of equipment including communion trays, crockery, cutlery, urn, music

books, lectern, stationery, and other promotional material. Larger items such as a photocopier and typewriter are also required. Inquiries should be directed to Ian Cartmel—(059) 89 2433, Don Smith—(03) 662 2377, or Mavis Peet—(059) 86 4827.

Pictured are Ian Cartmel (left) with Graeme Emmet—treasurer and Mavis Peet—secretary, both provisionally appointed to office. The project is part of the Church Reach Out Plan (C.R.O.P.) currently being sponsored by the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development and the Properties Corporation.



## National Champion

15 year-old Justin Price-Rees, a member of the Bendigo, Vic, church, is the youngest winner of the National Blue Grass Fiddling Championships title, won at Tamworth Country Music Festival. Justin, a high school student and a regular busker in the Bendigo Hargreaves Mall, said he only entered the national competition for experience and was shocked when he won. For his win he received a plaque and a bow valued at \$450.

At a recent church interview with minister, John Sweetman, Justin explained that the Texas fiddle music was almost a cross between Texas swing and Appalachian hillbilly music, more a mixture of swing and blue grass.

He said his winning pieces were really designed for groups rather than a solo performance.

Whilst at Tamworth Justin received some personal tuition from leading American fiddler, Max Tilman. He was so inspired with his musical holiday that he now hopes to go to the US to meet some of its top players.

Justin, who has just recently been baptised, gave an impromptu concert in the fellowship room after the evening service, accompanied by Max Tilman.

—Alan Graham

**OVERSEAS  
MISSION  
OFFERING JULY 3**



The Letters to the Editor limit is 200 words.

## THE FORGOTTEN CHURCH

To the Editor,

Alan Matheson's article ("A.C." April 30) was overdue. For too long we have allowed a speculative interpretation of the OT prophetic books, relating to a return of the Jewish exiles, to blind us to the reality of what is taking place there today.

One fact is beyond dispute: the Palestinians have been denied the most basic human right, the right to a homeland. The land they occupied for centuries has been progressively taken from them. The rest of the world has shown that it doesn't care. Our sympathy for the homeless Jew of the past, and our collective guilt for centuries of persecution, cannot be allowed to justify modern Israelis doing to Palestinians what their forefathers endured.

Today we are seeing something akin to the occupation of the Promised Land by Israel under Joshua. Those who see it as a fulfilment of prophecies such as Isaiah 56:1-8, ought to note carefully the strong references to justice in those passages. 20th century Zionism is a far cry from what the prophets described.

Only recently has the media begun to present an even-handed picture of life in Israel. It will be sad if it takes longer for Christians, spiritual brothers and sisters to the Christians of the Holy Land, most of whom are Palestinians, to do the same.

—R. V. Smith

(West Pennant Hills, NSW)

(Edited to fit the 200 word limit-Editor)

## UNITY AND MISSION

To the Editor,

In the Disciples' journal "Mid Stream" (Jan. '86) Paul Crow Jr writes of unity and mission. "What is yearned for is the church broadly and truly united, a communion which reconciles the alienations and divisions in society and includes men and women of every race, nation and culture. So understood we can manifest a

united church as a sign of the coming unity which God gives to the human family. As such the unity of the church and the unity of renewal of human community have particular implications for world mission. Mission will be understood as proclamation of Christ crucified and risen and as a Christian presence in the world sharing its pains, fears and yearnings. The missionary task means standing with the poor and hungry, the despised and mistreated. The NT makes clear that Jesus' message of salvation was for the whole person and the whole world."

In this Paul Crow is seeing unity and mission in partnership as we obey Christ to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel". How disastrous that the mission of Christ's church still goes out in its divisions. Is that our wish or do we plan to be united with others as we take the one gospel to the world?

—David Allison  
(Sandringham, Vic.)

## SHEKINAH FOUNDATION

To the Editor,

In answer to a letter from Alan Matheson ("A.C." April 30), in which he questioned the background of 'Shekinah' in relation to Ian Grey in Mozambique, I believe the mission with which Grey was involved was called Shekinah Ministries.

Let me assure Alan and all readers that there is no connection between Shekinah Ministries and Shekinah Foundation. Understandably the similarity in name could be confusing.

Shekinah Foundation was formed in Adelaide in 1976 by Harry Wendt, an Australian Lutheran pastor of 30 years' pastoral ministry experience. It's declared purpose is to promote Christian Education among adults and youth. It now produces and distributes written and visual materials to over 30 denominations around the world.

The name Shekinah is a Hebrew word denoting the presence and splendour of God in visual

form. The name emphasises our desire to declare God's glory through extensive use of visuals in the teaching of the written Word.

While our international headquarters is now located in Indianapolis, USA, Shekinah Foundation is totally self-supporting through the sale of materials. We have no other activities in this ministry.

Should any readers wish to know more I'd be happy to send them information. Our address is Shekinah Foundation (Aust), 16 Playford St, Glen Osmond 5064.

—Keith Chessell  
(Australian Director)

## SPIRIT BAPTISM

To the Editor,

It is time the interminable nonsense about 'baptism with the

Holy Spirit' written in the "A.C." in recent months was brought to a close. The obvious fact has been overlooked. The phrase is metaphorical, not experiential.

Had the writers been better acquainted with biblical theology they would know that John the Baptist, Jesus and Paul recognised the limitations of water baptism, and shared in the widespread belief in an ultimate, final cleansing by the Spirit. Such eschatological purification is rooted in Old Testament theology, and found too in the writings of such sectaries as the Qumran community.

The phrase under discussion is descriptive of this hope. Now, the primitive church believed itself to be heir of eschatological promise. Paul could therefore write of the

# LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

## Emotional Blackmail

To the Editor,

When I was a lad our church had a junior cricket team. I was in it. We didn't win any matches. It was partly because of Max. He owned the only bat we had and his fee for letting us use it was that he should be captain. He wasn't a very good one. When we used to tell him so, in no uncertain way, he would take his bat and go home. So we didn't get much practice. I never did find out how Max turned out, but at that age he was an expert in emotional blackmail.

I've thought about it since. We kids should have got together and found ways of raising money to get our own bat. We could have saved ourselves a lot of trouble and saved Max's soul at the same time.

I believe that it is unkind to the blackmailer to keep letting him/her get away with it. Instead of giving in to tantrums maybe parents should find ways of doing things so that the child finds tantrums useless in blackmailing parents. Sometimes a parent can blackmail a family by being ever so sweet, but slipping into guilt-producing headaches or long-suffering wan smiles. Maybe the family can find ways of functioning that make these dramas irrelevant.

And in the church family we can perhaps find people to take the place of temperamental people who think that they are indispensable and ride high on their indispensability.

If emotional blackmailers cannot save themselves, perhaps it is our job to find ways of by-passing them ... and thus to save their souls.

—TERTIUS

whole church as being Spirit cleansed (1 Cor 12:13). Even so the dilemma then, as now, is that messianic realisation in the person of Jesus has not brought (as yet) the perfect age in which all things are made new.

In simple terms then, baptism with the Spirit is a present reality of the church, but more so, a futuristic fulfilment at the eschaton. I appeal to you to stop theological nit-picking, and fill these pages more profitably.

—N.G. Aubrey  
(Taree, NSW)

## KENSINGTON COMMUNITY WORKER

To the Editor,

Inoted on the back page of "The Australian Christian" (May 28) under the Vic.-Tas. C.W.F. Conference that Joy Butler was interviewed about her work with the Kensington Network.

To avoid confusion about the nature of Joy's work and the financial support, it is important to recognise that the Kensington Christian Network led by Ian Corlett is a project of the Department of Mission, Education & Development and is financially supported through that Department by sponsorship.

Joy Butler is employed by the Department of Community Care as a community worker and her salary is fully met by Community Care. She works independently of the Kensington Christian Network although, as an active Christian, she is involved in the Network's ministry.

Joy's appointment is for a two year period ending in December. The Department of Community Care is currently reviewing the appointment with the possibility of extending the ministry for a further two years.

We are greatly encouraged by the energy and depth of commitment by which Joy undertakes her tasks with the many individuals and families who suffer from the social injustices of our community.

— Trevor Giles

## ARE WE AFRAID OF DISCUSSION?

To the Editor,

How refreshing it was to read, in the Melbourne Age, several days coverage of the happenings at the Assembly of the Uniting Church and to listen to portions of the debates on ABC's Forum (Sunday, 10.10pm).

It recalled for me some of the heady days of our Victorian Conference when we too had press reporters in attendance; a time when there was opportunity for debate and discussion on meaningful issues and those attending were introduced to various points of view.

Today, we as a people seem afraid of discussion. We must soft-pedal differences of opinion, we must not 'rock the boat'. This reached its ultimate when we faced the notice of motion on equality in our churches. Instead of discussing the implications of the motion the time was spent achieving an amendment so that no-one would be upset by the subject of women in leadership.

I could not help thinking of Gal 2:11 where Paul records how he withstood Peter to his face. If it was good enough then to argue in churches, why not now?

—Max Collyer  
(Boronia, Vic.)

## MISSIONARY FAMILIES

To the Editor,

I am a "missionary kid", and I know exactly what Joan Allan was writing about ("A.C." May 28).

But I also know that while there are undeniable problems, they are not caused by a lack of love,

and they do not last forever.

I went to boarding school just before my fifth birthday. I came back to Australia, and family life, 11 years later.

It wasn't easy for a while — I was rebellious and felt a lot of resentment. But I got over it, and so did my siblings and now we are a close and understanding family.

Family separation is not something I would advocate, but it is an issue that must be dealt with when people decide they will be missionaries.

I am glad my parents did not change, just for me, what they believed they should do.

I have seen many families emotionally hurt by any number of situations, and many problems within families which have always lived together. I see family separation everyday, but usually with no hope of reunion down the track.

So, Joan Allan, may I suggest you allow other people to make decisions about their own lives.

— Elizabeth Main  
(Adelaide, S.A.)

## I WONDER

To the Editor,

I wonder what might have been the decibel level at the celebration recorded in Luke 15, where they killed the fatted calf and rejoiced with music and dancing! And I wonder if the older brother ever realised all that he missed by refusing to go in!

Pursuing my call to ministry with the older generation, I sometimes wonder how many who (like me) have crossed the three score and ten line, have learned to be

spiritual grandparents to the oncoming generation. When I was young our 'oldies' gladly accepted an invitation to a family celebration, graciously enduring our rollicking and romping, even if they did confess that they were also glad to leave when it was all over. And how we loved them for it!

So I wonder if our 'oldies' today realise how much their love and tolerance could do towards bridging the generation gap which seems in danger of dividing our church family into rival camps. We are making some progress, so Conference Executive, don't give up on your Gospel Celebration! You're improving every year. Only I do wonder why we can't do it more often!

—Marj Buckingham  
(S.E. Suburban Regional Church, Vic.)

The synod of the Reformed Church of France (Nantes, May 12-15) sent a message of support to the Kanak (Indigenous) minority in New Caledonia, who generally support independence from France. The synod said that they refuse to believe in the right of the strongest, in the language of arms. It called for peace through the same justice for all, by the recognition of the dignity, cultural and social identity of the Kanak people, and by the search for an authentic dialogue.

Almost half of the first printing of the new translation of the Turkish New Testament has already been sold within the first six weeks on the market. Of the first run of 5,000 copies about 1,500 will be sent to Germany for use among the 2 million Turks living there.



## COMING TO DINNER?

To celebrate our Explorer Jubilee, Chief, Russell Croxford, is inviting past and present Explorers, parents, campers and all friends to a dinner on September 8 at Rembrandts. Guest speaker is Graham Hyman. Ticket inquiries to: Peter Wing-Tang. Phone (03) 288 1613.

DEPARTMENT OF MISSION, EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT  
52 LaTrobe St., Melbourne 3000.

## 'A.D.'—TUNED TO TEENS

'A.D.', the newest Christian magazine for 15-18 year olds, is published every two months by the Joint Board of Christian Education. This is a much-needed resource for an age group that is of critical concern. Holding the interest of teenagers is an important challenge for every denomination, and one that cannot be ignored.

'A.D.' is designed to fill the gap, to replace the Sunday School resources provided for them as children. It can be used independently, or as a resource in the local youth group. For each edition there is a companion guide for youth leaders. There are adaptable session plans, program suggestions and worship ideas.

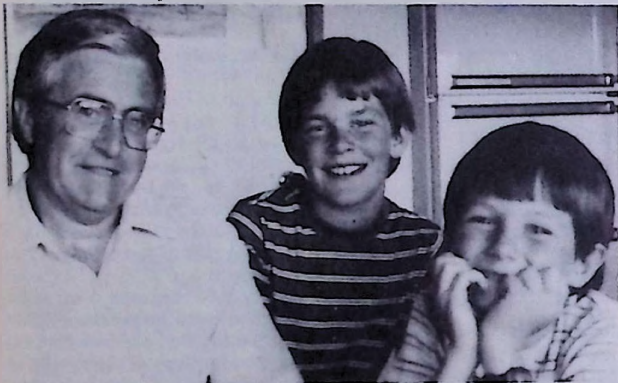
'A.D.' is emphatically not an answer book. It is not designed to prescribe the way Christians must live. Rather, it raises questions that will help a teenager come to an understanding of what it means to be young and Christian. Modelled on the styling of commercial magazines aimed at this particular youth market, it is attractive and interesting for young people to read.

A year's subscription costs \$24, but bulk orders from churches save \$3 on each. The youth leader's supplement costs another \$4 a year. Contact the Joint Board of Christian Education, 10 Queen St, Melbourne, 3000.

## BOOKS

### CHILDREN AND GOD

by Ron Buckland (Scripture Union) \$6.95.



Ron Buckland with his two sons Simon and Martin

Ron Buckland, Australian National Director of Scripture Union, in his introduction to this book explains that it is written for people who are called to some kind of ministry with children, and who want to be clear about basic principles.

Clearly written this book starts from the basic question: What is the status of the young child before God? As Ron states the answer to that question has tremendous implications for the attitudes we have to children's evangelism and to the actions we undertake in any ministry with children.

The second chapter on "Children & the Kingdom of God" in which he discusses the pros and cons of six possible understandings of the status of the child before God is essential reading. The easily read material

which discusses the biblical material in a very balanced way is not too theologically heavy for the average worker among children. The position that Ron advocates in the third chapter is one that I found very stimulating and which still had great implications for our evangelism amongst children.

Three chapters which deal with the relationship of children and their families, children and congregations and children and society, especially those in danger contain some interesting thought provoking material. I was intrigued by the way the book is set out with little boxes that raise questions that apply what Ron is discussing in the text.

In Churches of Christ with our emphasis on adult baptism and church membership we have tended to ignore children especially when it comes to their involvement in church services. Reading this book will raise many questions as to what we should have been doing and what should be our approach to children today.

Highly recommended.

— C.R.A.

## LAUGHTER, JOY AND HEALING

by Donald E. Demaray (Baker Book House)

This book is designed to be read on a daily basis over 13 weeks. I found it heavy going, reading it in one sitting. The author, a prolific writer, is a preaching professor in the U.S.A. He presents the healing capacity of laughter and joy which is well-documented medically.

If you can see beyond the inadequate illustrations that often don't support the initial Bible verse, you will learn a lot about the use of the emotional healing which often precedes and/or accompanies physical healing. Despite its title, this is a serious book!

— Kaye Caporn

## THE WORLD WALKS BY

by Sue Masham (Collins Fount) \$8.95

The 184 pages of this paperback come alive with glimpses of history, geography and 'how the other half lives' (both those in distressing circumstances and members of the House of Lords). It is laced with humour. We read of the recollections of a lively child, her sporting accomplishments, then the accident and the months spent in hospital, where the humour managed to shine through in spite of the suffering.

Unspoken questions of mine about life in a wheelchair, and questions which hadn't even occurred to me, were answered in a no-fuss, down-to-earth style. Photographs give emphasis to the narrative. I read this book through quickly the first time, keen to learn what would happen next, then slowly, absorbing the variety of detail, admiring Sue for her courage, and feeling glad that, through her story, I now know this intrepid woman.

—Nancy Garth



"I ACTUALLY DON'T NEED ANY SHOES—I JUST LIKE HAVING A MAN AT MY FEET."

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## From Dundrom to Yamen

How do you accept change? Most of us accept change gradually and in small doses.

Binawl (Bin-ah-well) is a student at Yamen Bible School, PNG, this year. She comes from Dundrom in the Schrader Ranges. About four men from there have come down to the lowlands for training. Gabriel, the pastor at Dundrom, was trained at Momonup Agro-Nutritional Training Centre. Binawl is the first woman. I would say she is about 16-17 years old. Her parents say she understands Tok Pisin but cannot speak it. I think her understanding is also very limited.

Change came quickly for Binawl. The heat of the lowlands with all its humidity and mosquitoes (very bad this year). First sight of a lot of water, first canoe trip, first ride in an aeroplane. Being asked to wash in a lot of water when you can't swim. Living with a group of girls where your only communication is by body language (very effective when you know it). Eating sago which you've never had before and many other new tastes. The discipline of a school routine and the classroom situation.

## New Directions for Refugee Ministry

The recent reorganisation of the Australian Council of Churches' Refugee and Migrant Services has signified a change of directions for this ministry. The ACC's Commission for World Christian Action has strongly reaffirmed the ecumenical commitment on serving refugees and migrants in Australia.

To provide better stewardship and utilisation of resources, greater involvement of congregations, the ACC has consolidated its program and is seeking greater co-operation with member churches.

An ACC delegation met with the Immigration Minister, Clyde Holding, on May 18 to discuss ongoing co-operation between the churches and the government in refugee work. In August the Churches Conference on Migra-

—Aileen Draney

Last Friday people from Binawl's village asked after her. They were worried and wanted to know how she was coping. "Extremely well", was my reply, "and she has accepted all the adjustments as though they had always been part of her life. She can recognise Mama and Papa in written form and has memorised Romans 3:23."

I shared this with Binawl (as best I could) and asked if she was worried. A shake of the head and a shrug of the shoulders was her reply. "Are you worried about your parents?" was the second question. The reply was the same, a shake of the head and a shrug of the shoulders.

Binawl is not saying much but she is certainly witnessing to God's ability to care and look after us when we give ourselves to him. Binawl is his child and she is witnessing to the fact that he can be depended upon to help us cope with all the changes life brings. The other students are being strengthened by Binawl's witnessing. She, I feel, is unconscious of this but others are drawing strength from her.

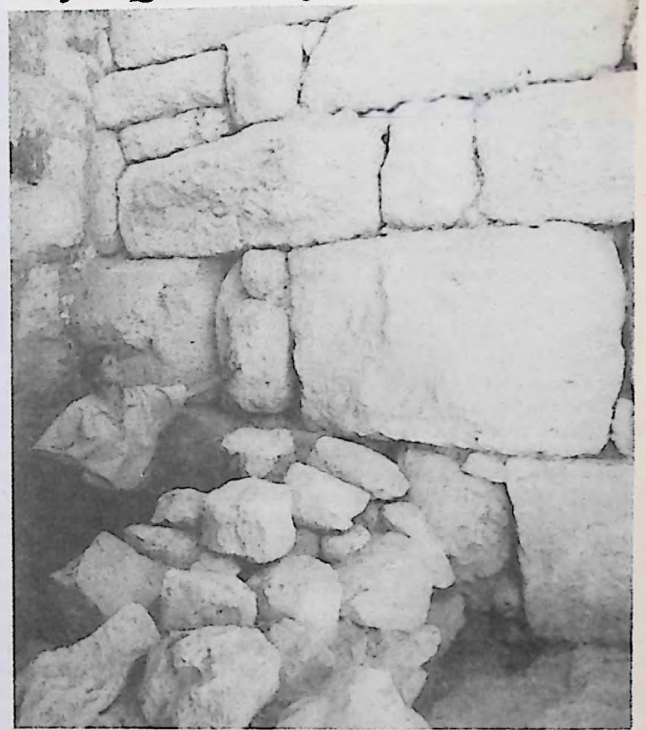
Do we know God well enough to depend on him for all the changes life brings to us?

tion will discuss their response to the report on Australia's immigration policy which was headed by Dr Stephen Fitzgerald, which was recently tabled in Parliament.

The ACC has historically been involved in the resettlement of refugees. It is now planned to broaden this to include the identification of root causes of refugee problems and to seek solutions through parish education and advocacy.

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## Royal Quarter of the Bible



A defensive tower (pictured) was recently unearthed in excavations at the 2,000 year-old biblical site of the Ophel area of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The tower is part of a city gate characteristic of the period. It is believed that the gate was unique in that it served as a palace gate as well as a city gate.

This belief is substantiated by the dramatic find of a giant vessel inscribed to the Minister of O... in Hebrew. Archaeologists consider

the vessel an intriguing mystery since the 'o' could stand for the royal baker (ophim in Hebrew) or possibly the royal treasurer (otzar in Hebrew).

With the completion of the second season of excavations at the Ophel, the Hebrew University researchers believe they are seeing for the first time monumental public structures from the period of the kings of Judah. The structures were destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE.



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Dean Sander



As an outgrowth of the Church of England in South Africa, an independent Church of England in Zimbabwe has been formed. Though both bodies have Anglican roots, neither is part of the official worldwide Anglican Communion.

According to Keston College nearly 300 known religious prisoners remain in the Soviet Union. Last September the Chairman of the Council for Religious Affairs of the USSR, Kostantin Kharchev, said all of the religious prisoners would be released by November 1987. Beyond the prisoners known by Keston College, many more are suspected to be currently held for their strong faith in God.

The new two party government in Nigeria threatens to polarise Christians and Muslims in a struggle for control. Christian leaders have been killed and more than 150 churches have been destroyed by Muslims struggling to make Islam the dominant religion of the west African nation. An Islamic leader has predicted that the two party system will force Christians and Muslims to opposite political parties and could divide the nation because Muslims will not accept Christian leadership to the government.

The National Council of Churches in the Philippines has denied being a conduit of support for the "communist guerilla movement" in the Philippines, a claim made in a recent Australian newspaper report. They say that there is no evidence given to support the allegation. They are engaged in programs devoted to the uplift and empowerment of the poor and neediest in their society. They have spoken strongly against human rights violations and the militarisation of their society. They believe strongly that such

programs are integral to their Christian witness and pastoral work.

Lambeth Council has withdrawn a grant of £50,000 to a London City Mission centre because they refused to employ homosexual and lesbian staff.

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.

With the Bible Society of Brazil, the Japan Bible Society is preparing an edition of the New Testament with Psalms in Japanese and Portuguese for Japanese congregations in Brazil.

The 'Alliance Chrétienne Francophone' has just been formed in Melbourne. It is an evangelical, non-denominational group. The ACF have a Bible study/fellowship group in French every Monday, 7.30pm and a French language worship service the 1st Sunday of every month at 3pm, 234 Elgar Rd, Box Hill South. Phone: (03) 876 2018.

The Christian Churches of Expo Chapel will be open daily to staff and visitors during the six months of World Expo 88. 3 services will be held each day in the chapel. It was designed to be a quiet place for reflection, worship and prayer. Churches involved are the Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Lutheran and Presbyterian Churches, the Churches of Christ, the Salvation Army and the Uniting Church.

The Uniting Church Southern Africa Support Group is joining with the Anti-Apartheid Movement (Vic) and the South Africa ANC Support Committee, to organise a march and vigil on June 16. This is to mark the 12th anniversary of the Soweto Uprising in South Africa. The vigil will be at the City Square beginning at 5.30pm.

The Lutheran and Seventh Day Adventist churches in Russia have asked the United Bible Societies to supply Bibles and other Christian literature. This service is being performed because Soviet authorities have granted import permits for the books so long as the UBS is the supplier.

The Amity Press in Nanjing, China, is printing the Bible for the people in China. The Press had its official opening in December last year. An original printing run of 300,000 Bibles has since been doubled and the plant was also printing 200,000 New Testaments.

It was recommended at a pan-African workshop that the issues of hunger, drought, famine and injustices among other material needs of the people in Africa should be effectively incorporated in the theological teaching and the spiritual ministry of churches. The workshop was organised by the All Africa Conference of Churches and hosted by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania.

The Queensland Churches of Christ Annual Men's Dinner will be held at the Pine Rivers church on July 9 at 6pm, followed by a rally to be addressed by Haydn Sargent. The charge is \$8 per head. Contact Chris Pohle (07) 205 7081.

The government of Vietnam has invited World Vision to re-establish its

humanitarian work in the country. There is massive poverty throughout Vietnam. A survey team will go there in the next six months to determine the type of assistance needed.

Catholic Maronite bishop Albert Khoraihe was abducted from his home north of Beirut, Lebanon, in late April. His body was found a week later. Relations between some senior churchmen and the armed forces have not been good recently because the Maronite church has been critical of abuses by government troops.

Almost 500,000 people are likely to join the 1988 World Vision 40 Hour Famine and 1,500,000 others will sponsor them. They are expected to raise over \$5 million to help in Ethiopia and other countries. The Famine will go from 8pm June 17 to 12 noon June 19.

World Vision's Pakistan representative Sonny Enriquez predicts it could be more than a year before some sense of normality returns to Afghanistan despite the pull-out of Soviet troops. All existing Afghan refugee programs are expected to continue for at least one more year because of the unknown future for returnees to their country, so devastated during the war.

Dr Dean E. Walker, a senior professor of church history from the Disciples church, USA, died on April 6, 1988. He had worked on many committees, for over 30 years served as president of the European Evangelistic Society, and had lectured at the Colleges in Glen Iris, Woolwich and Kenmore.

The community of the Disciples of Christ in Zaire is a thriving Christian witness of more than 650,000 people.

The Rt Rev Festo Kivengere, 68, died in Kenya last month. He had been Anglican Bishop of Kigezi in Uganda since 1972, surviving the reign of Idi Amin, (Festo and his family lived in exile for 2 years). As evangelist, bishop, pastor, aid and development worker, author, refugee and national hero, Bishop Festo received several awards, including the International Freedom Prize, and touched the lives of millions throughout Africa and the world.

According to Kwang Sik Moon, the minister at Adelaide's first Korean Presbyterian Church, nearly all 100 members of Adelaide's South Korean community attend church, a vital part of the community's life. The church has just purchased its first building, formerly an Anglican church.

Rich and poor nations, attending a UN food conference in Cyprus recently, had differing views on the problem of the world's 520 million starving. From Colombia came the suggestion that developed countries lacked the political will to help. Japan's representative claimed that some poor nations had failed to slow population growth or end imbalances in distribution of land and income. The EEC says harnessing food surpluses to aid development programs risked distorting local food markets and proposed more productive use of grain surpluses, such as using grain to pay indigenous workers on development schemes.

**OVERSEAS  
MISSION  
OFFERING  
JULY 3**

## Halls Gap Developments

Phillip and Annette Orr (left), managers at the Halls Gap, Vic., camping centre, are seen here discussing the recently installed ropes course with manager John Beard of Camp Waterman. The course was designed and built by Paul Fry, assistant manager at Camp Waterman, with help from Phillip Orr, who commenced at Halls Gap in February. The ropes course is proving extremely popular with campers of all ages.

Earlier this year a renovated room to accommodate 10 campers was completed. The accommodation has separate toilet and shower facilities and is available for hire. The Stawell church has generously donated \$1,000 towards further camp improvements.

### Four Centres

Each of the four camping centres operated by the Vic-Tas



Department of Mission, Education and Development has a forward development program in hand. At Camp Waterman additions and alterations are proposed. Camp Banksia facilities have been extensively renovated, with further work planned. At Bichen

major building proposals are awaiting final municipal approval.

John Beard of Camp Waterman will spend four weeks visiting camping centres in the United States from mid-June. His visit is being sponsored by the DMED.

He will be accompanied by his wife Marilyn. The visit will also include contact with special outdoor education projects and take account of trends in adult education, resource centre use and camping program trends for children and youth.

## Churches a Major Force in 40 Hour Famine

Christians and the church play a major part in the success of the annual World Vision 40 Hour Famine. Church groups are among the most motivated in gaining sponsorship.

Harold Henderson, World Vision Executive Director, says: "I believe this is because Christians have the example of Christ to serve needy and hungry people. The church is becoming a major

force for advancing the cause of justice."

Churches of Christ involved in this year's World Vision 40 Hour Famine include Wollongong City with 300 participants, Berwick with 80, Frankston with 50, Blacktown with 45 and York St. Ballarat with 25.

More than 43,000 church people are expected to participate in the 40 Hour Famine, 8pm June 17 till noon June 19. Participants miss four main meals and ask family and friends to sponsor them.

Harold Henderson said, "I've recently been in Ethiopia where famine is claiming lives. There have been great improvements through development projects but many other people are facing starvation."

Latest reports from Ethiopia state that 45 are dying every day in Sudanese refugee camps in southwestern Ethiopia. More than 300,000 Sudanese have fled to Ethiopia from war in Sudan.

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian development agency working with many churches and Christian agencies in 80 countries around the world.

## From Black Sabbath to Jesus Christ

US rock star Jeff Fenholt, rated among the five best rock and roll voices in the world, will be touring in Australia June 18-July 4. He will be appearing in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide.

### Christian Sports Ministry Seminar

The Sports & Leisure Ministry is holding a seminar on July 6 at the Sunnybank, Brisbane, Qld., church on July 6 from 10 am-12.30 pm. This will be followed by lunch at the Oasis Lounge and Gardens.

The seminar is for those involved in sports wishing to have fellowship with fellow sportsmen and for those wanting to learn about ministry to professional sports. Those wishing to attend should contact Mark Willis on (07) 345 2341 before July 1.

Seminar speakers include John Shaw, Olympic Gold Medal sailor; Russell Hinds, chaplain for the Brisbane Broncos; and Rainer Ratinac, former Australian squash representative, Rev. Garry Coleman, President of the National Pit Padres Association and SLM's founder Rev. Dr Mark Tronson.

Although touring as a solo performer, he is better known as the former lead vocalist for "Black Sabbath" He also performed the role of Jesus in the original Broadway production of "Jesus Christ Superstar".

These days he is singing a different song. Since becoming a Christian in 1979 he has dedicated his talent to singing for the cause of Christ. He has an amazing story to tell of his experience of moving from darkness to light. Phil Donohue found Jeff's story so captivating that he ran a 90 minute TV special on his life.

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## Obituaries limited to 100 words.

### ANDERSON, Alex

(26.2.88) Loved husband of Edith, father of David, Keith and Neil. Alex was born in Swan Hill, Vic, in 1909. Much church history traces back to the Anderson family farm, including early baptisms in a dam. Alex made his decision in 1925, he married in 1935. He is well remembered for his quiet, solid commitment and involvement in the Swan Hill church, serving in many capacities in the church. He was loved and respected by family and friends for his example. After a lengthy period in the nursing home Alex wanted to be with the Lord as his niece Betty prayed with him.

—L.J. Mayes

### CLARK, Rose Emma

(18.5.88)

The church was filled to overflowing when we gathered on May 20 to thank God for Rose's life. A faithful member of the church over many years, Rose served in many capacities. Her witness in the community has been a help to many. She was constantly concerned for the needs of those around her and many in the community saw something of the love of God in Rose. Her constant faith throughout her suffering, after she contracted cancer, drew us all closer to the Saviour whom she loved. Her influence will live on in the lives of those who knew her.

—Stan Bannon

### DEANE, Dorothy Grace

Grace was the third generation of the Hayes family to be involved with the Cheltenham, Vic, church. She was born 26.10.1893. Her grandparents were district pioneers and foundation members at Cheltenham. There, Grace was baptised, aged 15. In 1916 she married Fred Deane. After his retirement they lived in the Sandringham and Parkdale communities. Grace supported her church throughout her life, for the past three years living at Meadowvale Retirement Village, Parkdale. Sympathy is expressed to her family: Stan and Elsie Deane, Marj and Ray Job, Dorothy and Frank Hall's and Terry Deane, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

—J. Shield

### MASON, Margaret Caroline

(30.4.88). The death of Margaret Mason has taken from us a dedicated Christian. Known to many in various parts of the world. She was born in Bendigo over 86 years ago. As a young woman she went into partnership with her parents in a pastry goods business in Cranbourne. Married Sydney Mason, Sept. 1934, at Essendon church by H.G. Patterson. She became a loyal member of North Essendon. They had one daughter, Alison (Mrs Kevin Phillips) and three grandsons, Ian, Wayne and Bruce. Margaret and Sydney moved to Victor Harbor in 1969 where Sydney died in 1972. She loved to be with people and attend meetings. She loved to travel and attended Federal Conferences

and World Conventions. She loved her garden and she loved and served her Lord. The service and burial took place at Victor Harbor.

— Merv Lawrie

### SHIPWAY, Helena Beatrice

(6.4.88) Born at Currency Creek, SA, 12.2.1890, she lived there for over 60 years before moving to Goolwa—where her mother had been a foundation member of the church—to live with her brother Will. Affectionately known as Auntie Lena, she was the last surviving member of her family. She was a capable superintendent of the church Sunday School kindergarten for many years. Having suffered fractures, coupled with crippling arthritis, in later years she was unable to attend church, but was always eager for news of her church family. She has gone to be with the Lord she faithfully served.

—D. Tuckwell

### THOMSON, Jack Ramsay

(28.5.88). After severe suffering Jack Thomson died in the Repat. Hospital, Daw Park, S.A. He was born at Frewille in 1918. His schooling was at St Leonards and he worked for the Tasmanian Govt. Tourist Bureau. In 1940 he joined the RAAF and was located in Melbourne, Canada and England. Oct. 11, 1941, he married Marjory Wickham and to them were born Geoffrey and Russell. Jack was baptised at Edwardstown in 1959 and became active in church work. He served as deacon, secretary, lay preacher, S.S. teacher and Superintendent. He also worked with neglected and destitute children at Glandore. In 1972 Marj and Jack moved to Victor Harbor. With great courage and fortitude he endured his suffering and kept the faith. During this time he gave service to people over CB radio with counselling, information and aiding people in trouble. He received an award for this work.

— Merv Lawrie

**Peter Chlgwell, 70, a retired New Zealand school principal, is in his fourth year voluntarily living in Tonga's Hu'atollitoll Prison, sharing God's Good News with prisoners. "I have discovered that Jesus Christ is where suffering is," he said**

A community of several hundred Christians has developed among Tibetan exiles in India. With recent turmoil in their home nation, they are producing radio broadcasts and literature to reach their people with the Good News.

Figures have been compiled indicating that the world spends \$2.5 million a minute on its military forces—\$1,313 billion each year. In 1987 the US spent \$418 billion and the USSR \$371 billion.

## QLD

### TOWNSVILLE (Greg Muller).

Townsville church hosted Covenant Players who presented well-executed program with challenge to evangelism & commitment ... CWF will be hosting annual ladies' camp on Magnetic Island in August ... Church has invited Richard & Shirley Pearce to present their Celebrate Australia concert to the people of Townsville in July as part of the city's well-established Entertainment in the Parks program.

### CENTENARY (Reg Charles).

Following 10th anniversary & debt-free building complex, church ventured forth in faith to full-time ministry ... Since beginning of this year there has been a surge in numbers, with a new family in attendance almost every Sunday ... Building of new Commonwealth Occasional Day Care Centre (\$250,000) on church block has commenced ... Centenary is in good heart & praising the Lord for his blessings.

## WA

**PERTH (G. Powell).** Rosalie Rofe showed slides of her work in PNG at Sunday evening tea & to CWF ... 44 people, from toddlers to grandparents, profited from weekend at Kum-ba-yah ... Over \$80 raised at CWF slide evening when George Powell shared adventures trekking in Nepal ... Neighbourhood Friendship Centre, to help migrants make friends & practise English, commenced on May 13.

**FREMANTLE (D. Good).** Our church building was the venue for the ecumenical service on Pentecost Sunday evening. Archdea-

con B. McGowan gave the homily ... CWF held a Morning Coffee prior to Mothers' Day, guest speaker: hospital chaplain, Margaret Hill ... CWF visited Illawong Village ... At evening service Ella Williams told of her experiences working in Calcutta with Mother Teresa ... 90th birthday of Ruby Mason recognised.

## VIC

**BURWOOD (Peter Wing-Tang).** Over 70 attended dinner held to launch church building extension program. Church now awaiting confirmation of plans from Council. Project to cost approx \$90,000 ... \$500 sent to Bible Society for Bibles for China ... Over \$4,500 given in past four years for emergency fund used as mission outreach into local community ... Vic Smith home from hospital after successful knee surgery.

Less than 2 years ago 16 leaders came to an Asian Outreach pastors seminar. Since then, they and their co-workers have planted 35 churches in the Himalayas from Kashmir to Burma, including Nepal, Bhutan and north India. Many of the churches are started along borders with countries where Christianity is illegal. Opposition has come from other religions and government officials.

The International Congress for the Evangelisation of the Latin World will be held in California, USA, July 25-29. The Congress features 175 principal speakers including Luis Palau, Hermano Pablo and Alberto Mottesi. "Los Angeles '88" is expected to draw 4,000 representatives from all over the Hispanic world.

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## From A to B

Yesterday at 7.05am I heard the first knock on the door for the day. As I saw who stood there I yelled at him, "I don't want to see your face! What are you doing here anyway?"

He laughed ruefully. It was Anton, the driver of the boat I had waved off the afternoon before to go to Kakal, a drive of at least five hours. "The motor's broken down

again," he said. And we groaned in unison.

**Sometimes just getting from A to B in this part of PNG needs faith, persistence and stamina!**

I remember the Christmas dinner we were once going to share with other missionaries, two hours boat ride away. The motor broke down and we spent Christmas afternoon walking home

## Finding the Way Home

—Lyall Muller, Vanuatu

I love the illustration I first heard from Barry Cutchie about the little girl who was lost somewhere in the big city. When the friendly policeman tried to console her and find out where she lived she couldn't help much, but after more questions she told him, "If I can find the church I can find my way home." The little girl knew the way to the church building as she went there every Sunday. Today there is a lost world out there: if they can find the church, they too can find their way home.

So many people today know where the building is and see the crowds, or more likely the faithful few, filing in on Sunday, but they can't find the church that Jesus builds in the work place, on the sports field, or wherever they are. Is your church a light to the world pointing the Way to the Father?

The church in Vanuatu holds a very visible place in the community. The community takes notice of the witness given. When the cattle belonging to the church elder break into somebody else's garden and he doesn't act in humility and seek reconciliation then church attendance drops sharply. When the church leaders are living Christian lives you see a strong church as a reality.

I wonder if it's a superficial sort of Christianity at times. Yet to expect a person's commitment to Christ to flow over into every action and word is nothing other than what the Master himself expected.

Last year Pastors Amos Tangwale, Shem Tema and I ran nine training courses for one-to-one

evangelism with about 120 trainees. In a practical session going out two by two for less than two hours, over 200 made some sort of positive response to having had Christ shared with them. No-one rejected Jesus Christ. A lot of people couldn't come to him because they saw his body as too ugly and unlovely. Some who responded positively never found their way into a church building for the same reason.

Is Australia, Africa, China or Iran very different? Few people reject Jesus Christ but a lot are not attracted to his body, the church in the world today. He said we are witnesses. I think of that as a statement of fact more than a command to become something. What does our witness point to? Are Churches of Christ in Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, India, Australia, witnessing to a real, living powerful Lord and Saviour? People around these islands have learned to use an evangelism tool with good effect and so they can say the right words. They continue to learn to live the life that is linked to those words and the church grows.

You may need training to say the right words and that should be made available as part of the Christian Education program in every church. You are a witness. Let's each have a check-up to see if our witness condemns the Lord and his church or sets him free to do his saving, justifying work.

**PLEASE ADVISE  
ANY CHANGE OF  
ADDRESS**



—Fay Christensen, PNG

down was in the driver's bag. And the stranger who helped a group of missionary ladies change a tyre on the truck between Angoram and Wewak. The times of being bogged down to the axles half-way to nowhere.

Even flying is not always straightforward. No bush hostess in PNG takes the sheets off the guests' beds until she hears that they have arrived where they were going. You never know when the weather may close in and the plane not come. Or perhaps a plane load of uninvited guests who could not get where they were going may land and spend the night with you! At Chungribu it's just possible that the river may be running across the airstrip on the day we want to go somewhere. Or perhaps the plane is too full and someone has to be offloaded.

There's always walking, isn't there? When you're lying on your back in the mud after having just fallen off a slippery, round log bridge, even that doesn't look very attractive.

In PNG, getting from A to B can be a faith-building exercise.

through the bush. So much for Christmas dinner.

There was the time it took us 12 hours to go by boat from Tsumba to Chungribu—normally a two-hour ride. And the times I have sat on sand banks in the river praying while the driver tinkered with the motor; and once we pulled our way in a creek through weed so thick the motor could not run in it.

I remember the car ride from Bunapas to Madang to catch a plane for Australia, breaking down, and then discovering that the part needed to fix the break-

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## ENGAGEMENTS

**BATTERHAM — WEBB** Norm and Margaret Batterham are pleased to announce the engagement of their only daughter, Anne, to Graham, eldest son of Allan and Val Webb. "The Lord bless you and keep you and give you peace."

**McCRAW — CAMPBELL** Joan and Alan McCraw of Berwick and Margaret Campbell of Mitcham proudly announce the engagement of Jenny and Colin on 21st May 1988.

## DEATHS

**SHIPWAY, Helena Beatrice** (Lena). On April 6th 1988, dearly loved daughter of Margaret and Henry Shipway, Currency Creek, and loved sister of Ted, Hilda (Grundy), Nell (Grundy), Will, Percy and Clifton (all deceased). Loved Aunt of Valma (nee Shipway), Dawn and Nath (both nee Grundy) and Ian.

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A leading Anglican clergyman from Botswana, Canon Osmer, recently visiting Canberra, claimed that the South African regime is becoming more repressive. 17 organisations were banned earlier this year. He said that by moving to make non-violent opposition to apartheid illegal the government is forcing people to see violence increasingly as the only option left.

This year Christians in the Soviet Union, and throughout the world, will be celebrating the 1000th anniversary of the baptism of Grand Prince Vladimir of Kiev in the Orthodox church. The account of the events surrounding this baptism are legendary, with some basis in historical facts.

The Anglican church in Melbourne has called for a review of the costs of in vitro fertilisation programs in Australia. The average cost of a successful birth through IVF is over \$40,500. Archdeacon Nichols, speaking for the Social Responsibilities' Committee of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, said priority in existing programs should be given to naturally infertile people rather than those seeking a reversal of sterilisation.

Recently announced NZ government plans to tax charities and churches have been widely condemned as draconian and unprecedented in the Western world. The moves would result in crippling financial payouts for many churches and charities, taxing "the relief of suffering".

The growth of Christianity in Zimbabwe, and elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa is occurring because of a strong emphasis on evangelism, former PM, Bishop Abel Muzorewa of the United Methodist Church in Zimbabwe, told an American audience. He reported that more than 6 million are annually converted to the Christian faith in Africa. Growth in the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe was about 20% annually. So many people are uniting with the church that Christian leaders cannot keep up with demands for pastors.

The world's Christian population is estimated to be 33% of the world's total population of 5 billion. 19 out of 20 Christians live outside of the US.

Operation Mobilisation reports that plans are moving ahead to bring MV Doulos (the 'Bible ship') to Australia in 1989 to visit Devonport, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and other ports.

Luis Palau conducted evangelistic crusades last March in 2 widely separated Mexican cities. More than 94,000 attended the 2 'Festival of the Family' crusades and 6,142 registered public commitments.

Far East Broadcasting Company, a long-established evangelistic short-wave radio operation, reported 624,000 letters from listeners for counsel or literature last year. Some were from countries where no missionaries are allowed, and there are restrictions against normal dissemination of Christian literature.

14 new Baptist fellowships have begun in Victoria since 1985 when the Baptist family of churches set the goals of planting 76 new churches and attracting 10,000 new members by the year 2000.

The World Wildlife Fund has launched its first field project linking conservation and religion. The project, now underway near Lake Nakuru in Western Kenya, is designed to set up pilot schemes which stress the importance of conservation in its broadest sense to human survival, the quality of life and sustainable development (ie, that living natural resources should not be used faster than they can renew themselves). Existing practices, religious beliefs and social patterns which may be harnessed or considered when designing and implementing further phases of the project will need to be identified. These include land-use practices, family structure, religious and cultural beliefs.

Genesis 88, organised by the Victorian Baptists and held on May 22, was a significant celebration. The program of music, communion and the message from Dr Noel Vose, was shared in by 13,000, with 50 commitments.

The next QCWF rally will be held at the Southport Church of Christ on August 23. The speaker will be Quetta Little. The program will begin with morning tea at 10am. Anyone with difficulties concerning transport, or other inquiries, should phone Pam Paddick on (07) 808 4639.

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## \* FILM WORKSHOP & SEMINAR

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## Golden Jubilee

World Home Bible League began in the US in 1938 when William Chapman began distributing a stock of 1,000 Bibles he had purchased. 50 years later over 300 million Bibles have been distributed.

At present WHBL is providing 1,000,000 Portuguese New Testaments for Brazil and 1,000,000 New Testaments for Australia as part of Operation Good News. The demand for God's Word is

greater than ever, particularly in such places as China and South America.

WHBL also works with other evangelical groups such as Wycliffe, printing 85% of all Wycliffe translations.

WHBL's method of distribution is through local churches. Each copy is personally handed to an inquirer, and an in-depth follow-up system used.

## Quality of Life Program

The Ararat, Vic., community are still talking about the gentle man of God who came to lovingly minister. Dr Geoff Whiting, a professionally qualified counsellor, came for a week in early May. It was intended that he spend time teaching and counselling with the church as a base, reaching out into the community. All the Christian churches were invited to share in his ministry and did so.

Geoff ran classes in pastoral care, preached at Sunday services and made himself available for counselling. The quality of the man drew people to him to share their hurts and concerns, and to experience his healing ministry. He spoke at local community service clubs and people came to other meetings to hear more. His counselling load went from early morning to late at night, interrupted only by arranged meetings.

The final Sunday evening saw people from the Uniting, Anglican and Catholic Churches sharing with us in a gospel celebration service.

In September Geoff will take up invitations to work in schools, and in community programs set up for him by people in Ararat who want his ministry.

Geoff and his wife Marg recently retired for the second time when they completed their pastoral ministry at Doncaster. However, with their complete commitment to our Lord, they are willing to continue to use the gifts he has given.

Geoff reminds us that there are a lot of God's people living in the community who are out of contact with any church. We need to be out in that community sharing the abundant life we have received.

—Stan Bannon

## Small Groups



### Roberta Hestenes

A national conference on Growing the Church Through Small Groups was held in Melbourne in May, with one-day seminars in Adelaide and Sydney. These were sponsored by World Vision, Scripture Union and Serendipity Christian Resources. The key speaker was Roberta Hestenes, former associate professor of Christian Formation and Discipleship at Fuller Seminary in California.

400 attended the conference. Through 12 three-hour sessions

participants took an in-depth look at different aspects of small group ministry. In both the conference and the seminars Roberta Hestenes shared her belief that small groups are one of the most significant methods of personal and corporate growth in the church, to be used for both nurture and outreach. Participants were helped to discover that small groups were a place where people could be invited to find some stepping stones to faith and discipleship.

## Report from Wagga Wagga

The Wagga Wagga, NSW, church is growing in leaps and bounds. We have had many young people baptised, and two church members married in the last five weeks. We are having a family BBQ once a month in a gas BBQ area built in our playground behind the church.

A full coach and many private cars transported people from our church to be part of the National Gathering in Canberra on May 7 and 8. Many from our church were billeted at Lyons church hall and enjoyed participating in their Sunday service.

We have been getting so many ladies and children in our Play-

group that we have divided into two groups. We have 28 ladies attending each week with 43 children. This is becoming a great ministry as the majority of the mothers are not church attenders.

Last month our church office opened. It's open from 9.30am to 2.30pm. We have three ladies part-time and many volunteers helping with the typing, computer and other tasks.

An estimated 1.5 million gathered in Murtala Square, Nigeria, to show their support for the believers from the churches which were destroyed in the Muslim riots last year, and to raise money to help with rebuilding.

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Cliff Barrows, 40-year associate of evangelist Billy Graham, was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame last April in Nashville, Tennessee. This high honour is a tribute given annually to a person worthy of memorial recognition by reason of their indelible impact on the annals of gospel music.

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## TAMING THE TELEVISION

### A Parent's Guide to Children and Television

by Peter G. Horsfield (Albatross Books)

An excellent discussion on the place of television in the home. Dr Horsfield is an Australian Uniting Church minister who studied in the fields of mass communications and theology in America.

He includes a very interesting discussion on why children watch television. It is material that any family with children and a television set should read. Peter Horsfield does acknowledge some values and enjoyment that television can provide but he also raises some of the problems that television viewing brings, especially uncontrolled viewing.

A number of alternative approaches to the handling of television in the home are presented along with some helpful resources. As this book has been on my shelf for some time I know that one organisation listed here no longer exists but the other material is excellent.

The other helpful chapter is answers to a series of questions that are commonly asked about television such as why are commercials so loud?; is watching television harmful to the eyes?; does watching an occasional violent programme do permanent damage to my children?; how do you decide what's good for your child to watch at different age? etc.

Recommended.

— C.R.A.

## JEREMIAH

by David Day (Inter-Varsity Press)

This is the second of IVP's new series of Bible biographies which portray the personality, life, importance and historical setting of biblical characters. For most of his life, Jeremiah's preaching, like Noah's, fell on deaf ears, but he had the courage and the tenacity to speak for God in a time of crisis, in spite of apathy, if not opposition.

For many Christians the Old Testament is almost a closed book, and even the familiar stories of Jesus as recorded in the gospels are increasingly unknown among young people generally.

This series seeks to meet this need, and at a level that young people can readily understand. The brief opening chapter deals with the death of Ashurbanipal (Supreme Lord of Assyria, Shadow of God), despite the attention and ministrations by doctors and magicians exercising their

secret arts. Mention is also made of an insignificant son of a priest, Jeremiah, who, by one of God's ironies, within a few years became an important figure in Jerusalem. The Lord laid His hand on this man's life and the earth began to tremble and the mountains to shake.

Each of the following chapters (10 in all) deals with a selected passage from the prophecy, many of which have given rise to the labelling of Jeremiah as the 'weeping prophet'. The passages are discussed and application made to Christian living today.

The closing chapter of the book suggests that we may feel a little sorry for Jeremiah who worked so long for so little apparent effect. But we need Jeremiah's witness; we desperately need to let him speak.

This is a small book, easily read and of great value to those anxious to learn about these witnesses from the past.

—Paul Payne

## PARENTS, KIDS & SPORTS

by Bernie Schock (Moody Press) \$12.90.

Children are becoming more involved in sport these days. As well parents are becoming more demanding of the standards of their children when they play sport. As a sportsman and a parent who has been involved in coaching children in sporting teams it is often the parents who are the hardest to deal with either because of their intensity or the unreal expectations that they have of their children.

Bernie Schock has written this guide for parents because of his concern for both parents and children. He is concerned that sport is taking the place of God in many lives and he wishes to bring before readers the priorities that sport has and should have in peoples lives.

Bernie Schock looks at both the strengths and weaknesses of sports for children. Many of these he discusses from personal experience. There is also a helpful section discussing the parental role in organising sport for children. The last three chapters are a discussion of the way that sport, for both children and their parents, impinges on spiritual values.

All of the illustrations are from an American setting and some of these were not appropriate to an Australian setting, however this book raises some very important issues that I have not seen anywhere else. I would recommend this book to any parent who has children involved in sport in any way.

— C.R.A.

# HAPPENINGS



Gospel Recordings World Fellowship are now registered under the initials "L.R.I." which will represent, depending on the country, Language Recordings Inc. (Australia and PNG), Language Recordings India, Language Recordings International (Bangladesh, Pakistan and UK) or Lem-baga Rekeman Injil (Indonesia). There are 4,400 languages which have been recorded by the organisation and this is the work they will continue to be involved in. The change was made because the word 'gospel' could have an adverse effect on the work in certain countries.

Youth Specialties Australia will be holding the 3rd National Youth Workers Convention in Melbourne, July 5-8, and Perth, July 8-10. Speak-

ers at both cities will include Mike Yaconelli, Duffy Robbins and Graham Hyman. For further information contact: WA—Neale Fong, (09) 349 7052, Vic-Tas—Graham Hyman, (03) 232 4974, NSW-ACT—Chris Hutton (02) 630 7533, Qld-NT—Peter Cook (075) 32 2497.

The United Evangelistic Council of NSW is sponsoring a 'School for Evangelistic Preaching' on June 20-24. The aim is to sharpen the evangelistic skills of preachers, both experienced and inexperienced, with well-known preachers such as John Chapman, David Cook and John Woodhouse participating. Information and application forms may be obtained by phoning (02) 265 1582.

About 97% of the Danish people belong to the Lutheran church, the official state church of Denmark. However, of a population of over 5 million, only about 2% attend church. In Copenhagen it is estimated that only 1% attend church each Sunday. The success of the Luis Palau campaign there in April surprised some church leaders who say that Denmark is Christian only by tradition and culture. 41,000 attended the campaign over the five days and there were 792 public commitments.

Scripture Union's Christian Workers Training Day will be held in Melbourne on July 23, starting at 9am, at Hawthorn Institute of Education. Keynote speaker will be John

Smith. Electives will be led by Ross Langmead, John Hannaford, Moira Eastman, John U'ren and Steve Bradbury. Inquiries to (03) 428 4934 extn 44/45.

Women's ordination has been given a significant boost just weeks before the Lambeth Conference will discuss the contentious issue. 144 bishops from many areas of the Anglican Communion have signed the Pentecost message which declares their support for the ordination of women as bishops, priests and deacons. The statement says that without women in the ministry of the church its wholeness is not represented and the church's mission is impaired.

Translators behind the Iron Curtain met for a conference recently in Switzerland to give a boost to the writing, publishing and distribution of Christian literature in Soviet bloc countries. The conference attracted 15 from the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Yugoslavia and East Germany.

Refugees are crossing into Malawi from Mozambique at the rate of 25,000 a month. Nearly half a million have fled to Malawi from the attacks of the South African backed Mozambican National Resistance. Malawi is a relatively small country with a population of only 8 million.

## Christianity in South America

### Visit of Paul Clark

Recently Paul Clark, Regional Secretary for Scripture Union in the Americas, was in Melbourne. Whilst he was in town we joined several other members of the religious press to talk with Paul over morning tea. Paul is based in Lima, Peru and travels extensively in South and Central America. He is a Peruvian and he shared some interesting insights into the state of the church in this part of the world.

### Church Growth Evangelical

In Latin America over recent years many churches have experienced phenomenal growth. Paul outlined how all the churches labelled as evangelical have been growing rapidly. These are about 50% Pentecostal and 50% non-Pentecostal but these proportions vary from country to country. Paul stressed that evangelical is a collective term that is used instead of the term Protestant, because of the very negative understanding of that term due to the dominance of the Roman Catholic church in Latin America.

The one area of the church that is not growing in Latin America is that of the main-line Protestant churches, Paul Clark explained that the Latin people are very cynical and that the type of question they would ask about a church is, "Does it really work?" He implied that they see the evangelicals, both Pentecostals and others, providing a style and theology that is effective for South Americans and this is not seen of what he described as the liberal Protestant churches.

### Roman Catholic

Within the Roman Catholic church there has also been growth through renewal movements. There have been large changes in this church since the second Vatican Council. However the church still has a very heavy emphasis on the Virgin Mary. Paul's comment was that Latin society is a very patriarchal society and the father figure in Latin America does not have a very good image at all. Along with this the statues and paintings of Jesus in most Roman Catholic churches are very

graphic and daunting whereas those of the Virgin Mary are very attractive and appealing.

### Problems

Paul Clark saw the problems facing the Roman Catholic church as being an emphasis on liberation theology by many, the threat of evangelical growth and a lesser problem over the charismatic issue.

Within the evangelical churches there has been explosive growth in many areas. In some isolated areas there has been spontaneous revival occurring where there has been no church before. In many cases there is no background of faith and no structures to channel the new faith. The danger is that if the Christian church does not step up its assistance and help in teaching, then fringe groups and sects, such as the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Mormons, will step in and win these people away from Christ.

Tension between the Pentecostal/charismatic and other evangelicals is not an issue in Latin America. There is, in many cases, a difference in approach to the style of teaching but this does not seem to cause problems. Paul made the comment that in Latin America everybody expects to see the miraculous happen and that healing and other miracles would be a normal happening in all streams of the evangelical churches.

### Scripture Union

Paul Clark was primarily in Australia to tell the story of Scripture Union in the region and to look for assistance in several of their projects.

Scripture Union have two main areas of operations in the region. The first of these is the development and distribution of Bible reading material. They see this as very important as the expanding church needs to give its new members a good grounding in the faith. Also the Roman Catholic church has become very open to reading the Bible and they are seeking material in this area.

The second area of emphasis is in evangelism especially among young people. This is by a variety

of approaches that include work in schools, in camping, through Bible studies and through friendship evangelism. Scripture Union in Latin America is at present closely looking at its future directions and is developing a Latin approach to its task rather than the British style that was its image at first.

### Abandoned Children

Paul Clark shared of one staff member, Ernesto Zavala, and a new work he has been developing in Lima, Peru. He has a concern for the abandoned children of Lima. There are thousands of these children who belong to nobody and they just live on the streets. They are very wary of any adults, especially the police, and are preyed upon by the sex trade.

He sees the key to witnessing to these children as befriending them. To this aim he spends nights on the streets just getting alongside them and by contact with one he comes into contact with others.

Once he has their friendship he organises a camp for these children. He works alongside the police and has their support. Paul told the story of how one policeman who came to a camp for these children became a Christian because of the concern for the children that the Scripture Union staff exhibited.

Scripture Union are looking at establishing a refuge for such people in the city. However they are then caught in the middle of the strife between the extremes on both the left and right politically which could mean they will be in grave physical danger. When asked what they will do if the children show they have a change in their lifestyle by becoming Christians, Paul could only comment that they have no real plans to help these children in that situation.

The children, and others in similar situations, in Latin America are open to God's word of love and care. However the way it is expressed needs to be carefully stated given the understanding that Latin Americans have of God and Jesus Christ.

The 3rd International Christian Sports Congress will be held in Seoul from September 7-16, prior to the Olympic Games. Previous congresses were held in Washington DC '79 and Hong Kong '82.

The world population of 'conscientious atheists' is about 197 million, according to the International Association of Agnostics and Atheists. Another 8.5 million (4.3%) are added annually, the group claims.

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## Preparing for Worship

—Russell Ritchie  
Annerley, Qld.

**Lord ... I have come because I really do feel a deep need and desire to meet with you.**

For some years now I have been concerned about the noise level in many chapels immediately prior to the commencement of a service. Our services ought to be beautiful and meaningful experiences of worship. Can anything be done to help people better prepare themselves for the experience of truly worshipping God in their lives?

### Ideas for preparation

Many try times of quietness and prayer, or using soft music, to lead people into the presence of God prior to commencing the service. What I have found is that people need to be led in their times of preparation for worship. The following are some of the ways we are using. Maybe you can use them or suggest other ways for us all to try.

#### 1. Printed devotional thought

Often there is a devotional thought printed on the front of the church weekly newsletter. Many people read them, but not everyone takes a great deal of time to ponder the thoughts in the article.

I have selected different people each Sunday morning to call the church to quietness about five minutes prior to the commencement of the service. They will then direct everyone's attention to the devotional thought on the newsletter and read it through aloud in an attitude of devotion and preparation for worship. At the end, the person reading will lead the congregation in prayer, focussing on the devotional theme and asking God to pour out his blessing on all who have gathered for worship. It could be a different person who leads the prayer.

#### 2. Introits and special music

Each congregation is made up of different people, with different needs and experiences in life. A suitably worded introit or special song/hymn/chorus, could be the

means of people really opening up before the Lord in the service. Choose your music carefully and make sure that those who are assisting you in this area of ministry, through music, know what you are aiming to do.

#### 3. Scripture readings

What a wonderful opportunity this affords for bringing people into the very presence of God! Think of some of the prayers of Jesus, such as John 17, and some of the prayers of the apostle Paul. The Psalms afford us a wealth of devotional material.

The one thing that needs to be ensured is that the person who leads the congregation is able to do so with a great deal of feeling and conviction. This is not just a 'pre-service preamble'. It is a vital and responsible ministry. The person is there to focus people's thoughts as they come aside from the world to especially remember, worship and adore Jesus our Lord.

#### 4. Quietness and silent prayer

For many this seems an impossibility, and for some it is boring and dull. The temptation is always there to talk. Quiet periods of prayer and silent meditation can be greatly and effectively used to prepare people for worship.

One way we have tried which did significantly contribute to the atmosphere of quietness was to have someone call the church to prayer, and to point out that the elders and other selected people would be at the front of the chapel, praying for the service. These people could be seated or kneeling at the front praying together.

Also consider dimming the lights during this time of preparation. Emphasise the need for everyone in the chapel to be quiet and supportive in prayer. Have one person from the front lead in a brief audible prayer at the close of this time of preparation.

### Guidelines

1. The actual devotional thought must be simple in its content and presentation (no more than two minutes).

2. The reader must have a good reading voice, able to be heard and understood by everyone who has gathered for worship.

3. Scripture readings, if used, should be carefully selected, preferably from a modern translation.

4. Choose thoughts and readings which actually do the job you want them to do: to lead people to the point of being better prepared for worship.

5. Consider carefully and prayerfully the whole ministry of prayer in this time of preparation for worship. What sort of prayer and words would Jesus use if he was doing this important task?

6. Don't lose sight of the fact that this is a time of real spiritual significance—people need to be in the right attitude as they come to worship. What you can do to help people prepare properly for worship is, and always will be, invaluable in their spiritual growth.

True worship is an experience and an event to be remembered.

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 •Natalia Povey, Perth, WA.  
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 •Jenny Judd, Sharon Murphy, Ararat, Vic.  
 •Libby Reid, Ray Winkler, Yarrowonga, Vic.  
 •Dave Kedwell, Damien & Jo Gardner, Ruth Thompson, Ainslie Asquith, Ila Unicomb, Joanne Clarke, John

& Trish Shuttleworth, Ronald & Narelle Reid, Philip & Jeanette Burton, Stephen Brown, Manning Valley, NSW.  
 •Douglas Lakeman, Burwood, Vic.

## MARRIAGE

•Alyn Abarquez to Nigel Lazaro, Perth, WA.  
 •Lisa Smith to Mark Brown, Red Hill, Vic.  
 •Rhonda Budden to Leon Hook, Manning Valley, NSW.

## DEATHS

•Margaret Mason, Frank Halleday, Victor Harbor, SA.  
 •Doris Hammer, Perth, WA.  
 •Helena Shipway, Goolwa, SA.  
 •P. Kirby, LaTrobe Tce, Vic.  
 •Rose Clark, Ararat, Vic.  
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Salary will be as for South Australian ministers and a manse is available if required. The Board is located in Adelaide. A duty statement is available on request.

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.

### Changes of Address

**DARWIN:** Secretary — C/- P.O. Box 83, Sanderson, N.T. 0812. Office phone (089) 45 1484.

**WAGGA WAGGA:** Secretary — PO Box 45, Turvey Park, Wagga Wagga 2650. Office phone (069) 25 1586.

**SKILLICORN:** Ruth & Kelth — 292 Milne Road, Modbury Heights, S.A. 5092. Phone (08) 265 0417.

**MORRIS:** Alan W. & Ivy — 35 Fernlea Street, Warwick, W.A. 6024. Phone (09) 448 8081.

**HODGEKISS:** Neal — 4/8 Duke Street, Kensington, N.S.W. 2033. Phone (02) 663 4762. (Neal is now working with the Churches of Christ Social Service Dept. in N.S.W. as a chaplain with prisoners at Long Bay).

**ARARAT:** Minister — Stan & Irene Bannon, Church of Christ manse, 88 High St, Ararat Vic. 3377.

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## NSW

**MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins).** Sunday seminar on Creative Worship conducted by Christian Youth Tours Associated. Top time ... Gideons guests at service ... Mr Hawkins inducted N. Aubrey into Taree ministry. Mr Flett (Hamilton) also participated ... John & Gail Napper of New Tribes Mission spoke at mid-week service. They go to PNG in June.

**ALBURY (Rod Foster).** Husbands & Fathers group commenced ... Operation Good News underway ... Covenant Players & guest artists in May ... Alex Wilson appointed new senior minister, commencing 6.2.89 ... Bev Winch out of hospital, convalescing ... Outstanding church Family Camp, Mt Buffalo, study leader Lindsay Mayes ... Allan & Julie Blyth delegates to Vic-Tas Conference ... Church attendances increasing ... Members attended Canberra Prayer Rally before New Parliament House opening.

**LISMORE (Ian Phillips).** Hall packed for Northern Rivers rally held at Byron Bay ... Covenant Players took evening service ... Creche recommenced at morning services ... Visiting speakers included Chris Hutton, Lionel Berthelsen, Henry Webb, Owen Shelley ... Frank & Nell Kimpton celebrated 50th wedding anniversary ... Geof Davis & Arthur Davis speakers while Ian at Conference and Ministers' Refresher ... New daughter for Geoff & Josephine Hayter.

**THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliot).** On Pentecost Sunday the church shared in the Thornleigh-Pennant Hills combined churches Pentecost service at St Agatha's Catholic church, Pennant Hills, at 7.30pm; over 400 attended ... Special Ladies Outreach Breakfast was held in the hall on May 28, the guest speaker was Judy Conson, a teacher at St Lucy's School for the Blind at Wahroonga.

**MANNING VALLEY (B. Rice).** Church now affiliated with NSW Conference ... First birthday celebrations had Jeff Ramsay & team from Harvest Rain Ministries, Ipswich, as special guests.

Five first decisions & three rededications over weekend ... Membership goal of 100 attained ... Some church members attended National Gathering, Canberra ... Neil Wilkins, Family & Community Services, challenged church in community involvement ... Opportunity shop commenced as further outreach.

## SA

**VICTOR HARBOR (A. Clark).** Welcomed into fellowship: Bev Daley, Mavis Galpin, Sharon Blakeley, Raelene Mullins, Heather & Ben Whitnall ... Small groups program commenced in several members' homes, with emphasis on spiritual growth & encouragement, & to draw in contacts ... Easter services well attended; special dawn service held on Granite Island particularly appreciated ... Church Family Luncheons well attended & enjoyed.

**BALAKLAVA (G. Lawrie).** The late Bruce Clark gave 40 years service as doorkeeper ... Young mothers having morning coffee Home Fellowships ... Barry Hall gave an organ recital for Bible Society funds ... Prayers held for health of much loved member, Aileen Parker ... BBQ luncheon in Triangle for Coo-ee March ... Otto & Jenny Wichert spoke on life as missionaries in Philippines ... Board & wives held weekend retreat at Nantawarra.

**KENSINGTON PARK (A.H. Coleman).** Max & Rae Thompson returned May 1 from four months voluntary service in Vanuatu relieving Business Manager for Churches of Christ Conference, Roger & Jill Bawden, who have been on furlough ... Church in excellent heart under Bert & Nancy Coleman (half-time ministry). Moving into full-time ministry with Joan Fewster in 1989 with State Board subsidy.

**GOOLWA (Graeme Rltchle).** Pentecost Sunday celebrated with all Goolwa churches in combined march of witness & church service, speaker Father Kevin O'Loughlin, Catholic priest of Goolwa ... George Mathieson, guest speaker for our monthly lunch & Bible study, spoke on 'Caring for our Aged People' ... Victor Harbor church ladies came

to share our May fellowship meeting of CWF ... Slides shown by Joy & Arthur Creeper on recent trip to Israel.

**ALBERT PARK (Steve & Cattie Ogden).** Ministers encouraging church family in building relationships ... Board members provided BBQ lunch after church anniversary ... Church camp enthused all who attended ... Saturday retreats held with board members & auxiliary leaders ... Morning tea after church, basis for communication ... Val Stevens, flying to PNG with Rosalie Rofe, June 5, to visit mission stations for two months, presented with backpack from members & encouraged with prayer.

**CROYDON (Keith Ridge).** CWF coffee afternoon meeting well supported ... Video study series "Discovering Paul" commenced at a number of members' homes ... Friday morning services each fortnight much appreciated by patients of Western Nursing Home ... Church initiated approach to police for a local Neighbourhood Watch.

**COLONEL LIGHT GARDENS (Danny Wilson).** The church celebrated the induction of Danny Wilson as its minister at a service & luncheon on May 15 ... The ladies led the Mothers' Day

service, Dorothy Heard gave the sermon, the ladies formed a choir ... Monthly Wednesday night teas resumed for winter months. Interesting speakers have been heard following the teas ... Fifty Plus group are active & growing in numbers.

**PROSPECT (G. Payne).** Welcome to Prospect, Ron & Jayne Josephs & John & Vicki Parker, officially welcomed, followed by basket lunch to get to know them ... Church supporting St John's Uniting Church in its centenary celebrations ... CWF meeting Mrs J. Donnelly showed slides of mission work in Tanzania ... George Bonney is back at church, still a slow progress ... Mrs Eva Stevens entered hospital for surgery on her hip.

An International Prayer Retreat was held in Washington DC, USA, on May 2 and 3. The retreat followed the Washington for Jesus rally, a major prayer event in Washington that drew a crowd of over 200,000, with international representatives from 108 nations. These participants were invited to share in the Prayer Retreat to equip them to return home and mobilise city-wide and nation-wide prayer movements.

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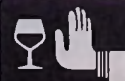
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## VIC

### OAKLEIGH (L.S.Dewberry).

A very interesting combined service was held in the chapel on May 22 when the Polish church, which meets in the church hall, met with the Oakleigh congregation for a communion service. The preacher was Costantzy Sacewicz, whose message was interpreted by Benjamin Wladysiuk. The service was followed by a fellowship lunch & a short devotional session.

### SERVICETON (Ray Patterson).

A beautiful service of praise & thanksgiving to God on May 15, when Sandra & Glen Mackay were baptised & then received into the fellowship of the church ... During March a second-hand electronic organ was purchased ... Bible study is held fortnightly in local homes ... The youth group, Servy Explorers, meets fortnightly on a Friday night.

### WERRIBEE (Alan Niven).

Church growth encouraging ... New members' group started ... Recent survey of Riverdene area of Werribee by combined Christian churches will help plan pastoral, educational & aged services ... Support for Laurie Quarmby & his family in mission work in Iran. Jaya agreed to at church's quar-

terly meeting ... Church planning to research the possibility of planting a church at Lara.

**THE PATCH (Glynthea Finger).** Special service held in our chapel when four young girls were baptised; church packed for the service ... The following Sunday they were welcomed into fellowship along with other people ... Work is proceeding with alteration of church building ... Colonial Evening was enjoyed by many members on May 14, proceeds went into building fund ... Leprosy Mission containers amounted to \$230.

### NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn).

ICC held ecumenical service for Pentecost in our church building, about 150 were present. Salvation Army band & choir gave items as well as Ecumenichoir. Ministers from SA, Anglican & Uniting churches took part in the service, our minister preached. People from all local churches were present. Ladies provided supper afterwards. A happy time of Christian fellowship was enjoyed.

### CASTLEMAINE (P. Haylock).

Church seeing beginnings of new spiritual growth ... Combined service for week of prayer for Christian unity well attended & a real blessing ... Minister conducted weekend seminar on spiritual warfare at Dawson St, Balla-

rat ... Church members involved in setting up support group for youth drug & alcohol problems ... Castlemaine churches supporting plans for school chaplain ... Many young people attended National Gathering at Canberra.

**LA TROBE TERRACE (C.J. Mackenzie).** Morning tea held after church to farewell and thank Mr & Mrs White for their interim ministry ... Mr & Mrs Mackenzie welcomed back after their overseas trip. Mrs Mackenzie shared some of their experiences with the CWF ... 45 attended youth group car rally & BBQ which raised \$60 ... Mrs Maddem now settled in Kalkee ... The passing of Mrs P. Kirby regretted ... Some members on sick list.

### ORMOND (G.O. Stibbe).

Worship service now 10am with Bible school attending first segment ... Family service held, then luncheon with Rev. Norman Pell, guest speaker ... CWF celebrated 31st anniversary and CWF their 63rd ... Luncheon for kinder parents was held ... Reachout Resources Program commencing with 10 house groups studying "In the Spirit of Love" ... Church anniversary June 26, annual meeting July 10.

### YARRAWONGA (Steven Fraser).

A baptismal service attracted 90 people. Carl Clayden of

Wangaratta conducted the service. It was followed by a home After Church Fellowship ... Steven Fraser, formerly with NSW Baptist, with his wife & young family, have accepted a 12 months ministry with us. The church is encouraged by this appointment as we have a growing YP work & several young married couples in membership.

### RED HILL (Ian Cartmel).

Missionary convention held May 14-15. Evangelism team from Mt Evelyn, also Paul & Judy Williams, Julie Trinnick, Richard & Sharyn Parker & John Sutton challenged us with missionary outreach abroad & at home ... May 22 a very successful PSA, entertaining 100 elderly folk from retirement villages on the peninsula was held ... Bill & Ria Keddie shared in both services on June 5 concerning their work in Zimbabwe.

### RED CLIFFS (R. Sharrad).

Many visitors at service conducted fully by F.O.C.A.S. group of Mildura on May 29, Fred Anderson speaker ... Nine ladies of CWF groups journeyed to Halls Gap for recent camp ... With a member visiting from NZ, Girls' Club of the 1940s held a reunion on May 27 ... CWF were hostesses on an evening boat trip on the Murray.

## 42nd FEDERAL CONFERENCE

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

JANUARY 15 — 21, 1989 — CANBERRA

THEME: GOD'S PEOPLE — GOD'S WORLD



"GODS PEOPLE GODS WORLD"

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## The Religious Political Right

We very seldom make any comments in "The Australian Christian" on political matters. Occasionally we have run stories about political decisions that have impinged on some aspects of church life. However in the last few days we have had some large amounts of material across our desk on a particular group and also we have been growing increasingly uneasy about other groups who are seeking to make inroads among the church constituency.

One group that has raised concerns from many recently has been the **Australian League of Rights**. In the last fortnight I have had extensive correspondence from both Labor and National Party Senators who are concerned about the apparent influence this group is having in church circles. As Senator Ron Boswell, National Party, Queensland, states "every community leader and every citizen of Australia must take the trouble to be aware of groups like the League of Rights - to investigate what their real policies and motivations are, and especially, to understand how they operate."

As a recent writer of a letter to this paper dated (April 30) we need to be as wise as serpents and as gentle as doves (and ask a heap of questions) about any groups, foundations and organisations that wish to use us to spread their particular political/economic philosophy.

I do not wish to further comment on the League of Rights and its stress on anti-semitism and its theories of world conspiracy. However I do wish to comment a little on another group that claims a Christian base.

Over the past couple of years I have been increasingly concerned about the focus of **Logos Foundation**. They have been active in churches and Christian circles raising awareness on a variety of political issues

Much of the basis of their political, economic and social understanding is based on a particular theological position that has been labelled as "Reconstructionist".

According to "Christianity Today" in a major article in February 1987 (I could copy this article

for any interested readers) they anticipate a day when as Christians we will be governed us ing the Old Testament as the law book. There are real problems with this approach as they overlook the fact that we have a higher revelation and interpretation in the New Testament.

Whilst they have some important points to make, the implications of much of what they say is related to a theological and political theory which they then seek to discover biblical backing for.

The three major foundational points underlying reconstructionist thought are presuppositional apologetics (we can only approach reality with a presupposed understanding of the wide sweep of truth, in our case the Bible); theonomy (Christians should live by God's law); and post-millennialism.

It appears that those who follow this theology/philosophy have attempted to design their political, economic and legal systems by relying solely on the details of the Old Testament law.

Canadian theological Clark Pinnock has labelled them as "the liberation theologians of the Right".

They do have a strong stand on the authority of the Bible, however with an over emphasis on the Old Testament. They are convinced that the Old Testament laws, more or less as they stand, can be transferred to the present day situation.

Much of what they have to say relates to a particularly American view of states and nation and the influence of the state on the life of the individual.

This issue is one that just cannot be covered in such a short space. I have raised the issue because of a concern I have had that we have a full biblical understanding of the economic, political and social theories. I believe that we, especially in Churches of Christ, need to seriously examine all such theories in the light of the New Testament.

I welcome any readers comments and letters on this whole issue.

# THE LAST WORD

Strength is born in the deep silence of long-suffering hearts, not amid joy.

— Felicia Hemans

Insurance clerk to policyholder: "You're a lucky man, sir. It so happens that being savaged by a hippopotamus while riding a motorcycle underwater is the one thing your insurance does cover."

★★★★★

One politician to another: "There may be something to that rumour after all. I understand they're calling a press conference to deny it."

★★★★★

A man who works at a desk in a city bank received a call from a woman asking how to dispose of a \$1,000 bond. "Is this bond for conversion or redemption?" the banker asked.

"I'm sorry," said the woman, "I must have reached a church by mistake."

Then she hung up.

★★★★★

The customer at the supermarket check-out had written a cheque for her purchases and was waiting for her receipt. Instead, citing "Company policy" the cashier asked her for identification.

The shopper looked astounded, then finally managed to say, "But, Betty, I'm your mother!"

★★★★★

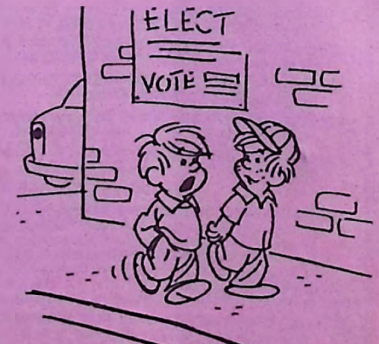
Customer: "I'm sorry, but I won't be able to pay for this suit for two months."

Tailor: "Oh, that's all right."


Customer: "When will it be ready?"

Tailor: "In two months."

★★★★★



★ "I WOULDN'T want to be Prime Minister. I get blamed for enough things as it is."



## SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

..... POSTCODE .....

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ ..... CHURCH .....

RENEWAL   
  NEW SUBSCRIPTION   
  DONATION \$

\$20 FULL YEAR   
  \$10 REST OF YEAR

\$7 REST OF YEAR IF RECOMMENDED BY A CHRISTIAN SUBSCRIBER

SUBSCRIBER .....