

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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Canberra's Federal Conference

At an early stage the 42nd Federal Conference held in Canberra 15-21 January was under threat of cancellation because of a lack of numbers. Eventually over 300 registered:

New South Wales	56
Australian Capital Territory	71
Victoria	87
South Australia	43
Queensland	32
Northern Territory	3
Western Australia	24
Tasmania	11
United States of America	1
Thailand	1

Under the theme, "God's People God's World", Neil Gilmore, Federal Conference President, led an enthusiastic team from Canberra who organised one of the most intensive Federal Conferences ever.

Those unable to attend missed much that they could well use in their local church, the great fellowship and the inspiration of many of the rallies. The business sessions ran smoothly and achieved much. There was opportunity

to examine our future directions in the reports of the Working Group on the Future.

The National Ministers' Seminar was held prior to Federal Conference on 12-15 January at the Birrigai Centre, 40 km from the centre of Canberra. A variety of different topics were covered by the seminar speakers, who included Beverly O'Conner, Neil Adcock, Ian Corlett and Ross Kingham. A fuller report on the Ministers' Seminar will appear in a later issue. It is also hoped to include some of the significant addresses as future Pamphlet Club contributions.

The evening rallies were highlights of Federal Conference. On the opening Sunday evening, following a communion service over which Neil Gilmore presided, the speaker was Dr Bill Tabbernee, who developed further the concept of what it means for us to be God's people in God's world. This excellent address was followed by a small segment to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Alexander Campbell's

birth. Dr James (Jim) Jauncey reminisced on some aspects of Alexander Campbell's teaching and the influence on his ministry.

On the

Monday evening Mal Garvin (Fusion) and he looked at some of the influences that have shaped current Australian society. He gave some excellent analysis of the Australian psyche and of the way this has expressed itself in its religious understanding. Unfortunately the length of this session meant that the time around the Black Stump with Alf White had to be postponed until the Wednesday evening.

On Tuesday evening a missions focus was on the Aboriginal people. Frank Johnson, Tamworth, NSW, issued a challenge to all Christians, based on the book of Malachi. Dr John Harris of the Zadok Centre outlined a history of Christian contact with Aboriginals from 1788. The third speaker was Ian Williams of the Wiradjira Training Centre, Wagga Wagga, NSW, on the presentation of the gospel to his own people.

Wednesday was Women's Conference. During the day a time of business, presided over by Pat Kerr, was interspersed with times of worship. During the afternoon all participants at Conference were invited to join the women at communion. The speaker at the evening rally was Ranjini Rebera, who examined the issue of women's participation in the full ministry of the church.

During Federal Conference a National Youth Forum was held at which youth ministers, leaders and young people met and discussed the issues and ideas that are relevant to the youth of our churches.

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Federal Conference

• continued from page 1

Much of the input at the Youth Forum was the material presented to Conference by the Working Group on the Future. A fuller report of the forum will appear in a later issue.

On the Thursday evening the forum participants gave to Conference a dramatic presentation, in a court room scene with songs and drama, of issues such as loneliness, worth of an individual, suicide and the acceptance of young people in the church.

At the final rally on the Friday night Conference President Neil Gilmore asked those present to remember the natural habitat of the Christian is the world, which is God's, and he urged those attending to go out into the world and be God's people there but to remember that we need each other. During this final evening Don Stewart was inducted as the new Federal Conference President.

One of the problems at this Federal Conference was the wide range of choice of activities during the days. There were tours of Canberra and environs and business sessions most days. Often electives and workshops were being held at the same time. The four electives offered were: Creative Programs, run by Allan Avery, which examined a variety of programs that could be developed in local churches, using the current program at Frankston as the basis for the start of discussion; A Strategy for National Issues run by Charles Wilson and Louis van Laar which looked at some of the current social and other issues facing Australia and some ways in which churches and Christians can respond to these issues; the Family in Australian Society, organised by Rosslyn Reed, which looked at some of the pressures and strains on the current family in Australia; and Customers or Staff run by Neil and John Gilmore, which was an examination of the role of local church members and the way they relate their own faith to the community.

Five workshops were also offered: Music (Gerald Rose), Drama (Heather Jauncey), Banners (Judy Fergie), Movement (Carol Caulton) and Computers (Bruce Riddell of Churchcare, Brisbane).

The majority of time spent in discussion was on the reports of the various Departments of Conference. Major discussion was given to the report of the Task Force on Theological Education and Ministry Training which had just been released. The Task Force made 39 recommendations that will need to be discussed now by the various State Conference Executives, College Boards and Federal Conference Executive. No action on any of the recom-

mendations will be made before Federal Conference in Brisbane in October 1990. The Report and/or a summary of the recommendations are now available for anyone who is interested. We hope to run a summary of the recommendations and summary of the Task Force's report in a later issue.

There were 13 motions on the books for discussion by Federal Conference. Several relating to Federal Aborigines Board, including changes to the constitution. Some of these were passed and the full text of these motions will appear in this and later issues. This was the area of business that raised the most discussion, as in the two previous Federal Conferences.

The constitution of the Churches of Christ Provident Fund was changed to bring it in line with the many changes in legislation relating to superannuation and other matters over the past 12 months.

Other motions discussed and passed related to compassion in the face of AIDS, immigration, the 7th Assembly of the World Council of Churches, moral standards of Australia, a name change for the College of the Bible (reported elsewhere in this issue), concern over the clergy drop-out rate and a motion to hold the 44th Federal Conference in Melbourne (most likely to be in 1983, a year late so as to avoid a clash with World Convention).

The full texts of all motions passed at Conference will appear in subsequent issues.

The 42nd Federal Conference was a great time of learning, sharing, discussing, growing, listening and thinking about the future. The Editor of "The Australian Christian" certainly has a large volume of material to share with readers over the next few issues.

Those who attended should give a big vote of thanks to the members of our ACT churches who worked so hard to ensure that Federal Conference was a great success. Over 100 (out of the 400 ACT members) were active in some way in the planning and presentation of Conference.

In any report of Conference someone or some activity is bound to be omitted. The one that comes to mind as I write the final draft of the report is the sessions of worship that commenced each morning. These were very thoughtful and moving times that included dance and movement, readings, meditation and I know that several people told me that for them these were their highlight of Conference.

Readers should plan now to attend the 43rd Federal Conference in Brisbane, 8-14 October, 1990 under the theme "Now is the Time to Serve the Lord".

Successful Celebration

On the afternoon of 20 November the Boort, Vic, church celebrated its 75th anniversary with a thanksgiving service in its Victoria Street chapel, which was filled to capacity. Well over 140 attended the service to give thanks to God for the past 75 years of service in Boort. There were many past members and associates in attendance from the local area and several from more distant places such as Phillip Island, Morwell and Adelaide. All of the local churches had representatives at the service, which added much to the enjoyment of the celebrations.

Many were pleased to catch up with Martin Goldup and family, a past minister, who gave an address challenging the church to develop specific and attainable goals for its ministry to and care of the Boort community. Martin travelled from Morwell for the occasion, bringing with him the greetings of the Morwell church where he is currently in part-time ministry. This year Martin will take up a full-time ministry with the Kaniva and Serviceton churches.

During the service, led by minister Paul Hammat, the Senior Citizens Choir sang, as did Gladys Smith. Afternoon tea and a focus on the history of the church followed. Paul Hammat gave a brief history of the church from its beginnings at Yando (near Boort), in the 1890s, through to today.

The birthday cake was made by Thelma Powell, who also made one 25 years ago for the 50th anniversary. The candles



Martin Goldup



Justin Streader, Maryann McCalman, Richelle Streader and Christopher Streader around the birthday cake

on the birthday cake were lit by past members and blown out by some enthusiastic Sunday

School scholars. The Sunday School also celebrated their anniversary that day.

Hospital Visitation

The Vic-Tas CWF Hospital Visitation Committee held a pre-Christmas lunch at the home of the Superintendent, June Andrews, when all the visitors received their parcels of gifts for Christmas distribution in the hospital.

The visitors care for a total of 29 hospitals and nursing homes—16 general hospitals, 12 nursing homes, the Children's Hospital plus seven children's wards in general hospitals. Every patient/resident receives a gift from the CWF, weekly or fortnightly.

The visits are welcomed by all the hospitals and patients/residents. Thanks are due to all CWF groups who provide the gifts for the visitors to distribute.

THE COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE

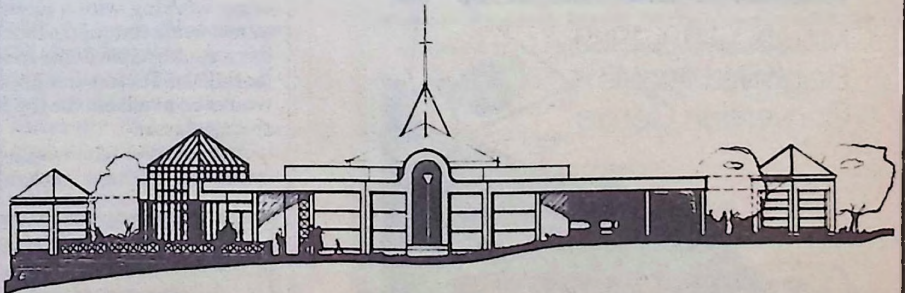
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906 Years of Service

The Queensland Social Service Department at its Board meeting on 19 December 1988 recognised 906 years of service given by 64 staff and committee members in the work of the Department.

The Department decided to issue Certificates of Appreciation of Service in recognition of longer than 10 years service. In future these certificates will be presented at five year intervals.

Among the longer periods of service were those given by Beryl Wiltshire, with 38 years of service as office secretary, administrator of the Brisbane Region and as director of the Homeless Persons Emergency Accommodation program, Don Cranston, 35 years on the Board and as architect to the Department, Dawn Skenner-ton, 29 years as a registered nurse and the Director of Nursing at Brig-o-doon Nursing Home and Jan New, with 21 years of service on the Board and later the Gold Coast Regional Committee.

The first awards were presented to 16 members of the



Mrs Beryl Wiltshire with 38 years of service staff of Hillcrest Nursing Home on 20 December. In presenting the awards, Executive Director, Dr Donald Stewart, said that the long years of service represented valuable expertise gained in the care of the aged. It is an area of work that often goes largely unrewarded.

Ministry Exchange

The Vic-Tas Advisory Department has written to us with some information regarding a minister in the United States who wishes to exchange pulpits with a minister in either Australia or New Zealand.

John Symons is currently the

Kenmore Christian College Farewells Principal

Randall Edwards was farewelled at the recent graduation service of Kenmore Christian College. Professor Allan Wilson, Chairman of the College Board, pointed out that Randall had served for seven years as a lecturer and that his five years as principal would conclude on 31 December 1988. He had spearheaded a complete revision of the course structure and put in place a group of elective modules and other features that will ensure a well-balanced dynamic practical training for ministry for the next decade.

Randall has been a refreshingly vigorous exponent of the Restoration Movement in both



Randall Edwards

the spoken and written word. Moreover he has made a major contribution to youth camps in Queensland, and has been invited to share his talents interstate and on the mission field in training sessions, youth camps, ministers' seminars and inspirational rallies.

In recent years his clarity of biblical exposition has undergirded his sound leadership in major Brotherhood issues such as the charismatic movement.

The large audience was deeply stirred as he challenged the 14 graduating students to examine their motives for Christian ministry.

Randall Edwards was presented with a cheque to help purchase special computer facilities to assist in his in-depth theological studies in Brisbane.

—Allan Wilson
(Kenmore Christian College Board Chairman)

should contact Max Carter on (03) 687 5806 for more details.

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Bethlehem Market at Strathmore



Mary and Joseph and two shepherds

Mary and Joseph walked through the market, but found there was no room for them in the ... tea rooms! ... the side of the stage! ... but there was room for them in the "stable". Here people in the market place observed them and felt what it must have been like nearly 2,000 years ago when the real Mary and Joseph entered Bethlehem to find a stable where Mary was to give birth to her baby son, the fulfilment of God's promise to the world that he is with us.

This is what happened on 26 November at the Strathmore, Vic, church, where the Bethlehem Market took place. Several churches worked very hard

to put the market together. These included St Vincents Catholic Church, St Aidans Anglican Church, the Pascoe Vale Road and Strathmore Uniting Churches and the Essendon, North Essendon and Strathmore Churches of Christ.

This unity provided an appropriate atmosphere, for the Christmas message which was acted out twice during the day. Rob and Lyn Hamilton and Debbie Hocking provided live music for the day.

The market was a financial success. Over \$3,200 was raised for Camp Challenge, camps for children suffering from various forms of cancer.

Support for Tuggeranong

The Federal Home Evangelism committee has agreed to transfer the current subsidy from the Belconnen, ACT, church to the new Tuggeranong, ACT, congregation. The request came from the ACT Conference

FHE has been supporting the development of Churches of Christ in the ACT for many years. The Belconnen congregation had been the recipient of this assistance for several years. During this time the church has grown and the new buildings and Day Care Centre have all been completed. With the development of the new outreach in the Tuggeranong

Valley it was decided by the ACT churches that the FHE support would be better directed to this new work.

Currently the church at Tuggeranong has some 55 on the directory with an average attendance of about 40. During 1988 Kim Roberts, a student at the NSW Churches of Christ Theological College, has been conducting a ministry. The ACT Conference is looking for a full-time appointment to ministry at Tuggeranong as soon as a suitable person is found. A site for a building in an area that will ultimately have a population of 250,000 will have to be investigated.

Carols by Twilight, 1988

A record crowd of 12,000, the appearance of Father Christmas (Lindsay Tyson), the familiar dramatic re-enactment of the Christmas story with Joseph (George Mallaby) being interviewed by MC Malcolm Gray, plus the wisemen arriving on their camel, John Marshall leading the carol singing, the Proposch sisters and Lynne Oliver with the church music group were some of the highlights of the Berwick Carols by Twilight.

The Carols, now in their 13th year, the 10th in the Civic Centre grounds, were opened by the Mayor of Berwick, Cr Lorraine Kovacs, and had supporting music from the City of Dandenong Band and the City of Berwick Children's Choir. A Christmas message was given by Geoff Rowcroft, minister of the Berwick, Vic, Regional Church of Christ.

A new backdrop mural was designed and painted by Barry Van Es, featuring a modern

graphic symbolic design from creation to modern times with the central backdrop depicting the birth of Christ.

The Carols souvenir program and candles were given out free and there was no admission charge for the event. The organiser, Cr Rob Wilson, had obtained \$9,780 in sponsorship from 32 local business houses, which covered the expenses of the candles, artists, program, lighting and sound and a four page advertising supplement in two local papers.

John Marshall, Carols music director, and Cr Rob Wilson have organised the Carols by Twilight since its inception in 1976 on behalf of the Berwick Church of Christ. Since that time the number attending has grown from 250 to 12,000. Over the same period church membership has grown from 90 members to over 300 members at present with an adherents list of about 800.



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Second Graduation Service for Institute

The Institute for Contemporary Church Leadership has completed its second year of training for ministry. Five graduated with a Certificate of Ministry at the second graduation service on 26 November at the Wollongong City, NSW, church. They were Lia Emer-ton (Taree, NSW), Lindsay Croxford (Glen Waverley, Vic), Jacqueline Duff (Sydney, NSW), Petrina McEwan (Wollongong, NSW) and Mary Townsend (Wollongong, NSW). They have completed a one year course of study and go back to their local churches better equipped to use their gifts to serve God in church ministries. Robert Smith, Executive Director of the NSW



Dr Stuart Piggln with students going to Internships in 1989
Department of Church Development and Education, was guest speaker and delivered an inspiring message.

Murray Jiminez, the first student on a new Certificate of Missionary Service program, is presently in Houston, USA, where he is working with Westview Mission, a work

established by the First Baptist Church, Houston. Reports received from him indicate that he is finding great joy and also many challenges in the work there.

As part of the service Dr Stuart Piggln led in commitment and prayer for Diploma students who are going out in

1989 to begin internships in churches in Melbourne, Perth, Dubbo, Bathurst, Lake Illawarra and also at Wollongong.

The Dr David Beavis Memorial Church Growth Award was presented to Elizabeth Hah, who will remain at Wollongong City church as an intern for 1989.

Small Group Ministry Conference

A major conference on Church Growth through Small Group Ministry will be held in Sydney, 3-6 April. The Conference, "Growing the Church through Small Groups", will be held at the Collaroy Centre. It is being jointly sponsored by Serendipity Christian Resources Australia and Scripture Union Australia.

Dr Paul Everett from the USA will be the major speaker with 21 leading Australian small group practitioners to run the workshop program.

Paul Everett is well qualified in small group ministry in both parish and academic spheres. He is Director of the Pittsburg Experiment, taking up work started by Bishop Sam Shoemaker. Much of this group work ministry has been with



Dr Paul Everett unchurched people from all walks of life.

Details and registration forms from Serendipity Christian Resources, GPO Box 1944, Adelaide 5001, or by phoning Brigitte Field on (08) 270 2447.

A Piano Would Help

Newly appointed minister to the Richmond, Vic, Vietnamese Church, Nathan Nhan, is keen to locate a piano for use in his new residence at Braybrook. The piano would be used for group meetings and as a means of building up a music minis-

try within the church. The loan or gift of a piano would be greatly appreciated. Initial contact can be direct with Nathan on (03) 311 3131 or Don Smith of the Dept of Mission, Education & Development on (03) 662 2377.

Clive Burdeu Centre

The Minister for Aged Care, the Hon Peter Staples, has announced a grant to redevelop the older section of the Brisbane Homes operated by the Queensland Social Service Department. He announced a grant of \$1,961,220 to build a new facility that will include the nursing section from Burdeu House (13 beds) and Brig-o-doon Nursing Home (36 beds) and the 30 bed hostel in Burdeu House at a new centre at New Farm to be called the "Clive Burdeu Centre", in honour of the late Clive Burdeu, who is regarded as the founder of the Department's

residential aged care program. The new centre will be on a site beside the unit development called Gleneagles, 97 units built under the Aged and Disabled Persons Homes Act.

"With the announcement by the Minister it is now possible for the Social Service Dept to begin the detailed planning and development to put the new centre in place," the Executive Director, Don Stewart, said.

The development will mean that the Department can focus on a number of major developmental sites as part of its provision of care in the Brisbane region.

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End of 15 Year Ministry



Win and Alan Leane

In 1973 the Nambour, Qld, church, small in numbers, was at the crossroads. The ministry of Ross McLean had terminated and the church sought a new minister. In faith, for finances were meagre, the church invited Alan and Win Leane to the ministry. They accepted the call and commenced their ministry at the beginning of 1974.

Thus began a ministry blessed by the Lord with growth beyond all expectations. Alan, one of the Brotherhood's finest evangelists, powerfully proclaimed the gospel message. As well he commenced a pastoral and outreach ministry in the rapidly developing Sunshine Coast.

The small chapel rapidly filled and it soon became evident that the chapel would have to be extended to house the growing congregation. An extension to the front of the chapel, almost doubling its size, was built, but almost immediately it became evident that the chapel was totally insufficient to accommodate the continuing growth.

A new brick chapel was added to the building, seating about 180, but by taking away the moveable wall, and seating people in the old (now hall) section well over 200 could be

seated. A second minister was called and growth continued. Wonderfully, with many responding to the gospel and being baptised, very few fell away, over 90% were being retained. Again the building became overcrowded and even though an adjoining house was purchased for Sunday School work, there was totally inadequate space to cope with the rapidly growing ACE and youth work.

Our land allowed no further expansion so the whole complex was sold, more land purchased, and a large multi-purpose building and classrooms were constructed. Even so, in the future a further building program most certainly will have to be undertaken. The ministry team, which at one stage consisted of three ministers and an administrator, is

Creative Posters



Fraser Wood-Burgess from the Doncaster, Vic, church has put his artistic talent to work by producing large creative posters.

Fraser is photographed here putting touches to a poster used in the evening services at Don-

caster. The posters present a Christian message, are thought provoking and well produced.

Those who may be interested in obtaining such posters may contact Fraser through the Doncaster church office on (03) 848 8636.

under great strain to counsel, teach and minister to the very large church we have become.

After 15 years Alan and Win have accepted a call to minister to the Bundaberg, Qld, church. During their ministry hundreds of souls have been added to the church. No fewer than 23 young people, plus some wives, have gone from Nambour to train

for the ministry.

It is with great sadness that we farewell Alan and Win, but has been a great joy to have shared with them in their great ministry, the exciting Nambour story. We are confident that God will be with them as they move to Bundaberg.

—Evan Adermann

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Letters to the Editor

The word limit on material submitted for this column is 200 words.

THE AGE OF THE EARTH

To the Editor,

Again we see raised the subject of the age of the earth. Science and the Bible do not disagree on this subject; it's only man's inability to read and understand. The answer is plainly obviously in the first two verses in the Bible—God's word to us.

Verse 1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." This means "At first God created (carved out, shaped, not necessarily nor generally to make out of nothing)".

Verse 2 "The earth was without form and void." (King James) This should read "Now the earth had become waste and wild."

These translations are from Joseph Rotherham's *Emphasised Bible*. He was a very precise Hebraist and a world recognised scholar. Universally it is said that his work is "putting the English scholar on a level as near as possible with the Hebrew or Greek student".

One cannot dispute scientific fact, keeping in mind there is often conjecture put forward as fact, but it is obvious that science and the Bible do not disagree on the age of the earth. Some great upheaval or change took place on this planet, which science today relates to us. There is overwhelming evidence. This can give us an understanding of our coal, oil and other resources.

The main point which man overlooks is that out of the chaos that took place, God made something beautiful, including man. His spirit is still doing that today as we allow Jesus Christ into our lives.

—S.C. Quilliam

(Victor Harbor, SA)

"RAISED HANDS"

To the Editor,

In referring to J. Olsen's remarks ("AC" 17 December) I note that all references given in context are from Old Testament teachings. As disciples of Christ's New Testament

church, I understand that we come under the new covenant as set down by our Lord Jesus Christ in the Gospels that places God through his Holy Spirit, within our hearts.

In 50 years of Churches of Christ teaching I have been taught that our Movement was brought back from the wilderness to the true teachings of Christ as set out in the book of Acts.

Gesticulating to God was changed to approaching him through Jesus Christ and he to us via the Holy Spirit or have I missed the point?

Why is it that newcomers to Christ's church want to revert it back to the Middle Ages?

Perhaps J. Olsen would like to see Paul's other decrees in I Tim. 2:8-15 (RSV) brought into the church today? I have always been led to examine the word of God in the context of the passage and the time period in which it was written; this avoids misunderstanding.

—J. Elsey

(Gold Coast, Qld)

LEADERSHIP STYLE

To the Editor,

As I did not make the connection Graham Agnew claims I did ("AC" 17 December letters) there was no need for his intemperate outburst. He joins the list of "Church Growth Movement" advocates who are attempting to silence their critics by ridicule.

They need to be made aware that leading Christian writers have raised the same concerns, eg: Lesslie Newbigin, *Sign of the Kingdom*, pp 34-35, and David Prior, *Jesus and Power*, pp 81-82. They should also stop claiming that those who dissociate themselves from certain Church Growth movement practices are opposed to church growth. I for one give my full support to the Vic-Tas initiative (CROP), because it is based on reliable research that shows that real growth is achieved by planting new causes in strategic areas, such as Mornington.

As a qualified leadership trainer may I also say to our younger ministers: develop your own God-given talents; don't clone others no matter

how successful they are.

—Bruce McIntosh AIMM,
AITDM
(Boronia, Vic)

IMAGE OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST

To the Editor,

I'm frustrated! 18 months ago I wrote concerned at how the Letters to the Editor was degenerating into "tit-for-tat" bickering amongst certain of our readers ("AC" 2 May 1987). Nothing much has changed. I raised the concern that often the issues argued about were trivial non-essentials and certainly not building up the body of Christ, particularly the Churches of Christ part of the body.

I'm now even more concerned because damage is being done. Graham Agnew ("AC" 17 December) raises the real issue of the image we are projecting as a Movement in these pages. It is a far cry from the unity Campbell advocated.

I agree that healthy, respectful debate is good for understanding, but I get annoyed

when I see us shooting ourselves in the foot. As if we haven't got enough on our plate with the serious work of the Kingdom! I am deeply committed to seeing Churches of Christ re-emerge from the doldrums of the last decades with an image that is stamped with the glory of the Lord.

Such revival starts with prayer and a loving concern for the body of Christ which spills over into the community at large. Is the bickering and trivia symptomatic of our general attitudes? If it is, we need to repent—now.

—Milton Oliver
(Surrey Hills, Vic)

ACCOMMODATION NEAR HEALESVILLE

To the Editor,

I am writing to ask if any of your readers could possibly help me. My name is Donna Marree. I am eight years old and was born with cerebral haemorrhage, consequently I can do nothing except smile, which I do all the time. I live with my grandmother who

Letters from Tertius

Is God Still Dead?

To the Editor,

A few years ago the papers were on about theologians who were saying that God is dead. I don't know how they could still be theologians if the God who gives them their bread and butter has gone and died on them. I haven't heard much about the death of God debate since. But I'm sure that some people in our church have the idea that God is dead.

Some of them never ever talk about God. They only talk about the Holy Spirit or Jesus. They even forget the Christ bit. I think it is supposed to be a sign of advanced spirituality to talk about the Holy Spirit or Jesus all the time.

In our prayer meetings most of the prayers are to God. But when some of them really get earnest and want something desperately, they pray to Jesus or to the Holy Spirit with great intensity. Our minister tells us that the Holy Spirit edits our prayers. Maybe they think that getting direct to the Editor saves time.

I know that there's a Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, all one and yet each one separate. But surely the first person in the Trinity rates a mention from time to time.

Some of our people get over the problem by talking about the Lord. I ask them who they mean, God or Jesus Christ? They usually tell me either. Then the Holy Spirit doesn't get a mention!

I guess God doesn't really mind. But it would be a pity if outsiders think that God is dead because his people hardly ever talk about him.

—TERTIUS

cares for and loves me.

Twice a year I attend the College for the Advancement of Human Potential at Healesville, Vic. My grandmother, with a friend to help her, and myself fly to Melbourne and then take a taxi to Healesville where we stay in a motel. To raise the money my grandmother makes and sells children's and adult's clothing and once a week has a cake stall. I am making very slow but definite progress with the College program.

However we are finding the stay in the motel extremely difficult. Thus I am writing to ask is there anyone in or near Healesville who could share their home with us for four or five days in early March. If anyone could help, please write or phone my grandmother, Mary Furini, 163 Bedford Road, Andergrove, Mackay 4740. Phone (079) 55 1574.

This letter was written for me by one of the volunteer helpers who come each for one hour a day to exercise my limbs.

— Jenny Redford
(Mackay, Qld)

SEXUALLY EXPLICIT VIDEOS

To the Editor,

The recent decision of the ALP Caucus means sexually explicit videos will continue to be available Australia wide by mail from the ACT, although they are banned in all states. Such videos are potent miseducators about sexual relations, demean and degrade women, create expectations of hypersexuality in real life relationships and reduce compassion towards women.

It is disappointing that Australian children have been let down by those members of the Hawke Government who are not prepared to tackle responsibility for stemming the flood of videos pouring in by mail from the ACT.

The decision to set up yet another committee was only a further delaying tactic, a total abdication by the Federal Government of its responsibilities to Australian children. It flies in the face of the advice of the Northern Territory, Common-

wealth and state attorneys general.

It is ignorant because it shows scant knowledge of the findings of the Joint Select Committee, which spent years inquiring into the effects of pornographic videos. A majority of that committee concluded that X-rated videos should not continue in circulation. The attitude of the Prime Minister and Caucus is irresponsible. X-rated videos are exploitive. They destroy the viewer and the victim to mere objects of physical pleasure, and so destroy the wholeness of people. They lead to disorder in people's sexuality.

Of what use is it for a Government to lament the rising crime rate while it permits the wide spread of material which debases people?

— Laurie Cusack
(San Remo, Vic)

SPECIAL SERVICE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

To the Editor,

As a follow up to our 1988 celebrations of the bicentenary of the birth of Alexander Campbell, the Department of Christian Union has prepared an order of service for commitment to the plea for Christian union.

The service will be sent to all of our Australian churches and published in "The Australian Christian" in April.

It is recommended that the service be used as a lead into the 1989 Week of Prayer for Christian Union, and the Department invites churches to set aside the morning services of 30 April or 7 May for this purpose.

Ministers please note that sermons for this special service should be based on John 17:20-23 and Matthew 20:18-20.

Participation by all churches will indeed show that we are prepared to "kindle a contemporary reformation which could turn the world upside down", the challenge put to those at World Convention in Auckland last November.

—David Allison
(Secretary, DCU)

Queen's Badge



Darren Beaumont (right) after being presented with the Queen's Badge for Boys' Brigade work by the NSW Governor James Roland. Darren is accompanied by Andrew Farrel, also from the Epping church BB Company

HACC Grant

The Queensland Social Service Department has been successful in its application for Home and Community Care funding for its recently commenced Warrawee Home Nursing Service in St George in western Queensland.

The Queensland Minister for Health and the Commonwealth Minister for Housing and Aged Care have jointly announced a recurrent funding grant of \$71,935 for the Home Nursing Service and for a Day Respite Centre. Also included is a capital grant of \$129,000 for work to modify an existing building on the Department's property at St George, the purchase of a modified bus and a motor vehicle for the Nursing Home Service.

The Social Service Department is currently developing working drawings for the construction of a 25 bed Aged Care Hostel in St George. The



Rob Warwick, Administrator St George Regional Committee

Administrator of the St George Regional Committee, Rob Warwick, said that he was delighted that the application had been successful as it would mean the continuation of the home nursing service that the Social Service Department had been funding since 1988 and the commencement of a day respite centre alongside the Hostel to be built.

Anglicans in Japan have been warned to avoid taking part in any ceremonial events relating to the funeral of Emperor Hirohito and the enthronement of

Crown Prince Akihito. This is because there was a danger that attempts may be made to deify the 'Tenno', or Emperor system, once again.

Media Review

Papers

ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIANS AND THEIR LAND RIGHTS: A SURVEY

This pamphlet, designed for use in school discussion groups, contains a summary of the situation regarding Aboriginal land rights in the Commonwealth and in each state. Some discussion of the history of land rights legislation and the current state of the issue in each state is succinct and paints a not very promising position for those favouring this type of legislation. On the final page there is a conclusion and a list of further readings for anyone interested in taking up the issue further.

This eight page pamphlet is available from Action for Aboriginal Rights, PO Box 300, Malvern 3146, for \$1 a copy or 80c each for bulk orders.

Books

GROWING WITH MEDIA

by Regina Cameron and Charles Watt

(St Paul Publications) \$4.00
Designed for the upper levels of secondary schools and as an adult education resource, *Growing with Media* is an attempt to bring to Christians an awareness of the values infused into our lives through the media. This book is written from an Australian Roman Catholic viewpoint and deals primarily with television. The five sessions are entitled: Reality Check; Consuming; Relationships; Images of Self and Changes. There are some guides for group leaders and also some additional resources listed. Available from St Paul Publications, Society of St Paul, 60-70 Broughton Rd, Homebush 2140.

A POEM FOR EVERY DAY

by Lesley Stirling

(Launceston CWF) \$5.50

During a period of convalescence

in her Canberra days Lesley Stirling started writing poetry and has continued to do so through the years. The Launceston CWF persuaded her to let them publish 133 of them in a 90 page book with four sections... Inspiration, Nature, Fun and Personal Profiles. The profiles include the late Sir Douglas and Lady Gladys Nicholls. The time span of the poems is from a prayer during her convalescence to the bicentennial tall ships. Profits from the sales go to the College Campus Fund.

This book is available from Joan Smith, 11 Conway St, Mowbray 7250, at the price of \$5.50.

— J.S.

MONEY AND POWER

by Jacques Ellul

(Inter-Varsity Press) \$11.20

First printed in French in 1954 this book by a noted Christian French sociologist has only been available in an English translation since 1984. Jacques Ellul has written some very influential books on the relationship of the Christian faith to the social conditions in which Christians find themselves living.

In this book Jacques Ellul exposes the folly of a purely societal approach—whether communism, collectivism, socialism or capitalism—and argues for individual responsibility. He argues that money is not neutral, is not an object that we can use as we like, but it is a powerful agent that sets itself against God's kingdom. Using Biblical material he looks at the scriptural attitudes about wealth and he challenges Christians to live by their Christian principles, to live as under the law of grace, and not by the law of the marketplace. This book is interesting reading in the light of the current push in economic circles to allow the market to determine most economic factors and to deregulate most economic industries. Jacques Ellul is not easy to read, yet he has a message that all Christians need to be aware of.

—C.R.A.

A GOOD HARVEST Fresh Daily Thoughts and Prayers

by Rita Snowden
(Collins Fount) \$7.95

This book is recommended to any Christian who wants light reading that's both uplifting and beneficial. It was written to inspire people and remind one of the blessings surrounding the Holy Spirit's gifts. Being based on the Spirit's gifts it is written with a harvest theme, one which is easily related to. The chapters are short and each one written on one particular gift. Beginning with a definition of the gift, she continues with her experiences and finishes up with verses of scripture and prayers.

I enjoyed this book very much and had great joy in remembering the Holy Spirit's blessings. It is rewarding to take the time to ponder anew God's gifts to us, through the Holy Spirit, in this busy world.

—J. Higgins

FAITH AND WORK THE CHURCH'S MISSION

both by Phillip J. Hughes
(Christian Research Association)

RELIGIOUS BROADCASTING IN AUSTRALIA

by Tricia Blombery (Christian Research Association)
In 1987 the Christian Research Association conducted a nationwide study of people attending churches. Over 6,000 responded from 98 churches, representing Anglicans, Baptists, Catholics, Pentecostals and Uniting Church people. The preliminary report from this survey was printed in January (reviewed in the 14May issue). Three reports on specific topics

have now been published. *Faith and Work* looks at the involvement of workers in church life and the attitudes of church attenders towards work. It raises questions about the church's ministry to people in the workforce.

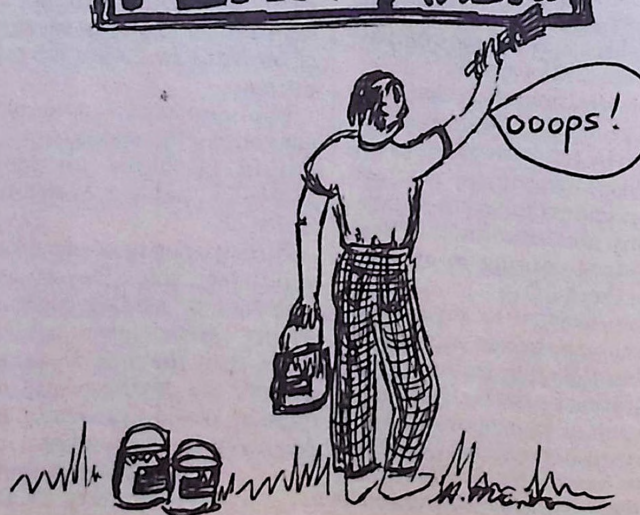
The Church's Mission analyses the attitudes towards mission of the church that is found among church attenders. It covers the areas of evangelism and social justice, missionary interest and overseas aid, welfare and education.

Religious Broadcasting in Australia provides a description of the types of people watching various religious programs on television and listening to religious radio programs. It compares the Australian data to similar data from the United States. This report makes an important contribution to the understanding of the place of the religious media in the lives of churchgoers in Australia.

The reports are available for \$8 each plus \$2 packing and postage or for the special price of \$25 for the three reports (including postage and packaging). The reports are available from the Christian Research Association, Rev. Dr Phillip Hughes, 8 Power St, Hawthorn 3122, or C.R.A., Tricia Blombery, 6 Balfour St, Wollatoncraft 2065.

Nearly 3 million Australians suffer from some form of mental illness, according to the National Association for Mental Health. While most have minor disorders, such as anxiety and depression, about 240,000 are undergoing intensive treatment for serious mental illness.

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Movies for Youth, Children, General audiences. Studies by top speakers.

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200 Huntingdale Road, East Oakleigh, Vic. 544 5844
65 Grenfell Street, Adelaide, S.A. 223 4249
2422 Logan Rd, Eight Mile Plains, Qld. 341 8500

Small inset images of video covers for 'Sandra Pate', 'DR. JAMES C. DOBSON', 'AMY GRAN', and 'Joy Camp'.

Sierra Leone Support

"In Unity We Develop Ourselves" is the motto of the Buya Romende Farmers' Association, in Sierra Leone, West Africa. The association is made up of 200 local farmers who are striving to bring change to their impoverished community.

Agricultural production is low, malnutrition is rife and there is neither a school nor a health centre in the district.

The Farmers' Association, with the help of the Christian Council of Sierra Leone, has put together a plan for agricultural development. Through teaching new farming tech-

niques and providing seeds, fertilisers, tools and credit, it aims to increase food production. The Association has already begun to construct crop storerooms, wells and latrines.

A loan scheme allows farmers to borrow rice seeds for planting. These would be repaid in rice after the harvest.

This program is being supported by Force Ten, a joint program of the Australian Council of Churches and Australian Catholic Relief and can be contacted at Box C199, Clarence St PO, Sydney 2000. Phone (02) 29 2215.

The God Who Came

The Botin people have an ancestral story regarding Yeyan, who developed from a frothy bubble in the sea. Yeyan came first and later he gave birth to Yamom, who in turn created everything that is. Yamom simply spoke and everything came forth as he commanded. Nowadays Yamom sends the sunshine, makes the people's garden produce grow, and he cares for the world in which we live.

Unfortunately Yamom has always remained very aloof. He has never bothered to communicate with human beings in any way. His remoteness created a dilemma because whenever sickness or a major catastrophe occurred in the village, they would ask themselves if they had done anything to offend Yamom. But there was never any answer, for Yamom was always surrounded by mystery, and his character and qualities shrouded with ignorance.

While Yamom was silent the people would make contact with spirits who lived in the bush, and they worshipped idols in their homes and in the men's long houses. This was where life was at. For these spirits, or Konyims as they were called here, were sought to provide the family's daily food, protect the health of the family and to ensure victory for the men whenever they went out

warring against another village.

Today some of the older people align God the Father with Yeyan, God the Son with Yamom and the Holy Spirit with the bush spirits they knew so well before. No doubt you can see the differences are very great, but old ancestral beliefs that are embedded are not always easy to shift.

At Christmas time our thoughts turned to the God who with unlimited power and majesty sees importance in us. He is the God who communicates, who through the incarnation of the Son lived among us in very humble circumstances. His concern for us is so great that he actually dies the most shameful of deaths, taking upon himself that which he abhors most, the sins of the world, to enable salvation to be offered to all mankind.

A we reflect back on this last Christmas period let us ponder afresh the meaning of the name Immanuel — God with us. The God who loves and communicates is a message only recently come to the people of Samban.

—Graeme Batley

The United Church of Canada has voted to allow homosexuals into the ordained ministry.

The church is the largest Protestant denomination in Canada.

World Food Day at Londua

Late last year Londua Training School, West Ambae, Vanuatu, hosted the World Food Day. The aim of the day was to make people aware of how important it is to produce food instead of using processed food. West Ambae has an abundance of fruit and vegetables. You only have to put a stick in the ground and it will grow. Unfortunately many people are buying their food from the local store, which sells soft drinks, lollies and canned food. Some people think that because these goods cost money they must be good for you.

Our students learnt a lot about how good island food is for them as they prepared displays, posters, songs and debates. Each section had special prizes. Those lucky enough to



come first won a grapefruit tree.

All in all it was a very successful day. We enjoyed the take away lap lap and coconuts—no hamburgers and Coke here.

—Kerry Schulz

"Covenant Communion" Proposal

Church unity in the form of "covenant communion" is being proposed by 9 US denominations.

The unanimous vote on the plan, after more than 25 years of study and debate, came in December at the Consultation on Church Union. In order to take effect it must be ratified by governing bodies of the denominations, which is not expected before the mid 1990s.

The denominations could retain their own forms of church government, orders of worship, patterns of ministerial training and placement, and international ties. However, they would agree that they confess the same faith, and would rec-

ognise the ordained ministers of each as part of one ordained ministry, consider membership fully transferable, and add "Church of Christ Uniting" to their current names.

Once the plan takes effect, ordinations of new ministers would take place in common.

The COCU members are the African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, (Anglican) Episcopal, United Methodist Churches, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), International Council of Community Churches, Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ.

—EPS

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•.....

Happenings

The secretary of the Victorian Council of Churches, Sr Mary Lou Moorhead, has launched the campaign of the Church and Trade Unions Committee to encourage Victoria's churches to provide support for injured workers. Injured workers experience many injustices. There are about 20,000 permanently injured workers in Victoria, of whom approximately 11,000 are on WorkCare. Churches requiring more information should contact John Bottomley (03) 534 3474.

Bishops of Anglican Catholic Churches in Canada, Australia and the US have announced formation of a world-wide "Continuing Anglican Communion". The Anglican Catholics have left Anglicanism in recent years because they disagreed with various Anglican policies and practices.

The Canadian Council of Churches has decided to go ahead with a court challenge to new Canadian government rules affecting refugees. The cost of the challenge, about \$300,000 Canadian, is being underwritten by individuals. The CCC says the new rules violate the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom.

The first ever New Zealand Anglican Prayer Book is expected to be published in late 1989.

A group of 21 peasants, most of them related to a World Vision Guatemala staff member, were kidnapped and later murdered in the city of Chimaltenango late last year. A counter-insurgency campaign has been taking place by the Guatemalan army against a small guerilla group operating around Chimaltenango.

Mozambique has made a renewed appeal for more than \$300 million to feed its starving population and rebuild the country. Bishop Machado of the United Methodist Church in Mozambique said half

the country's 14 million were displaced due to the activities of the Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo). He says Renamo has destroyed 2,085 schools, 1,300 trucks, tractors and buses, 900 rural shops, 720 health centres and 44 factories.

Vietnam has introduced a two-child-per-family policy in an effort to reduce steep population growth. The government already had a scheme based on taxes and other economic incentives to restrict the size of families, but the government claims those measures had little effect. Under the new plan families will be punished for having more than two children.

A Guatemalan Catholic priest who heads a movement of landless peasants may run for president in the 1990 elections. Andres Giron, who survived a recent assassination attempt, is expected to leave his parish in southern Guatemala to organise a new political party.

The Nicaraguan Committee of Mothers of Heroes and Martyrs have been repeatedly denied an audience with Cardinal Obando y Bravo. They began calling on him after the stalled peace talks between the government and the Contras. They want him to champion their cause of finding and releasing their children. They gather with signs bearing the names of their children, kidnapped during the last seven years of war. The cardinal has refused to see them or to comment publicly.

The Overseas Mission Board Stamps For Mission project, which raises funds for Bible Correspondence Courses, has raised \$50,000 since 1967. Postage stamps can be sent to Mr & Mrs D. Lewis, 9 Clisby St, Vale Park 5081, or the Overseas Mission Board, PO Box 320, Unley 5061.

By the time a child is 15, he or she has witnessed 14,000 murders or violent deaths on television.

The Australian Council of Churches committed \$10,000 for urgent needs to the Armenian Earthquake Appeal in early December 1988.

The early days of the new Operation Mobilisation ship *Logos II* have been fraught with mechanical problems. The ship had severe engine trouble on her maiden voyage from Greece to Gibraltar and eventually had to be towed into port. In Gibraltar one of her three generators blew up and will have to be replaced.

New Zealanders are strongly opposed to either lowering the legal drinking age or allowing alcohol to be sold in supermarkets according to a new opinion poll.

Archaeologists have unearthed what they believe was once the Apostle Peter's house in Capernaum. The house dates to about 60 BC and contains etched crosses, a boat and more than 100 Greek, Aramaic, Syriac, Latin and Hebrew symbols on the walls from 2nd and 3rd century Christians who venerated the site.

On 14 November the Soviet Security Police stopped a car that was transporting 80,000 copies of the gospel of John. These had been printed on the underground printing press, "Christianin". After confiscating the books the police allowed the driver to go free.

The newspaper "Trud" said there were 4.7 million chronic alcoholics and drug addicts registered in the Soviet Union.

On 23 October the last two prisoners belonging to the Evangelical Christian Baptist Church were released from prison by Soviet officials.

The Old Social Service

Department has purchased an additional 3.5 acres of land adjoining Fassifern Retirement Village to be used to expand the aged care program at Boonah, which will involve the development of more self-contained units and an expansion of the hostel. Fassifern currently has a 38 bed nursing home, a 19 bed hostel and 7 self-contained units.

A petition aimed at bringing back the values of the 10 Commandments and the Beatitudes is being circulated throughout New Zealand with the aim of being signed by 1 million.

More than 50 leaders of the Church of Scientology from several countries have been arrested by Spanish police on charges of extortion, forgery and tax offences.

Church leaders in Zambia have criticised the government over its failure to bridge the growing gap between the rich and poor people in the country.

More than 10,000 civilians have died of starvation in just one town in Southern Sudan since January 1988. A Sudanese army commander has revealed. Half of them died between June and September last year.

About 740 million hectares, over 25% of the African continent, are undergoing severe degradation and may soon be totally unproductive according to a senior official of the United Nations Environment Program. 3.7 million hectares of forests and woodlands in Africa are disappearing annually.

According to research carried out by the African Regional Office of the United Bible Societies, out of 1,600 major languages spoken in Africa, the Bible has been translated into only 96 languages.

Over 1,700 Brazilians re-

sponded following addresses by Luis Palau in Porto Alegre, a city of 3 million. A TV counselling program preceded each meeting.

Thousands of Buddhist families in Mandalay, Burma, have been reached with the gospel through the efforts of Every Home for Christ. 54,000 homes have been covered resulting in 410 requests for Bible correspondence courses

Edwina Gateley, founder of the Volunteer Missionary Movement, which recruits, prepares and sends lay missionaries to work in developing countries, and Genesis House, a house of hospitality and nurturing for women involved in prostitution in Chicago, is to visit Melbourne in April. Details from Sacred Heart Mission on (03) 537 1166.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Presbyterian Church (USA) have decided to share equally the costs of salary and office expenses for Laura Luz Bacerra, who is heading a joint CCDC-PCUSA office for Southeast Asia. She has been responsible for Southeast Asia for the Disciples since 1984.

Northern Ireland leads the UK in church attendance. Over 80% of the population are church members. Scotland is next with 37%, Wales has 23% but England has only 13% of the population belonging to the church.

The assembly of patriarchs and bishops of various Lebanese churches in communion with the Pope has voted to join the Middle East Council of Churches. Currently the MECC includes three church families—Oriental Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox and Evangelical. The catholic family in the MECC would include various rites, such as Maronite, Latin, Melkite, Armenian and Syrian.

World News

Bushwalking the Easy Way

In the cool fresh dawn we started the walk from Samban to Yamen. My backpack had only a couple of changes of clothes, a Bible and a few other essentials. Villagers made friendly comments about the jeans I was wearing and that I was leaving three children behind for my husband to look after for the weekend.

Soon after leaving the village my three companions and I were walking through grass as tall as we were. A little later we were tramping over the same kind of long grass which had been cut down along the

banks of a small stream. A wild duck flew out of the long reeds—a great excitement as the girls tried to catch dinner on the wing, first by hurling an axe at it, then a long-bladed bush knife. Fortunately for the bird, it got away.

After retrieving the implements it was time to make our way across the stream on a narrow, broken strip of bamboo. It had rained most of the night before making the narrow bush tracks slushy and slippery. With the uneven ground and sprawling tree roots you had to concentrate all the time

so as not to lose your footing. In several places we clambered over tree trunks that had fallen on the track.

We came to a place known as "Old Samban". Here a family had spent the night and invited us to share some potato like vegetable cooked over an open fire and to rest for a while.

There were now two swamps to be negotiated. Fortunately the first one was "dry", i.e. our feet weren't under water. The second swamp saw us knee deep in water as I gingerly put one foot in front of another through the murky sludge. One girl offered her hand, which I took, more for balance than

support, in the more difficult spots. These experienced bushwalkers had long since relieved me of my backpack.

After three hours we arrived at Yamen Girl's Bible School, being greeted by all the students and staff. A few glasses of water were welcome, with a little salt added to avoid leg cramps.

The words of Hebrews 12:2 came to mind while making the walk, "...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

—Marian Batley
(Samban, PNG)



DR GARY COLLINS IN AUSTRALIA

Dr Gary Collins, Professor of Psychology, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Illinois, will lead a special four day Ministry Enrichment Seminar at Marysville.

13-16 MARCH 1989

Topics:

People Helping in the Church— what we have learnt in the past, directions for the future.

Integration of Psychology & Theology— contemporary thinking from Dr Collins, prominent author and speaker on this issue.

Crises in Marriage and Family— covering marriage counselling trends, parenting issues and violence, and sexual abuse.

Counselling & Spirituality— depth psychology, inner healing and spiritual growth.

Costs:

\$210 per person, \$380 per married couple, including all accommodation, meals and seminar costs.

and

In co-operation with the Christian Counsellors Association a one day seminar

SATURDAY, 18 MARCH 1989

at Greensborough Baptist Church
309 Diamond Creek Road, Greensborough

Topic:

The New Age Movement— a Christian psychologist's response. How do we understand ourselves, and how do we help others develop a biblical response to its varied teachings and philosophies?

Cost:

\$30 including light lunch.

Time:

10 am-4.30 pm.

Out of Elkanah's deep concern about the issues addressed in the seminars, the initiative was taken to invite Dr Collins to Australia. We warmly recommend these seminars to pastors, Christian leaders, people-helping professionals, disciplers, etc., and suggest your prompt response on the slip below.

Name(s)

Address Phone No.

4 day seminar at Marysville

1 day seminar at Greensborough

I enclose a deposit of (1) \$30 4 day seminar

(2) \$10 1 day seminar

Return to: Elkanah, Buxton Road, Marysville 3779.

South Perth's New Building Complex

The South Perth, WA, church moved into their new building complex ready for the opening on 11 December. Elders Keith Ballantine and David Bond led the morning worship service, when 320 were in attendance. Glen Smyth was the preacher. The official opening was held

at 4 pm with 530 present (a further 100 could have been comfortably seated). Bill Gaunson brought the opening message with Colin Beavis leading the meeting.

Many stayed for tea and the gospel service at which Bill Gaunson was again the preacher. Richard Wild led a special time of praise and worship during this service.

The new complex is situated on the corner of Murray Street and Collier Court. It consists of a main auditorium which opens onto a hall. There is a second hall at the other end of the building. The design has allowed for a receptionist's office and six classrooms as well as four storerooms. Provision was made in the plans for four offices for the ministers, including an office for David Stanford, who commenced as assis-



Members working on the paving

tant youth pastor on 8 January.

With about 8.75 acres of land the church has had to prepare an overall plan for the whole area to meet local government

requirements. Proposals include a youth hostel, an amphitheatre and a second stage to the building which will seat 1,400.



Keith Ballantine (elder) presenting Bible to the builder Tony Di Costa

Christmas March

Children, parents and teachers of the Warrnambool, Vic,

church's "Hey, Hey, It's Sunday" Club (Sunday School)



(Photo courtesy of "The Warrnambool Standard")

celebrated Christmas by marching from the chapel through the town's main shopping street on the Sunday afternoon before Christmas.

The colourful procession gained much attention as the children were dressed as nativity characters and were led by a donkey. Church members and curious onlookers, including a reporter from the local newspaper, met the procession at the Civic Green, and then participated with the children in

an informal service led by elder Chris Walters.

The afternoon celebration concluded with the cutting and distribution of slices of the large birthday cake for Jesus.

Britain's newest satellite TV station, Sky Channel, one of several run by Rupert Murdoch, announced that they would be taking religious programing supplied by the Christian Broadcasting Council of Great Britain.



SWANSTON STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Melbourne

(cnr Swanston & LittleLonsdale Streets)

Sunday

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

7.00 p.m. Gospel Celebration

Wednesday

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

For further enquiries, please ring (03) 663 3884

Helping Troubled Young People

In Australia Youth for Christ has three main ministries: the Rally Program, which includes gospel concerts, "Youth Happenings" and evangelical meetings, Campus Life, which is a club program reaching unchurched high schoolers and Youth Guidance, a division specifically geared to helping troubled, delinquent and institutionalised teenagers with the message of God's love.

Last April Melbourne Youth for Christ appointed Mark Watt as a staff worker to further develop the Youth Guidance division. Together with part-time worker Laurel Gore and a team of 40 volunteers this ministry has experienced rapid development.

Since 1975 YFC has been regularly involved, on a weekly basis, at Winlaton Youth Train-

ing Centre. Through gospel concerts, games, discussions and craft activities the team attempts to establish meaningful relationships with the girls.

A similar program now operates at Turana Youth Training Centre for boys, in two sections. A team visits once a fortnight on Saturday nights. A small group also visits for lunch during the week. YFC also conducts a Bible Study at Turana weekly. Care and Communication Concern and Scripture Union are also involved at Turana.

Frequently groups of these young people are taken away for weekend camps and several troubled young people are taken to the annual YFC Camp on the Gold Coast.

There is also a follow up program after the young per-



son leaves the institution involving accommodation, counselling and help in their transition back into the community.

A house has been made available rent free to accommodate homeless young people in a loving Christian atmosphere.

Additional committed volunteers are urgently needed. A Youth Guidance Training Camp is being held at Belgrave Heights, 3-5 February.

During 1988 a number of

these young people committed their lives to Christ and have shown evidence of a changed life. It is often difficult for them to really go on in their Christian life in view of their negative and difficult backgrounds.

Volunteer office help is needed and there is always a problem with young people needing somewhere to live. If you are able to help with any of these needs contact Youth for Christ on (03) 29 3696.

College's New Name

The College of the Bible is now to be known as the Churches of Christ Theological College.

At the 42nd Federal Conference it was resolved that the name be changed from College of the Bible of Churches of Christ in Australia to Churches of Christ Theological College. It was agreed that the move from Glen Iris to Mulgrave provided the best opportunity

for the change of name.

The major reason for the change is that the new name immediately identifies the college as belonging to Churches of Christ. In the long title of the old name the "Churches of Christ in Australia" was often overlooked or omitted. Also the new name more adequately reflects the college's current functions as a ministerial and theological training institution.

Dulwich/Rose Park Induction

When Rob Williams, a Uniting Church minister, was inducted as the newly appointed minister of the Dulwich/Rose Park United Parish, SA, he was not only inducted into the pastorate of the Uniting Church congregations of Rose Park and Victoria Terrace, but also the Dulwich Church of Christ and a shared part-time chaplaincy of the Alexandra Homes, part of the Eldercare group.

So, taking part were Keith Horne, SA State Minister of Churches of Christ, Ken Allison, chairman of the joint advisory council that oversees the united parishes, Miss Yvonne McLaren, director of nursing at Alexandra Homes, and Keith Smith, chief executive.

Roger Brown, the Churches of Christ minister in the parish, welcomed Rob to the ministry team.

The service was led by Dr Geoffrey Scott, chairman of the Uniting Church's Mt Lofty Presbytery, which covers Rose Park. Dr Ian Parsons (UC,

Unley) preached the induction sermon.

Chairman of the parish council, Lindsay Bowes, gave the right hand of fellowship to the new minister and to his wife Colette and sons Paul and Marc. Neil Bright and Eve Gove, members of the ministry support team, joined in the welcome. Gartrell church was packed.

Rob Williams succeeds Ted Bray, the UC minister of the parish for the past 10 years, who is now doing part-time work at Manthorpe-Unley.

Nearly 1,500 performers attended last year's US national convention of the Fellowship of Christian Magicians. The convention is international and interdenominational.

The monastic community of Taizé is sending 1 million pocket sized New Testaments to the Soviet Union for free distribution through the Russian Orthodox Church.



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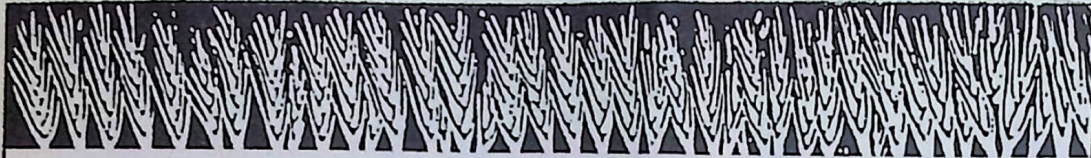
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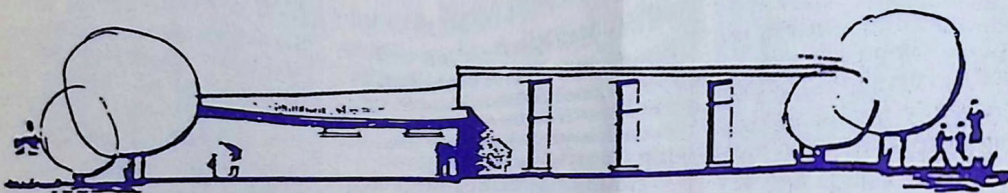


"—open your eyes and look at the fields—
they are ploughing white, all ready for the harvest"

CROP 21

PLANNING TOWARDS THE 21st CENTURY

Reach out with Gisborne Church
and share in the development of a young growing church



First stage building complex estimated to cost \$280,000
To be funded by Properties Corporation loan of \$200,000
Church fundraising of \$80,000

Your prayers, investments and donations are needed now

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CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN VICTORIA-TASMANIA
A JOINT PROPERTIES CORPORATION AND
DEPARTMENT OF MISSION, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

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of (address)

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Terms and Conditions of Investments (\$100.00 minimum)

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- 5 year term deposit—11.5% p.a.
- 3 year term deposit—11% p.a.

Interest Requirements

- Interest to be forwarded to investor
- Interest to be accumulated in account
- Interest to be donated to church loan account

Tick term and interest requirements

Date Usual signature

Church membership

This deposit will only be accepted by the corporation provided that the depositor is a member or adherent of or otherwise connected with the congregation of the Churches of Christ

Cash Donation

I donate the sum of \$ to the Church Reach Out Plan

Name

Address

Church Membership

SENIOR CITIZENS WEEK

An invitation to attend
SENIOR CITIZENS WEEK

Ecumenical Service
to be held at

St. Paul's Cathedral
on Sunday 26 February 1989
at 3 p.m.

Preacher
The Rev. Coralie Ling,
Uniting Church Minister
Chamber music from a school group commences at 2.30 pm.

The occasion will be an opportunity for all members of the community to share in a service of thanksgiving to God and affirm the contribution made to Australia by so many of our senior citizens.

Enquiries: (03) 818 0742
Sponsored by the Anglican Homes for Elderly People and the Government of Victoria
Free public transport is available on this day.

Bendigo Church of Christ

are making available a series of four tapes on

"Marriage"

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Cost of tapes \$3.50 plus \$1 postage & packing

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Community Centre

The Marion, SA, church firmly believes a congregation is never more like Jesus than when it identifies itself with the poor and the dispossessed. While the church is a regional church with a large congregation, it is also located in an area that carries one of the highest concentrations of supporting parents, unemployed, ageing and low income residents in South Australia.

Three years ago a house adjacent to the church was purchased for use as a Community Centre. To buy a house instead of the church extending was a desirable choice to provide an independent, totally accepting, non-threatening setting, which people could come for support and counselling.

The Centre in three years has become a model in community care and is held in high regard by Social Security, Community Welfare, local government and other churches, all of whom have a close working relationship of referral and support.

The Centre is totally staffed by volunteers, all of whom have completed the Care Worker's Course of 30 three hour sessions. 90 have completed this

course in three years including significant numbers from the Catholic and Uniting Church parishes.

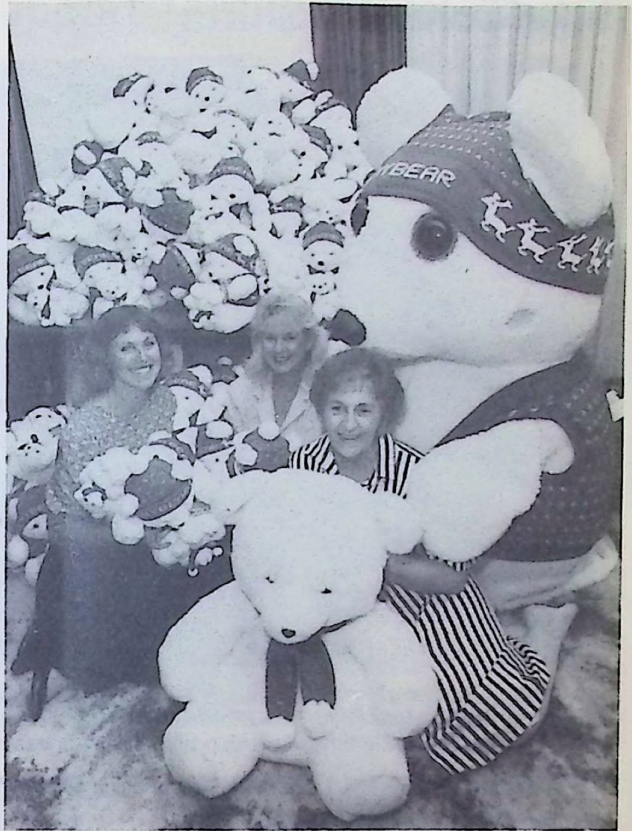
A wide range of counselling services are available with professional support on a voluntary basis and no payments for service. In 1988 540 families in critical financial situations were supported.

The Centre also conducts the Christmas Relief Program for the South Western suburbs of Adelaide on behalf of the Marion Community Forum. This year 190 families received generous Christmas hampers and toys. The program was made possible because of the generous support of local churches and service clubs.

Several Government agencies refer new staff members to the Centre as part of their orientation experience and the church has assisted a number of similar agencies.

Apart from community care the pastoral program of the church, Tele-link and Community Education Services are coordinated from the Centre.

Keith Horne as associate minister is responsible for the oversight and direction of this program.



Some of the 180 bears supplied by Myer Marlon for the Christmas Relief program (l to r) Gail Stead, Mary Nicholson (Myer PR) and Beth Brokensha

Conference Resolutions

A further resolution passed at the recent 42nd Federal Conference was on—

Compassion in the Face of AIDS

We call on members of Churches of Christ to affirm

WORK WANTED FOR COB STUDENTS

DANDENONG AREA Two mature students. One with skills and experience in professional cleaning, cash handling, retailing, clerical work, and bookkeeping, with endorsed heavy truck licence, seeks approx. 10 hours/week. The second has skills and experience in professional cleaning, factory hand, fast food industry and clerical work, seeks approx. 4 hours/week. Please contact Dave and Lyz Reynolds on (03) 700 3561 (AH).

our pastoral care responsibilities towards persons with AIDS, their families and friends.

We urge members of Churches of Christ to act compassionately towards victims of AIDS, who face daily issues of life and death. Such compassion and pastoral care affirms AIDS sufferers as persons in need of love, support and care at the physical, emotional and spiritual dimensions of being.

We remind Churches of Christ that we all have been shown compassion and mercy by God through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This good news both proclaimed and experienced by us sets the foundation for our response to persons afflicted by

AIDS.

Addendum: We request the Social Justice Committee to explore the possibility of promulgating a statement on AIDS, for use within Churches of Christ, taking account of the known facts, and of this motion of compassion.

The world's Islamic population has increased 500% in the past 100 years, making it by far the fastest-growing religion. By comparison Hinduism has increased 200%, Buddhism 116% and Christianity 47%. Zwemer Institute researchers say much of the growth can be attributed to high birth rates in Muslim countries.

On 12 February last year the Polish Government officially registered the Churches of Christ/Christian Churches as an independent church under the name "Kosciol Zborow Chrystusowych"—the Church of the Congregations of Christ. In order to register the Polish churches were required to select an executive committee of 5 preachers.

Doncaster Church of Christ

Evening Service

12 February, 7.30 pm

Guests:

Bill McNabb
from Los Angeles
Associate Editor of the
Wittenburg Door
also Graham Hyman
Youth Specialities Australia

All Welcome

Phone (03) 848 8636

Bible School T-Shirts



Bible School scholars from Red Cliffs, Vic, in their new "Christmas" T-shirts. In 1989 a different format is planned for this Bible School with a week night evening program that will include games, activities, a worship time, tea and lessons.

Aged Care Hostel for Redlands

The Minister for Aged Care, the Hon. Peter Staples, has announced a grant for the construction of a 50 bed Hostel for the Aged at Alexandra Hills, a south eastern suburb in Brisbane. The location for the hostel will be on the same land as the Redlands church and the Redlands Child Care and Community Centre.

The addition of these hostel beds will give an added provision to the Social Service Department's Brisbane region. For

some time the expansion of the Department's work has been outside the Brisbane region. This decision will mean that the provision of hostel beds will receive a significant boost. The only hostel beds in the Brisbane region have been the 30 rooms located at Burdeu House.

This project, together with the Clive Burdeu Centre, will mean a \$5 million building program for the Brisbane region.

Fairhaven Expansion

The Queensland Social Service Department has announced the successful tender for a 13 hostel rooms extension and redevelopment of 29 rooms to Fairhaven Hostel, Maryborough, Qld. The tender has been won by Bellerio Constructions.

The tender, for \$1,145,591, will mean a significant rede-

velopment of the present aged care hostel. It is a three staged development, the first stage involving the building of the new sections. The second stage will see the redevelopment of one of the existing old hostel wings, and the third stage will complete the project with the redevelopment of the remaining old hostel wing.

Hillcrest Purchase

The Social Service Department in Queensland has purchased a block of five two bedroom units adjacent to Hillcrest Nursing Home in Annerley, Brisbane. It is part of a plan to develop the central Brisbane aged care program around two centres, one on the north and the other on the south side of the river.

The units are presently rented but the Department will be acting to make them available for aged people as part of an expansion of the aged program in the Brisbane region.

The Brisbane region currently has three nursing homes at Burdeu House, Brig-o-doon and Hillcrest with an aged hostel at Burdeu House and 97 units at Gleneagles in New Farm and a hostel for the active aged at Kedron.

**RECOMMEND THE
CHRISTIAN**

Death of Pioneer Chaplain

The sudden death (on 17 November) of the Chaplain to the South Australian Retirement Services, James Dow, left many people stunned and in grief.

Jim undertook the new position of full-time chaplain three years ago. The role was created to co-ordinate the work of local ministers and to provide ongoing support to residents, relatives and staff. There are some who say that the job was made for Jim. He quickly endeared himself to all, not by the authority of his position, but by service and love. Among other duties Jim developed deep and caring relationships, undertook teaching roles for staff and was an invaluable resource for administration to assist in programming and individual care support.

The Retirement Services Board feels that it can pay no greater tribute than to find a suitable person as quickly as possible to continue the chaplaincy work developed by Jim.

We all pray God's blessing on Kathleen, Jamie, Callum and Alistair as we share their deep loss.

—Colin Dredge
(Administrator,
Retirement Services, SA)

After 33 years as speaker on the worldwide "Lutheran Hour" Dr Oswald Hoffman delivered his final broadcast on Christmas day from China in what is believed to be the first Christian radio program to emanate from there since World War II.

BUCKINGHAM MEMORIAL CENTRE

Self catering camp site

38 Lockwood Rd,
Belgrave Heights

Accommodation for 60
Large recreational hall
Low tariff. Small groups welcome

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(03) 890 2443

Central American Churches Support Refugees



Guatemalan refugees building new homes

"They have only to see us and they shoot. They kill everyone—women, babies, little children."

This is how a Guatemalan refugee describes the violence that has ravaged his country. Thousands of refugees from Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua have fled their homes in search of a safe haven.

This month Force Ten will support the work of the Inter-

national Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) to help Central American refugees work towards self-sufficiency. It is essential that aid to refugees goes beyond emergency measures such as food and clothing.

Working with churches in the region, ICMC provides help to Guatemalan peasants so they can build new homes. In El Salvador, hundreds of war orphans desperately need

school materials such as notebooks and pencils.

In Costa Rica funds are needed to build a sports field and community centre in a refugee camp. Nearly 300 camp residents have volunteered to help with construction. Refugees therefore get a chance to regain their confidence.

Force Ten is a joint program of the Australian Council of Churches and Australian Catholic Relief.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will have programs on the newest inter-faith cable network, VISN, which began broadcasting in America in September last year. The Disciples program is titled "One in the Spirit". They also have a weekly program "Created To Be One" on the national cable television ACTS network.

For the first time ever a missionary congress was held in Yugoslavia from 31 Dec-3 Jan. More than 200 young Yugoslavs attended.

After 27 years Africa Evangelical Fellowship missionaries have returned to northern Mozambique. Despite rebel activity and extreme hardship they found a total of 130,000 believers compared to 3,000 when they were forced to leave in 1959.

Under-age drinking has reached "epidemic proportions" and parents are often to blame, a Victorian Liquor Licensing Commissioner claimed—adding that "the hypocrisy of some adults only hampers its control".

Bible study classes are now being held in some schools in the Soviet Union. The lessons are not compulsory and are for upper school students aged about 16. They have been started after consultation between school principals, parents and pupils.

The Victorian Government has requested the Anglican Homes for Elderly People to conduct the 1989 Senior Citizens Week ecumenical service. The service will be held on 26 February at 3 pm at St Paul's Cathedral. The preacher will

Girls' Bible School Graduation



It was a privilege to be invited to the Yamen Girls' Bible School for their graduation ceremony that took place on 20 November. Cathy Fiam, a Bible School teacher, capably led the Sunday morning service. The students, as a group, presented songs of praise, love and commitment, and one student thanked the Yamen village for the support and practical assistance they had given during their two years at the Bible School.

Following communion I spoke about Samuel and Timothy and the influence their mothers had had on their lives in preparing them for the work that God had called them to do.

During their two years at Bible School the six graduates deepened their personal relationship with the Lord and studied his Word. They also acquired practical skills and learnt about nutrition and health. As these girls return to their villages please pray that they will maintain their zeal and enthusiasm in their service for God.

—Marian Batley
(Samban, PNG)

be Coralie Ling, a Melbourne Uniting Church minister. Free public transport is available to the city on this day.

Further details from Mrs Nancy Black on (03) 818 0742.

Classifieds

BIRTHS

CHAPMAN (LITTLE) Jan and Phil thank God for a "little Chapman" — Kathryn Elizabeth born 26 Dec. at Mitcham Family Birthing Unit. Proud grandparents are Isabel and Keith Little (Burwood) and Margaret and Tom Chapman (Nunawading).

MORTIMER (nee REID) Graham and Julie praise God for David Thomas born 4 October 1988. A brother for Joel, Christopher and Michelle.

WILSON (WILLIAMS) Katrina and Danny thank God for the arrival of their beautiful daughter Jessie Kate on 9 January 1989. Allwell. Thanks to Dr Tucker and the staff of the Blackwood, SA, Hospital.

ENGAGEMENTS

HOLLOWAY—SANDER Beth Holloway (Southport) and Colin Sander (New Zealand) have announced their engagement, with the wedding to be celebrated on 28 January 1989, 11 a.m., Golden Age Community Centre, 60 Ridgeway Avenue, Southport.

MARRIAGES

HARRIS—BENZ Barry and Elke Benz have much pleasure in announcing the marriage of their only daughter Ingrid to Troy, eldest son of Keith and Roslyn Harris, which took place at the Centenary Church of Christ on 10 December.

RUBY WEDDINGS

CROSSMAN—MADGWICK Geoff and Heather are grateful to God for 40 years of loving companionship. The wedding was at Bankstown, NSW, on 29 January 1949, with W.J. Crossman officiating. Loving wishes from Kathryn and Jim Adcock, Margaret, Alison and Neil Ratcliffe, John and Geoff; and grandchildren Jennifer, Kerry, Susan, Michael and Stephen.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

GRIEVE Thelma and Jock. Married La Trobe Terrace, Geelong, 14 January 1939 by H.M. Clipstone. Love and congratulations Mum and Dad — Barbara, Ellen, Val, Rosemary and families.

DIAMOND WEDDINGS

LAUNDER Dorothy and Arthur thank God for 83 Christmases and 60 lovely wedding anniversaries and thank friends for greetings.

DEATHS

NANKIVELL, Dora. On 1 January. Aged 90 years. Dearly loved and loving wife of Wilfred Frank (deceased) and mother of Frank and

Marjorie, Ian and Beryl, and Neil and grandmother and great grandmother of their families. "I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness."

FOOTE Victoria Florence. On New Year's Day at Pambula Nursing Home, NSW. Loving and much-loved wife of the late Allan William. Mother & mother-in-law of Ishbel & Ian Diamond and Christine & Ken Barnes & grandmother of Alexandra & Timothy; Alisdair, Andrew, Hugh & Cameron. Aged 90 years. "Through the open door. And she will dance."

CROWDEN Doris. Passed away at Royal Hobart Hospital 27 Dec., 1988. Beloved wife of Harry (dec.). Loving mother of Gwen (Mrs Bullimore, Hobart), Ben (Garfield, Vic) & Robert (Nietta). Mother-in-law of Rex, May & Kay. Loving Nanna of Jill, Alan, Amarlie & Leslie & three great grandchildren. Loving sister of Ena (Mrs Harvey Caveside). In her 92nd year. In God's care.

IN MEMORIAM

FITCH Ellen Mary. "Cherished memory". Passed into the presence of her Lord 29 Dec. 1987. Favourite chorus "Turn your eyes upon Jesus."

GOLDSWORTHY Loving memories of our parents, Reginald (12.1.1941) and Amelia (2.1.1954). Till we meet again.

LANGLEY David Malcolm. Treasured memories of our dear son and brother called home 24 December 1965. "Each leaf that falls may wither, But the hearts that love you dearly, Are the ones who will never forget."—Loving mother and family.

LANGLEY Harold Ernest. In loving memory of my beloved husband and our dear father called home 12.1.79. "We do not part from those we love, No distance can divide, For every day in memory, We still walk side by side." Beautiful memories treasured forever. My loved one.—Your loving wife Rene and family.

RETURN THANKS

LEANE, Alan & Wyn, of Nambour/Bundaberg, thank all praying partners and praise God for doctor's reports following operation that no residual malignancy was discovered.

FOR SALE

ORGAN Burge Chorister 261. Completely overhauled. Includes extension speaker. Suitable for church or hall. \$1,000 ONO. Contact Roy Barnett (03) 555 1675 or Cheltenham Church of Christ, Mrs Jean Rose (03) 584 8499.

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TWO COMMUNION TRAYS AND GLASSES, also bread trays, for communion services at Elnora Home chapel led by Mrs Betty de Jager. Please contact (03) 598 6152.

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

DONCASTER Girl wanted to share house immediately. Rent \$50 per week. Contact Heather on (03) 848 4001 (AH).

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

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HOLIDAY HOUSES

GRAMPIANS Beautiful Halls Gap holiday house. All summer activities available without beach rates. Accommodates 6. Phone (055) 62 4869.

POINT LONSDALE 4 BR. Handy shops & front & back beaches. \$150 p.w. or \$200 during school holidays. Brough (03) 288 2815

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South Yarra**

Church of Christ
**HOMECOMING
SERVICE**

Sunday 26 February

11 a.m.: Dr Bill Tabbernee

Principal, College of the Bible

2.45 pm Miss Hazel Skuce

will speak on her work in India

Lunch and afternoon tea

provided

Bright singing

Good fellowship

Phone (03) 241 3961

60th ANNIVERSARY

WEST

PRESTON

CHURCH OF CHRIST

4 & 5 MARCH 1989

PROGRAM

Saturday, 4 March, 7.30 p.m.

Social Evening

(come dressed in 1930s style)

Sunday, 5 March

10 a.m.—Worship Service

12.30 p.m.—Luncheon

3 p.m.—Pleasant Sunday

Afternoon

Luncheon RSVP 16 February

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J. Green (03) 354 2820

M. Hooper (03) 354 2668

V. Rogers (03) 478 3986

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BREAKFAST

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11 February 1989

at 8.00 am

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for your club's program.

Register with Trevor Dow
on (03) 758 3074

or ring Russell Croxford on

(03) 700 4917 to discuss

possibilities for your club.

Guest Editorial

Styles of Worship

by Kelth Farmer

It is quite tragic that worship, which should draw us to God and to one another, is actually proving to be a divisive issue within many churches in Australia at this time.

It is the style of worship which is contentious. I can express the difficulty clearly, if a little simplistically, by labelling the apparently conflicting styles as 'Traditional Churches of Christ Worship' and 'Contemporary Worship with an emphasis on demonstrative Praise'. The older generation tends to appreciate the former more and the younger generation the latter. This difficulty has actually led to many of our churches having two almost completely separate congregations—either because of two different morning worship services or because the younger

people attend the evening service and the older people the morning service. I believe the tension between styles of worship has been a significant factor in the fracturing of more than one Australian Church of Christ in the recent past.

The Traditional approach is characterised by a deep sense of awe and reverence for God, which is an essential aspect of worship. We are worshipping the Creator of the Universe who but for his love and mercy would be frightening.

The Contemporary approach is characterised by celebration and the desire to enthusiastically and demonstrably express joy and praise.

I am concerned when the former emphasis is dismissed as 'old-fashioned' and the latter as 'charismatic'. Our Biblical theology encourages both reverence and celebration at

appropriate times.

While my age and temperament probably put me in the former emphasis category I must admit that my 'heart' tends towards the latter. The younger people are often younger Christians and therefore more easily discouraged if they do not find at worship something to which they can respond enthusiastically. Those of us who are older in the faith should be more flexible because of Christian maturity. There is nothing unbiblical about demonstrating joy and enthusiasm in worship (see Psalm 150). Please don't label me 'charismatic' if I sometimes clap my hands (Psalm 47) or lift up my hands (Psalm 63). These are demonstrations of worship which evidently were meaningful to the Israelite people and may or may not help our worship.

One of my concerns is that if we are going to reach the younger generations for Christ then our worship can be expressive to them of this joy and vibrance. The freedom of Churches of Christ to adapt in such ways is part of our Restoration Movement relevance and vitality.

I would love to think that we can be unified in our worship as we emphasise both deep reverence for God and enthusiastic demonstrated joy in His presence.

• *Keith Farmer is married to Margaret and has three teenage children. He is the Principal of the Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College (Carlingford) having previously ministered at Canley Heights, NSW, Epping, NSW, and Doncaster/College of the Bible, Vic. Keith is a keen jogger.*

Growing Spiritually

The Prophetic Word

by Barry Jenkins

The Need for Prophets

In the early church there were various leaders. 1 Cor. 12:28 lists some of these. In today's church we can recognise pastors, teachers, administrators, worship leaders, leaders; but those who work miracles, speak in tongues and bring words of prophecy are often missing. The prophet speaks forth, proclaims and presents fearlessly the word of God. We must not limit the role to those who are able to speak about future events (as the Old Testament prophets did) but also see the need for fearless prophetic preaching.

The Prophetic Gift Is from the Holy Spirit

After the believers prayed, we read in Acts 4:31, "the place where they were meeting was

shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly." We will see the spiritual gift of fearless prophetic preaching when our preachers are more concerned about the spiritual gift of prophecy than the reactions of their congregations.

The Prophet's Message Needs To Be Subject to the Scriptures

We hear fears expressed about prophecy in the church because of messages which are not found in scripture, however the message must be subject to the scriptures. The description in Acts 2:42-47 of the church which met together praising God, breaking bread and experiencing many wonders and miraculous signs, was also the church devoted to the apostles' teaching. Teaching

and prophecy (the written word and prophetic word) must go hand in hand.

The Prophet's Message Does Not Need Popular Approval

Too much of our proclamation has an eye on popularity. The prophet is not given an absolute blank cheque to say whatever he wants; the prophet is to be subject to the prophets; the prophetic word must be weighed up and assessed by other prophets (1 Cor. 14:29-33). The purpose of prophecy is so that all may be instructed and encouraged.

The prophetic word does not easily fit in the Australian church scene, where we prefer a popular message which does not disturb us too much. But the prophetic word is one of the ministries desperately needed by the church today.

• *Barry Jenkins is the minister at the Ringwood, Vic, church.*

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"The Australian Christian"
in its ministry among
Churches of Christ?

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

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Media Review

Seen But Not Heard?



Is anyone listening to the young people in our churches? If not, is it because they do not know how to be heard?

More and more churches are trying to find ways of including young people in their decision making processes. As the church-going population ages, the need is becoming critical. But even making sure that young people have a voice will not guarantee that they will not end up as token members of church bodies.

Church structures are almost always highly organised, working through formal agendas and the rules of debate to reach decisions. Younger people, and sometimes women, can be seriously disadvantaged, particularly if they find the system not only foreign but also unproductive.

The Joint Board of Christian Education has produced a resource aimed at empowering the young people on local church councils, synods etc. The material is more closely aimed at the Uniting Church but would be useful within

Churches of Christ circles.

Saying Something, Being Heard, A young person's Guide to Effective Participation by Leigh Pope is a clear, concise guide to meeting procedures. It also gives the novice invaluable advice about the preparation needed to achieve a particular aim.

The book, and an accompanying video, are the result of a research project undertaken by the Joint Board, with sponsorship from the Federal Department of Employment, Education and Training under the Program of Assistance to Youth Organisations. 38 young people, already effective participants in church bodies around Australia, provided information about their experiences.

The book is priced at \$3.95, while the book and video are available together at a special price of \$25. *Beyond Participation to Power*, the report of the project, costs \$6.30. All are available from the JBCE, Second floor, 10 Queen St., Melbourne 3000.

Papers

PENULTIMATE

Penultimate is a new magazine being published in Australia to provide a forum for people and organisations throughout Australia and New Zealand to air views on social justice topics, especially topics relevant to the area of criminal justice. It is anticipated that this magazine will be published quarterly. The editor is Stan McCormack who found God while serving a 10 year sentence for armed robbery in Pentridge Prison, Melbourne. The first issue contains an article by Dame Phyllis Frost on the children of women prisoners and what society is saying to them, other articles include a look at the search for values in society today by well known television script writer Tony Morphett, an interview with two offenders, several reviews of relevant material and other articles on social work and on the homelessness and lack of work for released prisoners.

A one year subscription to *Penultimate* costs \$18 and it can be obtained from P.O. Box 1009, Collingwood 3066. The magazine can be contacted on (03) 417 1472.

Books

RISKING CHRIST FOR CHRIST'S SAKE

Towards an Ecumenical Theology of Pluralism

by M.M. Thomas
(WCC Publications)

At one time people of different religions lived largely in isolation from one another. This is no longer the case in the "global village", which is the world today. *Risking Christ for Christ's Sake* provides a study of the theology of pluralism, looking at major trends in the theology of religions and secularism in the missionary/ecumenical movement of the last 50 years. It is the concern of the author to consider the Christian's response to non-Christian religions, and to secularism, from the standpoint of an ultimate commitment to Jesus Christ as the revelation of God.

In India pluralism became a fact of life earlier than in many parts of the world. In his book Thomas considers the ideas of the Indian theologians Panikkar and Devanandan, among others. He treads the middle path between exclusivism and the notion of the equality of all religions. The writer sees the need for unity in the Christian church in order that the distinctiveness of the Chris-

tian gospel may be made clear in the context of the religions of the world.

The element of "risk" emerges when we attempt to communicate meaningfully with those of other faiths, but for the Christian confidence of the unique significance of Christ such dialogue does not pose a threat. This book provides a thought-provoking consideration of possible attitudes to other faiths in the light of the ultimateness of Christ.

—J.T.

EVANGELICAL WITNESS IN SOUTH AFRICA

132 Concerned Evangelicals
(Regnum Books)

This slim booklet presents a critique of South African evangelical theology and practice. Its purpose is "...to create more awareness among evangelicals about the crisis we are facing, and begin to wrestle with God, like Jacob, to determine what our role and ministry should be... and how we live our faith in this situation."

The crisis to which they refer is that created by the obscene and blasphemous policy of apartheid.

During the 19th century, evangelical Christians were prominent in the reform of prisons, hospitals and orphanages; the improvement of working conditions for women and children; and the abolition of the slave trade. These South African Christians confront us with our neglect of this dimension of our faith, pointing out that, for God's people, there is not one aspect of life which should not be subject to his will.

There is much anguish and anger apparent in this document as the contradictions between Christ-like Christianity and evangelical practice in South Africa are exposed. It is not comfortable reading for Western Christians either, as we stand accused of patronising indigenous Christians and insisting on the acceptance of conservative Western cultural, economic and political attitudes as integral to the Gospel "package".

This is an authentic expression of the daily struggles of our brothers and sisters in the townships of South Africa. Read it—and then read Matthew 25:31–46!

—Graeme Addicott

Voodoo threats have been directed at evangelical pastors in Haiti. One pastor found petrol and matches by his car with a not warning him to stop opposing voodoo.

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Reconciliation in a Community of Many Cultures

The following statement, issued through the Assembly Communications office of the Uniting Church in Australia, Sydney, was agreed to by heads of Australian churches in December 1988.

The Bicentenary has offered Australians a valuable opportunity to reflect on who we are as a nation, and to consider our future direction.

From the First Fleet through the eventful times of settlement, expansion, conflict and reconciliation, the churches have reflected the increasingly diverse origins of the people of Australia.

Today we Australians are linked by ties of kinship, language and culture with many peoples throughout the world. Geography makes our destiny inseparable from that of Asia and the Pacific, and we recognise the obligations which flow from this location. We can neither ignore nor live aloof from our regional neighbours, and the future well-being of Australia depends on how we develop the possibilities for mutual understanding and co-operation.

At the same time we acknowledge many inexcusable attitudes held by some Australians of the past and present

towards people whose language and culture are different from their own. Too often these attitudes have been superior, condescending, racist and paternalistic.

Such attitudes are incompatible with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We believe the Son of God to be both the model for and the Saviour of the whole human race. His redemptive power is for all and challenges all human cultures. It is not, however, captive to any. In Christ we have glimpsed God's love reaching out toward all people everywhere without distinction. Attitudes of racial superiority or exclusiveness in any form are therefore to be rejected as alien to the Christian faith.

"The goal for all Australians must be to encourage...a commitment to unity, the values of tolerance, justice and compassion."

We encourage our congregations to foster local contact between people from all cultural backgrounds, to help meet those social needs that are generated by ethnic diversity.

We stress the need for public education programs for all age

groups, for the building of mutual respect. The privilege and responsibility of the media in shaping public opinion must be emphasised in this regard. It is cause for regret that at times the media have given exaggerated prominence to statements and events which focus on racial and ethnic conflict.

Existing legislative measures against racial discrimination should be strengthened and supported. We urge all Christians to commit themselves to seeking acceptance for people of the minority groups; and to promote the advancement of social harmony in the context of democratic freedom and the good of Australians as a whole. The goal for all Australians must be to encourage, consistently with rich cultural diversity, a commitment to unity, the values of tolerance, justice and compassion. To ensure equality, it is essential that there is opportunity for all to become proficient in English, so that we can work within the framework of a common language.

We look for a bipartisan, non-discriminatory immigration program, which needs to be presented positively to the people to counter the endemic racism of past generations; it should provide genuine opportunity for newcomers to bene-

fit. It should be a balanced program which allows entry to some unskilled workers, bearing in mind the benefits which have accrued to the Australian people from the contributions of such migrants in the past years.

As an essential aspect of immigration policy the churches support a continuing commitment to the acceptance of refugees, irrespective of the refugees' colour, race, religion, class and skills. A second essential is that the policy must not hinder full Aboriginal participation in Australian life.

The Christian churches are themselves communities in which people of differing cultural backgrounds have experienced reconciliation under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. However, the multicultural dimension of the Church's life remains to be fully realised and expressed.

Given that Australia is now a pluralist, multi-faith society with permanent communities of people from major world religions, building bridges of understanding to people of other faiths in our midst will become a significant aspect of the agenda of the churches in the years immediately ahead. To that task we commit ourselves.

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He waves the baton.

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But He will prepare the palate,
He chooses the colour tones.

The Lord wants you to be His work of art
But He wants your submission,
He limits His Sovereignty.

—Ray Hawkins

A Church ABC

Naracoorte, in the south east of South Australia, is a fine town of 4,500 people in an agricultural area that produces fat lambs, beef cattle, seeds and cereals. Tourist attractions include the nearby Naracoorte caves, a wool museum and the largest privately owned museum in South Australia (owned by one of the church families).

Officially the church began in 1906, but a group may have been meeting in the 1890s. The church has had a strong membership of people from both the town and surrounding farms, reaching a peak in the 1960s. The church itself is an A frame style building opened in

1966, when the church was re-located. Since then there has been some loss of membership, and the current number is about 75. The minister for the past three years has

the week there are two mid-week Bible studies at night and two during the day.

Events in the past few years have required that the church look for new ways to reach out to the commu-

clude a Friendship Centre conducted on Thursday mornings with craft activities, the usual cuppa and a thought from the minister, and a new youth group for 15 to 20 high school aged teenagers, which meets fortnightly on Saturday nights.

The Naracoorte church has always been characterised by generous giving to missions. In periods without ministers there was support for home missions, and with a number of former members missionaries overseas, support has also been strong for overseas missions. This tradition of giving continues today.

Focus on Naracoorte



been Grant Simpson, who serves with his well-qualified wife, Julie, two young children and a foster daughter.

Services are at 11 am and there is gospel meeting once a fortnight alternating with home fellowship meetings. During

nity. Hence a Tuesday afterschool Reach Out Club for Kids (ROCK). This is the major thrust of the church's ministry to children—most of the 35 children attending come from families outside the church. The children and their parents participate in services. Other outreach activities in-

Ministers' Workshop

Surveying Your Church

by Lionel Berthelsen

So you want to analyse your church. Good! But where can you find the information you need? And what sort of information is helpful?

Insights from Conference Handbooks

The statistics pages from Conference handbooks are goldmines of information! However, you may need to hunt around for handbooks covering the past 11 years (yes, 11, not 10!). If your secretary doesn't have them, contact the Department of Church Development (or its equivalent) in your state. You will then need to extract the information relating to your church from each, so that you will end with a table the last 11 years down the left, and headings across the top taken from the Handbook. This table is a valuable document and provides a basis for the following:

1. Ten-year Graph

Prepare a graph of active membership, attendance, communicants etc. Along the bottom of the graph plot the years,

and down the left the membership. Now draw line graphs representing membership etc.

2. Sources of Gains and Losses

Next we want to know what sort of growth is occurring. So go back to your table of statistics and add up the various columns giving sources of gains and losses. (Headings of these columns vary from state to state, but may include "faith and baptism", "death" etc.) For this use 10 sets of data (e.g. 1978-1987).

Now summarise this data. What can you observe about your growth? Some have been surprised to find that their growth is due to transfers. Another church may discover that the problem is not lack of conversions—it is that the converts are being lost out the back door. So this piece of analysis is very significant and needs to be examined closely.

3. Rates of Growth

Is a net gain of 20 in one year good? Depends whether you start with 20 or 100 or 1,000! So calculate your net gains (or losses) as a percentage of the active membership at the start

of the year and plot these figures on a chart (a bar chart is most satisfactory). Now, are you maintaining effectiveness?

Insights from Questionnaires

The questionnaire is good for measuring attitudes (e.g. sense of belonging, overall satisfaction with the church life, perception of the church's strengths and weaknesses etc.). The problem with questionnaires is the skill required to design a meaningful one. So go for help on this!

Insights from Other Sources

1. Age/Sex Structure of the Membership

Sit down with the church roll and classify each person into age groupings (e.g., 20-24, 25-29 etc.) and by sex. Plot your findings on a bar graph. This needs to be compared to the age/sex structure of the community.

2. Classes of Workers

Go through the rolls again and classify people according to the ministry they perform (if any):

Class I: Volunteers who serve the existing church

Class II: Volunteers who serve those outside the church

Class III-V: All other workers

Consumers: Those who attend, but have no ministry.

Research shows that a healthy church will have something like the following mixture: Class I: at least 20%, Class II: 40%, Consumers: not more than 33%.

Here then is a start to the quest for understanding the local church. Two final comments: (a) If figures turn you off, find an enthusiast in your church (he may even have access to a computer program to draw your graphs and charts for you!) (b) Having discovered those insights, apply them! The point of the exercise is to improve our leadership decisions.

• Dr Lionel Berthelsen lectures in Church Growth at the Churches of Christ (NSW) Theological College, Cartingford.

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

Media, Moralising and Merry Christmas 1988

Alan Matheson looks at the Christmas editorials and finds they just can't help themselves

Another year, another Christmas.

Another collection of 24 December editorials.

"Next to consumption," commented one editorial, "the most conspicuous impulse at Christmas time is to moralise about it." (*US News and World Report*, 12.12.88)

Yet editorial writers and reporters at this time reflect much of the ambivalence, superficiality and stumbling good will that is to be found in ourselves and in our society.

Perhaps the most bizarre report was of a large Tokyo store where a huge cross dominated the counters. Actually it was not the cross that took people's attention but the rather splendid Father Christmas hanging crucified on it. (*The Australian*, 24.12.88) Friends laughed—but I wonder.

The editorials at Christmas 1988 couldn't help themselves.

Financial Christmas

As you would expect, the

major Australian financial daily (*Financial Review*, 23.12.88) focused on weighty economic matters and noted that "productivity requires rest and maintenance; as with plant and machinery, so with human beings." Productivity was then given a theological blessing, with the writer explaining that, "at the heart Christmas celebrates the concept of divine incarnation and thus elevates humanity." Overwhelmed at this point and perhaps conscious that many of its readers might find this a little beyond them, the editorial concluded with feet firmly planted on each side of the fence: "Historical event or meaningful myth, it retains its power, and surely provides the perfect course for a holiday (or holy-day as it was originally spelt)."

New Right

The other national daily, *The Australian* (24.12.88), carried into its editorial its usual pre-occupation with the "the new right". That is, heavy on "AIDS", "self sacrifice", "the great traditions of the past" and the "loss of academic rigour", but light on "corporate crime", "editorial responsibility" (*The Australian* regularly carries some of the most pernicious

material on immigration and ethnic communities) and "transnational exploitation".

The *Melbourne Age* (24.12.88), interestingly, used its editorial to further the anti-abortion cause with an irrational emotion so frequently identified with the cause ("If Mary of Nazareth had con-

sentimentally moralise.

What is profoundly disturbing, though, is the distortion of Christianity found in most editorials, the superficial interpretation of the Christ child event and the enthusiastic portrayal of Christianity as being synonymous with "civilisation".

Too many editorials sounded like too many sermons, heavy on moralising but light on theology, but two comments are worth repeating.

The final issue for the year of the *British Economist* (24.12.88) carried a long article on the "New Christendom". It notes that in 1990 two thirds of the world's 558 million Christians lived in Europe and North America. By 2500, it is claimed, two thirds of the world's 2 billion Christians will live elsewhere. *The Economist*

concludes, "The new majority see themselves as underprivileged and dispossessed. Their saviour is not the triumphalist Christ, the king of old Christendom. Now Christendom's saviour is Jesus the liberator, the crusader against injustice. He will comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable."

The national broadcaster and writer Terry Lane (a former Churches of Christ minister) concluded his column for the year, "The problem is to do with the essence of Christmas. It's the birthday of a very bolshie baby. He grew up saying things like, 'Blessed are the peace makers...' And he even said, '...if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also...' And don't give us any of that left wing stuff about it being easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. That's the sort of downer that spoils a good chrisse party." (*Herald*, 26.12.88)

• Alan Matheson is Ethnic Liaison Officer with the ACTU.



trived to terminate her pregnancy she would have aborted not only her baby but Christmas and all the blessings Christ has destined to confer on the human race.")

The Sydney Morning Herald's editorial was the longest. Necessary, no doubt, as it attempted to come to terms with "the mystery of existence" and "the ultimate meaning of life". It ranged from "the nature of the good life" and a God who "offers himself in friendship to us" to the comforting thought that "history will not end in a nuclear holocaust".

But what did it mean when it said that Christianity had "brought to an end the exposure of little children"?

Its most dangerous suggestion was support for "rent a baby schemes" (child sponsorship) as an effective means of combatting malnutrition and helping needy children in developing countries.

Distortion

It's probably too cynical to see all editorials as opportunities for newspaper editors to

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Alexander Campbell

He Gave the Bible to the People

by Hiram J. Lester

Some little-known facts about Alexander Campbell

Teacher

Alexander Campbell was a master teacher. As a teacher, his most striking traits were two: (1) He approached well-known facts and texts in such an innovative, perhaps global, way that his listeners were caught up in the excitement of old worlds exploding and new worlds being born in their own minds; at least that was the report of President James Madison and many others. And (2) Campbell invariably treated questions asked by others, even the most trivial, in such a way that questioners came to believe that their questions were of profound depth, and they went away amazed and pleased that they could ask questions that touched the edges of the cosmos and eternity, according to a man who thought that Campbell was dangerous.

Preacher and Pastor

Campbell's mode as a preacher and pastor was most unusual for his time. Henry Hussey of Adelaide reported that Campbell's pulpit speech was no different from his private conversation. He seldom raised his voice or made a gesture. He was always gracious. In none of his speaking did he try to use flowery language.

Campbell's wedding ceremony was brief and to the point. He was not an especially popular preacher at funerals. He was fair and honest in his allusions to the dead, but he never flattered the undeserving to please mourning friends.

At baptism Mr Campbell was deliberate and impressive. Where possible he had a private interview with the candidate before baptism, usually separating confession from baptism for that purpose. In some cases he refused to baptise a candidate even after a public confession had been made, because the person did not want to unite with the church, or else desired to enter a communion "where the Lord would not be obeyed in his ordinances".

Campbell was Irish through and through. He would have laughed at us for celebrating our "Scottish Presbyterian" background—he saw Luther as the great reformer and believed that Calvin had been a deadening force, and one seriously in error.

Warrior

Campbell lived his entire life in the middle of a storm. It was a time of mighty conflicts and intense sectarian strife. He did not know how to run, and conformity for comfort's sake was not his Irish nature; therefore, he became a warrior, as his debating opponent Bishop Purcell said, "fighting not for victory, but for what he believed to be the truth."

Openly magnanimous himself, Campbell could not understand people who disagreed disagreeably. He remained a life-long, friendly associate of Bishop Purcell and Robert Owen, in spite of vigorous debates with both men, debates that made Campbell internationally famous. In that context, one should note that Campbell's public debates were not always as successful as his colleagues thought.

"Campbell was Irish through and through."

The Burnett family was one of the early Disciple families in Missouri and their inseparable sons were obviously destined for church leadership. Both these young Disciples helped drive the first wagon trains from St Joseph to Oregon, though Peter had already decided that Spanish California was his goal. California was Catholic at that time and Peter, having never known any Catholics before, read, on the Oregon Trail, Campbell's debate with Bishop Purcell, to prepare him for the California experience. The debate convinced him. That is how California's first American governor, Peter T. Burnett, happened to be a Roman Catholic and not a Disciple!

Open to All

Campbell's life touched every strata of society—the rich and the poor, the high and the low, the unlettered and the erudite, the aged and children, both radicals and reactionaries. All were warmly welcomed at The Bethany House. I first became aware of this when I found records of Campbell's dealings with John Brown, the noted abolitionist. Campbell and Brown were cast in the same mould; iron-willed and

rock-ribbed in their religious beliefs and in their opposition to human slavery, they were as far apart as two men could be in their conclusions on religion and the methods in eliminating slavery.

In spite of this, they were associates in the wool business for seven years. On two occasions, once at Springfield, Massachusetts, and the second in Steubenville, Ohio, in 1847, Campbell presided at a wool growers' convention called by John Brown to consider ways of raising the selling price of wool.

One of the reasons for Campbell's visit to the United Kingdom was to get a better price for wool. The last reference to Campbell in the Brown materials is a letter written by Brown's son-in-law, Henry Thompson, which tells of their last meeting:

"We left Cleveland Saturday evening at 8 o'clock for Detroit. Stayed over the Sabbath; went to church. Heard Bishop Campbell preach. He is the father of all the Campbellites, and is a great man."

Freedom

Campbell's greatest value was freedom—Gospel Liberty. But he knew that gospel liberty was inseparable from all other kinds of freedom, and that there is no freedom without justice for all.

It was over the issue of freedom and justice that he broke with the Jacksonians. Some of his most fiery essays were directed against those, including the President of the United States, who would abrogate Indian treaties, deny Indian rights and steal Indian lands. Later he brought a young native American of the Iowa tribe, Harvey, to his home and educated him at Bethany College at his own expense.

Again and again he raised his voice against slavery and social injustice. In the midst of the jingoism associated with the Mexican War and its conquests,



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Whatever Happened to Austral?

by A.R. Haskell

he publicly took his stand against war, pointing out that war rights no wrongs and promotes injustice rather than justice, tyranny rather than freedom.

Robert Richardson, when asked about Campbell's greatest contribution to Christian history, said very simply, "Alexander Campbell's greatest contribution was he gave the Bible to the people."

Campbell would have agreed; he thought his most important work was *The Living Oracles*. Each copy of this first translation of the New Testament into American English contained an essay teaching basic steps for good interpretation. Thus all readers were given the tools to interpret the Scripture reliably.

Today we have many translations and a plethora of awful paraphrases. Our churches have courses on every subject from the idolatry of self-realisation to how to organise basketball leagues, but no-one seems to teach people how to read the Bible with good understanding.

On Campbell's 200th birthday the question arises from the needs of an unarmed church and a world in darkness: "Who will be his heir and give the Bible to the People?"

• *Hiram J. Lester is a Fellow of the Campbell Research Institute, Bethany, West Virginia, USA. This article consists of edited extracts from the Alexander Campbell Bicentennial Dinner Address delivered to the World Convention of Churches of Christ, Auckland, New Zealand, 1988.*

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In 1891 A.B. Maston, an American preacher turned printer residing in Melbourne, invited interested church members to discuss the formation of a Churches of Christ printing and publishing house. So was born the Austral Printing and Publishing Company, with Maston as manager, a non-profit company whose surplus funds were to be used to promote the cause of Christ and Christian evangelism. The directors were required to be members of our churches and receive no fees or gratuities. The stated objects of the company were to print and distribute literature upholding the cause of New Testament Christianity. Before long thousands of tracts made their appearance, some of which, in a revised form, are still available.

In seven years A.B. Maston brought together two leading journals "The Australian Christian Standard" and the "Christian Pioneer", which willingly ceased publication to enable "The Australian Christian" to make its debut. The printing business prospered, the profits enabling many tracts and books to be published, including reprints of publications from our American brotherhood. The company also printed, published and marketed the original Churches of Christ calendar until 1973; "Pure Words" ("Skyways"), a young people's paper; the old

In the past decade the number of missionaries sent out by Japan has more than doubled from 130 to 291. At the same time the number of sending agencies grew from 48 to 63 and the number of countries of service from 24 to 36. The majority serve in Asia but some also serve in Europe, North America, Latin America and Africa.

Churches of Christ hymnbook, for 40 years; and Austral Graded Lessons. (When these were replaced by lessons prepared by the Federal Board of Christian Education, the Austral Company was still the printer. Later it generously subsidised the work of the Board when it entered into partnership with the Joint Board of Christian Education.) The company owned and pub-

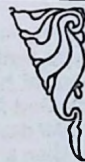
cial printers, and the company refused to accept contracts for printing that conflicted with Christian principles. By 1976 the directors regretfully decided to dispose of the business as a going concern. An offer for the entire business—freehold, plant and stock—was accepted and the proceeds, with the approval of the Vic-Tas Conference Executive, were transferred to "The Austral Charitable Trust". A custodian trustee company—Maston Pty Ltd—was duly registered to handle the affairs of the trust and by this means the name of A.B. Maston has been perpetuated.

The major concern of the trustees is to invest the assets available to produce maximum income. A substantial amount of income (85% of which must be used for the benefit of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania) is distributed—\$201,000 in the past 10 years. Several of the Vic-Tas departments and committees are part of the wider work that goes beyond state confines: social service, home overseas and Aboriginal missions, college support, union matters and young people's and educational work.

At the inception of the trust the then directors of the Austral company became its first trustees and directors of Maston Pty Ltd. These trustees, who are all still committed members of Churches of Christ, are L.J. Butler, chairman, A.R. Haskell, secretary, N.R. Arnott, R.B. Lee, W.A. Thompson and R.M. Walker.

• *Arthur Haskell is secretary of the Austral Charitable Trust. He is also chairman of "The Australian Christian" Advisory Committee, and a member of the Williamstown, Vic, church.*

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lished "The Australian Christian" until 1963, when it was transferred to Federal Conference with a gift of \$2,000.

Douglas Pittman was the manager for many years, and most recently A.R. Haskell (who, as "Uncle Arthur" wrote for "Pure Words" from 1953).

In the late 1960s the Austral Company found trading conditions very difficult. Printing had become highly competitive and churches and departments began using other printers. Austral, having limited financial resources, was not able to compete with commer-

Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words in length

BECKER, Joan Helena (29.12.88) Born Joan Helena Nichols in Richmond, Vic, in 1918, an only child. She attended Central State School and PLC. A very young member of North Richmond Methodist Church, Sunday School teacher and active member of Christian Endeavour. Joan married Keith in 1941. They joined the Hartwell, Vic, Church of Christ. After living in Richmond they moved to Safety Beach where they established their own business for 14 years. Keith predeceased Joan in 1980. In 1964 they moved to Mt Eliza and joined the Frankston church. They had two sons, Lyle and Ian, and four grandchildren. Joan was a very talented lady. She was treasurer for the Better Hearing Group, worked on Meals on Wheels and was an active member of church auxiliaries and Bible study groups. Joan was a loving wife and mother. Her faith gave her a bright disposition during her illness. Greatly missed.

—Allan Avery

BUHSE, Clarice Alma (3.12.88) Clarice went to be with her Lord at 69 years of age. She confessed her Lord at 12 years of age and was baptised at the Rosewood, Qld, church. Later she was also a member of the Ma Ma Creek and Gatton churches. In 1937 she married John Buhse and they shared 51 years of companionship and service. They were blessed with four children: Gwen (deceased), Lawrence, Fay and Barry. Clarice was a quiet, gentle person who endeared herself to so many. Thank you to all of you who prayed for her. We extend sincere sympathy to John and all of Clarice's family.

—Barry Benz

CHARLICK, Doris Anne At 96 Mrs Charlack passed away. A resident of Roselin Court, SA, she was the widow of Harry Charlack, mother of Audrey Fletcher, and grandmother of David and Trevor. She was baptised at North Adelaide at the age of nine. She was also married at North Adelaide. She was active in the foundation of the Prospect church. She also worshipped at Nailsworth, Colonel Light Gardens and Maylands. Mrs Charlack was very active in CWF. She was assistant secretary for the State CWF and Superintendent of its Home Missions Committee. She was treasurer of the Dorcas Society of the Adelaide Children's Hospital for 20 years. Mrs Charlack was always cheerful, and was a pleasure to be with. Her

smiling presence at worship is greatly missed.

—Richard Lawton

CROWDEN, Doris (27.12.88) Doris Crowden (Byard) died in her 92nd year. Two days before she phoned son Ben saying, "This is the last time you will hear from me. The Lord is waiting for me." At 19 she was baptised in a cold Tasmanian creek during a Harold Knott Mission at Caveside. She married Harry in 1920 and the two of them shared farming and ministry with the Caveside, Mole Creek churches and later at Devonport and Ulverstone until Harry's death in 1970. In later years she was a Launceston member, living in the Prospect Retirement Village, finally being cared for by her daughter Gwen in Hobart. Her other son is Robert. The funeral service was at Devonport followed by a thanksgiving service at Margaret St.

—GRS

GRIFFITHS, Margaret Margaret Griffiths fought bravely against cancer until she was finally released from the frailties of her body into a new life with God for which she longed in her later days. She leaves her husband Glen and married daughters Jenny and Catherine. Margaret and Glen have been active members of the Launceston, Tas, church for many years. Margaret was a quiet thoughtful person who endeared herself to all who knew her. Her deep faith enabled her to accept her condition and to live with it victoriously. She always received those who visited her as a gracious hostess, concerned for them more than herself.

—GRS

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Church News

Tas

CAVESIDE (John & Colleen Harrison) J. Harrison preached series on the church in Acts ... Bicentennial New Testaments distributed in Caveside district during Dec. Well received ... Good attendance at special Christmas Eve family service with Sunday School children giving items ... Bev & Malcolm Ashdown in New Guinea for four weeks (Jan) with New Tribes Mission ... Sympathy expressed to Ena Harvey on the passing of her sister Mrs Doris Crowden.

LAUNCESTON (Gordon Stirling) At Christmas musical service Kylie Birtwistle & Michael Thurlow presented talks ... Tony Armstrong preached at 11 am on 18 Dec & Bill Howard while Gordon Stirling at Federal Conference ... Christmas Day service combined with local Uniting Church when Rev Gil Duthie was speaker ... Kerrison family welcomed home from PNG & Wayne & Janet interviewed at evening service ... Two young people attended Youth Forum in Canberra & John Alderton reported to church on Jan. 21.

NSW

CHATSWOOD (Ian Alves) Video being used in mid-week studies ... Friendship Centre raises over \$6,000 for Lupus Foundation ... Memorial service for late Reg Hayward ... Christmas letterbox drop ... Church takes Christmas service at Forestville Homes ... Combined Christmas service with Chinese Evangelical Church featuring Cantonese Choir ... 'Christmas post' to aid Christmas Bowl appeal ... Planning for 'Church Advance' camp at Collaroy & church's 75th anniversary in April 1989.

EPPING (S. Curkpatrick) 'Christmas in the Park' attracted a few hundred worshippers on the Sunday evening before Christmas ... Several end of year events were well attended ... Darren Beaumont was awarded the Queen's Badge for Boys' Brigade work ... The church has called David Moyes as associate minister for 1989 (as fourth year College student) & for 1990 (in a full-time capacity).

MANNING VALLEY (Barry Rice, Noela Mobbs) Dawn baptisms held at Old Bar Beach ... Lianne Emerton completed studies at Wollongong Institute. Working part-time in youth work in 1989 ... Children presented musical "The Birth-day Party" ... Kolodong Craft raised \$7,500 for welfare work & other

charities ... Church encouraged by growth during year ... Good attendances at ladies' and men's groups breakups ... PA system updated to cope with versatility in services.

MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins) First community carol festival, held in retirement village hall, great success ... Dr K. Johnston going to Korea to assist for a month in SIM English teaching program ... Minister gave Christmas address at Maitland HS speech day ... Farewell to David & Dianne Macpherson, Tahlee College graduates, preparing to go to Africa after four years with us ... M. Kidd, from Hamilton, welcomed into membership.

THORNLEIGH (F. Elliott) 244 shared Christmas Day service. "My Christmas Gift to the Lord" received for COCOA and Federal Aborigines work—\$2,678 ... Andrew Stott accepted by Carlingford College for 1989 ... Matthew Atkins in PNG for 4 weeks with New Tribes Mission sharing in The Summit program ... Guest speakers in Jan. Don Smallbone (North Turramurra) & Ross Burton (Busselton, W.A.)

Vic

HAMILTON (Ray Eldridge) Christmas pageant held morning service Dec 18, SS and Girls Brigade participating. Girls Brigade grown to 27 members ... Monthly stall all-time high since stalls commenced 26 months ago—\$515 in Dec. \$9,150 has been raised by a handful of ladies ... Minister's addresses and studies informative and helpful ... Letter of thanks to Bert Horberry for taping services.

PEEL ST, BALLARAT (David Woodward) David Woodward to conclude ministry end of 1989 ... Sunshine Kids & Bible School fundraising effort enabled them to purchase tape recorder & tapes for Sunday School & church use ... Thanksgiving offering towards new chapel seating approx \$2,100 ... Combined evening services month of Jan with Dawson St ... Treloar family returning to Stawell ... New format of morning services to commence Feb.

WARRNAMBOOL (Peter Broadbent) CWF Christmas breakup included Port Fairy ladies ... Many visitors to our services during holidays including members of SU Family Mission team ... Regular children's "spot" each morning while Sunday School in recess ... Perth members of AFES ministered & led activities in the town en route to their conference at Belgrave.

Discipleship

•Helen Smith, Coleen Clark, John Perry, Pat Crawford, Grote St, Adelaide, SA •Dennis Vogler, Stuart Male, Tina Pearce, Colin Case, Harlaxton, Toowoomba, Qld •Lyn McCann, Graeme Drury, Natalie Edwards, Marion Revell, Boyd & Jenny Pearson, Fran Richardson, Chris Hall, Henry & Brigitte Betteridge, Christopher Harris, Peter & Beth Board, Denise Illguth, Daan Steinmann, Manning Valley, NSW •Vince Wall, Centenary, Qld •Christine Hart, Chris Heathcote, Chris Davey, Leah Cuthbert, Graeme Gould, Andrew Pratt, Shannon Mullins, Peter Birch, Katie Mayes, Paul Bevan, South Perth, WA •Emma Dalglish, Mandy Scott, Ian McEwan, Mia Steadman, Edith Chapman, Robert Ross, Sunnybank, Qld •Bruce Bone, Timothy Baron Jnr, Carnarvon, WA •Rieka Bosman, Evette Bosman, Cassandra Cotter, Mandurah, WA •Faye Williams, Naracoorte, SA •Claire & Melanie Baker, Karen & Rob Fletcher, Matthew Wells, Kalamunda, WA •Josie Scott, Goolwa, SA •Christine Miles, Stephen Schmaal, Prospect, SA •Mal Gamston, Peel St, Ballarat, Vic •Marion McKay, Bowral, NSW

Marriages

•Trixie Wissmann to Derek James, Bundaberg, Qld •Rhonda Lowe to Christopher Windley, Suzanne Smith to Fred Daniells, Harlaxton, Toowoomba, Qld •Trina Hopwood to Peter Richmond, Greensborough, Vic •Ingrid Benz to Troy Harris, Maureen Direen to Roger Davids, Vicki Price to Stephen Smith, Centenary, Qld •Joanne Paulson to Nathan Ellery, Heather Francis to Kevin James, South Perth, WA •Brenda Dickfos to Geoff Keevers, Sunnybank Qld •Patricia Leitch to Phillip Miles, Naracoorte, SA •Lyn Christie to Anthony Kirkman, Carlyn Wych to Shane Condor, Kalamunda, WA •Elaine Timms to Andrew Wilson, Wembley, WA •Pat Eamer to David Giles, Warwick, WA •Carolyn Steele to Mark Andrews, Glen Waverley, Vic •Sally Cooper to Glen Hays, Catherine Magor to Stuart Arnot, Launceston, Tas

Deaths

•Jean Preston, Bundaberg, Qld •Reginald Hayward, Chatswood, NSW •Christina Tay, Epping, NSW •Ron Hill, Centenary, Qld •Ian Angus, Gladys Spragg, South Perth, WA •Gwen Dalglish, Sunnybank, Qld •Doris Crowden, Launceston, Tas

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN QUEENSLAND SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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Lady Small Haven is a project of the Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department.

Changes of Address

CHURCHES OF CHRIST THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE, 40-60 Jacksons Rd, Mulgrave 3170. Phone (03) 790 1000
MARYBOROUGH: Minister—R.H. Patterson, 12 Howard St, Maryborough 4650. Phone (071) 21 4685
BRIAN WHITE (DMED/FBCE), 2 Amaroo Crt, Burwood East 3151. Phone (03) 232 4974
RICHMOND: Secretary—John Pye, 43 Grey St, East Melbourne 3002. Phone (03) 419 4318

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The Greek Orthodox Church has set up its own blood bank on the island of Crete. There is an acute shortage of donor blood because many Greeks are afraid they may catch AIDS if they donate blood. The church said anyone could trust the church bank.

CHELSEA

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Applications close 31 March 1989

Church News

Qld

BURLEIGH HEADS (A. Cunningham) Many non-church attenders contacted during "Operation Neighbour Week" ... Evangelistic Crusade, mid-November, great success; preacher Al Karges & soloist Gina Kelly, both from US ... Three baptisms & some commitments ... Pastor & wife off to India, Russia, England & USA on three months' leave—Harry Davies to provide relief preaching ... Shaun Kelly (Kenmore CC graduate) to commence with full-time ministry team in 1989.

BUNDABERG (A. Leane) New church/hall officially opened 26 & 27 Nov. Much work done voluntarily ... Alan Leane inducted as new minister by Randy Edwards, Principal, Kenmore College ... Sunday School, CWF & youth groups all had Christmas break-ups ... Morning services being held 9 am during Christmas school holidays ... Guest speakers have been M. Peiper, E. Kernick ... J. Prestwood, foundation member, passed away ... Alan Leane recovering well after surgery.

REDCLIFFE (A. Risson) George Kawler was anniversary speaker ... Adrian van Leen spoke on cult movements ... Bill & Janet Buli visited from Vanuatu ... Trish Brunet awarded "Woman Student of the Year" ... Activities for latter part of year included street stall, family

picnic, youth outings, Bible School break-up & CWF break-up ... Thanks go to John Adermann for assisting minister in duties this year.

HARLAXTON (Daryl Thorpe) Sunday School celebrated 80th anniversary ... David Mansell conducted one week crusade ... Christine Roberts, Graham Roberts & Shane Ramage obtained Brigade Queen's Badge ... 360 attended thanksgiving service in the newly completed hall.

CENTENARY (Reg Charles) Jef & Dora Gordon celebrated golden wedding entertaining whole church ... Morning attendances almost doubled 1988. Giving dramatically increased ... Youth group zoomed to 30 led by Sandra Whitby ... Cantata "Christ is Born" led by Helen Trudgian a great success ... Kerry & Peter Schulz showed Vanuatu slides to Centenary, home church ... Kiah Child Care Centre opened 12 Nov on church block.

SUNNYBANK (Mark Willis) 1988 saw continued growth with six baptisms & nine welcomed into fellowship ... Church attendance up by 23 ... New building functioning well ... Sonshine Games '88, art exhibition, church dinners, concerts, stall, all worthwhile ... Home Bible study groups (another started) running smoothly as are the youth groups ... Discovery '88 Crusade successful in Nov with US evangelists Bob & Sue Berry ... Randy Edwards starts as associate minister part-time in early Feb.

Vic

LA TROBETERR., GEELONG (Dr C.J. Mackenzie) Combined Geelong C of C held carol service at Grace McKellar Centre on 4 Dec. Alf White was guest speaker ... Christmas service at 9 am ... The midweek tennis ladies played in grand final match ... A number of members still not well ... Annual meeting was well attended ... Training classes being held as young people become more actively involved in morning service.

BERWICK (Geoff Rowcroft, Peter Holt) Peter & Chris Holt welcomed into pastoral care/Christian education ministry ... Jacqui Hall shared in a week's program, including bush dance ... Combined morning worship service at Leisure Centre followed by morning tea and annual meeting ... Church fête raised \$5,000 towards relocation fund ... Family camp held at Somers ... Church complex sold & planning permit granted for new complex.

REDCLIFFS (G.R. Sharrad) BS conducted one recent service & Mildura FOCAS on 27 Nov ... Bill & Ria Keddies speakers on 4 Dec, afterwards saying farewell at CWF fund raising luncheon at Gwen & Temple Ives. Keddies returning to Zimbabwe ... CWF held Christmas luncheon at Woods'—husbands invited.

SOUTH YARRA (A.B. Clark) Annual business meeting held, all officers re-elected ... Graham Bradley from Prahran church will take charge of evening services next year ... Karen Thompson baptised 27 Nov. Welcomed into church following Sunday ... Sympathy is extended to Myrtle Davis & her sister Ivy whose sister Lilian Healy passed away recently ... CWF Christmas break-up held. Tape made by all present as a Christmas greeting to Hilda Barbour, past president for over 30 years.

KANIVA (R. Patterson) Much regretted departure of Ray & Wilma Patterson, who begin year of interim ministry at Maryborough, Qld, 1989 ... We welcome Martin Goldup & family, who commences Kaniva ministry Feb 1989 ... Growing co-operation between Uniting Church & ours bringing blessings ... Men's working bee completed maintenance on church, hall, grounds ... Sunday School anniversary enjoyed ... Joan & Doug Thomas celebrated silver wedding with pleasant social evening.

WARRAGUL (D & D Buesnel) Sunday School anniversary presentation "It's In the Book" well re-

ceived ... Large contingent from congregation witnessed ordination of David Buesnel, 18 Nov. He continues with us ... Praise Puppet Theatre Christmas presentation 4 Dec ... Old Time Music Hall (church social) 10 Dec ... Reverse Christmas Tree 18 Dec ... Other special Christmas activities held.

STRATHMORE (R & K Luttrell) Over \$3,000 made at recent Bethlehem Market, combined Strathmore churches effort in aid of cancer children ... Our young Genesis group sang carols at combined service at St Aidans ... Rhonda, Kevin & family farewelled at a barbecue at the Chamberlains ... Strathmore to have a student ministry next year.

KYNETON (Peter Eades) 4 December the highlight for the Kyneton church with over 100 attending the induction service of Peter Eades ... We hope as 1989 progresses there will be more highlights to report ... Thanks to all for your support & prayers.

GREENSBOROUGH (George Warren) Focus day for young people 27 Nov ... Kerryn Jones selected for State Calisthenics team for 1989 ... Franciscus Henry, local artist, writer, singer, guest at evening service ... Choir presented excerpts from "Come Celebrate Jesus" 11 & 18 Dec at Greensborough & at The Patch & Ivanhoe on 4 & 11 Dec ... Families participated in Advent services with readings & placing Christmas on the tree ... All auxiliaries combined for spit roast breakup 17 Dec.

MORNINGTON (Ian Cartmel) Parents of Paul, Gavin & Kacie Rogers & Phillip Birkenhead made commitment during dedication services ... CWF commenced 23 Nov with 16 present ... Market stall 10 Dec raised over \$200 & many people spoken to in shopping centre ... 10 welcomed into the fellowship on 11 Dec ... Carol singing 21 Dec at Rosebud Hospital ... New Testaments given to school children ... Over 70 attended first joyful Christmas Day service.

THE PATCH (Glynthia Finger) Pre-Christmas series were well attended. Youth groups & SS scholars took an active part. Greensborough Choir also sang a cantata ... Norman & Joyce Carter farewelled after morning service. They have settled in the Ballarat area ... Phil Perry conducted morning service ... Church welcomed minister back after vacation.

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Church News

WA

EASTERN HILLS (M.B. Ashworth) Pastor Maurie Ashworth accepts a further five year call dating from February 1990 ... CWF Christmas dinner a great success ... Inaugural Thanksgiving service well attended ... Youth Department to receive increased assistants ... Treasurer reports greatly improved financial position for year ending in Nov.

CARNARVON (D. Bone) Guests of honour at church social were Geoff McKernan & Karen White. Celebrations included a gift shower as the couple are to be married in Perth shortly ... CWF incoming president is Mrs Fawn Law-Davis whose theme for 1989 will be "Being Like Jesus" ... Home from Agricultural College in Adelaide, Pastor & Mrs Bone's youngest son, Bruce, was baptised in a tidal estuary of the Gascoyne River.

ROCKINGHAM (Keith Ware) Numbers increasing at morning & evening services & fellowship ... Praising God for the safe keeping of all men involved in the building of the new church. Everyone looking forward to opening day in near future ... Church encouraged with the availability of leaders for Kidz Club, Sunday School & teenage group for coming year ... Mini mission will be held in March.

MANDURAH (Roger Ryall) AGM Des Croot & Len Carslake attended. Joy Stallard, Dorothy Lee new members on board. Lyn Wil-

liams retired as sec/treasurer. Thanked for faithful service ... Three baptisms held in estuary followed by picnic lunch. Later welcomed into church ... 18 Dec carols by candlelight held on foreshore. Witness Choir, Preachers Fraternal all taking part ... Christmas Day service well attended. Junior church presenting items ... Petition against violence & ads of dangerous toys on TV signed, sent to local member & Senate.

KALAMUNDA (Mark Proud, Paul Sanders) Tim & Chris Hanna & family farewelled as they leave to take up appointment at Carlingford Bible College. Large crowd at social night & final Sunday bore testimony of church's love & appreciation of their ministry ... Paul Sanders welcomed & inducted as he comes to serve as youth pastor ... John Thornhill commences ministry as senior pastor 5 Feb. ... Geoff Maxwell, PNG, home on furlough & deputation ... Several young people involved in beach mission holiday programs in eastern states & also with YWAM ... Film night & concert planned as part of summer outreach program.

WEMBLEY (John Timms) 211 attended Christmas Day service, highest number for many years ... Outreach carpark carol service reached approx. 200 from church & neighbourhood ... Many decisions for Christ in recent months, 5 baptisms to start the new year ... Sacrificial offerings of members have cleared all church debts & new photocopier purchased ...

Congratulations to Don & Laura Manning on 50th wedding anniversary.

FREMANTLE (D. Good) Cantata "Everlasting Lord" presented by Bicton UC Choir at morning service ... 8 Jan evening service heard Bob & Ainslie Boska & family on work at Looma in northern WA ... Recognition of 90th birthday of Mrs Jess Hughes & 80th of Roy Thomson ... Visitors have included Alma Jones & Lola Adam, Vic., & Robin (Haskell) & Keith Bowes, from SA for funeral of her father 13 Jan.

WARWICK (G. Carstake, B. Eagles, R. Mason) Goal achieved of over 1,000 attending the 3 Christmas services ... Christmas concert presented by Glenys Eagles ... Channel 9 newsreader Ann Contled community carols by candlelight evening with 1,500 attending ... 56 attended Singles Group end of year function ... Plans to commence boys & girls brigades & expand home study groups ... Financial assistance to Kingsley & Alexander Heights, both established by Warwick.

SA

GROTE ST (Allan Lockhead) Church family celebrated the 142nd anniversary of witness in Nov. E.P.C. Hollard guest speaker for occasion. Family luncheon followed ... AGM held during Nov. Elders appointed E Finck & B Blackeby. Chair R Burt, Sec J McDonald, Tres T Arcus ... Minis-

ters resignation received with regret ... Three baptisms in recent weeks & one received into fellowship by transfer ... Annual bowls service. Keith Home speaker. Bowlers assisted in service, which was very well attended ... Christmas family evening 9 Dec. All departments participated.

NARACOORTE (G. Simpson) ROCK children donated over 40 Christmas presents for needy children in community ... 30 children presented items at ROCK Christmas service followed by barbecue lunch. Judy Ludwig & Lois Page farewelled & thanked for services to ROCK ... Most groups have wound up year and look forward to the new year.

GOOLWA (G. Ritchie) In early Dec. lunch shared & church decorated for Christmas ... Other Goolwa churches joined for Christmas carols service in Catholic church ... YP presented Australian musical "The Three Drovers" at morning worship service ... Film, "A Christmas Gift" shown at evening service ... Family tea & fellowship service held at Goolwa beach during Jan. holidays.

PROSPECT (G. Payne) New year has started with new ideas. New format for evening worship from traditional to very creative ... Church hosting "Your Church Has Possibilities" weekend in Feb ... 2 elders are now available at the close of the morning service to offer a listening ear, to pray & give help ... Friendship groups have begun their activities.

43rd FEDERAL CONFERENCE

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

8-14 October 1990

THEME: NOW IS THE TIME TO SERVE THE LORD

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Federal Conference

Conference Resolutions

• The following are some of the motions discussed and passed at the 42nd Federal Conference.

Aboriginal Task Force

This Conference asks the Federal Conference Executive to establish a Task Force consisting mainly of Aboriginal leaders within Churches of Christ to examine and formulate a document/policy and plan of action for presentation at the next Federal Conference.

Federal Aborigines Board

Section 6:7 of the Federal Conference Constitution was amended to the following:

6:7.01 The Board in consultation with the State Aborigines Committees and the Aboriginal and Islanders members of the churches shall be entrusted with developing programs which will lead to church planting and the evangelisation and general welfare of the Australian Aborigines and their descendants. The Board shall determine the overall policy for the work among Aboriginal people, promote its work among churches, receive for distribution the income from churches and members and establish a budget in consultation with the State Aborigines Committees for all States prior to the commencement of each financial year.

6:7.02 The Board shall consist of elected and ex-officio members as follows:

(i) Twelve (12) members elected by Representatives at each Federal Conference: two (2) from accredited members of churches from each of Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, and one (1) from accredited members of churches from each of Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory. States eligible to nominate two members shall nominate at least one

member of Aboriginal or Islander descent.

(ii) An Executive Director appointed from time to time by the elected members of the Board in consultation with the Federal Executive.

6:7.03

(i) In the event of a vacancy on the Board, the respective State Conference Executive shall nominate a replacement to the Federal Conference Executive for approval and appointment.

(ii) In the event of the absence of a Board member the appropriate State may appoint a proxy.

6:7.04 The Board shall be located in Perth, Western Australia, unless otherwise determined by the Board in conjunction with Federal Conference.

6:7.05

(i) The Board shall appoint from its own number a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman.

(ii) The Board shall appoint such other officers as it deems necessary.

6:7.06 The Board shall meet at least seven (7) times per year and at least one meeting shall be an assembly. Six (6) members from at least five (5) States shall form a quorum. Reasonable travelling expenses of Board members shall be met.

6:7.07 The Board shall submit reports relative to its operations, financial and otherwise, to each Federal and State Conference.

6:7.08 Each State Conference may appoint a State Aborigines Committee or equivalent according to its custom or rules. Each State Committee shall be responsible for sharing the implementation of the ministry of the Board in its State. The Federal Aborigines Board shall work in closest co-operation with the State Committees consulting them on work in hand and contemplated and shall be guided in its decisions by their wishes.

The Last Word

Time heals what reason cannot.

—Seneca

Some men are always trying; others are very.

★★★★★

Worker's comment during rush for the exit at quitting time: "My, aren't we a bunch of eager leavers!"

★★★★★

Eight months after our wedding, I received a large bill for some dental work of my wife's. I was complaining about the bill one evening when my father-in-law, a car dealer, was at our house for dinner. He grabbed the bill and stuffed it into his pocket, announcing that *all* his products came with a complete one-year warranty!

★★★★★

They have just put a monument in Vienna over the grave of the man who invented the postcard. Everybody will be hoping his career on earth was of the kind that would justify the inscription "Having a good time; wish you were here."

★★★★★

Our home is situated on a main road near to a Roman Catholic Primary School. It has been a safety house for the children with up to eight calling after school each day to have a drink and play with our Yorkshire terrier. During a conversation with an 11 year old I asked him what his dad did for a living. He replied, "Oh Mr Ownes, my Dad died and went to Heaven, to which I replied how sorry I was to hear that. He said, "That's OK Mr Ownes, it was a long time ago." Obviously his father was not Roman Catholic as he went on, "I'm not going to Heaven straight away, I'm going to Puberty!" "Oh!" I said, "how old did you say you were?" He replied that he was almost 11 to which I said, "You've almost made it."

A little girl almost the same age then said to the boy, "You silly thing, you are going to Purgatory, not Puberty."

★★★★★

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