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Overseas Mission

Life to the World



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Guest Editorial

Planning and Goal Setting

by Allen Smyth

The Living Bible paraphrases Proverbs 24:3-4 and Jeremiah 29:11 as follows:

"Any enterprise is built by wise planning, becomes strong through common sense, and profits wonderfully by keeping abreast of the facts."

"God said, 'I have a plan for your life, it is a plan for good not evil, a plan to give you a future, a future with a hope.'"

It always seems strange to me that while most people accept the fact that a business should have a plan for the future they see no need for such a plan for the local church. When we suggest a plan we are accused of bringing commercialism into the church.

Just as God has said that he has a plan for each of our lives, I believe also that he has a plan for his church, not only for the local church, but also for all churches.

However, plans can only succeed if we as individual members are prepared to give of our best and work towards accomplishing worthwhile goals.

Having a vision is not enough. There must be a commitment to act on the vision. This is called a "mission" or a "plan". There must also be a set of specific, measurable steps designed to achieve the plan. Those steps are called "goals". Goals design a program for achieving the mission and thus fulfil the vision.

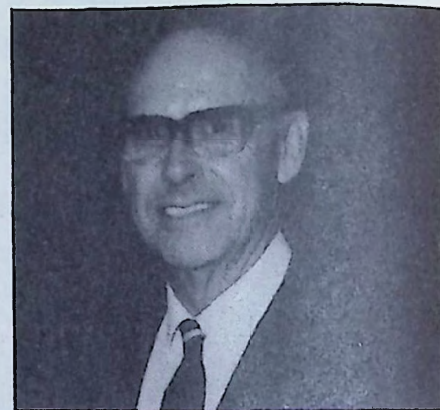
Goals must be S-M-A-R-T—specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and tangible.

Because plans need regular review, the church must be constantly aware of the planning process. Planning is not a one-time exercise. Rather, it is an ongoing discipline. It cannot be done once and then ignored. Today's persistent acceleration of change in people, places and things demands nothing less than a clearly defined plan that becomes a goal on which to set our sights.

As soon as one plan is accomplished, another plan, which also contributes to fulfilling the vision, takes its place. Effective planning demands a constant awareness of the Leader's plans; plans that have just been accomplished, plans on which the church is now working and plans that are about to be adopted. An awareness of the plans that have just been accomplished will be a great encouragement both to the church and to members as they consider future plans and goals.

As we face the future, I believe that the church needs, as part of its plan, to—

- continue to develop its broad base in response to the community and to be open to new possibilities of service;



- constantly aim to improve worship services and ministry, the "shop window" to people and a time to celebrate faith;
- develop teaching to cover a broad area of opportunities for people to learn and establish their faith.

Each plan must be a specific step rather than a vague desire. Plans and goals should be measurable not only in terms of what is to be accomplished but also when they are to be accomplished.

Don't limit God. Our plans should be prepared in detail and in a positive manner and we should be aggressive about modifying them to changing situations.

Correct planning brings many benefits and simplifies the decision-making process.

It has been wisely said, "If we fail to plan, we plan to fail."

• Allen Smyth is the Executive Officer of Churches of Christ in Western Australia. He and his wife Mae have been members of the Wembley Church of Christ for 38 years, where he has been on the board for 28 years, including six years as chairman, then secretary since 1970.

Allen was State Conference President in 1982-83 and is currently serving on the Executive Committee, Properties Committee, Home Missions Committee, Parkerville Planning Committee, Christian Centre Board of Management and The Australian Christian Committee. He is also Chairman of Bethesda Hospital Inc.

He is a qualified accountant, chartered secretary and chartered loss adjuster. For 33 years he had his own business but retired to become more actively involved in church work and his present position.

Mae has been State Women's Treasurer for 16 years. Allen and Mae have four sons who, together with their wives and eight children, are all actively involved in Churches of Christ in Western Australia.

Warwick Youth Computer Missionary Project

At a missionary convention at the Warwick, WA, church last year the youth groups accepted a challenge to involve themselves in missionary enterprise. They set themselves a target of \$5,000 to be used to purchase two computers.

One computer is for the use of a missionary doing language work among the Lisu tribe in northern Thailand; the other is for the Wiradjuri Christian Development Ministries (WCDM) based at Wagga Wagga, NSW. Under the guidance of Cec Grant, minister of the Albury Aboriginal church, WCDM aims to train Aboriginal leaders in their own churches—a concept that has attracted attention from the Billy Graham organisation for possible modification and use in third world countries. The computer will be used in the



preparation and storage of lesson materials for WCDM students. The Warwick young people held bottle collections, lamington drives, prayer break-

fasts and slave auctions. Two members are attempting to run 160 km in 24 hours to attract sponsorship to raise the \$1500 still required.

'90s Faith

American pollster George Gallop Jnr, who traces trends in religion, forecasts that in America the next decade will be the decade of the laity. Both church and unchurched Americans are complaining more and more, he says, that churches don't help them deal with their religious doubts and spiritual needs. As a result, lay people will increasingly shape religious practices, and clergy will become more willing to accept and respond to people's inner spiritual needs.

Religious renewal will occur in the next decade, he says, if churches and synagogues listen and respond to people's remarkable breakthrough religious experiences; equip people with essential tools to build their faith; encourage people to commit to Scripture reading and study; target business people and professionals who often don't get it; students, who receive distorted educations by not learning the role that religion has played in history; and the media, which is woefully uninformed about religion.

—quoted from *Emerging Trends* reprinted in *The Christian Ministry*

Country Churches Caring for Couples



David Ratten with Marcia and Neil Dickie at Mildura

Just over 60 couples have participated in three country Christian Marriage Enrichment Seminars recently conducted by Brian and Joan White for the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development.

The seminars were held in the growing Victorian churches at Colac, Swan Hill and Mildura. Each of these churches is led by an enthusiastic young minister. David Horne, Lindsay Mayes and David Ratten were all keen to project to their churches and communities that they were

interested in their relationships and that Christianity was related to life. The responses to the program were excellent.

One of the encouragements of the seminars was the attendance of some couples or partners who are not usually associated with the church. This gave the church the opportunity for some bridge building.

Mildura had appointed a young couple, Neil and Marcia Dickie, to co-ordinate and encourage registrations. They were delighted to have 34 couples enlist for the seminar. David Ratten, Mildura's min-

ister, says, "Feedback from the couples who attended has been very positive."

The seminars encouraged couples to review their relationships, created an atmosphere in which communication could occur and gave them some tools to help enrich their marriages. Subjects covered included "Understanding Love", "Communication", "Resolving Conflict" and "Sexuality". The seminars ended with a moving marriage re-affirmation service.

Lindsay Mayes said of the Swan Hill seminar, "It was a real God given opportunity for

some very busy Christian couples to stop and review their relationships under quality leadership. If we had not planned the seminar, 'busyness' may have kept us from this enriching experience."

All three churches are planning to have Brian and Joan return next year for a parenting seminar.



A group session at Swan Hill

New Federal Aborigines Board Meets

In a departure from past years the Federal Aborigines Board met in Melbourne during April. In its first meeting since Federal Conference a number of significant changes were evident. For the first time—

- Tasmania was represented;
- six Aborigines were on the board.

Federal Conference had indicated the need to involve each state more in board planning and decision making. The officers elected were—

- Ric Maxwell (WA), chairman;
- Frank Johnson (NSW), vice-chairman;
- Mal Shreeve (WA), ac-

countant;

- Robert Clancy (Qld), executive member.

Avon Moyle was offered a five-year term as executive director subject to Federal Conference ratification.

The board has ushered in a new area in the work among Aborigines to give—

- greater expression to Aboriginal input;
- an enhanced role for the various state Aborigines committees;
- a greater role to the developing Aboriginal churches;
- a wider involvement by the state conferences.

Your prayerful and financial support has never assumed greater importance.

Canberra Events

Luminarias Service

Luminarias is a Mexican Christmas tradition brought to Canberra in 1983 by the Jauncey family of the Belconnen church. Each year the Lyons, ACT, church has the building covered in candles from its flat roof to its verandah, and is a spectacular sight. Because of the fire risk in Australia at Christmas, the church chooses Pentecost for the celebration. This year the movement group provided the central emphasis with an inspirational movement called "Watch and Pray". Judy Kocho, a local singer, was guest artist and Kevin Caulton, minister at Lyons, gave a short address on the Holy Spirit.



Guest artist Judy Kocho lit by candlelight

Goods and Services Auction

On 17 May the Ainslie, ACT, church held an auction of goods and services to raise money for the kitchen improvement fund.

Goods auctioned by competent auctioneer, Colin Miller, ranged from a wooden zebra (a small toy) to a dinner for six, and services from plant and pet sitting to a drive for afternoon tea at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve near Canberra.

Year of Mission

The Belconnen, ACT, church have decided to make 1989 their "Year of Mission". They have held study groups over the last few months on the mission of the church and how it relates to Belconnen's situation.

News from Bribie

Bribie Island is of course an "overseas church". Great oaks from little acorns grow. The little acorn was planted at Bribie in 1975 when Churches of Christ accepted responsibility for the oversight of a few holiday shacks on a corner of some land on which was built the Bribie Island Retirement Village. Herman Muller and his wife began to hold services in a unit at the home with other retired people including Ralph and Lan Edwards and Tom and Gwenda Davis. As units were built and occupied so the house church grew and services were then held in the hostel lounge. Services were guided by Harold Finger and Jeff Sloman

with the Redcliffe church providing a preaching panel.

In 1976-77 a student minister was another step forward. With the rapid growth of the village the church was advantaged by the arrival of Helen Matthews as matron and her husband Peter, who became minister of the church in 1982.

Others came with a vision to build a church on land adjoining the village. Due to the efforts of Bas Turner, gifts and loans, the building was opened in September 1986.

In April this year the treasurer announced that apart from a few small interest-free loans the church was now free of debt.

The acorn has become a tree.

VISITING CANBERRA?

Stay with a Church Family

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

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1990 AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP Christian Projects, through The Australian Christian is providing a scholarship available for overseas study during 1990.

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

The scholarship is open to any member of Churches of Christ in Australia for any area of study that will assist the scholar in a sphere of service within Churches of Christ. The scholarship is designed to assist applicants who otherwise would be unable to travel overseas.

Applications close 31 July.

Application forms and conditions are available from The Australian Christian, PO Box 101, North Essendon 3041.

Phone (03) 379 1219.

(Note: The Scholarship Committee reserve the right not to award a scholarship.)



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People

• Sally Hudson

Early Childhood Study

Sally Hudson is the director of the Children's Day Care Program run by the Darwin Church of Christ in the Northern Territory.

Following a visit earlier this year by Dr Don Stewart, Federal Conference President and Executive Director of the Queensland Social Service Department links are being forged between the Darwin Church child care and the Queensland Social Service

Department. The Department is flying Sally to Brisbane so she can meet and discuss with other early childhood care directors and staff the work of children's day care.

The Queensland department operate children's day care centres at Kallangur and Redlands and operate a family day care scheme in the Hervey Bay and Maryborough areas. It also operates an occasional child care centre at Centenary.

• Jack Deere

Vineyard Ministry at Noble Park

The Noble Park, Vic, church were privileged to have Dr Jack Deere from the Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Anaheim, California, visit.

He spoke at the main morning service in the 230 seat Keysborough Auditorium. His message was based on John 14:6. "In decades of pastoral ministry, I have noticed that there are three categories of people who sit in a congregation. First, and often the largest group, are those who have discovered that Jesus Christ is the way to the Father. Secondly, there are those who have discovered that Jesus Christ is the truth. They integrate his teaching into their lives and receive

prayer to straighten out their attitudes and lifestyles. But thirdly, and often the smallest group, are those who have come to a place where Christ is their entire lives. Jesus said, 'I am the way and the truth and the life.'"

Dr Jack Deere was in Australia as the key speaker for "Pentecost '89" at the Dallas Brooks Hall in Melbourne, where over 2,000 from Roman Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, Uniting, Baptist and Churches of Christ backgrounds gathered in an annual weekend conference.

Prior to serving as a member of John Wimber's staff at Vineyard Christian Fellowship, Jack served for 12 years as a Professor at Dallas Theological Seminary. During this time he commenced and pastored a church in Fort Worth for seven years and invited the renowned Christian Psychiatrist Dr John White to minister in his congregation. He now speaks internationally at Signs and Wonders, Power Evangelism and Power Healing conferences.



Jack Deere

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• Bryan Mee

Nerang Induction



Jenny and Bryan Mee

On 9 July Don Stewart, Federal Conference President will induct Bryan Mee into the ministry of the Nerang, Qld, church.

Bryan is currently ministering as a part of the team at the Ringwood, Vic, church, where he has had a ministry role for the past 12 months. Previously he was a teacher in Tasmania and involved in chaplaincy in independent schools in Queensland and Tasmania.

Bryan is currently completing studies for the Diploma of Ministry and the Bachelor of Theology through the Churches of Christ Theologi-

cal College, Mulgrave, Vic.

Bryan and Jenny's daughter, Catherine, is married to Louis Clun and involved in a team ministry with her husband and Vic Quayle in the Brunswick, Coburg and Pascoe Vale churches in Victoria.

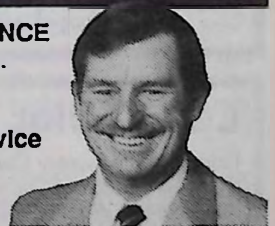
The Nerang church is situated on Queensland's Gold Coast and is a daughter church of Southport. Established in 1981 Nerang has a membership in the 80-100 range. The church has been without a minister for the last six months.

Bryan is looking to developing a pastoral/teaching ministry with the church.

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New Chapel for Esperance



The first roof truss goes into place

Members of the Esperance, WA, church are eagerly awaiting the opening of their new chapel, planned for Saturday,

1 July.

Built at a cost of \$65,000 by local members and a team from MMM, the building will represent the fulfilment of a giant step of faith for the 35-40 members. The church was faced with the need to relocate when the Fairhaven Hostel conducted by the Federal Aborigines Board was closed in 1986. Meanwhile the church has been meeting in a local school.

Under the direction of minister Peter Spence and the blessing of God funds to meet the costs have come in steadily. At this stage the fellowship requires only another \$6,000 to own the building outright.

Visitors to Esperance will be most welcome to attend the opening celebrations.

Swanston Street Steps

Recently Swanston Street, Melbourne, Vic, took three major steps to prepare for growth in the 1990s. It set out its plans in a document, "A Vision for Growth in the 1990s", it sent its senior minister, Allan Webb, on study tour to various churches in the USA and Britain, and it started to redevelop its facilities.

Associate minister Alan Baker is excited by the plans. "We aim to continue equipping and sending students and missionaries for overseas service," he said. "As well we will develop our small group ministry, because the spiritual growth of our people is important. But also we need to minister to the needs of the people of Melbourne. He said that the aim of the church was to grow into a strong community of believers who will proclaim Jesus Christ by word and deed in Melbourne, throughout South East Asia and through all the world.

The document was presented to the congregation at a special service at the Pharmacy College and the members will comment and suggest additions or changes to the plans before they are adopted at the church's half-yearly meeting in June.

On his eight-week overseas tour Allan Webb aimed to identify factors that are important in church growth and missionary outreach and adapt them to the Australian situation.

The third step was taken by the church when a \$400,000 appeal was launched to redevelop the hall underneath the chapel. Extensive excavation and remodeling work will result in a much larger hall with a well-equipped kitchen. A stairway will give easy access from the chapel to the hall, which will be used as a multi-purpose area for Sunday School and other groups. The improved catering facilities will provide for church lunch and other important social gatherings in the life of the church.

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Evangelism—My Horizons Widened



Stephanie Palmer

What is evangelism? It's playgroup, soccer, Lifelighters, prisoners, doorbells and more. Isn't it? At least that's what the Pine Rivers, Qld, church taught me during the Kenmore Christian College Week of Evangelism.

The Week of Evangelism is the time when we students go into churches and Christian organisations to see how they are reaching the people outside the church. This year three groups went out, to Pine Rivers, Kingsthorpe and Teen Challenge.

Some of the activities did not seem to me to be the way I thought of evangelism. But I learned by the end of the week that evangelism was not what I thought.

Take playgroups for example. Maybe it was hard to witness to a three year old, but playing with Play-Doh and puzzles is such fun and then mum gets to chat to the church

ladies over a cuppa. This is a very successful ministry at the church.

How is soccer involved? We visited a nearby church that had a Christian soccer club. The club has nine teams with a Christian coach and only a few Christians on each team. The church involved has a large Christianity Explained program running for the contacts made through the club.

What about Lifelighters? What is a Lifelighter? A Lifelighter is a person over 50 who knows how to have a really good time, singing and participating in quizzes and having a nice cup of tea. This group has lots of fun at its monthly meetings and some of the stories they tell are pretty tall.

Then came the time to hit the streets of the neighbourhood. We did a survey on the effectiveness of the church in the local area. A real need to meet people where they are became obvious to me. People feel threatened by the church and the church must go to the people. The youth in this area have many problems and there was a lot said about helping them.

There is work being undertaken for young prisoners at the Shaftsbury Citizenship Campus in the area. The role of the campus is to bring these young people back into society.

We want to thank the churches and parachurch agencies that contributed so much to the skills and visions we picked up during the week.

—Stephanie Palmer
(KCC student)

Mother's Day Baptisms



On Mother's Day Southport, Qld, held a baptismal service. Nine people were baptised, including five mothers. Those baptised are pictured above. Later in the service the nine baptismal candidates were joined by another person and all 10 were welcomed into fellowship

Refresher for Principal

Dr Keith Farmer, Principal of Carlingford Theological College, will be on sabbatical leave for the second half of 1989.

He will spend six weeks in the United States and this time will include teaching a summer course in Small Groups at Emmanuel School of Religion and attending the biannual assembly of the Disciples of Christ.

On returning to Australia in early August he will undertake a four month local church

ministry at Pendle Hill, NSW, in order to familiarise himself again with local church ministry.

This will enable Ross Pelling, senior minister at Pendle Hill, to take a full-time study load at the College in order to complete his BTh conversion course.

During Keith Farmer's absence from the College Dennis Nutt will be the Acting Principal.

—Kevin Crawford

Tasmanian CWF Conference

The well-attended 67th Annual Conference of the Tasmanian CWF was held this year at the Horah church on 9 April.

The program began with a time of praise in song led by Jean Walker with musicians Elizabeth Orr and Gwen Henderson and soloist Denise Bradley.

An artistic worship table was prepared by Pat Lowe.

President Shirley Cooke welcomed Dorothy Quantrelle, now Vic-Tas President, who spoke on her theme "Go

Forward in Prayer and Praise", and Janet Kerrison, who, with her husband Wayne, serves our Overseas Mission Board in PNG.

Dorothy Hartam, state representative, spoke briefly on the purpose of the ACWF Task Force formed at Federal Conference.

Incoming president Naomi Neville introduced her theme, "Press On".

Yvonne Thompson continues as secretary and Jean Hurle as treasurer.

Jazz Up That Service

A jazz band is willing to help liven up your evening service if you are willing to invite them.

"Phoenix", comprised mainly of musicians from the Nunawading, Vic, church, is available for bookings on occasional Sunday nights.

Led by Matt Comrie, organ, the group includes trumpet, drums, trombone, banjo, clarinet and vocal. A demonstration tape is available.

Enquiries should be directed to Matt on (03) 877 1186 or Michael Turner (03) 874 5036.

Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

PRAISE

To the Editor,

Thanks for some fine, honest and upbuilding reading of late in *The Australian Christian*.

—Robert Ferguson
(Edwardstown, SA)

MINISTRY SATISFACTION

To the Editor,

It amazes me that you allocate a full page of your valuable space to "Leaving the Ministry" by Malcolm Gray ("AC" 20 May).

Malcolm seems to suggest that baptisms are the only criterion for job satisfaction—at least 7.5 of them per minister per year. I'm appalled that the ministry of the church for our Lord has to be analysed by this kind of description and by this kind of head counting. Most of all I'm appalled that "job satisfaction" (if we have to use the term) is gauged by one event in one day in the Christian's life. What about the thousands of other days in the Christian's life—growing, learning, battling, serving, continuing to give a full and active life to the Lord? I fear that the picture Malcolm paints is all too real.

Where is the shepherd heart? Where is the real meaning of ministry (as opposed to leadership)? Where is the recognition of many years of loyal service? I'm sure those 10 retired Adelaide ministers whom Malcolm cites would also have been appalled at the shallow and inadequate assessment of their years of faithful service to their Lord and his faithful people.

—Ben Crowden
(Garfield, Vic)

SHOWING THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT?

To the Editor,

Two important places for the Christian are the home and the church. Sad, but true, is the experience of a young Christian mother counselling a friend over the telephone, for what is required to become a Christian. No sooner off the phone when the husband said, "After the

way you have carried on with the children and myself all last week you should be the last one to counsel anyone." A street angel, a home devil.

Not led by the Spirit nor showing the fruits of the Spirit, leaders elected to positions of trust in our churches often go on an ego trip and but for God's chastening hand many a church would close down.

Why not keep in mind that we are servants of the King and come down from our ego pedestals, thus giving the Spirit of God a chance to work in our lives and churches. In the world but not of the world, be it the work place, home or church, we as Christians are expected at all times to show the love of God in all aspects of our lives, if we would allow the Spirit of God to overcome the flesh.

—H.L. Pietzsch
(Hurstbridge, Vic)

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

To the Editor,

As one who for many years has been secretary to a Save the Children Fund branch, and has written many letters to sponsored children, I would like to say opinions quoted by Alan Matherson ("AC" 20 May) are utterly false, at least according to the way Save the Children Fund do things in Australia.

Sponsorship is a contract between a desperately poor child who would benefit greatly by education but has no chance of getting it, and a kind hearted sponsor who is prepared to help out. Politics and religion do not enter into it. The only requirement is that the child needs it and can get it no other way. The sponsor pays a set amount yearly, about \$200, plus if they wish a small amount for a birthday present. They show interest (not interference) and encourage the child. The child, having a chance he never hoped to get, works hard. The parents are happy and appreciative and the sponsor has the satisfaction of knowing that help has completely changed the life of the child. It helps to spread unity and love.

—Rose Gale
(Bridgetown, WA)

LEAVING THE MINISTRY

To the Editor,

Sorry I have been so long in apologising to and encouraging people like David McKay ("AC" 22 April).

Wherever there is a hurt and discouraged minister there is a hurting and divided congregation of God's people.

I have been on the receiving end of a "cruel and mean minority" more than once and have seen them at work in too many otherwise spiritual churches.

Sometimes God uses these things to guide us to fields of greater usefulness and productivity. (See Ian Morton's article in the same issue of 22 April.)

Christ's kingdom needs Christian teachers in our schools just as much as it needs preachers in our pulpits.

David will find ample opportunity to use all the ministry, pastoral care and counselling skills with the gentle, conciliating mannerisms that he may have learned at college as he cares for children each week together with enquiring/complaining parents and other staff members.

It is doing what God wants us to do where we are that counts. Like Paul forgetting (as far as possible) those things which have frustrated and hurt us in the past and doing what we find to do as to the Lord.

—E.A. Barton
(Port Lincoln, SA)

PS. I am a member of David's "RSL", only now R=Retired.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

To the Editor,

Michael Hannah ("AC" 18 March) asks us to "weigh carefully all the NT evidence". That is why over against 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 and 1 Timothy 2:11-15 should be set Philippians 4:2-3, 1 Corinthians 11:5-13 and Romans 16:1 (where Phoebe might better be called a "minister"), vv3-5 and possibly v7 (where Junia, according to some texts, is a female apostle).

We have three options on the role of women in the church: one, Paul is inconsistent; two, not all writers (1 Timothy) agree with him and therefore the NT is inconsistent; or three, in 1 Timothy and perhaps

Letters from Tertius

Too Hard Basket

To the Editor,

I find a lot of things in Christianity are too hard for me. I admit it, rather shame-facedly! But some of my Christian friends have no problems. They seem to have a spiritual "too hard basket". If it's hard, spiritualise it.

They have no problems with Paul's statement that there is no difference between male and female in the church. They say that spiritually there is no difference, but that women can't preside at the Lord's table because physically there is a difference.

The parable of the Judgement is too hard for me because I have never visited a prison in my life, and I don't remember ever entertaining a foreigner. The parable is no problem to my friends. It is all about the spiritually hungry and thirsty and the spiritually sick and imprisoned.

Our minister preached on Luke 4 last Sunday and really stirred us about what we are not doing for the poor and the captive and the blind and the oppressed.

I'm sure that I could be a much more comfortable Christian if I could spiritualise loving one's enemies and going the second mile and turning the other cheek and giving up everything to follow Christ. But I'm sure that that's what we are supposed to do with the hard bits of the Bible.

—Tertius

• On the Move with the President in April

Acacia Ridge, Canberra, Melbourne, the Gold Coast, Gatton...and East Ipswich

1 Corinthians we have "cultural accommodation", which would not justify a universalised application.

To contend for option two is indeed to open a Pandora's box. But we have two choices: make everything within the NT agree with everything else, or decide that some things are nearer the centre than others. The first is fraught with no fewer difficulties than the second.

In arriving at the canon (our present NT) the early church did in fact work with the notion of "a canon within the canon". Furthermore, there is no "Christian doctrine of Scripture" (not even 2 Timothy 3:16, which has something like the OT in mind): there are only good Christians who do not have simply one doctrine of Scripture.

—Ronald Graham
(Johnston, Iowa, USA)

WA Women's Conference

7 April was an exciting day for 200 women who shared in the annual WA Women's Conference Day.

The day was led jointly by two past Presidents, Mrs C. Kilworth and Mrs B. Fabry, because there has been no president this year.

The theme "A Promising Year" has been before women's fellowship for the past year. The text for the day was taken from Psalm 121:8.

Challenging messages were presented during the day by Mrs J. Peacock, Mrs K. Timms and Mrs B. Wood.

Officer bearers for the coming year are Mrs P. Beard (President), Mrs B. McIlwraith (Secretary) and Mrs M. Smyth (Treasurer).

—Elsie Taylor
(Retiring Secretary)

W.T. Atkin, former Director of the Vic-Tas Department of Community Care, is seriously ill in the Sacred Heart Hospital, Moreland, Vic.

April began with the induction service for John Hicks at the Acacia Ridge church on 2 April. John had served the Social Service Department as chaplain of the Brisbane Homes for the preceding year while the regular chaplain Rosemarie Homan was on maternity leave. That afternoon the Federal Conference Social Justice Committee met by teleconference.

On 3 April I flew to Canberra for a meeting of the Federal Government Hostel Standards Steering Committee. It was good to meet again the Northern Territory representative on that committee, Donald Hudson, who is also the chairman of the Darwin church board. On the Tuesday afternoon I continued on to Melbourne to meet with the Federal Conference Executive.

8 April was spent on the Gold Coast interviewing for positions of assistant administrators for Golden Age Retirement Village and Lady Small Haven. Graham Withers and Cal Muggleton were selected from promising candidates.

On 9 April I was again on my way to Canberra for the annual meeting of the Australian Affiliation of Voluntary Care Associations of which I hold the position of secretary.

Kingswood Lodge, a group home for troubled adolescents, was opened by the Minister for Family Services, the Hon Craig Sherrin on 15 April. This new facility incorporates a number of innovative features and includes an independent living training unit. It was great to spend Sunday at home and at worship at East Ipswich, Qld, church.

The Social Service Department Board meeting on 17 April approved building extensions to the offices of both Gold Coast retirement villages. On the Wednesday morning at Fassifern Retirement Village in

Boonah I made presentations to staff, committee members and volunteers with 10 or more years of service.

On the afternoon of 20 April I led a successful Voluntary Care Association of Queensland delegation to meet the Queensland Minister for Health, the Hon Ivan Gibbs, about proposed new nursing home and hostel regulations. On the Friday I went with Robert Clancy to Melbourne for a meeting of the Federal Aborigines Board.

At the first birthday celebrations for Amaroo Hostel at Gatton I was the guest speaker on Monday evening. Wednesday evening (26 April) saw the Federal Conference Arrange-

ments Committee meet and finalise venues and lay the groundwork for registration and accommodation.

—Don Stewart

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Media Review

Books



WORSHIP HIS MAJESTY
Morning Worship Resources
edited by Ken Clinton
(Vital Publications) \$8

This is the latest selection of communion meditations that Vital Publications (The Federal Literature Department) have published. Edited by Ken Clinton, these communion meditations are written by people involved in ministry within Churches of Christ from across Australia.

This selection does not follow the church year or a set-lectionary as previous selections did.

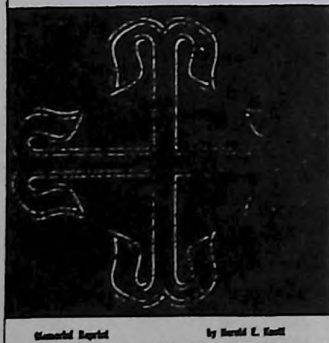
However these meditations do cover the main themes and dimensions of the Christian life and experience and are centred of the gospel. Each contribution includes a brief meditation on the theme and appropriate scripture passage, an opening prayer, and prayers of thanks for the bread and wine. Well set out, with each contribution occupying two facing pages, convenient for the president to hold and read from, this book will be an invaluable resource for many presidents.

There is a good opening introduction to leading worship at the Lord's table written by Graeme Chapman. As well, on the final pages a selection of prayers for the dedication of the offering and benedictions are supplied.

Available for \$8 plus postage from Mrs E. Rankine, Federal Literature Department, 5 Atkins Ave, Glen Iris 3146. Phone (03) 29 2881.

—CRA

HOW TO PREPARE
- a Sermon
- an Expository Sermon



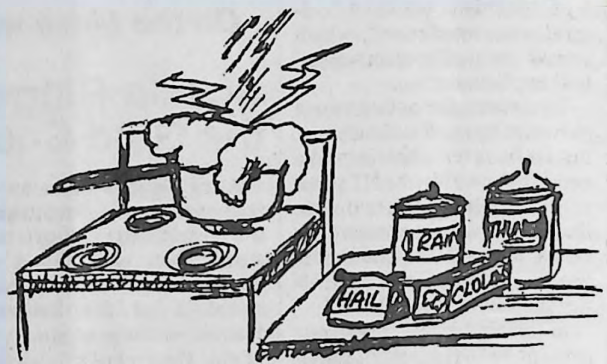
HOW TO PREPARE A SERMON
by Harold E. Knott \$10

For many years churches in America have listened to and learnt from preachers trained by Harold E Knott, MA (Hons), DD, Professor of Homiletics, Eugene Bible University, Oregon. His two classic books, *How to Prepare a Sermon* and *How to Prepare an Expository Sermon* have been brought together in a one-volume memorial printing.

The book is an excellent example of all the basic disciplines necessary for sermon preparation and construction. For the older preacher this

will be a great refresher. The young preacher will appreciate the devotion and sense of calling associated with a master craftsman who has gone before.

Available from the Churches of Christ Theological College, 40-60 Jacksons Road, Mulgrave 3170. Phone (03) 790 1000. Cost \$10 plus postage.



...just cooking up a storm.

WHY DID I MARRY YOU?
by Warwick Hartin (Hill of Content) \$12.95

The title sounds like the despairing cry of a person who wakes up that "for better or for worse" has resulted in "for worse". Despite all that has been said in recent years, a recent national survey of 18-34 year olds has shown that 90% of those who were unmarried said that they expected to marry: marriage is still in! So, how can we make the most of marriage, minimise the breakdowns, maximise the happiness and adapt to the changes of the 1980s and 1990s?

Warwick Hartin is Secretary-General of the National Marriage Guidance Council of Australia. He suggests that the ideal of the "perfect marriage" is dangerous because it leads to despair and disillusionment. He says, "Recognition of a partner's humanness, tolerance of disappointment, acceptance that in marriage unfairness, exaggeration and extremes are typical expressions of intense feeling, are all essential if a marriage is to survive. In short, in 'good enough' marriages the partners have learned not to take their upsets so seriously that they upset themselves more."

The book traces the history of and changes to marriage in recent years, the steps involved in moving into marriage, and in choosing a partner, what is involved in successful marriage and what are some obstacles in marriage. It looks at the issues of dependence and independence, power and decision making, separateness and togetherness, conflict and communication, difference and similarity; it canvasses what to do when things go wrong and suggests that separation is not necessarily the answer; it looks at remarriage, and gives a "consumer's guide to marriage counselling".

There is plenty of food for thought for the average reader, and perhaps a few new thoughts for the professional.


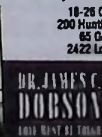

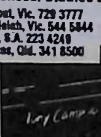
Hill of Content can be contacted at 86 Bourke St, Melbourne 3000.

—Richard Lawton

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Four major Christian short wave radio networks have agreed to work together to make the gospel available to every person in "The World by 2000". The four missionary organisations are the Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC), HCJB (Heralding Christ Jesus Blessing), Trans World Radio (TWR) and ELWA (Eternal Love Winning Africa) Radio Station, an arm of the SIM International missionary organisation.

In 1985 the Presidents of FEBC, HCJB and TWR met and talked about missionary radio. They collectively came to the realisation of setting a goal of reaching the world by the year 2000. Since then ELWA radio has joined the project and all four mission groups are working in co-operation. They had come to the realisation that the task was too large for one group to achieve alone. There have been at least 200 announced attempts to reach the world by 2000 and these have all failed. They realised that co-operation was not going to be easy. They were suspicious of each other, they operated under different philosophies (although they are reasonably close) and they all had different approaches to radio ministry.



However they agreed to the following statement: "We are committed to provide every man, woman and child on earth the opportunity to turn on their radio and hear the gospel of Jesus Christ in a language they can understand, so they can become followers of Christ and responsible members of his church. We plan to complete this task by the year 2000."

To achieve their aim the four organisations are co-operating in research and in strategies.

They are also organising resources so that the major language groups are covered.

Currently there are 276 major trade languages in the world (a major trade language is one spoken by more than 1 million people) and about 97% of the peoples in the world speak or understand these languages. The combined broadcasts by missionary radio currently reach 117 languages. However not all these are reached by the minimum requirement of a half hour broadcast in a language per day to make radio evangelism effective.



In some 63 of these trade languages there are no missionaries, few if any believers, no church, no Bibles and no gospel broadcasts.

One of the greatest difficulties is obtaining speakers of a language who are Christian to present programs. At least two speakers of the language are required who are not known to each other. One would translate the basic teaching program about the Christian faith into the language and record the material for broadcasting. The second person would then check the prepared material and translate it back into English to ensure that what is being transmitted has not been altered.

Some prospective broadcasters from countries such as Albania have opted not to continue because of threats to their families back home.

It is estimated that it would cost about \$50,000 a year to ensure that a language group is reached with the Christian message via radio. This would cover production (\$500-\$1,000 a month) and transmission costs (\$1,500-\$3,000 a month) and also developmental costs of \$20,000.

The four participating radio networks realise that they are only the second-best approach. The best method of evangelism is face-to-face evangelism.



Trans World Radio

The three major countries in the world that have unreached groups within them are India, China and Indonesia. Indonesia, Australia's closest neighbour (apart from Papua New Guinea) has 12 language groups that are not being reached at all. The largest of these is Madurese, which is spoken by 12 million people.

Technological advances are not being ignored. Currently research is being undertaken for the best location of transmitters. TWR are installing new transmitters in Sri Lanka to reach the Indian subcontinent better. FEBC are working with American companies to develop super power transmit-

ters. Investigations are also proceeding to examine the use of satellites in a direct-to-home audio service in Europe. Solar powered short wave radios could be produced for only \$15, but these are not yet in production. Their use is being investigated.

One remaining problem is still the availability of radios in many rural areas, but in many poorer communities one radio is used on a communal basis and thus a large percentage of people around the world listen to radio broadcasts.



In launching the program representatives from all four organisations were optimistic of reaching their target. They were also very positive about how the co-operation together in ministry had benefited them all.

Victory in Christ

This was the theme of the 80th National Convention of Churches of Christ in the Philippines held 7-9 April.

Attendance is usually around 2,000-3,000 but was lower this year as it was held in Iloilo City where there are few of our churches. The seven Bible colleges in the Philippines were all represented.

1,000 of the 7,107 islands of the Philippines archipelago are populated, and only 11 islands make up some 95% of the land mass. Because of the transport difficulties in such a widely spread country and the isolated nature of some areas some convention attendees had to wait several days for transport to become available to return home. Two Australians, Darryl Krause and Doug Willis, were among the 10 main speakers at the convention. Also over the weekend there were numerous simultaneous seminars and workshops. Doug Willis also addressed elders and deacons on "The Making of a Missionary Church".

The communion service, at which there were three speakers, was the highlight of the convention. A report was given on the "Harvest for Christ" program, which has been operating for the past 12 months. There were 7,065 reported baptisms and 87 new churches commenced.

There are now about 900 churches reporting to the Philippines convention.

Doug Willis is planning to attend the 1990 convention (6-8 April), which is being held in the city of Davao, Mindanao. Those interested in also attending should contact him at 20 Lismore Rd, Bexhill 2480.

In legalising the Catholic Church, Poland has become the first Communist nation to establish diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

The Church of North India has expressed concern about harassment of Christians in the states of Manipur and Assam.

Happenings

Three Italian missionaries were killed during recent clashes between Mozambican government forces and rebels of the Mozambican National Resistance Movement (Renamo). It is believed that the missionaries were Roman Catholics.

Buddhism is growing in Western Europe. Although the numbers have been boosted by South-East Asian refugees, there are also local converts. Of the 500,000 practising Buddhists in France, 75,000 are French converts. West Germany now has 20,000 Buddhists. Italy has 25 centres and some 15,000 Italians following the religion. Britain has 200 groups.

A special General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in New Zealand has suspended the implementation of a decision of the 1988 Assembly to allow ministers a limited degree of liberty of conscience on whether they will baptise infants.

The Sydney City Mission is conducting a seminar on Loss and Grief on 27 June from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm at Mission House, 28 Regent St, Chippendale. Mal McKissock, cofounder of the Bereavement CARE Centre, will conduct the seminar. The fee is \$10. Those interested should contact Allcia Watson on (02) 212 6277.

The Fountain Centre Christian School at Booleroo Centre in SA, was recently fined \$5,600 for operating without registration. The school principal told the Adelaide Magistrates Court that his school did not want to be state registered because it meant students would belong to the state and not God.

The number of people who profess no religion has grown more rapidly in SA than in any other Australian state. 30% more people in SA put "no religion" on the last

census form than in the rest of Australia.

Due to a change in the attitude of the French government, Scripture Union is now free to commence SU groups in French government schools. More than 80 schools now have a Club Biblique.

Christian refugees from Iran say that 200 Christians have been executed there since 1979 as "enemies of Allah", and another 800 are serving long prison sentences. Christians are now forbidden to describe Jesus as "the Son of God" as he was just "one of the 124,000 prophets who lived before the birth of Muhammad".

In the Soviet Union 86 are currently in prison because of their religious belief. Among them are 18 Christians who recently spent their first Easter behind bars. Most of them are young men who have refused the compulsory military service because of their religious beliefs. 103 prisoners had been released and 3 others arrested.

Bishop Colin Buchanan, Anglican Bishop of Aston in Birmingham, UK, has resigned just weeks after financial disaster overtook a program he had led. This is the first time a bishop has resigned in relation to a financial catastrophe. The loss to the diocese is believed to be about \$500,000 and related to a city-wide gospel celebration featuring Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Archaeologists recreated a pre-Columbian system of raised fields and canals near Lake Titicaca, Peru, with ancient tools and methods. The fields yielded more grain and potatoes than fields using modern methods.

US food waste totals over \$31 billion a year, enough to feed up to 49 million people. Households waste an average of

10.8% of food brought into the home.

The Fall 1988 issue of the American magazine *Leadership* polled 1,000 subscribers and found that the average salary for these pastors was \$US33,095. The range went from \$68,000 for some senior staff pastors to an average of just \$18,745 for pastors of smaller churches with 50 members or less.

The Uniting Church in Australia has barred its Assembly Standing Committee staff from flying with Singapore Airlines. The move is in retaliation for the Singapore Government's expulsion of the Christian Conference of Asia office from Singapore because of "unsubstantiated allegations" of political interference by the organisation.

Incendiary devices destroyed part of the Operation Mobilisation centre in Mosbach, West Germany, causing thousands of dollars of damage. The fire was started after midnight while OM staff and their families were asleep. Police are still seeking the arsonists.

More than 30,000 made public decisions to follow Christ during a 12 day Honduran crusade led by Argentinian evangelist Alberto Mottesi in March. Mass rallies at the Honduras national stadium were coupled with nationwide evangelism teams, radio broadcasts and discipleship seminars. Alberto Mottesi is now planning a crusade in Nicaragua in November.

Sunday 17 September has been designated Prisoners Sunday. Offenders Aid & Rehabilitation Services (OARS) in SA is encouraging churches to pray for reform of our criminal justice system in the light of God's justice as revealed in Holy Scripture, to pray for men and women in prison and to pray for the

families of prisoners especially the innocent children.

AIDS cases in America have been grouped in the following percentages—homosexual or bisexual men 62%, IV drug users 20%, homosexual IV drug users 7%, heterosexual contact 4%, undetermined 3% and blood transfusions and haemophiliacs 4%.

Growing interest in faith and religion has led to a change in school curriculum in Israel. Now pupils will receive up to 5 hours Bible teaching and 7 hours learning about Jewish history and religion every week.

In 1955 42% of Jews in Israel described themselves as atheists. In 1988 the figure was down to 10%.

Representatives from the North Korean Christians Federation in April made the first visit in more 50 years to the United States by North Korean Christians. Less than 1% of the 22 million North Korean population is Christian. In South Korea about 25% of the 42.5 million population is Christian.

There are now about 15,000 non-white cross-cultural missionaries in the world today.

A recent major survey of the United Church of Canada had some interesting findings: 55% of faithful worshippers said they attend services primarily because regular worship fulfils an important need in their lives; 63% oppose inclusive language in referring to God; given a choice of 5 social concerns, 47% chose poverty as the biggest problem, followed by human rights violations (14%), economic problems, the arms race and environmental concerns (each 12%); 87% said the church should express its views on important social issues.

A Sarasota, Florida, couple have been convicted of third-degree

murder and child abuse in the death of their 7 year old daughter. The jury ruled that the parents should have sought medical attention for their daughter, despite their Christian Science religious beliefs.

The Assemblies of God, the largest church group of the modern Pentecostal movement, is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. Emphasising the power of the Holy Spirit and individual participation in the work of the church, they have grown from a few hundred believers in 1914 to a worldwide constituency of over 18 million.

Larry Norman, a pioneer of contemporary Christian music, has released his first self-written album in nearly a decade. The album, "Home at Last", is expected to be accompanied by a "studio" video, featuring a 40 member gospel choir, a 15 piece string orchestra and 8 backup singers.

9 demonstrators who picketed an abortionist's home in Corpus Christie, Texas, have been ordered to pay more than \$800,000 in damages for causing mental anguish to him and his family, and for gross negligence.

Estimating that 20% of its neighbours work on Sunday mornings, Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, has joined a growing number of churches that offer Saturday night worship services in addition to Sunday mornings. The Saturday evening services, which attract many single young adults, follow the same format as those on Sunday mornings.

At a synod in May the (Anglican) Church of Ireland voted in favour of ordaining women priests. The House of Clergy voted 74% in favour, while the House of Laity voted 87% in favour. The Church of Ireland takes in both Northern Ireland and Eire.

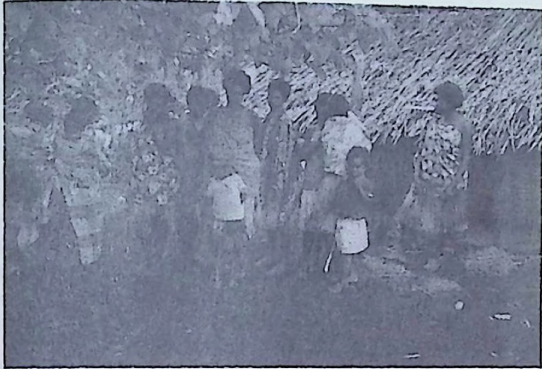
Life to the World

While there's life there's hope. Often this comment is made in a very defeatist way when the expectation is that life won't be there very long and soon hope will also be gone.

People who have hope come to life. The teaching of Jesus is this: "I am come that you might have life and have it in all its fullness."

John wrote his gospel and near the end said, "These things have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God and that through faith in him you may have life."

Jeff May, Executive Director



Tannese villagers, VANUATU

What a great privilege we have to break the bread of life with other people. As followers of Jesus Christ, those who have been the hearers of the Good News, who have been baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and who are now privileged to teach others, we have life to offer the world. So much of the world around us is to do with darkness and death. In the face of that, Christians are commissioned and privileged to bring life to a dark and sad world.

This is the mission of the church and this is our responsibility and privilege. God is interested in the world coming to life. He is interested in life coming to people. His interest is not just in one nation or one select group of people but in every nation and all peoples.



ZIMBABWE

So it is that the work of overseas mission is not an option for us as Churches of Christ in Australia. It is our responsibility and our privilege.



INDIA

We have open doors and opportunities to bring life to people. In some ways this will be in terms of their physical life. The work of mission has always been to meet the wide needs of people. When Jesus told of his own mission, in Luke 4, as he read in the synagogue in Nazareth, he said, "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring Good News to the poor, he has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to set free the oppressed and to announce that the time has come when the Lord will save his people." We share the same mission that Jesus had. We are called to bring life and life in all its fullness to people of the world.

Churches of Christ presently have four spheres of influence in terms of Australians working in other countries. In India, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Zimbabwe our fellow Australians are involved in bringing the bread of life to the world of God.

The struggles, achievements, frustrations, hopes and dreams are also ours. They represent us and we are privileged to support their ministry in prayer and financially.

On 2 July the Annual Offering for the work of Churches of Christ Overseas Mission is received. One man once said, "Salvation is like water. It's free but it costs money to pipe it in!" Will you generously share with your fellow workers in mission in bringing life to the world?



Woman carrying water, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Overseas Mission Board Offering ■ 2 July

Life to Papua New Guinea

The church building was decorated with extra flowers at Ranputor Village, Vanuatu, the Sunday in December when the church welcomed home the Bule family, missionaries in Papua New Guinea. Hosea, Helen and family were each presented with a floral lei, after a welcome speech.

Hosea responded by thanking the people for their prayer support and interest during their time away. He shared some of the things his work involved, the pressures and the way that the Lord provided the strength for them to go on when tired and depressed. He mentioned that in some ways it was easier for people from Vanuatu than from Australia to adjust to the situations they encountered in PNG and to share their faith with the people.

During the welcome service I noticed the self-consciousness of the Bule family—the older children, particularly, found it hard to be singled out. This was cushioned by having a "bubu" (grandma) and other family members close by, giving support.

At this time my thoughts had focused on how our family would cope on our return to Australia. Would we feel out of place and strange in the place where we really belonged? We knew that we, too, would have the understanding and support of family and friends during our time of adjustment. This was very true for us during December and January in Australia. The support and understanding we needed were given generously and helped to make our stay refreshing both physically and spiritually.

On our return to Banmatmat Bible College we wondered how the Bule family were. Not long after, they returned to PNG. When they returned they left behind their two older children with Hosea's family, in order that they might continue their schooling.

At their farewell Hosea exhorted the churches to pray for the PNG church, as well as for himself and Helen in their ministry. Please pray for Hosea in his ministry of advising pastors and for Helen as she supports him and cares for the two younger children.

The local South Pentecost churches were inspired with a new vision as they looked beyond themselves to PNG. They were reminded that they are a mature, sending church, and of the responsibilities this brings. Hosea and Helen have gone on behalf of the Vanuatu church to share Jesus, the Life, in PNG—the part of the world where God has called them to serve.

—Julie Walladge



Hosea Bule and family

The Real Bread of Life

Life is chosen by anyone rather than death. We praise the Lord for the reality of life in Christ. But we are saved to serve. Let's not forget that.

There are people who are hungry for the temporary bread, not knowing the true bread. The bread given in the wilderness was temporary. A lot of people only know this bread. If we are truly saved from our sin then we shall find what to do in the service of our Lord, to play our role.

Thousands of people are crying for the real bread of life—the bread that gives life to the world. I went to Anguna on the Sogeram River. We had 147 in attendance, but there are a lot more in that area who are crying for the real bread. During my deputation in Vanuatu I found the same thing. People are hungry for the bread of life. Even though the churches in Vanuatu have been there much longer than in PNG there is famine for the real bread from heaven. The revival is continuing; people are hungry. I believe that it's the same elsewhere.

Giving Enables the Preacher to Go

The life to the world has been given 2,000 years ago. There is a gap between the heathen and Christian today. Jesus is the bridge to heaven, but he is calling for people

to leave their homes and families to bridge the gap, to go out and be a channel. A channel is a body of water joining two larger ones. Someone needs to be the channel between the two large groups in the world today.

We continue to praise God for the Australian churches who faithfully give to the work of the Lord. When the offering is given there are preachers who are ready to be a channel of life to the world today. Giving enables the preacher to go. Romans 10:14—How are men to call upon the Lord? The Lord needs all our abilities so that the life may be made known to the world.

—Hosea Bule



Julie Walladge and family

the World

What Are We Prepared To Give?



You are a new student at Dadaya High School, Zimbabwe? Well, let me welcome you. This trunk is your luggage? Let me help you to the dormitory.

"You don't mean that old, unplastered building is where I am going to live! What do you mean, the water supply is not good? Do I have to go to another dorm to wash? You must be joking—put my mattress on the floor!"

I am sorry to have to explain that this is the way it has to be for some of the students here. "Education comes first, you know," is the only reply I can give. Like so many in Zimbabwe the students here have a thirst for education. So much that this high school has more students than the Edu-

cation Department figures allow. But they want to learn and so they come. The school tries to cope as best it can. Many see education as the door to a better life.

While this true to a large degree, there is something better. That is why the Christian message is given an important place in the school program. Most of the 18 classes do Bible as a subject. It is compulsory for all students to attend worship twice each Sunday. The Scripture Union group is recognised and meets three or four times a week.

Jesus came to give real life to the world. This is the life changing message held by the Christian church. It is a message that needs to be shared with those that do not understand that without Jesus life is, at best, second rate.

The students at this school make sacrifices in comfort and have separations from their families to get an education. What are we prepared to give to share the message of "Life to the World"? Is it as important to us as education is to them?

It is of more value, but we do not always bother to share our blessing.

—Bill Keddie

Take One Panadol

Pastor Samuel Waen has been taking studies with the students at the Santo, Vanuatu, French high school. He has encouraged them to pray together in their dormitories before lights out.

In April the spirit of God simultaneously fell upon those praying in the boys' and girls' dormitories. Twenty-seven of the students cried out to God in repentance and fell down on the lawned area outside the dorms, praising and thanking God. The French headmistress, not a churchgoer, came out to see what the noise was about. She couldn't understand it so she called on two other French teachers.

After a short conference they decided to call the police. The four policemen summed up the situation and said that they couldn't help but they offered to get Pastor Samuel.

When he came the students were still on the lawn praying and praising, so he left them and took the headmistress into her office. He talked to her about what was happening and witnessed to her about her need to know Christ. After half an hour the students quietened down. They had an hour of study and discussion with the pastor then went to bed,

thanking God for the experience.

The headmistress, who still didn't understand the situation, insisted on giving them all a Panadol so they would sleep well and be all right for school the next day.

The next day she brought in a new school rule banning praying, as she didn't want a repetition of the previous night's events. **You cannot bind God's Spirit by a rule and that rule has now been lifted. You cannot quench God's Spirit and a life inside a person by Panadol or similar medication.**

Praise God that these 27 students who have a new life are now witnessing that life to the students and staff in their school.

—Roger Bawden

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Roger Bawden and Pastor Samuel Waen

Life to the World

Life to the Whole World

"A great white shark is down at the beach! Let's go kill him and eat him." That's the message that went around Nduindui area on the arrival of the first trader to settle here. A high chief had other ideas, so Wilbur, who came from North America, survived. Today his grandchildren take leading roles in the church here. His great-grandchildren are, or have been, studying in Fiji and Australia as well as at Churches of Christ schools at Ranwadi and Londua. The life that Christ gives became a reality to Wilbur's children and now their descendants pass the news of that good life to many others.



Nduindui church

Not long after Wilbur arrived young men, recruited by fair means and foul, went off to work in the sugarcane plantations in Queensland. The life that Christ gives was still unknown at Nduindui. Those who went of their own volition went off on an adventure. Some of the ones who survived the adventure came back with real life. They were introduced to Jesus Christ, believed and came back determined to share the life of Christ with their brothers at home.

One who did so was Willie Vuti. He came back and, under real persecution but with help from one or two others, witnessed to his new life and Master. So a new church was established. His daughter has taught on other islands and raised sons and daughters who are now leaders of the church. Like Wilbur's great-grandchildren, Willie's too have spread out to New Zealand, Fiji and Australia, studying, learning, witnessing to what the Christian life can do.

Nduindui became a real centre for church growth. The people from here went out with great zeal to witness in other islands, plant churches and encourage people in Vanuatu to a new life.

That Christ came as the bread of life to the whole world is evident from the events that continue to happen in Vanuatu today. Whereas 100 years ago our lives would have been in jeopardy coming here, there is no such fear today because Christ has changed people. Yes—how about an Indian from Fiji finding life on Pentecost Island in 1981? A Canadian couple started a new life in Christ on Santo in 1984. A New Zealander, daughter of an Anglican priest, rebelling against Christian religion, found life in Christ as she went to supervise exams at Ranwadi in October 1988.

On 22 March 1989 a Nigerian doctor working at Nduindui hospital married his sweetheart from Nigeria in a local church. They knew Christ in Africa. Peter and Kerry Schulz were their attendants. Australian missionaries from the Apostolic, Christian and Ministry Alliance and Churches of Christ took part in the service. Pastor James, secretary of the Nduindui Churches of Christ Council, was the marriage celebrant.

These are just a few of the examples of how the Lord has shown me, since I've been in Vanuatu, that Christ really brought life to the world.

—E. Lyall Muller

An Indian Cup of Tea

"Would you like to have a cup of tea?" Some two decades ago, as a new missionary, I was in the midst of learning many things. One thing I needed to learn quickly was that when anyone came to my home I should not ask this question. I should make the tea and serve it. If asked, my visitors were never going to say "yes".



Similarly, if I went to someone's home I would automatically be given tea, which I would drink with the proscribed amount of noise to express my appreciation.

In community health jargon this delightful beverage is termed "community medicine" and important decisions, plans, agreements etc. are rarely made without it.

A village Christian told about being invited to the home of some missionaries for afternoon tea:

"The table was laid just so. We drank from pretty cups and had all sorts of nice things to eat. But it was not an Indian cup of tea. Our Indian cup of tea fills up and over the top and down the sides into the saucer." He went on to share the life that Jesus gives is like that—a life with overflow.

We thank God for each one who knows the reality of this experience. Here in the north they are few and they are precious; fearlessly declaring that Jesus came from heaven and is the giver of life.; new life, eternal life, an overflowing life available for all.

—Dorothy Holstein

The Bread of Life

The pattern that mission has followed in India, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea has a fourfold approach. Medical, educational, community development and church planting have been the methods by which the Churches of Christ have tried to follow the pattern of Jesus himself.

It would be very easy, even in a country like PNG where no-one need go hungry, to find oneself providing for the physical needs of the people, as it were to provide "daily bread", to the detriment of their spiritual welfare. Now that the PNG government has assumed responsibility for health, education and, to some extent, community development, we as a mission are able to concentrate on seeing that the people of the Ramu and Keram valleys have access to the "bread of life".

By supporting overseas mission you are enabling us to equip, encourage and enable national Papua New Guineans to bring their brothers and sisters to hear the gospel. Thus they are enabled to meet this "bread of God" who is "he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world".

—Wayne Kerrison



Benjamin Bassett (pictured here with his parents, John and Hazel, and brother Joshua) is the youngest of our missionary personnel. He was born in February and went to PNG in April.

Help us to maintain the work of all our missionaries by your generous giving to the annual offering on 2 July.

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Sunday 16 July 1989
10.30 am

Worship and Communion
Speaker: Graham Gilmour
12.30 pm

Luncheon in the Hall.
2-5 pm

An informal reunion
gathering in the Hall
RSVP for lunch by 2 July
Ring

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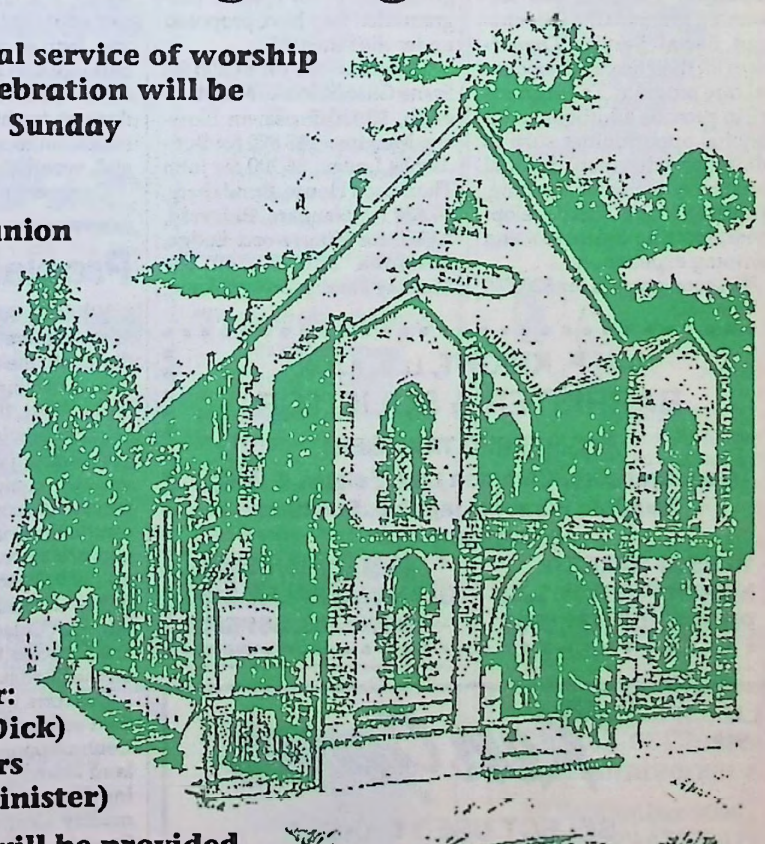
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25 June
11 am
Communion
Service



Speaker:
W.W. (Dick)
Saunders
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Lunch will be provided.

To assist with catering arrangements please contact:

Bob Allan
(08) 46 1405

Keith Aird
(08) 231 1911

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9.30 am

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Child Care Grants

The Queensland Department of Family Services is providing grants of \$44,140 for two new positions at the newly opened Kingswood Lodge Group Home, which is operated by the Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department. The first of these positions is for a person to provide a "living skills program" to assist young people to be able to live independently within the community. Many young people do not have these skills and this new program

will provide realistic experience in living independently. A special unit for this purpose is built into the new Kingswood Lodge facility. The second position is for the provision of an "activities program" for the young people who will be living in Kingswood Lodge. The Social Service Department will be advertising for these positions in the near future, however interested persons may contact the Senior Director, Child Care, PO Box 508, Kenmore, 4069.

Education Grants

The Commonwealth Special Education Program has announced grants to the Queensland Social Service Department for their licensed residential care program. These grants are to provide additional educational opportunities such as computer education, tutorial assistance, remedial teaching, speech and language development, sporting equipment and camping experiences.

The total grant is for \$28,740

and is applied to the individual group homes for specific programs that they have proposed under the scheme.

The grants are for \$4,300 for Frank Gilson House, Maryborough, \$3,180 for Irwin Blowers, Merrimac, \$5,870 for Bundamba Lodge, \$4,200 for John Thompson House, Bundaberg, \$6,830 for Nangare, Eidsvold, \$2,200 for Kingswood Lodge, Berrinba and \$2,160 for Mackay Family Group Home.

Fair Share of the Cake for Children

Hazel Hawke recently launched a national campaign against child poverty, "The Promise the Children Action on Child Poverty", initiated by the Brotherhood of St Laurence and the Councils of Social Service. She said that the government had implemented a "guaranteed minimum income" for children through its family package. The campaign needed to build on that by arguing for better access to employment, housing and community services across Australia.

The Brotherhood's Executive Director, Bishop Peter Hollingworth, said child poverty was caused by inadequate income and lack of opportunities to participate in the everyday life of the Australian community through decent housing, a good education, excellent health care and, eventually, a good job.

Commenting on the Prime

Minister's promise that "no Australian child will be living in poverty by 1990", Bishop Hollingworth said the challenge now is to make the PM's promise a start rather than the end. More promises are still required.

The campaign has a four-pronged strategy:

- It calls on the Federal Government to extend programs in housing, employment and community services.

- State and territory governments are to be asked to appoint subcommittees to plan the elimination of child poverty by improved schooling, health and community support.

- The private sector is to be asked to make jobs and training available to disadvantaged people.

- Each community is to be asked to develop new services and assistance for children in poverty.

Proclaimers Tour

While the Scottish pop group "Proclaimers" continues to dominate the top 40 charts, as well as having toured Australia in April, the "real" gospel singing Proclaimers, now 23 years old and still going strong, recently completed a highly successful tour of western and central Victoria. Their first such venture since 1978, the choir set off by coach on Easter Saturday to "soul services" presented at Colac Baptist Church and Cobden Uniting Church on the Sunday.

Concerts were presented at the Portland Performing Arts Centre (sponsored by the Portland church), Horsham Uniting Church, the Ouyen Community Centre, Mildura Performing Arts Centre (sponsored by the Mildura church, Sunraysia Baptist Church and well-known local Gospel group "Kaleidoscope").

A visit to Shepparton provided a great climax to the tour with a service at Shepparton

Baptist Church and an afternoon concert at the Church of Christ attracting capacity audiences, prior to a very tired but happy group arriving home at Rosanna Baptist Church.

The main objective of the group was to share their faith through music, bearing in mind their theme: "It is not ourselves we proclaim, we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake." (2 Corinthians 4:5)

The final performance of the tour at Shepparton regretfully saw the final appearances of the group's keyboard player and bass guitarist. The group urgently needs replacements in these fields. Christian musicians available for these instruments who wish to play in a group with a professional outlook and approach are asked to contact Philip Davey on (03) 783 3368 or musical director John Rowe on (03) 434 1556. They practise at Rosanna Baptist Church Monday evenings.

.....
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BIRTHS

HEIER (GRAETZ) To Kym and Lynnette, a daughter, Melanie Ruth, born Launceston 25 May. A sister for Renee. All well.

DEATHS

STEVENS, Alma May. On 29 May 1989, at Adelaide. The beloved wife of E.A. (Dick) Stevens, formerly of Launceston, Tas., loved mother of Merle Alderton, 2 Sunshine Ave, Warradale, SA 5046, Harold and Flo, Em (Dec) and Jan, Leo and Maidie (Dec), Muriel (Dec), and dear Nan of 12 grandchildren and 28 great grandchildren. In her 100th year.

STREET, Lyla Gladys. Suddenly in Melbourne 28 May. Dearly loved and loving wife of the late Harold W. Street. Loved mother and mother-in-law of Grahame and Shirley (Launceston), Ian and Janice (Hobart), Berice and Ross Davis (Adelaide), Kathleen and Tony Davide (Melbourne), Robert and Annette (Melbourne), also loved grandmother of all her 13 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Together again and forever with the Lord. Funeral service was held at Church of Christ, Greensborough, Vic, Wednesday 31 May, 1989.

IN MEMORIAM

HARTNEY, Jim 22.6.87. Time does not heal the heartache, Or stop a silent tear, Or dim the precious memories, Of one I loved so dear, Your loving wife Betty.

JONES, Dr Lloyd Edwin. Precious memories of our dear husband, father and Grandy who passed away to be with his Lord 24.6.86 — Isabella, David, Wendy and family. Still missed, but with gratitude to God for every remembrance.

KERRISON, Harold James. 3.7.88. Loving memories of a dear husband and father. Sadly missed by Pat, Margaret, Kathleen and Dorothy and their families, 14 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

THOMSON, Helen. Treasured memories of our darling mother who passed to be with her Lord on 14.6.88. Beloved wife of the late William Thomson, loving mother of Helen, Isabella and May. Sadly missed by all her family.

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RINGWOOD Church of Christ

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10 September 1989 Morning worship, lunch and afternoon program. Further details later.

Please notify any interested past members or contacts. Contact Bruce or Pat Greig on (03) 870 4414.

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now meets in Parkland Drive 9.00 a.m. Worship & Communion 6.30 p.m.

Gospel Celebration Minister: Noel Newton (075) 32 5660 or 31 4353 (Home)

MILDURA

Church of Christ advises past members and friends of its

Centenary Celebrations

to be held Queen's Birthday weekend 8-11 June 1990

For details and registration of interest forms please contact Auralie Munro or Laurie Stafford, c/o Mildura Church of Christ, PO Box 2797, Mildura 3502

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Gardiner Church of Christ 75th Anniversary

10 September 1989 Information about any interested former members and addresses would be appreciated by the Secretary Miss Priscilla Annear (03) 818 5970

The Cultic Connection

Christadelphianism

Part 1

In the second of his series on the connections between Churches of Christ and various cults, Adrian van Leen looks at the Christadelphians, who have an interesting history linked to our movement and to Australia.

"Israel in Bible Prophecy", "Iran-Iraq War Prophesied", "The Meaning of the Middle East Today", "Current Affairs Foretold"—and more such statements regularly adorn the noticeboards and neon signs outside Christadelphian meeting halls around Australia.

Most members of Churches of Christ may share a community curiosity about the message behind those topical titles but few know of the very close connection between the Christadelphians and Churches of Christ.

The name "Christadelphians" means "brothers in Christ", but this name is somewhat of a misnomer. These "brothers in Christ" reflect little of the love of Christ in their relations with others who claim to belong to the family of God.

Christadelphians believe that they alone hold the key to a right understanding of the Bible and the Christian faith. They are exclusivists who believe that salvation is to be found only within the Christadelphian ecclesiae. All other Christian denominations are rejected and referred to as a "divided Christendom".

The Christadelphians are even divided among themselves. In Australia we have at least four different Christadelphian groups, each claiming it alone has the true faith, and claiming the other Christadelphians are still "in darkness". The divided Christadelphian "kingdom" includes the "Central Christadelphians", the "Berean Christadelphians", the "Old Paths Ecclesia", and the "Dawn Ecclesia".

John Thomas

"But for Alexander Campbell, the human probability is there would have been no John Thomas; and, as far as we can see, but for John Thomas, those who now rejoice in the truth would still have been sitting like the rest of the world, in 'darkness and the shadow of death'."

So wrote the man who succeeded John Thomas as the leader of the Christadelphians, Robert Roberts, in his biographical book, *Dr Thomas—His Life and Work*.

In the preface to the third edition of this book, W.H. Boulton commented: "Dr Thomas...has become almost a legendary character to those who have accepted the Truth which his labours made clear in contradistinction to the errors of Christen-

dom."

This "legendary character", John Thomas, was born in London in 1805. Both his parents were religious and his father eventually became pastor of independent congregations in London, Scotland and Lancashire. It was during his father's Lancashire term that John began his training as a medical doctor.

"Few know of the very close connection between the Christadelphians and Churches of Christ"

In May 1832 John Thomas set sail for America, to prepare the way for his parents. By this time he was a qualified doctor, but professed no real Christian faith. His father had become a Baptist by this stage.

Not long into the journey from London to New York the *Marquis of Wellesley*, on which John Thomas was earning his passage as a ship's surgeon, struck stormy weather. The storm lasted most of the eight weeks journey. During one critical period in the last fortnight, it looked like all was lost and the ship would sink. It was at this time that the young ship's surgeon turned to God. He appealed for deliverance, and pledged a full commitment to God's truth should the ship survive the storm.

John Thomas and the Disciples

Dr John Thomas was true to his word. He travelled from New York to Cincinnati. By the time he left New York his father had caught up with him and they travelled to Cincinnati as a family. In this city a Major Daniel Gano, Clerk of the Supreme Court of the United States, became interested in them and invited them to dinner. Gano had presided over a debate between Alexander Campbell and atheist, Robert Owen, and as a result had espoused the teachings and principles of the Restoration Movement. Not long after the dinner with the Thomas family, Gano gave a biblical discussion on Restoration principles. Before the Thomas family left, Gano gave them a couple of pamphlets by Alexander Campbell and Walter Scott.

The following Sunday they were back at Gano's house for an evening meal. This time Walter Scott had also been invited. During the course of the evening, Scott challenged John Thomas about believer's baptism by immersion. He was so persuasive that, at ten o'clock that evening Walter Scott baptised John Thomas by the light of the moon, in the Miama Canal, which was close to Major Gano's house.

John Thomas met Alexander Campbell in 1833. Campbell was impressed with Thomas's commitment and apparent understanding and acceptance of Restoration principles. He also showed skills in preaching and writing, and was soon accepted as a minister in the movement.

Benjamin Lyon Smith, editor of *The Millennial Harbinger Abridged*, described John Thomas as follows: "Dr John Thomas was a minister residing in Virginia. For a long time he was very popular with the people and was a favourite with Mr Campbell...He located in Virginia and began the publication of a paper called the *Apostolic Adviser*. He was a magnetic, attractive man, and became very popular with some people. Soon he began to teach a spirit of dogmatism and exalted his own opinions above other teachings. Among other teaching was that one coming into the church should be rebaptised; that immersion, as administered by Baptists or any other, was utterly invalid."

Taken to Task

Thomas's *Apostolic Adviser*, commenced in 1834, displayed his distorted teachings in 1836, teachings at variance not only with other ministers in the Disciples of Christ (Churches of Christ) movement led by Campbell, but also at variance with historical Christian orthodoxy.

This resulted in Alexander Campbell taking John Thomas, and some of his strange teachings, to task through the *Millennial Harbinger*.

Campbell stated, "And now I fear we are about to find, or rather have found, in the person of Dr Thomas, another of these infallible dogmatists, so supremely devoted to his own opinions, and his own glory in defending them—so confident in asserting them—so diligent in propagating them...he has...become a factionalist of the most indomitable spirit." ➤

A Church ABC

Warwick, 15 km north of Perth, WA, is in Wanneroo City, claimed to be the fastest-growing suburban city in Australia. In 15 years the city has gone from 5,000 to 165,000 people, and the Warwick church has grown too. In the 16 years of its life, Warwick and the three churches it has planted, Whitford, Kingsley and Alexander Heights, have a combined membership approaching 800 members.

The Warwick church is now located in its second building. (The first was occupied in 1975, the current one in 1984.) It is an open style and can accommodate up to 600 people. It is highly flexible, with folding doors, no pews (they have comfortable chairs instead) and no platform, so it can be used for a wide variety of church and community purposes.

Warwick is indeed highly community orientated. There are many activities aimed at building bridges and a community-church network of friendship and evangelism. Involving large numbers, there are playgroups at the church every day, craft groups, an over 50s group, a friendship group (with the theme, "No strangers here, only friends who have not yet met"), a singles group, girls' and boys' brigades and three youth groups—over 100 attend these on Friday nights and over half of these attend Bible study at other times of the week. Another reach-out ac-

tivity is the Chip-Inn on Wednesday nights, a computer club that attracts 50 to 80 children from the area. Sport is not forgotten. For instance, there are 19 basketball teams and 2 netball teams. As well, aerobatics and art clubs and the local school use the church's facilities.

sporting buff and is Wanneroo's Citizen of the Year. He is also chaplain to the aged peoples home and the senior high school. The ministry team also includes Bruce Eagles, associate minister, Robert Mason, minister to youth, Lyn Devlin, part-time youth co-ordinator, and Jan Davies, part-time office administrator.

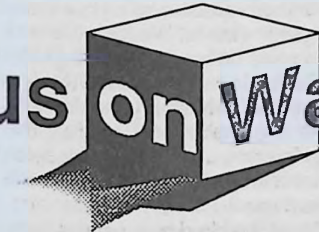
Services are at 8.45 am, 10.15 am and 6.30 pm, with a total of about 700 attendances each Sunday. The last six months have seen a record average communicant attendance of 359.

Lots of children are involved. Junior church is held at the same time as the sermon. (Warwick has never had a Sunday school.) It is estimated the number of people who regularly flow through the church is about 1,400 to 1,500.

As a people-orientated church, Warwick tries to involve as many people as possible. Members are encouraged to attend on Sundays, and be involved in a home fellowship and one other activity, e.g. leadership, work around the church etc. With so many things happening, this short account is sure to have missed many! (For instance the big video library, Bethal classes, healing services, on-the-job training incentives etc. etc.)

Graham describes the church as "an overgrown country-style church, with a relaxed, informal atmosphere, doing the effective evangelistic work of God."

Focus on Warwick



The major base for Bible study, friendship and pastoral care is the home fellowship, five of which are held during the day and a dozen (at last count) held at night. Music is also very important in the life of the church. It involves many people at the night services and a big Christmas musical attracted 1,200 over three nights last year, and on Christmas Day 1,000 people attended the three services.

The senior minister is Graham Carslake, a former wheat and sheep farmer from WA's northern wheat belt and graduate of the College of the Bible, who had ministries at Kalgoorlie and Bunbury before coming to Warwick, where he is now in his 16th year. He and his wife Freda have three grown up children. Graham is a

Campbell critically evaluated Thomas's doctrines (which are still adhered to by Christadelphians today) and, while discussing Thomas's various approaches and methods of interpreting the Bible, stated rather strongly: "Fool that I was, to think that words in the Bible were to be understood by the same rules of interpretation applied to other books.... Such a system of interpretation [as that of Thomas] drives both myself, all commentators, dictionaries, and the twelve apostles out of the field. Rules of logic, laws of language, criticism, to such a reasoner, are as straws to Leviathan."

If Campbell's comments are regarded as too caustic, it should be noted that Thomas also had a sharp tongue and pen. John Thomas later acknowledged: "We acquired a taste for theological gladiatorship for which we have not been altogether unjustly blamed."

Following Campbell's public reproval of Thomas the two men met with others in an attempt at reconciliation. Dr John Thomas agreed not to propagate his peculiar views, but speak and write only on the accepted basic issues of the faith. How-

ever, he was not able to keep to the agreement, and before long parted company with the Disciples of Christ to start the Christadelphians.

After the break with Campbell and the Disciples, Thomas travelled to Britain and caused confusion and disruption among the Churches of Christ there, as most had not caught up with what had happened in America.

"Soon he began to teach a spirit of dogmatism and exalted his own opinions above other teachings"

John Thomas managed to build up a personal following in New York. From 1847 until 1864 his followers were known as "The Royal Association of Believers in New York". Then the name was changed to the "Christadelphians".

During those first years of the new movement in New York Thomas published the book, *Elpis Israel* (Hope of Israel). In this book Thomas restated most of what he

had previously published in the *Apostolic Advocate*. There was a very heavy emphasis on prophecy and the Last Days in the book. It is still regarded as a standard book on doctrine and prophecy for Christadelphians today.

Australia

The first Australian convert, W. Rooke, was baptised in 1866 after studying the book *Elpis Israel*. The first Australian ecclesia was commenced in Sydney, and then the movement gradually spread to other states.

Robert Roberts, born in Scotland in 1839, who became a close friend of John Thomas, was the second leader of the Christadelphian movement after John Thomas died in 1871.

In 1895 Roberts visited Australia and New Zealand. He delivered 130 lectures and wrote *The Blood of Christ*, which countered the teachings of another Christadelphian writer, J.J. Andrews. Roberts was a deep thinker and a prolific writer. When he was only 15 he set out on a daily Bible

• continued on page 22

Interview

A Step in Faith

An interview with Jim Longbottom, a first-year student at the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave, Vic

Q: What was your initial reaction when you finally arrived at the Churches of Christ Theological College to face four years of intensive study?

A: I was excited! Accommodation had been arranged for us by the college, our children were settled into schools and I was ready to face the challenges of college life. I presumed that the pre-session program would be something of a broad-brush exposure to general issues but even in the first week the Lord threw a number of perspectives at me through the worship sessions and the lectures. I felt like a tin of jam that's had the lid removed. There was a lot in there that needed to be flopped out before it could be filled up again.

Q: What were the circumstances that led you into training for the ministry?

A: I had been away from the church for sixteen years. I was busy pursuing a career as a metallurgist when a crisis in my life forced me to re-evaluate who I was and to face the dark side of myself. The faithful prayers of my parents were answered as I found the Lord. I faced the fact that to gain peace and purpose for living I had to let go and submit myself totally to God.

Following that we shifted to Perth from the North West and purchased a home in the hills at Kalamunda. It was a large home with a swimming pool and every convenience and it was our clear intention to stay there for years to come.

Then came the second Kalamunda Church of Christ Mission Week. In the middle of that week I knew I had to respond to the call to full-time service. There were many issues involved in that, including giving up our home. We didn't know what area of service God was calling us into but we knew we had to be trained.

Two days after our commitment the reality of leaving secure, well-paid em-

ployment, leaving home, uprooting children from their schools and all that sort of thing began to sink in. We looked at each other and said, "What are we doing? This is crazy!" And, in a secular sense, that was true. I went off to have my regular quiet time with God and in the reading that morning God gave us a promise from Isaiah 42:16—a very special promise that will never leave us:

"I will lead the blind by ways they have not known,
along unfamiliar paths I will guide them;
I will turn the darkness into light before them
and make the rough places smooth.
These are the things I will do;
I will not forsake them."

We praise the Lord for that word of promise.

Q: What made you decide to go to the Churches of Christ Theological College at Mulgrave, Victoria?

A: As a matter of fact we were strongly advised not to go to the Churches of Christ Theological College by a number of people whose opinions I respected and valued but, for some unexplainable reason, I included COB (as it was then) as one of five colleges to whom I wrote exploratory letters even though I had a closed mind against the place. Through a series of different ways and several unexpected confirmations the Lord clearly said, "CCTC is where I want you to be," so we agreed.

Following that we weathered a steady barrage of criticism of CCTC. People would say the college was liberal but most were not able to explain what that meant. Sadly, most of the critics had never



Phil Bradley (left), WA CCTC representative and off-campus study director, with Michelle and Jim Longbottom and their youngest daughter Eleanor

Christadelphianism

• continued from page 21

reading plan, *The Bible Companion*, and also *The Commandments of Christ* (for daily living), which are still given to Christadelphians today.

Roberts returned to Australia with his family in 1897. They settled into Orient House in the Melbourne suburb of Coburg. Roberts died in San Francisco in 1898

while on a speaking tour to the USA.

For many years the majority of Australian Christadelphian ecclesiae were identified as "Shield" ecclesiae. The name came from the magazine, *The Christadelphian Shield* (apparently linked to Roberts's first visit to Australia), the magazine that represented those ecclesiae. Other ecclesiae were part of the "Central Fellowship". The two groups eventually accepted a doctrinal statement from Birmingham as a basis for unity, and were reunited in 1958.

• Adrian van Leen is Director of Concerned Christians Growth Ministries, a ministry dedicated to informing the church about cults and ministering to people involved in them.

The second part of this article will appear in a forthcoming issue and will examine briefly why Churches of Christ and Christadelphians separated, and have remained that way.

Growing Spiritually

Reading the Fine Print

by Kaye Caporn

been to the college nor had they talked to anyone from the place.

As it drew closer to the time to leave the criticism increased, causing us to question whether it was really right to go to CCTC. We sought the counsel of friends and also one of our pastors. We prayed through the issue and concluded we had to go! The next day in my Bible reading the Lord gave us a passage from Jeremiah 12:5:

"If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble in safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan?"

For me, that took away all the problems about the so-called liberalism of the college. "Hey," I said to myself. "If I can't manage in Bible college—the safe ground where controversial faith issues are raised, how am I going to manage in the world when I leave college?" We praise the Lord for that word of confirmation.

"What are we doing? This is crazy!"

Q: In retrospect, do you have any regrets?

A: Certainly not! I'm beginning to see why God brought us here. Whereas I thought I may have to be a protector of the faith I quickly discovered that the lecturers themselves rigorously defend the faith and the inspiration of God's Word.

It is true that the lecturers sometimes cause students to review their current understandings, to wrestle with new issues and to clarify their thinking, but that stimulates growth. I now realise how superficially I had previously studied the Scriptures and I'm relishing the way the

Our son Stephen recently won a family pass to a funpark. He was delighted but we were cautious, thinking of the cost of all those rides. On reading the fine print we realised it was an "all day unlimited rides pass". What a difference that made!

Isn't there a parallel to salvation here? Becoming a Christian is to accept the gift of eternal salvation. Perhaps you've thought about it but have been troubled by the potential cost. The doubts rush in. You feel you cannot "be good enough" or that you may have to change your life style. Metaphorically, you're accepting the entrance pass without using the unlimited rides being offered.

For Jesus said: "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33 NIV)

When Jesus died to give eternal life to you, he didn't only open heaven's doors. He also opened the channels of his love and acceptance of you now. He paved the way to equip you with guidance in times of doubt, strength in times of need and peace in times of trouble. These aren't offers for when you reach Heaven, they are the way he can equip you to live today. There are detailed descriptions in the fine print of the offer, that is, the Bible.

If we had said no, the funpark would cost too much, we'd have missed out entirely on a tremendous day. If we had said we'll go, but only have limited rides, we would have narrowed the fulfilment of the day. I'm glad we read the fine print.

• Kaye Caporn is a member of the Ivanhoe, Vic, church.

theological education is unlocking the truths of God's Word.

Q: I guess there's a tendency to become preoccupied with your studies?

A: The faculty is very conscious of that possibility and take positive measures to facilitate our spiritual development. I really value the regular prayer sessions shared by students, staff and faculty. The daily worship services involving everyone on campus are often rich and meaningful times that enable us to commune with God at a very intimate level. The spiritual retreat held in the first semester added a special dimension to providing inspiration, challenge and opportunity for reflection and worship. My understanding of spirituality is developing every day!

Tuesdays are set aside for the development of ministry skills and, together with our own church involvement, gives the academic studies real purpose. I'm really more pleased to be actively involved in a local church setting. I find that it provides the focus for all that I am learning.

Q: It sounds as though life is as busy as it was in the commercial world!

A: Yes indeed! I had to come to terms with a different life style in many ways but soon realised the need for personal discipline to ensure my commitment to God, family, church and studies are kept in a proper balance. That is not easy and I often get it wrong. There is so much to learn but at the same time there is the need to be involved in ministry in all areas of my life.

Pontius' Puddle



White Papers

The Common Touch

When I heard that Dr Gumblehook was coming to town I booked in for his lecture. I, too, am a communicator and we are never too proud to learn.

I hadn't read his books but his titles were intriguing: *Words with Feet*, *Synonym Additives*, *Proper Nouns and Write Types* and *The Flight of the Humble Be-: Be-lieve, Be-have, then BE-HOLD!*

I arrived early to get a good seat. I needn't have worried, only eighteen others turned up. The small attendance wouldn't affect the doctor's pocket. He was sponsored by the "Mission for Speeding the Message to the Streets and Lanes".

Sitting next to me was a young fellow, fairly bubbling with excitement. "I'm Jim Dooley," he said.

"Pleased to meet you," I rejoined.

Jim said, "I only joined the church three months ago." He told me that they had had a mission at the little church at Snake Egg Gully. He had been won over. "Best thing that ever happened to me. The church blokes reckoned they ought to keep things moving, so they passed the hat around to send me here to learn how to spruik about the good oil to my mates."

"Good for you," I said. "You can always learn from the experts."

Dr Gumblehook took his place on the platform. One assistant carried an armful of his books. Another had a box of cassettes. The doctor said that his lecture was also included in his book, *Finding Faith in the Fog of Phrases*.

Then we got down to business. I opened my notebook.

Jim had a new exercise book and a new Biro. He said, "This is a bit new to me, but

I'll give it a go."

"The obligation of Christians today," began Dr Gumblehook to the nineteen of us, "is to make the revelation of the Divine being understandable to the undereducated. This means that we must ensure clarification of the Word of God and to present it in all its relevance and urgency, stripped of all theological jargon and meaningless pious clichés."

***I hadn't read his books but his titles were intriguing:
"Words with Feet",
"Synonym Additives",
"Proper Nouns and Write Types" and "The Flight of the Humble Be-: Be-lieve, Be-have, then BE-HOLD!"***

The learned man went on the seventeen of us: "The eternal Word of God appropriates the stuff of human existence and reshapes it. It takes man's estrangement from the Omnipresent One and speaks to that isolation and separateness."

Jim had stopped writing. He whispered, "I think I'll get the book." The doctor admonished fourteen listeners: "It is important to realise that sharing the gospel is a radical transaction. Truth always is, especially divine truth."

"The Lord came because man has transgressed. But Jesus was not about to repudiate the demands of the Decalogue, or sof-

ten Yahweh's demands for holiness. What was necessitated was the ungrudging offer of his Son for the propitiation of our malefactions. We now have an infallible expectation of blissful reunion with the Supreme Being..."

This is an inadequate summary of the lecture, which went on for an hour and twenty minutes. For much of that time, Jim sat looking bewildered among the five of us that were left. The others must have remembered some unavoidable appointments.

The doctor wasn't all that happy there wasn't a queue to buy his books and cassettes but that's life!

Dr Gumblehook said, "Have a good day!" and departed.

I waited with Jim. He turned to me and asked, "Er...how would you...?"

"Sum it up?" I suggested.

"Yes," said Jim. "What was he on about?"

After a pause I said, "He was trying to say that God loves you and so does he."

"Right on," said Jim. "That's what I thought he said. No worries, mate!"

—A.E. White

A new modern language Bible that "eliminates the English male bias" has been authorised by the US National Council of Churches. The new version will be published in the US and Britain next year. Bruce Metzger, a Princeton University New Testament scholar, who headed the 15 year project said: "We are not tampering with the gender of the deity; God is still our father and Jesus Christ is still the son of God."



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Marriages

•Bronwyn Stewart to Tony Cambareri, Brooklyn Park, SA •Grace Bary to Brendan Cole, Manifold Heights, Vic •Robin Leane to John Gilmour, Blackwood, SA •Rebecca Knights to Mark Fisher, Frankston, Vic

Deaths

•Myrtle Lewis, Brooklyn Park, SA •Mavis McKay, Manifold Heights, Vic •Mrs Lawless, Peel St, Ballarat, Vic •Bob Scott, Mildura, Vic •Laurie Cohen, Joan Becker, Frankston, Vic

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Phone (08) 231 2837

Applications close 30 June 1989

Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

BEALE, Winifred

(14.5.89) Winifred Mary was the second child born to William and Grace Waterman, missionaries to China. After nursing at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, studies at the College of the Bible and two years in Vanuatu, Win married Frank Beale. They returned to Vanuatu until Frank was called to pioneer the missionary work in New Guinea, where they served for 15 years. Returning to Australia, Win nursed at Townsville and later became State Representative for Overseas Missions. For 10 years Win has battled with failing health. Her witness to her Lord has been profound and infectious wherever she has been and we praise God for her devotion to all and in all she did. Win died in Prince Charles Hospital on Pentecost Sunday. To her husband Frank, mother Grace, sister Joan and children Marilyn, Gwenyth and John and families we extend our sympathy and love.

—Ray Patterson

BRANTON, Ernest Alfred

(6.4.89) Ern Branton died at home aged 75 years. He was a long-time member and former secretary of the Maryborough, Vic, church. A large gathering honoured Ern when Roger Risson, York St, Ballarat, conducted a service in the Maryborough chapel, prior to a private cremation in Ballarat. It represented church and Ern's community interests. He saw service in World War II (8th Australian Infantry Battalion) and served in Darwin and New Guinea. He is survived by his wife Joyce, sons John and Harold and daughters Lynette and Wendy.

—Merle Burton

EDWARDS (BRODY), Gail

(1.3.89) Born in 1956, Gail grew up in a committed and loving Christian family in Jannali, NSW. She was baptised at the age of 15, and was Sunday School teacher and Girls' Brigade leader at Penshurst, NSW, church and, later on, a DCD youth camp leader. She received her BA and Dip Ed at the University of NSW and taught social science at Ashcroft, Liverpool and Liverpool Girl's High Schools. At the latter she met and later married John. They had two sons, Andrew (deceased) and Matthew. While saddened by her early death, praise be to God for Gail's faithfulness, dedication and quiet inner strength demonstrated in both her life and her passing.

—Jeff Double

REINERTSEN, Joseph

(17.3.89) Joe Reinertsen, born in Adelaide, served in the armed forces in the Middle East. He spent most of his civilian life on ships, lighthouses and farming stations in SA and WA. While working at Camarvon, Joe's life changed dramatically when he accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour through the influence of Lance Fisher and others. While working at the Aboriginal Mission, Joe met and, on 2 November 1968, married Pauline Jones. They moved to Maryborough, Qld, in 1981. Sympathy is extended to his family, Pauline, Kris, Jon, Kathryn and Ian.

—Ray Patterson

SCOTT, Robert (Bob)

(1.5.89) Bob went to be with his Lord following a long and courageous battle with cancer. At a service of thanksgiving to God for the life of Bob, Paul Burnham (North Balwyn) spoke of Bob's strong association with the Nunawading, Vic, church over many years. As a Sunday School teacher, secretary of the Men's Society, treasurer and secretary of the Tennis Club, Bob served his Lord faithfully. Along with his wife Betty, Bob moved to Mildura three years ago, and, despite his failing health, became an active and valued member of this church family. Our prayers and love are extended to Betty and her family. Bob Scott was much loved and will be sadly missed.

—David Ratten

Qld

WARWICK (R. Goodwin) Church warmly welcomed minister and his wife into fellowship in February ... Kid's Club & Youth Group ventures progressing ... Monthly Men's Fellowship breakfast well attended ... Church is in good heart & encouraged with recent baptism of Paul Pacey & in the welcoming of him & wife ... Reaching out to community as a family in picnics, barbecues, ladies craft & coffee mornings.

EAST IPSWICH (Bruce Roberts) Good attendance at all services ... Resignation of Bruce Roberts received with regret ... Norm Flett to start a ministry here later this year ... Church appreciates the "Sing 'n' Celebrate", "Praise" & "Tribute" choirs providing special programs ... Special Mother's Day services well attended with tea organised by the Children's Church, who also arranged a family picnic on Anzac Day ... "Tiny Tots" playgroup is held each Wednesday & Thursday

Church News

for children & parents ... The Spare-timer's Club recently celebrated its 13th anniversary.

ALBION (Peter Overton) Graham Agnew gave address at combined Northside gospel service ... Peter Overton led Friday morning service at Albion during Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Catholic, Anglican, Uniting Churches & Salvation Army took part ... CWF dinner raised \$300 for support of Jill Bawden ... Touch football team is leading in its division. Best result when Peter Overton conducted devotions before match.

TOWNSVILLE (Greg Muller) Community care Committee has put a proposal before the church. A ballot to gauge the level of support will closed 13 June ... Playgroup has been running for several weeks & is well supported by the local mothers of Pimlico ... CWF have enjoyed a variety of activities lately—"Gentle Gym" led by Millie Smith, PNG morning led by Lyn Hinspeter, a luncheon for QCWF Executive on route to "Drought Breaking Retreat" in Mt Isa ... Two couples welcomed into fellowship—Paul & Narelle Crawford, Troy & Ingrid Harris.

Vic

DANDENONG (Graeme Foon, Greg Elsdon) Friday night youth group going well ... Young adults raised \$500 from dinner. Proceeds to go towards bus ... Family film night also held for bus fund ... CWF held 62nd birthday luncheon. Speaker from World Vision ... Bronwyn and Carolyn Thane graduated from Monash University with Bachelor of Science degrees ... Tracey Stafford has been hospitalised twice.

MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (Paul Downie, Max Ball) Services now commence at 10 am ... Dedication of officers & Good News teachers ... Two apple drive sales as fund raiser for GN club camp expenses ... Gerald Rose speaker for combined Geelong churches tea & service ... Afternoon tea meeting for ministers & wives ... Visiting speakers Graeme Cann, Kevin Fuller (Gideons), Ian Richardson (Tabor College) ... Mother's Day service conducted by ladies. Preacher Anne Downie, president Coral Ball.

SHEPPARTON (John Inman) Good Friday & Easter Sunday a time of healing through the power of the cross ... Eight new members, three by faith & baptism ... Board retreat with Margaret Dwyer of Sisters of Charity, Eltham ...

Young people to Berwick for weekend ... Ladies street stall raised \$582 for missions ... Louis van Laar led five weeks study on John's Gospel.

PEEL STREET, BALLARAT (L.D. Woodward) Church rejoicing in acceptance of Vince Gibbs to minister commencing 1990 ... David Woodward recently led Albany church family camp ... Tender Loving Care groups commenced in three areas of Ballarat. Approx. 20 attending ... Church rejoicing in decisions of Peter Elshaug & Seona Rankin ... Tender for building upgrade signed for \$83,177 ... Live & Learn & Afternoon Group raised over \$660 towards upgrade.

MILDURA (David Ratten) Attendance continuing high—280 Easter am, 220 Mother's Day am. Seating accommodation in chapel still crowded ... Guest interview series conducted on Sunday nights included a senior constable, school chaplain, building plasterer, the Turn On Power team ... Marriage Enrichment seminar with Brian & Joan White. 35 couples attended. Very positive responses ... Board "retreat" held on Anzac Day for future planning ... Church family camp at Lake Bonney on QB weekend.

PRESTON (J. McCormick) Roy Weir is recuperating after undergoing quadruple bypass surgery ... Hazel & Jack McCormick holidayed in Central Australia ... Seven ladies enjoyed CWF camp at Halls Gap ... Ladies entertained residents at Fred Cambridge House ... CWF had speaker from the Arthritis Foundation.

FRANKSTON (Allan Avery, P. Bowers, D. Wesley, H. Blschoff, J. Fowler) W.W. Saunders leads PSA at Greenways monthly ... Pam Bowers appointed further five years ... Mini fetes held monthly for capital account ... Peter Burnham conducted series "Faith & Personal Relationships" ... Concert held towards CCTC appeal. \$800 raised ... Ron Elbourne spoke at leaders' camp ... Series on the Holy Spirit. Speakers Ted Keating, Geoff Rowcroft & Lew Born ... Special prayers for seriously ill members.

L. C. F. Higgins

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Church News

Tas

CAVESIDE (John & Colleen Harrison) Church encouraged by visit of ministry team from MV *Doulos* while berthed in Devonport when Bagus Surjantoro (Indonesia) was speaker. John Harrison attended ministers seminar on board *Doulos*. Sunday School children & teachers participated in "Musical Celebration of Missions" & attended "Doulos International Night" at Silverdome in Launceston ... Phyllis Byard presided & Colleen Harrison preached on Mother's Day ... Sunday School family service held before school holidays with children taking part ... Jean Scott recovering after surgery in Launceston Hospital.

LAUNCESTON (Rod Foster) CWF entertained City Mission ladies with "Memories of Autumn" program on 23 May ... CWF soup & sandwich lunch on 24 May well attended ... About 80 attended Small Groups tea on 28 May when group reports given ... Church sympathises with Foster family in death of Rod's father in Hobart on 1 June ... Don Barnes & Peter Smith (WEC) filled pulpit on 4 June & children's percussion band helped in evening service.

SA

BROOKLYN PARK (G. Shaw) April family camp ... John Turner new board chairman ... Video for God's Gang club from garage sale ... Dinners in members' homes ... 6 nights, full, melodrama with dinner ... 2 teams indoor bowls ... 7 teams basketball ... 2 decisions ... Another Serendipity small group, now 40 involved ... Church saddened at death of Myrtle Lewis, foundation member.

NAILSWORTH (B. Trowbridge) Church celebrating 70th anniversary on 13 Aug. Special weekend being planned ... Sunday School undertook walkathon to raise funds for Bibles for Africa ... Weekly Kids Club numbers steady around 50 ... Crusaders Youth Group had 2 visits to MV *Doulos* ... Musical night held to encourage those with any ability to use it in service for the Lord ... Participation at 2 services by members of MV *Doulos*.

BLACKWOOD (Rob Combridge) Lively 5 pm Winter Series have begun with puppets & guest artists arranged. Theme is "Gifts of Love" ... Book of songs for children composed by Marion Palmer, Paul Grant & Helen Reed, has been published and released nation wide

... Money-raising functions for college buildings now well under way ... Talks being held with other local churches on helping meet the needs of "street kids" in area ... John Hemer hospitalised with back injury ... Robin Leane & John Gilmour (minister of Aldgate Valley) married 11 June.

GOOLWA (Graeme Ritchie) Fundraising tea held as CWF contribution to PNG missions. Julie Trinnick speaker ... South Dist Conf Pres Cliff Perkins & wife visited & joined picnic lunch at Currency Creek park ... Family camp

held with Victor Harbor church at Point Sturt ... Jim Stallard, representing Christian Missions for Blind, speaker at a morning service.

KENSINGTON PARK (J. Fewster) Attendance doubled for am service when Ann Barns baptised ... Monthly gospel services reaching extra people ... Appreciation of ministry in community ... Prayer Fellowship meetings on other Sunday evenings ... Lionel & Amy Gear welcomed to fellowship from Victor Harbor ... AGM well attended, elders, deacons, publicity committee appointed ... Much blessing &

challenge through ministry of crew of ship MV *Doulos*.

WA

CARNARVON (Donald Bone) Administrators of Olive Laird Hostel on holiday in Melbourne. Vic & Nan Collyer once more filling in for them ... Donald Bone presented Christian message on local radio ... CWF celebrated Mother's Day & honoured oldest & youngest mothers, Mrs Elizabeth McCrae & Mrs Chris Holliday.

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**Target 2000
Great Commission
Torch Run**



On Easter Sunday 1988 a flame was lit on the Mount of Ascension, just outside Jerusalem. This was the beginning of the Target 2000 Great Commission Torch Run.

The aim of the torch run is to carry the flame around the globe, and in doing so call Christian young people to take the light of Christ to every people on the face of earth. There still remain some 16,000 unreached people groups who have not heard the gospel message. If these peoples are to be reached barriers of language, culture, geography and even political barriers must be crossed.

When the torch reaches the second Lausanne Conference for World Evangelisation, which is being held in Manilla in the Philippines, commencing on 11 July, the torch will have made its first lap of the globe. In doing so over 1 million young people will have carried the flame.

In May 1988 a flame that was lit from the original flame arrived in Australia, and was run from Sydney to Canberra for the National Gathering at the time of the opening of the new Parliament House. There it was commissioned to go throughout Australia. So far this flame has almost circumnavigated Australia via the Princes Highway. Before it leaves the country the flame will be run from Adelaide to Darwin.

As the route has left out much of the population of country Australia copies of the original flame will be kept in Australia for local runs throughout the nation. The international organisers of this event, Youth With A Mission, will be making the flame available to Christian groups around the country who wish to participate.

On 24 June, in Melbourne, a special concert featuring singer/songwriter Steve Grace will be staged at Flemington Racecourse, not only to celebrate the arrival of

the torch to Melbourne, but also to take the message of the challenge to world missions back to local congregations.

Details of the Target 2000 Great Commission Torch Run can be obtained from YWAM offices in each state. Details of the Melbourne concert can be obtained from Victorian Co-ordinator, David Skeat, 1 Kent Rd, Surrey Hills 3127. Phone (03) 836 0221.



Two broadly based Christian agencies—the Bible Society and Scripture Union—have joined forces to promote the setting aside of a Sunday in the church year to focus on the Bible. This year National Bible Sunday is 16 July.

Commenting on the need for this special emphasis, Ron Buckland, Scripture Union's National Director said: "It is precisely because the Bible has such a central place in the life of the church that we need to be reminded not to take it for granted. The old one-liner remains true—it's the least read best seller. More than 30% of regular church goers read the Bible less than once per month—it makes me wonder how we can build Christian values into our lives with such levels of biblical input."

Strengthening the focus of the day, the Old Testament reading for 16 July contains the words: "You know it and can quote it, so now obey it." (Deuteronomy 30:14)

A mailing sent to all ministers includes a poster for church notice boards, a sample service sheet and a leaflet full of ideas for creative celebrations of the day, including at least three sermon outlines.

The Last Word

Man may dismiss compassion from his heart, but God will never.

—William Cowper

A young man in writing to his prospective father-in-law said: "I hope my recent appointment as Curator of the Museum of Antiquities will induce you to trust your daughter to my care."

The new maid came rushing frantically into the house.

"Someone has run off with your car, sir!" she exclaimed.

"Good Heavens!" said her employer. "Did you see what he looked like?"

"No, sir, I didn't stop to look, but I did take the number of the car for you!"

A shoplifter caught stealing a ring from a jewellery shop pleaded, "Please don't call the police, I'll be glad to pay for it."

When the cashier presented him with the bill, he said, "That's a little more than I'd planned to spend. Could you show me something less expensive?"

It is a commentary on our age when an adult Sunday School teacher says, as one did recently, "Now let's turn to Channel 7." She really meant to say, "Hebrews 7!"

An older couple in our church was observed Sunday after Sunday holding hands. It seemed just wonderful—being so much in love after so many years. One day the woman was asked about it and she said, "Oh, it's not so much love. I'm just trying to keep him from cracking his knuckles and disturbing the preacher."

"You know, megalomania and an inferiority complex can actually go together."

"How's that?"

"Take a man who's sure he's got the greatest inferiority complex in the world."



The best way to enjoy a beautiful productive garden is to live next door to one and cultivate your neighbour.



SUBSCRIPTION FORM

PO BOX 101, ESSENDON NORTH 3041

NAME:

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AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ CHURCH

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- \$8 REST OF YEAR IF RECOMMENDED BY A CURRENT SUBSCRIBER

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