

# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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## Jeff Weston's Outback Trek

*Matthew Weston (12), Jeff Weston, minister of the Collins Street, Hobart, Tas, church, and Len Black at the beginning of their outback evangelical expedition*

—story on page 4

[Photograph courtesy of *The Hobart Mercury*]

# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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Chris Ambrose

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Address for All Correspondence  
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PO Box 101

North Essendon 3041  
Telephone (03) 379 1219  
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## Guest Editorial

• Church planting is one of the keys to reaching people for Christ and especially so in new areas where people are in transition and searching for a group to belong to.

### Planting New Churches

by Des Croot

Just over three years ago I answered the call of God to plant a church in a new suburb, after 24 years of traditional ministry.

It was hard work but it resulted in the marvellous provision of God in every step of faith. That experience and the role I play in the Brotherhood now have given me a vital interest and a few ideas on church planting as a process of spreading the gospel and "making disciples" in obedience to the Great Commission: "As you go into all the work make disciples..." (My translation of Matthew 28:19).

When members are transferred to country centres in their work, or when they move to outer suburbs, we often lose them from our Brotherhood, but they can be the key to new church planting. They have the natural desire to join a larger group of fellow Christians with all the benefits (especially for the children in the family). This means that people in these categories often travel some distance back to their original church, or they join another denomination nearby.

I have observed that in situations like this many of our members have become the very backbone of a local Baptist or Uniting Church and have benefited spiritually from the experience. But it can mitigate against us ever commencing a church in that area in the future. I suggest that as well as joining another group (providing fellowship and support, particularly for the children), we should encourage

our members to set up a weekly Lord's Supper and fellowship service at another time on the Sunday. Obviously this has various advantages. We do not have to compromise our beliefs; it may save us causing tension in the other fellowship, for there is a natural tendency to try and change any church to fit our beliefs; it allows the group to follow through our New Testa-



ment distinctives such as baptism (especially of those God uses us to bring to salvation). It also provides a cohesive group for the beginnings of a new Church of Christ fellowship at the appropriate time.

Church planting is one of the keys to reaching people for Christ and especially so in new areas where people are in transition and searching for a group to belong to. I see an example in one of our ministers, who as one of the first to build in a new area, became a vital coun-

sellor, guide and father figure for the suburb. My experience is that a new church allows men who haven't had the same Christian involvement as their wives to take the opportunity to become involved without feeling so inferior.

Those early days, while the church is smaller and relationships are more like a family, allow for the setting of the vision and goals, the styling of a church appropriate to the age and culture of the day. It allows Christian faith to be interpreted without the binding traditions that tend

eventually to be looked on as "theology". It allows us to take a new look at people "as they are" and provide a church that will meet the needs of the people we are winning.

There are of course problems and I want to warn of two. As the founder, there is the real danger that it becomes "your church" and a few years down the track you could well be the one who holds it back from growing. Secondly, there is

also the danger that when you do have a vital, relevant and visionary church, other believers will be attracted by that vitality, but unconsciously bring their hidden agendas. The result can be that they set about cutting the church down to their size and style, even though they have joined you because they were disillusioned by their previous fellowship for this very style.

**"I have often dreamed about teams of lay people and/or ministers deliberately moving into one area to plant new churches"**

# People

## Queen's Birthday Honours

In the Queen's Birthday honours announced on 14 June there were four people associated with Churches of Christ who were honoured.

### Syd Bagley OAM



Sydney Richard Bagley of Mulgoa, NSW, was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the craft of stonemasonry and to the training of young people. Syd, an active member of the Penrith, NSW, church and a respected laypreacher in the area, has been responsible for the restoration of many historic buildings. He also built the chapel at the Woolwich Bible College. Last year he supervised 24 unemployed young people and trained them as stonemasons in the erection of a large visitor's centre and headquarters for the National Parks and Wildlife Service at Govett's Leap in the Blue Mountains.

### Keith Horne OAM

Keith Douglas Horne of Clovelly Park, SA, was awarded an OAM for his service to the community. Keith is currently part of the ministry team at the Marion, SA, church and State Minister for Churches of Christ in South Australia. Keith's award was for community service in both SA and Victoria, when he was ministering at Doncaster.

Community service noted included the establishment of the YMCA in Doncaster, involvement in Doncare, the es-



establishment of a new hospital for the aged, involvement with Alcoholics Anonymous and Alanon, all in Doncaster. His noted community service at Marion included establishment of the Marion Community Centre. For four years he ran the Christmas relief program for the southern area of Adelaide and also for four years was Chairman of the Marion Community Forum.

### Beverley Moyes AM



Beverley Margaret Moyes was awarded an honour as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to the community. Beverley is the wife of Gordon Moyes, currently Superintendent of the Wesley Central Mission in Sydney.

Beverley, along with a band of volunteers, has raised over \$1 million, using only traditional methods and volunteers, for the Wesley Central Mission in Sydney. The funds raised

have helped to provide for Sydney's homeless, Vietnamese orphans, aged people and children in care.

### Keith Russack OAM



Edwin Keith Russack of Kadina, SA, received an OAM for his service to the community and to the South Australian Parliament.

Keith was a Liberal Party member of the SA Legislative Council in 1970-73 and the member for Gouger in the House of Assembly in 1973-77. This was followed by a term of office as member for Goyder in 1977-82. Keith served as a councillor of the Keith Council for eight years and mayor for three years.

Keith has been a member of the Kadina, SA, church for 61 years following his baptism at the age of 10. In the local church he has served as a Sunday School teacher, youth leader, deacon, elder, president of the Men's Fellowship, a trustee and was President of the Northern District Conference of Churches of Christ in 1958-59.

### L. C. F. Higgins

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I believe this church planting model needs to be taken up by ministers as well as laymen. It could be a "tent making" ministry similar to my experience, or it could be a "dual role" ministry to begin with. Early retirement is also another avenue to explore. We are using these styles of ministries increasingly for team ministry—why not in planting new churches? I have often dreamed about teams of lay people and/or ministers deliberately moving into one area to plant new churches. What a creative way to use our modern tendency of changing homes to suit changing family circumstances.

Whatever we do—let's plant churches! If we don't we are planning to die!

• *Des Croot grew up on a farm in Morawa, WA, and became a member of the small church there, being elected to the board at 18. In 1958-61 he trained at the NSW College (Woolwich) and in 1963 married Lyn Ewers. They have three sons, one daughter (David, Paul, Andrew and Michelle), a daughter-in-law and one grandson.*

*All his ministries have been in WA (Kalamunda, Cottesloe, Wembley and Applecross). In 1986 he planted a new church in a "tent maker" role at Murdoch University. He continues as honorary minister to this church and has a full-time associate and a part-time youth minister working with him. He completed a BA (Social Science) in 1976 part-time and was Conference President in WA 1979-80.*

*Des is in his second year as Mission and Extension Officer for Churches of Christ in WA with the Home Missionary and Properties Committees, is manager of the Mutual Fund and Chairman of the Advisory Committee.*

## Survey

The yellow Reader Survey sheets are pouring into *The Australian Christian* office! If you haven't returned your survey, there's still time to do so.

## Jeff Weston's Outback Trek

(See picture on page 1)

Special crocodile attack insurance has been taken out for an outback evangelical expedition to be led by the minister of the Collins St, Hobart, church, Jeff Weston.

Jeff, his 12 year old son Matthew, and a former traffic cop turned Christian broadcaster, Len Black, will brave knee-deep bulldust, 40° heat as well as crocodile infested rivers on a 9,000 kilometre trek visiting Aboriginal communities in Australia's inhospitable Top End.

The expedition, on specially modified trail bikes and a four-wheel drive utility, will be led by Jeff, who was the minister of the Darwin Church of Christ before he came to Hobart about 12 months ago. He is a member of the Federal Aborigines Board.

Len is a regular broadcaster on Hobart's Christian radio station, 7HFC-FM, and a member of the Collins St congregation.

The three from Hobart will be joined on the expedition by a group of five members of the Peninsula Bible Church at Palo Alto, in California's Silicon Valley.

Members of the American church, which has about 6,000 members, regularly spend their holidays on expeditions working with remote communities, which have included South American Indians and Alaskan Eskimos.

Jeff met the church members during a study tour of the US in 1987 as the Australian Christian Foundation Scholar. The expedition was suggested, and Jeff, whose pastoral area then

covered the entire Northern Territory and a lot of Queensland, discussed it with Aboriginal communities, who were keen to invite the American visitors.

The journey from Darwin to Cairns, across the Top End and Gulf Country, will be by tracks through scrub, rocky cliffs, and knee-deep bulldust. Many of the tracks are barely discernible, and in other places none exist.

They left Darwin on 5 July and expect to take about two weeks to get to Cairns.

They will visit not only Aborigines living in bush communities such as Boolooloolooloo, Doomadgee, Dorunda and Mareeba, but also urban Aborigines in Darwin, Katherine and Cairns.

Jeff said the Aborigines wanted to talk to the visiting Americans about their Christian struggles and to learn from the scriptures.

He said the Aboriginal communities were facing similar social problems to the whites—unemployment, alcoholism, poverty—but the problems were compounded by the fact that they had to come to terms as well with their Aboriginality in a white environment.

As well as doing practical things like painting out the Aboriginal church at Normanston, an isolated township in the Queensland Gulf Country, the expeditioners will share with the Aboriginal people their religious concepts and Christian experiences.

While Jeff, Len and Matthew and the American motorcyclists are heading for Cairns from Darwin the hard way, a second party from the Palo Alto

church—seven expeditioners, mainly women—will travel by campervan in the other direction, leaving the East Coast via highway routes and meeting the first group at Normanston.

They will conduct seminars and weekend retreats in churches en route.

Jeff said the Americans were keen to learn of the Aboriginal spirituality, and the Aborigines wanted to know about Christianity in the US.

For Jeff Weston it will be a case of returning to communities that were part of his pastoral area during his seven years in Darwin, when he would travel anything up to 5,000 kilometres several times a year on visits to remote Aboriginal and cattle station communities.

He says the trip will be dangerous—not only because of isolation and the savage environment but also because heavy rains in the region will mean flooded, crocodile-infested rivers will have to be crossed. "But I'm looking forward to it," he said. "It will be an exciting time."

Jeff, Len and Matthew will

travel in the four-wheel drive Nissan Patrol utility, especially adapted to handle the conditions. They and the motorcyclists (riding on specially equipped and adapted Yamaha TT600s) will travel together, but as a precaution will be in touch via sophisticated communication equipment, which will also enable them to call in help if there is trouble.

The expedition, to cost about \$50,000, has been about two and a half years in the planning, and will be financed by the Peninsula Bible Church, except for the air fares of Len and Matthew.

Jeff is well trained in survival techniques. Not only does he know much of the area from his seven years in the Northern Territory, but he spent three years in Papua New Guinea as a carpenter working with the Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board.

—Wayne Crawford

There are more than 1,500,000 worship centres, churches and congregations around the world and 1,600 new churches start up each day.

A special edition of the Amharic Bible for the Ethiopian Orthodox Church has been published. This is the first publication with all of the 81 books in Ethiopian. About half of Ethiopia's 42 million people are members of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.

## Dandenong Moving

The Dandenong, Vic, church has been meeting at Mason Street for 32 years. They are holding their last service in this complex on 16 July.

They will be commencing worship services at Cleland High School Hall, 23 Ann

Street, Dandenong, on the following Sunday. The worship services and Sunday School will be held at 10 am and the evening services will be held at 7 pm. They will be meeting at this venue until their new complex is completed.

### NAILSWORTH Church of Christ celebrates its 70th Anniversary All past members and friends are invited

Guest speaker: Peter de Wildt

Saturday, 12 August, at 7 pm

"Welcome Back to Nailsworth"

Sunday, 13 August

10.30 am Thanksgiving Service

followed by

Fellowship Luncheon

6.30 pm Evening Worship

Service

For further details contact:

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RSVP by 31 July

### NORTHCOTE'S FAREWELL TRIBUTE TO THE LATE WILL ATKIN

The Northcote, Vic, Church of Christ gives thanks for the life of the late Will Atkin, who is now with Christ, having died on 14 June 1989. For 52 years he was a vital part of the life of the church, serving as minister (1936-45), then as a member of the Church Board and Elder, a wise counsellor and caring friend of all. Ever remembered with affection and esteem.

## Traffic Stops as Church Moves



Police stopping traffic in Berwick while procession moves to new chapel

A 400 strong procession stopped traffic in High St, Berwick, Vic, on 2 April, to mark the relocation of the Berwick church, the third in its 103 year history.

In an emotional final service at the Lyall Road chapel minister Geoff Rowcroft told the standing room only congregation that the church's home was not a building but wherever people gathered together.

100 children sang a specially written song by Liz Smith and young Jared Heath ceremoniously locked the chapel doors before the congregation proceeded to new temporary premises in Enterprise Ave.

A specially made tapestry banner, donated by local artist Nola Gibson, led the procession.

Two well-known sisters, Olive and Daphne Meyer, who between them have over 50 years involvement in the church, ceremoniously un-

locked the doors of the new premises.

Acknowledgement was made of Les Reader, who chaired the relocation committee, and church secretary Emmy Dupuy.

The first meetings of the Berwick church were held in homes last century until a house in Peel St became the chapel. In 1886 the church moved to the chapel in High St, then in 1972 the Lyall Rd chapel was built.

This chapel is now a funeral parlour operated by Tobin Brothers. They purchased the chapel for \$1 million.

The Berwick church will remain in the renovated warehouse in Enterprise Ave until a new chapel on a 12 acre site in Centre Rd is completed.

*Story adapted with permission from reports in the Pakenham Gazette.*

*Photographs also used with permission from the Pakenham Gazette.*



Olive and Daphne Meyer, who unlocked the doors of the new chapel

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Dean Sander

## Vic-Tas Ministers' Camp

In all 93 ministers from Victoria and Tasmania attended the Vic-Tas Ministers' Association camp held at Camp Waterman in May. The main speaker was Rowland Croucher who spoke on stress and spirituality in the ministry. His insights and experience were greatly valued.

The Bible studies were provided by Dr Greg Elsdon who examined several passages in 1 Corinthians and their message to the minister and the church in a time of conflict.

Dr Keith Hinton, missions lecturer at the Bible College of Victoria, spoke on the implications of John Wimber's ministry for the local church. Keith, who had been a missionary in Indonesia and Singapore with OMF completed his PhD in studies on renewal and church growth. Keith reminded the ministers that throughout church history there has always been the swinging of the pendulum from the traditional to the progressive. He described the present movement for renewal in the church as a corrective to some of the more traditional structures that we have seen in the past.

At camp this year several electives were offered. Representatives from Operation Mobilization spoke on the visit of *Doulos* to Melbourne, Check Chia spoke about establishing ethnic congregations and Chris Ambrose spoke about resources for ministers.

The final night was inspired

by the worship resources of Jeff and Lynn Oliver from the Berwick church.

*Ministers' Association Committee*

The new committee for the Ministers' Association is Barry Jenkins (President), Graeme Chapman (Vice-President), Peter Pitts (Secretary), Keith Milne (Treasurer) and Ron White, Wally Gibney, Cheryl Johnson, Rod Brown, Pam Bowers and Keith Pitt.

—Barry Jenkins

The 1989 Christian Business Men's Committee's Annual Sports Focus Award dinner will held on 21 August at Rembrandts in Wantirna, Vic. The speaker will be Brian Booth. Brochures can be obtained by phoning (03) 314 1155.

All but emergency humanitarian aid to China should be suspended according to Russell Rollason, Executive Director of ACFOA. He said, "There is a case for emergency assistance for the victims of the violence to continue but the commercially oriented economic development projects should be suspended." Australian aid to China in 1988-89 totals \$22 million.

A seminar and an open forum on women in ministry is to be held at the Doncaster, Vic, church on 11 July conducted by David and Jeannette Scholer. For details contact World Vision on (03) 699 8522.

## Russell Wesley Recovering

We reported in the 3 June issue that Russell Wesley, CCEs Chaplain at Geelong High School and a graduate from the College of the Bible, underwent a heart transplant operation at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne on 24 May.

Russell has had a dramatic recovery from the operation, is now at home and is under no

restrictions on his activities or diet. He was able to return home only five weeks after the operation. He is scheduled to return to his chaplaincy appointment at the beginning of the fourth term.

Russell is planning to write an article on his experiences and their effect on his faith in a coming issue.

## Church Organ Music Workshop

American organist and church music clinician Jonas Nordwall, BMus, will feature at a church organ music workshop to be held at the Cheltenham, Vic, church on Thursday, 27 July, at 7.45 pm. The subjects to be covered will include hymn and chorus accompaniment, choral accompaniment, the art of organ registration and MIDI

applications in modern and traditional church organ music. The evening is being organised by Pianos Plus of Cheltenham, who are supplying a Rodgers Essex 645 organ for the occasion.

Admission is free, but telephone Darcey How at Pianos Plus, (03) 583 0590, if you are planning to attend.

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## A Mission Nearly Impossible to Roxby Downs

Paul's missionary journeys were an inspiration to a group from Balaklava and Owen, SA, churches to tackle a missionary feat of their own. A mission team of 12, which later grew to 34, was led by Graham Lawrie to Roxby Downs in the far north of SA.

Paul sailed the sea and the unprecedented heavy deluge that poured onto the area at the time made our team wish they too had a boat. Our missionaries made it through the mud and torrential rain, around ravine size washaways in the roads and alongside flights of water birds heading for the biggest fill in Lake Torrens in recorded history to achieve their aim of encouraging and reaching out to help the United Protestant congregation under the ministry of two Anglicans, Rev Colin and Mrs Ruth Nelson. Personal assistance came from members of the Balaklava Anglican and Uniting churches and Assemblies of God.

The week's activities began with a door knock to meet the people, ascertain needs, seek any not linked with a church, give encouragement and offer a New Testament.

Nigel Mann, Charlene Shepherd and their helpers were overwhelmed by the response to the children's program RASH (Roxby After



Margaret Smyth and Spot the Clown with Roxby school children

School Happyhour). The attendance peaked at 120, which was triple the number expected. The gospel was presented with stories, songs, scripture and videos. Happy and Spot, two very colourful clowns (alias Ian Shepherd and Grant Catford), provided more fun and fellowship.

The men shared a prayer breakfast and tea meeting, which endeavoured to cater for

the shiftworking miners.

Yvonne Webb, Margaret Smyth and Beverly Blacket had to double the Coffee Hour meetings to cater for the interest from the women from Olympic Dam, Andamooka and Roxby.

RI seminars were conducted at the two schools and the team shared in daily devotions and on-the-spot training sessions.

The local Balaklava musical

group, "One Accord", excelled themselves in leading an open-air concert on the Saturday night. They were capably assisted by the Balaklava combined youth groups.

Church services in these two isolated towns have been conducted by Rev Colin Nelson, who greatly appreciated the friendship and support for two Sundays from Rev George Thomas (Christ Church Anglican, Balaklava), Philip Gardner (Owen Combined Congregation) and Graham Lawrie (Balaklava Church of Christ).

The mission team enjoyed their first insight into life in a mining community, meeting shift workers, travelling underground, inspecting the mines, eating numerous luncheons prepared by Ruth Nelson, and getting a feel of the outback eight hours drive north of Adelaide.

Christian ministry in Roxby Downs is a challenging and difficult task with varying shifts making it difficult for people to meet together and with a rapidly changing population. Balaklava will continue to support them in prayer.

—Daphne Clark



Phillip Gardner and Spot the Clown at Happyhour

# Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR LEBANON

To the Editor,

The Australian Lebanese Ladies Aid Fund is a non-political and non-religious organisation, inaugurated at the outbreak of the Lebanese war to help alleviate the pain and suffering of the Lebanese people.

As you are no doubt aware, conditions in Lebanon are continuing to deteriorate rapidly. There appears to be no political or material solution.

For this reason we are appealing to you and to congregations throughout Australia to join with us in a National Day of Prayer asking God to grant a peaceful, just and lasting solution to Lebanon's problems.

This prayerful appeal has the full support and blessing of all Lebanese religious leaders in Australia, both Christian and Muslim.

The weekend of 14-16 July has been chosen for this National Day of Prayer for Lebanon.

We ask you to support us by including prayers for Lebanon in your services of worship on this weekend.

We have great faith in the power of our combined prayers and we all know that our great God will leave no prayer unanswered.

—Mrs Y. Malouf  
(President)

## LOVE HOMOSEXUALS

To the Editor,

I have no difficulty in loving the homosexual person ("AC" 6 May and 3 June). I enjoy their company. I laugh with them when they laugh, and suffer with them when they suffer. In their suffering I embrace them and pray with them.

I accept that I, and they, and each person who reads this, is a sinner. I know that I, like every other person, still commit sin. The good news is that God forgives us our sin in Christ. This reality motivates me to obey Paul's injunction "Bekind

to one another—tender hearted, forgiving, as God in Christ forgives you."

This approach towards people I find far more blessed than to assess them for real or imagined sinful behaviour. It makes living a gayful experience.

—Louis van Laar  
(Northcote, Vic)

## COMMONWEALTH BANK PROTEST

To the Editor,

I have re-read my comments ("AC" 6 May) and those of Milton Oliver also, and I am quite unable to see how it can be justly said that either took "an exaggerated form". And what is this about "Christian forbearance"? Surely Jack Ludbrook ("AC" 3 June) does not suggest we should quietly accept deceit and dishonesty in the community. If, as he suggests, "the report was used for its news value and as a marker of the churches' interest in social justice", the church should be seen and heard in opposition to objectionable means being used to achieve that end.

—A. Augustine  
(Chelsea, Vic)

## AMERICAN DIVISIONS

To the Editor,

The divisions between the various branches of the Restoration Movement in the USA (Don Stewart, F.D. Craig, "AC" 20 May) involve complex historical, social and theological issues. Most mainline Protestant denominations in the USA divided during the Civil War of 1861-65. The loose confederation of Christian Churches/Churches of Christ stayed together until the beginning of the 20th century when the non-instrumental churches of Christ began registering as a separate group in the US census of 1906. The so-called "independents" finally split from the Disciples in the 1960s when a revised national structure seemed to threaten local church autonomy.

However, these historical rifts were to some extent the manifestation of underlying theological differences, includ-

ing the direction of the Restoration Movement itself. Even so, neat theological stereotyping such as "liberal" or "conservative" is misleading.

While we may be sad at these developments, it is important for us not to see "goodies" and "baddies" in the US situation, or to align ourselves with one faction or another. Theological education was a significant factor in the rift in the American churches and we should avoid importing the American problems by allowing our theological colleges to drift into strong alliances with any one group.

While one may deplore the administrative weaknesses of our Conference arrangements, they have served us well in maintaining a sense of coherence and direction. The World Convention can play a similar role internationally and it is important for us to stay in dia-

logue with other restorationist groups by strongly supporting its ministry.

—H.E. Hayward  
(Berowra, NSW)

## RESTORATION OR RUIN

To the Editor,

I write to applaud Keith Farmer's statement in the recent Pamphlet Club No. 363 "Ministry and Church—Restoration or Ruin" ("AC" 3 June supplement). Many would say it is negative to raise such issues. I found the statement very challenging, very realistic and very positive and would make these reflections:

• "Individual churches need to examine themselves." The question is how to challenge churches to do this without them going on the offensive and seeing such an examination as an admission of failure and therefore to be avoided at all costs.

# Letters from Tertius

## A "Trip" Overseas

To the Editor,

Now that our children can look after themselves my wife and I considered an overseas trip. So we read and re-read the armful of literature that we got from the travel agents. We discovered two things.

The first was that we had better see Australia first. Overseas trips of any substance are beyond our budget.

The second was in a pictorial brochure showing spectacular scenery and fantastic events in a number of overseas countries. Our discovery was the solemn statement that over and above the total cost of each tour one should allow 10% of the actual price for alcoholic beverages.

I worked out how much grog that was and wondered what was the point of advertising the scenery and events in the brochure if the clients were too blotto to appreciate them. It seems an expensive way of going on a boozier when it could be done so much more cheaply at home, and see as much anyway.

I recalled some people we know who have come home from overseas trips and talked mostly about the grog they sloshed and didn't seem to remember much about the scenery, except that if you've seen one mountain, or lake or ruin, you've seen the lot. But they remembered all the pubs.

I hadn't heard before that when you go on an overseas trip you are supposed to set aside a tithe for the Lord Bacchus. Apparently this is in return for his guarantee that you will enjoy yourself without being bored by such things as the Jungfrau, the Norwegian fjords, the Canadian Rockies, the castles of England, and all sorts of diverse people.

Yours soberly,

—Tertius

# Letters to the Editor

• The emerging dimension of spirituality to excite and challenge the church as a personal experience of a relationship with Jesus. Our church community needs to be an environment to encourage the discovery and growth of this relationship.

• The great challenge of our members is to take risks and be vulnerable in order for renewal to occur.

• I agree that Australians are searching for a caring relationship with Jesus. We have to present Jesus in a contemporary way that communicates this to these people. This means we must address the question of the necessity of change.

Thanks Keith. Your statement is a great challenge and encouragement to our churches. I pray that we will respond.

—Greg Shaw

(Brooklyn Park, SA)

[Additional copies of Keith Farmer's Pamphlet Club contribution are available from the Federal Literature Department.]

## PUTTING THE CHRISTIAN VIEW TO THE NATION

To the Editor,

During May members of the Department of Christian Union, with the President of the Vic-Tas Conference, Phyl Davis, and some VCC delegates met with David Gill, the Secretary of the Australian Council of Churches, in a "sharing discussion".

David Gill restated the place of the ACC in the Australian church scene:

• There are 13 member churches in the ACC, which is their "servant"; it is not a bureaucracy.

• The ACC is not and cannot be a member of the WCC; only churches can be members of such councils.

• David Gill's role is to discover the mind of churches and to act in agreement with that. He responds also to the decisions from the bi-annual general meetings.

• There are seven commis-

sions within the ACC—World Christian Action, Faith and Order, Mission, Church and Society, Aborigines and Islanders, Status of Women, Church on International Affairs. All are responsible to the ACC member churches through the general meetings—where our delegates participate—and through the Executive.

He showed how the funding by Churches of Christ and others needs urgent review so that the Council can fulfil its role in Australia for member churches.

As we talked it was clear that the Council was an accepted vehicle for the churches to put the gospel aspects on domestic issues to the Government and business bodies, impacting on justice, morals and peace in Australia.

—T.A. Banks

(Chairman, DCU)

## WHO WILL LEAD?

To the Editor,

Don Stewart's editorials ("AC" 18 March and 22 April) and Keith Farmer's Pamphlet Club ("AC" 3 June) raise some critical issues facing our churches as we move into the 1990s. One question concerning me is: "Who will lead the way ahead?" Given we are all subject to Jesus, the head of the body, how are we to be led forward as a movement, under his Lordship?

At Federal Conference it was made clear there is no federal mandate for leadership. Similarly, state conferences have little authority to lead our movement.

Many of our local churches seem more committed to maintaining tradition than leading into new areas of worship and witness. All too few of our elderships understand their role of strong leadership.

Perhaps it is time for us to discover ways in which we can simultaneously surrender some of the aspects of our autonomy whilst keeping the strengths of local relevance, in order to participate together in the wider dreams and goals we can have as a movement. At the same time we must discover ways of identifying and giving

recognition to those who, by their spiritual giftedness and fruit are the leaders God is calling to our movement.

—Geoff Payne  
(Prospect, SA)

## CHILD SPONSORSHIP

To the Editor,

Action in response to world poverty is what the Gospel is all about.

An increasing number of people are questioning the place of child sponsorship in combatting poverty.

To Rose Gale ("AC" 17 June) all I can suggest is that not all within the Save the Children International network share her understanding.

Save the Children—Canada has terminated its child sponsorship program altogether and replaced it with community sponsorship.

This now "frees it from the burdensome task of keeping letters flowing between children and their sponsors and liberates resources for community development".

As one of their staff admits, "We have fallen to the temptation of using children in fund raising in a not particularly appropriate way considering our commitment to community development." Save the Children—USA has a policy of stressing community development and provides no individual aid.

Perhaps the time has come for Save the Children—Australia to look again at child sponsorship.

Perhaps even Rose Gale's branch could start the process by asking their partners in Canada and the USA why they've given up child sponsorship.

—Alan Matheson  
(Hawthorn, Vic)

## TAX SPLITTING

To the Editor,

It's not logical to condemn income tax splitting on the grounds that "it favours wealthy families".

Wealthy families have always managed to income split for tax purposes through family companies and similar lurks.

## NATIONAL BIBLE SUNDAY IS ON AGAIN THIS YEAR

SUNDAY 16 JULY 1989

We have a fist full of items to help you make your celebration of National Bible Sunday worthwhile.


National Bible Sunday's main aim is to get people reading the Bible and to encourage people already reading to dig a little deeper.

There is a Poster announcing the date, an Ideas Sheet full of program suggestions for the day, a Scripture leaflet containing suitable readings and a 30-day Bible Reading Guide.


Samples and supplies are as far away as your phone.

Call your nearest Bible Society or Scripture Union Office now.



 THE BIBLE SOCIETY

NBS 1989 2

 SCRIPTURE UNION AUSTRALIA

# Letters to the Editor

To legislate for income tax splitting simply extends this option to PAYE workers also.

Social justice demands that it should be done.

—Arnold Jago  
(Mildura, Vic)

## THE LOGOS FOUNDATION

To the Editor,

At the recent Vic-Tas Conference Gerald Rose (Conference President) in the course of an address quoted *The Age* as asserting a link between the Logos Foundation and the League of Rights and in consequence Gerald warned against the Logos Foundation.

While I do not hold with everything the Logos Foundation and its Director, Harold Carter, says or does, I am concerned when wrong information is perpetuated by our leaders without giving adequate substantiation.

In a letter to me Howard Carter states: "Concerning the League of Rights, we want to make it clear that we have no legal or administrative links with them in any way, neither have we at any point sponsored League speakers or shared a platform with them."

"If out of its concern for 'God, Queen and Country' the League has aligned itself with causes parallel to ours we have been grateful but continue to determine our own agenda out of our commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Gerald has every right to speak against specific activities or planks in the platform of the

Logos Foundation if that is his conviction but let him always check out the facts before quoting the media.

—Ken Clinton  
(Melbourne, Vic)

## YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

To the Editor,

The ABC documentary "Nobody's Children" has drawn attention to the changing face of youth homelessness.

Teenagers who leave home over a dispute about watching TV or what time they should be in are vanishing. In their place are young people from families with inadequate incomes where there has been traumatic breakdown, sexual and physical abuse and domestic violence.

Leaving home is no longer a soft option—something they do for kicks. For many young people it is absolutely essential.

There have been dramatic changes in the situation at Stopover, Melbourne City Mission's emergency youth refuge.

Two years ago, one in four of the homeless young people who came to Stopover went back home. Today most of them have no family to go back to.

Nearly half the young people seeking help have left home because of income related matters such as (a) they were unemployed; (b) they couldn't afford to pay the rent and had been evicted; (c) they had been living with other young people to ease the financial burden of

high rents and couldn't cope with the overcrowding.

Another disturbing trend is the number of homeless people with dependent children. They are desperately trying to stay together as a family, but have no chance of buying their own house and cannot afford to pay high rents.

Several things can be done to address the problem:

- There must be more affordable, secure, medium- to long-term housing.

- We need more family intervention and family support programs.

- Homeless young people need reasonable, realistic incomes. Because benefits are so low many young people are forced into antisocial behaviour to survive.

By taking such actions now, we can encourage our young people to take control of their own lives and live with dignity.

—D.N. Saltmarsh  
(Executive Director,  
Melbourne City Mission)

*[This letter is longer than the usual 200 word limit but I have allowed it to be published because of the importance of its content—Editor]*

## WHITHER OR WITHER COMMUNION?

To the Editor,

Which way communion?

What value do we place upon this act of service and worship?

In our day of "fast foods" it seems we are creating the quick communion.

This is most evident in some evening services where it has a "sip and dip" atmosphere.

It is creeping into the morning service where the impression is given, "Let's get this over and done with fast so as to finish in the hour."

The question I ponder is, "What are we teaching consciously and unconsciously about communion to our youth?"

From listening too and talking with young people it appears that communion is something that is done because it is part of the church's program. This "done-ness" is very evi-

dent where young people see no need for faithful attendance at the morning service but turn up in droves for the item-centred, short-sermon evening program.

I believe we should cancel or severely limit evening communion to save it from irrelevance or irreverence.

I see no reason why people should be pampered with a "religious" act simply because they cannot make the effort for morning worship/communion/teaching.

Maybe it is time for consideration of where communion fits into the up-market services we are keen to present.

If we are treating this memorial service lightly and thus grieving the Holy Spirit, no amount of praise time, professional presentations or polished preaching will compensate.

Is it whither or wither communion?

—R.N. Hawkins  
(Maitland, NSW)

*[This letter has been edited to bring it closer to the 200 word limit for Letters to the Editor.]*

## CHRISTIANS ENJOY LIFE

To the Editor,

I read with interest the article titled "Minister's Red Face" ("AC" 3 June).

My husband and I enjoyed "The Complainers" and the act was superb. Thank you Geoff and John for your witness. I believe you proved a point—Christians can laugh and enjoy comedy.

I was a little dismayed but not surprised that the act was knocked. To me, I am sure the Lord would rather have us laughing at "good, clean fun" than "smutty, off inuendous".

The fact that one member of "The Complainers" is a minister makes no difference to me. Perhaps it will give Geoff more opportunities to witness?

I am grateful that at Murwillumbah we have been blessed with a minister who has a wonderful sense of humour—perhaps it is necessary in the ministry!

—Debbie Davidson  
(Murwillumbah, NSW)

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## Tribute to William Tuxford Atkin, MBE, FASA



On 14 June God called Will Atkin from his earthly life. That afternoon I went to his home where there were two plaques on his mantel-shelf. They read—

"As thy days so shall thy strength be."

and

"Only one life

Thill soon be past,  
Only what's done for  
Christ will last"

—"To me to live is Christ."

Philippians 1:21

These describe the way in which Will lived his life. He was motivated by his faith and trust in God.

Will Atkin was born at Byron Bay, NSW, on 12 July 1903 to William and Violet Atkin. Other members of the family include a brother and three sisters, two of whom, Mrs E. Betts and Mrs M. Gray, currently live in NSW.

As a young man Will committed his life to Christ and was baptised in the Lismore, NSW, church, where he faithfully served his Lord.

He was successful in a business career having obtained his degree in accountancy at 21 years of age. He was a Fellow of the Australian Society of Accountants.

In spite of his success and happy in the profession that he planned for his future, he heard the call of Christ to ministry. In 1927 he entered the College of

the Bible at Glen Iris. He graduated with his diploma in 1929 and was ordained a minister of Churches of Christ.

W.W. (Dick) Saunders, a long-time friend and fellow student, tells how he was so respected among the students that he was appointed secretary of the Student Committee.

During his college studies he served the churches at Montrose and Ringwood. On graduation he ministered to the Dandenong church in 1930. In 1936 he commenced a ministry at Northcote.

W.T. Atkin became associated with Social Service as a Department member in 1933 and served as chairman from 1939 to 1942. He was to be involved with the department for 56 years.

In April 1945 he was called from a successful ministry at Northcote to become Associate Secretary of the Victorian Churches of Christ Department of Social Service (now Community Care).

He accepted the appointment on a part-time capacity until February 1946 when a successor took up the ministry at Northcote.

In April 1951 Will succeeded Will H. Clay as Secretary of the Department, a position he held until his retirement on 31 October 1972. In recognition of his 27.5 years of full-time service he was appointed Director-Emeritus.

I took over the leadership in 1972 after serving as associate for 15 years under the guidance of a great teacher.

He then accepted chaplaincy responsibility at Fred Combridge House and fulfilled his mission with Christian love and devotion. The patients loved this man.

I believe Will played the major part in the development of the department and over the years never spared himself in his dedication to the service of Christ and his church.

Apart from his work in general welfare his years of ministry included a major part in aged care, particularly the es-

tablishment of the Churches of Christ Nursing Home and Emmaus (in conjunction with Will H. Clay), extensions at Emmaus, flatettes, cottage units, Blackwood Street, The Haven, Emmaus Court and Lodge, and Christian Guest Home extensions including a nursing section and an additional 23 bed wing at the Nursing Home named the William T. Atkin Wing in his honour.

Not only was he interested in the physical needs of people in care, he was indeed a pastor to them as he frequently visited residents and patients, often leaving them with a word of Scripture and a prayer.

In the community his advice and counsel were sought. Will Atkin served on the Lord Mayor's Hospital and Charities Sunday Appeal Committee, the Victorian Temperance Alliance, the Victorian Council of Social Service, the Victorian Council on the Ageing,

various adoption committees, the Good Neighbour Council, a foundation member of World Christian Action, the Federal Inter-Church Migration Committee, the Inter-Church Trade and Industry Mission and a foundation member of the Voluntary Care Association.

Will served on the Board of Management of the College of the Bible (over 30 years) and the Victorian-Tasmanian Conference Executive (some 20 years) and still continued as an elder, auditor and financial advisor to the Northcote church.

In recognition of the untiring work done by William Tuxford Atkin over many years he was honoured with the conferring on him of the Most Excellent Order of Member of the British Empire (MBE) on 3 June 1972.

In his life Will never counted the cost to himself but gave his life in service to and for others.

—F.M. Combridge



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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.)

# Happenings

FEBA Radio are presently broadcasting in 19 languages to the Indian sub-continent. This involves about 250 programs per week. About 22,000 letters per month are received from listeners.

The Church of Scotland in its recent General Assembly has ruled against Freemasonry. The Panel of Doctrine has completed a two year investigation into the craft and found that on the whole it had a theology which was delist. They felt that the craft had no place for Christ and therefore was for the Christian not something to which they could have allegiance.

Frank Gason, 1984 Vic-Tas Conference President, is Managing Director of A.F. Gason Pty Ltd of Ararat. Together with Australian Classic Cars they are producing Australia's newest car, a reproduction of the 1951 MG TD. The first car drove off the assembly line in April. They hope to increase production until they reach a target of 1,500 a year, of which 1,000 will be exported.

1,200 of a capacity crowd of 12,000 responded to Luis Palau's invitation at the end of a youth rally he shared with Cliff Richard in Budapest, Hungary, on 8 April.

A series of workshops, "Building an Effective Program in the Local Church", is being organised by the SA Conference. They will be led by Dr Lew Born, Doncaster, Vic, on 4 & 5 August at the Hawthorn church. The cost will be \$5 (including guide book) and details will be in local churches very soon.

More than half a million Australians participated in the World Vision 40 Hour Famine 16-18 June. More than \$6.7 million was raised to help the victims of war and famine in Mozambique and Sudan.

Increasing numbers of Afghan refugees are returning to their country as the fighting remains at a low level for the time being. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees says more than 100 families return home each day. Most refugees are returning to southern and south-western Afghanistan.

Despite the fact that the world now has 10% more food than it needs, at least 500 million people are hungry. A United Nations conference on world hunger was told that hunger was caused by human error, neglect and complacency. Most malnourished people live in Africa and Asia.

The Israeli Government will keep schools in the occupied territories closed because it claims they are rallying points for incitement to violence. Since the start of April about 80 children have been seriously injured by live ammunition or metal balls fired from rifles, the youngest of them only 2. During the same period 2 two year old children were hospitalised for serious injuries from beatings by Israeli soldiers.

Life Ministries and the Bible Society launched the Jesus project in April. Its aim is to offer every person in NSW, the ACT, and eventually the rest of Australia, the opportunity to see a video cassette of the popular movie *Jesus*.

World-wide Scripture distribution by Gideons International now stands at 1,000,000 copies of the Word of God each fortnight.

The 2,000 employees of Jerry Falwell's "Old Time Gospel Hour" have been told they must join the evangelist's Thomas Road Baptist church and begin tithing by 1 July or face dismissal.

The Kilsyth South Baptist fellowship is the 18th new Baptist fellowship or church begun in Victoria since the Baptist Union of Victoria set

a goal in December 1985 of planting 76 new churches by the end of the century.

An analysis by the Australian Institute of Family Studies shows that a family with a single breadwinner on average earnings with two children pays an average 16% income tax, compared with about 12% in 1977. For a family with four children the tax rate has doubled from 5% in 1977 to 10% now.

Each year in Victoria about 28,000 women and children seek refuge from violent men. Four women and children are murdered in Australia each week by the man in their lives. For half of them, police had known of earlier violent incidents.

Melbourne's Camberwell City Council is continuing its legal fight against brothels in Camberwell. It has already spent about \$50,000 in legal costs, but is appealing a decision against it in the Supreme Court, and is prepared to take the fight to the High Court.

Baptist membership in Latin America has grown 10% in the last year.

ASSIST (Aid to Special Saints in Strategic Times) has been set up in Australia. ASSIST links churches in the West with churches suffering persecution or hardship, mainly in the Two Thirds World, and behind the Iron and Bamboo Curtains. The Australian program will have particular emphasis on the developing churches in Burma, China and South East Asia. Mission—USSR, the Australian branch of the Fridens-time Mission in Germany, will be the contact point for the ASSIST program. They can be contacted at PO Box 414, Carlingbah 2229. Phone (02) 523 8074.

Over 150,000 from across Germany and throughout Europe were expected in

West Berlin for the 1989 German Protestant "Kirchentag" assembly. Kirchentag, a laity renewal movement founded in the aftermath of World War II, is the biggest public forum in West Germany and Europe's most massive Christian festival.

A draft law on the Protection of the Unborn Child was presented to the Polish Parliament recently. The new law seeks to replace the existing law which allows abortion in certain circumstances, by a guarantee on the protection of life. The draft law comes largely through the pressure of groups of lay Catholics in various cities of Poland.

In New Zealand a total of 10,042 abortions were reported to the Abortion Supervisory Committee from hospitals and abortion clinics in 1988. This is an average of more than 27 abortions a day. The figures are more than double those of 10 years ago.

People attending the last three meetings of the central New York Billy Graham crusade brought 8 tonnes of food to collection points in a Feed the Hungry in Jesus' Name program.

A Catholic village in the north China province of Hebei has been brutally attacked by a large force of police, who beat up villagers with electric batons, clubs, bricks and stones. Two were killed and hundreds injured. About 30 Catholics were taken into custody. Sources put the Catholic population of the village at around 1,700, of whom the vast majority refuse to have links with the official Catholic Patriotic Association.

The leader of Sudan's National Islamic Front (NIF), Dr Hussan El Turbi, has declared a Holy War (Jihad) against Christians in that country. Dr Turbi made his call fol-

lowing the Constituent Assembly's (the Sudanese Parliament) decision to vote to suspend the implementation of Sharia Laws before holding peace talks with the Sudan People's Liberation Army rebels. Since the NIF leader's outburst at least 3 Catholic churches in Khartoum have been destroyed by NIF supporters.

In NSW the Churches of Christ Social Service Christian Fellowship Association Homes Department has changed its name. It will now be known as the Churches of Christ Community Care Department.

Charles Wilson of the NSW Community Care Department has been appointed as President of the NSW Council of Churches.

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference and the Australian Council of Churches have decided to explore the possibility of moving towards an expanded national ecumenical body. The Roman Catholic Church has had observer status in the ACC since 1965.

A survey of ministers of the Netherlands Reformed Church and Reformed Churches in the Netherlands in 3 northern Dutch provinces shows that 10% of them would rather have another job. The survey noted that the ministers surveyed work an average of 58 hours a week, compared to 38 for all Dutch who work.

Missionary Aviation fellowship chief pilot in Central Australia, Terry Huggett, and MAF pilot Greg Hayes were both killed in an aircraft accident at Alice Springs on 29 May. The flight was to revalidate Greg's NGT YFR rating which entitles a pilot to fly at night in good weather using "visual reference" as opposed to "instrumental reference".

## Tribute to Win Beale



Win was born at Northcote, Vic, on 6 October 1926 after her parents, William and Grace Waterman, returned from China due to ill health. Win and her sister Joan returned to China with their parents on their second missionary posting, only to lose their father soon after arriving.

That experience and her mother's life style gave Win a deep commitment to missionary service plus a love of Chinese food. At age eight she

made her commitment and was baptised a year later and set out to equip herself for God's calling to missions. In 1945 she began nursing at the Queen Victoria Hospital.

Win entered the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, in 1951 only to have her studies distracted by the arrival of Frank Beale in 1952. After becoming engaged she went to the New Hebrides (Vanuatu) for two years while Frank finalised his theological studies. Married on 15 December 1954, Win and Frank spent three years in the New Hebrides, first on Aoba then at Ranwadi, Pentecost.

In 1958 Win followed Frank to help pioneer the mission work at Tung, Papua New Guinea. She arrived with two small children (27 months and 11 months) to live in a house with no windows, doors, chairs, mattresses, water or other amenities. Immediately she began medical work, women's work as well as teaching her children by correspondence while migrating with Frank to help build other stations.

In 1964 they again set up house at Tsuma in an incomplete house and continued activities until the death of Frank's father necessitated their return

to Australia. Win nursed at the Townsville General Hospital until they moved to Brisbane with Frank's appointment as Director of Christian Education. She took up a posting of Overseas Mission Promoter and travelled all over Queensland. She continued this even during the onset of the illness that eventually killed her. However it was Win's ability to create a home and make it a place of love and service that will be remembered by all, particularly her family.

Her three children shared her missionary experience—Marilyn, born in the mission house at Ndui Ndui, New Hebrides, Gwenyth, born in Townsville between New Hebrides and New Guinea, and John, born in the mission house at Tung, New Guinea. They all remember she always had time for them and their stories.

After 10 years battling autoimmune illness, two forms of lymphoma, sarcoidosis, hepatitis, meningitis, diabetes, shingles, blood disorders and the loss of one eye she died on Pentecost Sunday (14 May) with all her family present.

Her missionary service continued through all the many trips to hospital and pain and disability. Doctors, nurses and other patients all experienced

her love and caring. She became an inspiration to all who knew her though she fought against being placed on a pedestal.

Her words to the doctor who was reading her long medical history was, "You know where my strength comes from, don't you. Jesus is my strength." These words, written by a doctor, are a fitting tribute: "Win Beale was a wonderful patient and had a smile right to the end. She certainly was a living testimony to her faith."

## AM Awarded



Roy Stanhope, AM, was invested as a Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia by the NSW Governor for his services to science education since the 1930s. Roy, a member at Epping, NSW, has served Churches of Christ as a deacon at Enmore, Kingsford and Lane Cove, in state men's work and on the Woolwich College Board.

## Serving Handicapped Radio



Heather Jauncey

Two years ago Heather Jauncey from the Belconnen, ACT, church responded to a request for rostered readers for Christian programs at Radio 1PPP. Heather is qualified in speech training. She is now part of a team eager to "turn print into sound". Her involvement has also given her an insight into community radio.

The interesting three hour Sunday morning "Christian Perspectives" program features music and articles extracted from national magazines and newspapers of Australian Council of Churches members including *The Australian Christian*.

Christian readers are encouraged to assist in other pro-

grams. Thus Heather also began reading on radio from daily newspapers on Saturday evenings.

Currently she is a rostered presenter for "Christian Perspectives" and "Around the Churches" programs. The latter is an informative half hour Tuesday evening production of Canberra Christian happenings, for which her husband, Peter, operates the panel. This joint effort is very satisfying for them.

Radio 1PPP is owned and operated by Print Handicapped Radio ACT Inc, and has "sister" stations in all capital cities. Work is voluntary with funding by sponsorship, donations and various grants.

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# Media Review

## Papers

### PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR CHRISTIAN ACTION WITH REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

by Heather J. Jenkins (Refugee and Migrant Services, Conference of Churches in Western Australia) \$2

In October 1986 the Conference of Churches in Western Australia launched a 12 month project to identify ways in which it could work with parishes to facilitate refugee settlement and improve racial harmony within the community. This booklet is the result of that project and seeks to answer the question that many Christians ask when learning of the situation of refugees and migrants in Australia, "We'd like to help, but what can we do?"

This booklet seeks to offer positive and practical ideas for action with refugees and migrants for use by Christian groups. Topics covered include identifying local needs, motivating Christian action, meeting survival needs and meeting safety and security needs. Also included is a segment on racism and how to answer the prevailing myths in our community about migrants and refugees.

For any church or Christian involved with or interested in helping migrants and refugees this booklet is a must.

It is available from any state office of the Australian Council of Churches for \$2 plus 90 cents for postage and handling.

## Books



### AUSTRALIA GROW Report of the Nationwide Evangelism Consultation Held at Stanwell Tops, NSW, In 1988 edited by Ian Tippett (Vital Publications) \$4

This report brings together the input from the consultants to the conference and the responses of the participants and the strategies that are being proposed for Australia and each state. The participants in the consultation were selected by the various state Churches of

Christ departments involved in church growth and planting. The two consultants were Herb Miller, Executive Director of the National Evangelistic Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in America and Peter Kaldor from the NSW Uniting Church Board of Mission. Both gave excellent papers discussing evangelism from within the Restoration tradition and the prospects of the Australian church in the 1990s.

This book contains some excellent material and strategies for evangelism that all churches should be examining. The various state strategies should be read particularly and followed up if we

are to survive as a denomination into the next century.

Available from the Secretary, Federal Literature Department, Mrs E.M. Rankine, 5 Atkins Ave, Glen Iris 3146, Phone (03) 889 2881, for \$4 plus postage.

—CRA

### A CHILD—AT ANY COST? The Secret Pain of Infertility by Mary Mealyea (Kingsway Publications) \$5.60

The birth of a child is a cause of great rejoicing. But for the infertile couple each one is a wounding reminder of their own parenthood denied. We have learnt to be sensitive to the divorced and to single parents. But an area rarely talked about, yet one that brings much insensitivity, is infertility.

Mary Mealyea and her husband are themselves infertile. The book is a most helpful and informative sharing of their frustrations, hurts and journey to understanding. A doctor, Mary Mealyea writes with informative insight from their and others' experience. For this reviewer, himself a partner in infertility, I did not want to read this book with my wife. But out of kindness towards her I consented. How thankful I am for I gained a whole new understanding and sensitivity for what my wife was experiencing. Infertility is more common than we realise. This book would be good for any "helping person" to make available to others.

### THE UNIVERSE NEXT DOOR (Second Edition) A Guide Book To World Views by James W. Sire (IVP)

For those who enjoyed the style of Os Guinness this book will hold some deep interest. James Sire, senior editor of the InterVarsity Press, seeks in this work to outline basic world views as they affect Western thought and culture now, explain how these views developed and encourage readers to understand them in order to communicate effectively.

In this second edition a chapter on Marxism has been added, having previously been considered under naturalism. This was in a response to a demand for separate treatment. However it is Sire's contention that most new "isms" have their source in a more fundamental perception of the universe, and when Christians understand these they are in a better position for conservation with proponents of other world views

There is also a new section on the New Age Movement because of the rapid developments that have taken place in the "New Age" world view in the last decade. Some have criticised Sire's approach for not examining adequately the "praxis" of each view under consideration, but under what is, after all, an introductory title, Sire writes succinctly, accurately and at a depth that challenges those of Christian faith to take not only their own, but also other world views seriously enough to enter meaningful conversation for the sake of the gospel.

A good book for thinking people.


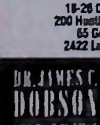


—Dennis Ryle

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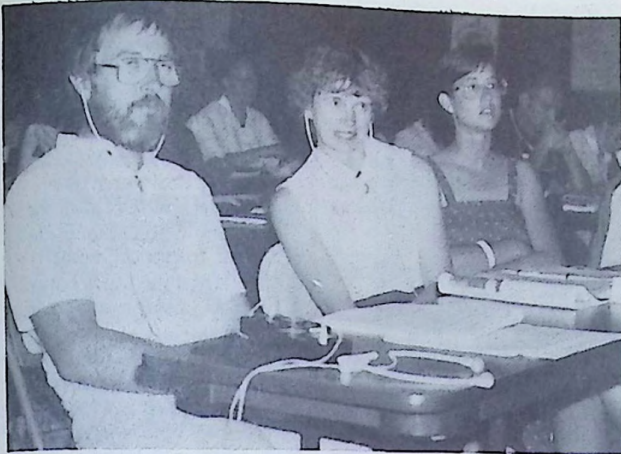







Commit thy way to the Lord; trust also in him and he shall bring it to pass.—Psalm 37:5

# World News

## Why Am I Speaking English?



Jeff May and other conference delegates listening to translated addresses

On behalf of Australian Churches of Christ I attended the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism in San Antonio, Texas, 22 May to 1 June. I was one of 700 gathered from 112 countries to consider the issues of Doing Mission Christ's Way. The theme of the conference was "Your Will Be Done."

Three similar conferences had been held, the most recent being in Melbourne in 1980. That conference was preceded by conferences in Bangkok in 1972 and Mexico City in 1963. The Commission on World Mission and Evangelism, who ran the conference, is one part of the ministry of the World Council of Churches.

This was my first experience of simultaneous translation. Each speaker was being translated into four of the five languages that were used during the conference. Emilio Castro, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, began his presentation by informing us that he would be speaking in Spanish. A few minutes later he realised that he had been speaking English the whole time. His question, "Why am I speaking English?" I made my own. By virtue of the privilege of my experiences I am able to speak a smattering of some six other languages. By a smattering, I mean that I can speak

enough to get myself into trouble but not enough to get myself out again! The fact is that English is the only language that I can speak about anything that is really important to me.

I pondered this reversal of Babel going on around me. Genesis 11 records that God confused the language of the people because they were trying to make a name for themselves and not be scattered all over the earth. Here I was gathered with people who were honouring the name of Christ from all over the earth and seeking to know the will of God in the work of the mission of the church in the evangelisation of the world. I was speaking English because of my narrow cultural orientation. Thankfully God speaks all languages and knows the thoughts of all hearts. —Jeff May

## Chinese Bible Press Undaunted by Upheavals

"Business as usual" was the report of Amity Printing Company General Manager, Peter MacInnis, on 12 June. The turmoil which has interrupted the daily life of some cities in China has not affected the city of Nanjing to any great extent.

Peter has been encouraged to remain in Nanjing. Han Wenzao, Chairman of the Amity Printing Company Board, said that Peter's presence was helping to encourage and preserve a stable mood among the workers.

The UBS has been assured that there is no impending danger for Peter, the press workers or visiting UBS staff. Peter's wife Elyn and their two children are currently on holiday in the USA.

More than 800,000 Bibles have been produced since the start-up in December 1987 and monthly output is increasing. The printing press, which is dedicated exclusively to Bible, printing is now booked with orders for at least 12 months in advance.

## Aid for Indochina Essential

"Australia should launch an international initiative to establish a Marshall-type aid plan for Vietnam and Cambodia," said Russell Rollason, Executive Director of the Australian Council of Overseas Aid, at the beginning of Refugee Week (18-24 June).

Australia has the respect and credibility in Indochina, South East Asia, and with the United States, Japan and Europe to give the lead on such an initiative. Australia also has an outstanding record on settling Indochinese refugees. A durable solution to the problem of Vietnamese refugees may remain elusive while Vietnam remains economically depressed.

Under the post World War II Marshall Plan massive aid flows spurred the rapid reconstruction and rehabilitation of the war devastated nations of Europe, and the revival of the

economies of Europe and Japan. Thus refugees were able to return home and restart lives.

Russell commented: "The isolation of Vietnam has only resulted in a growing movement of people seeking a better life in the West. The withdrawal of Vietnam's last troops from Cambodia later this year must herald the end of the isolation of Vietnam and Cambodia."

### Church of Christ SOUTHPORT

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## Arbor Day 1989 at CCTC



What a day! Rain forecast! Trees not arrived from Tasmania!

The trees, over 400, had been dropped off in Adelaide because of a strike at Tullamarine the day before.

People started to arrive at the Churches of Christ Theo-

logical College, Mulgrave, Vic, as the delivery truck drove through the front entrance. Saved! Between 9.30 am and 4 pm well over 400 men, women and children planted 572 trees, shrubs and plants, despite the dry clay.

With the help of guides, hole

diggers, and a post-hole digger, good progress was made and plants mainly planted where they should have been.

Two trees, *Eucalyptus citriodora*, were planted by request in memory of the late Wilkie Thompson, a well-loved minister, and the Thompson fam-

ily, who have served the Fremantle, WA, church for many years.

Those seen helping included faculty members, who had ceased debating theological issues to debate how to beat the cement-like clay and plant trees.

Among the many past students were Dick and Kath Saunders, who came to check if I had forgotten what they had taught me at the Fremantle Christian Endeavour a few years ago.

Grateful thanks to all who came, planted and encouraged the Landscaping Committee and those who worked hard planning and preparing the ground and making things easy for the planters.

What a marvelous day! What a smile on the Principal's face!

Watch for and come to the next Arbor Day when a special cedar of Lebanon will be planted in memory of Mrs Anderson, a missionary in Lebanon.

—Alan Mudge

## “Together in the Harvest” Missionary Convention

“Together in the Harvest” was the theme for the Swanston St, Melbourne, church to celebrate their 18th annual Missionary Convention over the weekend of 2-4 June.

This year's convention coincided with the arrival of the MV *Doulos* into Melbourne and the weekend was led by personnel from the ship. The keynote speakers were Bernd Gulker, who is the director of the ship's ministries, and Lloyd Nicholas, who is the associate director. Both gave clear and powerful presentations of the state of the world and the opportunities that exist throughout the world for presenting the gospel. At each meeting they were assisted by various members of the ship's crew who shared testimonies in word and

song.

On the Saturday night the meeting was held on board the ship with over 500 members and friends attending.

As in previous years the highlight of convention came on the Sunday morning when the Love Gift cash offering to the Swanston St missionary family and renewals of faith promise commitments were made. A prayer target of \$20,000 had been set for the love gift offering, however the church gave in excess of \$25,000. A target of \$3,000 per week had been set for the faith promise renewal, however the church promised in excess of \$3,300 per week (\$172,000 a year). This is by far the largest commitment that the church has ever made to world missions. Since the faith prom-

ise commitment was commenced the church has given in excess of \$1 million to world missions—from a congregation of whom 50% are students!

At the concluding service there were seven young people who offered their lives for full-time missionary service.

Already the Swanston St church supports a missionary family of 24 adults and 18 children. They are all home grown missionaries. The goal of the church is to support a missionary family of 50 adults by the year 2000.

—Allan Webb



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# Classifieds

## BIRTHS

**DYER (WHITELOCK)** Kerryn and Alwyn thank God for the safe arrival of Angela Jean on 24.6.89. A sister for Jonathan.

**SWANTON (WRIGLEY)** To Jenny and Greg, on 13 June in Sydney, a beautiful boy, Thomas Benjamin, first grandchild for Colin and Janice Wrigley.

## ENGAGEMENTS

**FERRIS-GAYTHER** Peter and Adrienne Ferris, of Coromandel Valley, SA, together with Les and Margaret Gayther of Blackburn North, Vic, are very happy to announce the engagement of Sue and Bruce, on 15 April 1989.

## DIAMOND WEDDINGS

**KNIGHT-CORBET** Ralph and Robina wish to announce their Diamond Wedding Anniversary (60 years) celebrated at Cottonville (Hawthorn, SA) Church of Christ on 17 July 1929. Officiating ministers the late Graham McKie and late Cliff Hughes. Present address: Glenrose Court, 64/550 Portrush Rd, Glen Osmond, SA 5064.

## DEATHS

**ATKIN, William Tuxford, MBE.** On 14 June 1989. Loved son of the late William and Violet. Loving brother of Clyde (dec), Essie (Sydney), Gertrude (dec) and Mena (Lismore, NSW). Director Emeritus of the Victorian Department of Community Care. 56 years in Social Service, 27.5 years in full-time service. A life given for others. "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain."

**COLE, Ernest Francis.** Called home suddenly at family homecoming Queensland, 28 May, aged 91 years. Loved brother and brother-in-law of Louisa and Allan Clark. Uncle of Glenys (Mrs Max Moody), Harvey and Elizabeth, Francis and Jill, Adrian and Maureen and Cheryl (Mrs Steven Town) and families.

**SCOTT, Robert John (Bob).** On 1 May, darling husband of Betty, dearly loved father and father-in-law of John & Helen, Allan & Marie, Russell & Di, David & Helen, Glenys & Greg, David-John & Maree, much loved grandfather of Darren,

Ashley, Christy, Leigh, Samy, Trevor and Kylie. A marvellous patient laid to rest with God.

## THANK YOU

**BEALE, Winifred.** Frank Beale wishes to thank all who sent their condolences. They were too numerous for replies.

## IN MEMORIAM

**WATSON, Merle.** Passed into the presence of her Lord 2 July 1984. Also Geoffrey, died 26 May 1974, due to accident. Loved wife and son, respectively, of Bert; loved mother and brother of Beverley, Peggy and Richard. Resting in God's care, until we meet again.

## HOLIDAY TOURS

**SUPURB 23 DAY EASTERN STATES TOUR** commencing 11 October. All inclusive fares \$2,050. Contact Rev Darrell McKerlie, 11 Thomson Ave, Murrumbidgee 3163. Phone (03) 569 5891. (Lic No: 30843).

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# A Church ABC

Yarrowonga, on the Murray River in Victoria, with Mulwala on the NSW side, began as a farming settlement, but in the last decade tourism has become increasingly important. With more hours of sunshine a year than Queensland's Gold Coast, there is much for the tourist. Yarrowonga claims the largest golf course in the southern hemisphere. The National Junior Tennis Championships are held there each year and the home of the Australian Water-ski Team is Lake Mulwala. The man-made lake, established 50 years ago, is vital to the Murray irrigation scheme and a very popular centre for water sports.

When the area was opened up for settlement in the 1870s a number of families met to break bread in their homes in surrounding districts. These families included the Cowpers and the Chappels, whose descendants are still members. In 1906 the minister from the Shepparton church travelled through "unforgettable mud" to conduct monthly services in the area. In 1925 it was decided to make Yarrowonga the centre for church activity. Land was purchased in Orr Street, the site of the present chapel, and a tent mission was conducted with E.C. Hinrichsen as evangelist.

The church subsequently opened strongly with 80 members.

Today the church consists of a warm meeting place with a hall and Sunday school facilities, with a membership of approximately 60, including older members (some from original families), younger

Zealand, and trained in Sydney at SMBC and the Baptist Theological College. He worked in southern NSW and Melbourne before coming into contact with the Yarrowonga church through Campaigners for Christ. His wife Barbara also comes from a Baptist background, and they have two young daughters, Bonita, 4, and Emily, 2.

Regular activities include outings by the young adults group, for example camp fires on the banks of the Murray, fellowship

## Focus on Yarrowonga

families and young people (there are 20 in the youth group). Services are held on Sunday mornings at 10 am and there is a gospel praise service in the evening (currently 5 pm). The church has a strong evangelical witness—in fact evangelism is seen as a priority—as well as strong support for overseas missions. The church's theme for its outreach program is "Christianity As an Alternative Life Style" and it is also seeking to put into operation an ongoing evangelistic program, "Christianity Explained", which has come from within and seeks to involve the whole church.

The minister at Yarrowonga is Steven Fraser, who has been there as pastor/evangelist over a year. Steven was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, was raised in New

meals, the youth group, a very supportive ladies guild with their practical ministry and a prayer and Bible study group. The church is also considering establishing small groups in homes and hymn nights. A temperance society uses the premises.

The church paper is called, appropriately, "Contact", as the church seeks contact with the community. The church recognises the need for flexibility and diversity in their approach to worship and ministry.

The Yarrowonga church also seeks to maintain the unity of the spirit that exists with diversity of the generations in the church. They are grateful for the older members and for the keenness of the younger members being raised up within the fellowship.

## Comment

# Healing Services

by Glen Wegner

About 18 months ago the Doncaster, Vic, church offered a healing service as part of its worship and ministry. A number of requests for such a service had been received, and only after a considerable preparation was such a ministry undertaken.

Prior to this venture, visits to other churches, both charismatic and non-charismatic were made, and from such observations a model was developed to suit our own needs.

The basis for the service was that healing ought to be a contemporary function of the church's ministry and that the elders have a significant role to exercise in healing. The presence of Christ is regarded as vital in healing, and in such a service of healing this is strongly symbolised through communion.

The healing component of the worship

**Order of Service**  
Welcome  
Singing  
Prayer  
Bible Readings  
Hymn  
Sermon on Healing  
Bible Reading  
Hymn  
Prayer  
Communion and Healing (Soft Music)  
Hymn  
Benediction

was carefully integrated with communion. Instead of the communion elements being taken to the congregation, the congregation was invited to come out to the Lord's Table to receive the bread and wine. This involved the dignified movement of people which lasted for some 15 minutes. It was during this movement of people to and from the Lord's Table that those who

so wished, moved aside to where the elders were situated for prayer and healing.

For those who chose to remain in their seats this became a quiet and meaningful service of meditation.

This service was not dependent on any leader or individual, but was expressed through the collective ministry of the church with the elders involved in a most important role.

These healing services have been well received at Doncaster and the next one is on Sunday evening 6 August.

• Glen Wegner is a Queensland and a graduate of Kenmore Christian College. He is also a graduate of the University of Queensland with a BA and BD, having majored in history, psychology and Australian studies. He has been in full-time ministry for 15 years.

# Comment

*"For as long as I have been involved in Christian leadership, I have known the disappointment of working very hard to bring people in through the front door of the church, only to turn around and find that others have been disappearing through the back door."*

## Closing the Back Door

by Bob Smith

I had always thought that membership conservation was a serious problem for our churches. For as long as I have been involved in Christian leadership, I have known the disappointment of working very hard to bring people in through the front door of the church, only to turn around and find that others have been disappearing through the back door. However I never realised just how critical the problem was until I did some research in preparation for the Seminar of Membership Conservation held by the Department of Church Development and Education in NSW on 3 June.

My task, in addition to organising the seminar, was to present the first lecture, entitled "They Are Going Out the Back!" I was to set the scene by presenting the facts as they apply to NSW Churches of Christ. I discovered that from 1886 to 1988 we had written off our rolls 30,857 members. These do not include people who transferred out of Churches of Christ, or who died. They are people who have become inactive. From 1940 to 1988 we added 18,096 through faith and baptism. But in that same period we lost, through roll revision, 17,896. If we equate the additions through faith and baptism as being the best measure we have of conversion and biological growth, and roll revision as equating with inactive members who have just dropped out of fellowship, then our net gain in 48 years was 200 members.

From 1975 to 1988 we gained 4,867 members through faith and baptism but in the same period we lost, through roll revision, 4,692 members; a net gain of just 175 members.

I found these figures frightening. They not only indicate a recent trend, but factors that have always been with us. They were with us through the pioneering era in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They were with us through the great E.C. Hinrichsen years of evangelistic missions and new church development. They were with us in the years that followed the 1959 Billy Graham Crusade. They have continued to be with us in the Church Growth era from

1975 to the present.

As I considered the great amount of effort we put into outreach, evangelism, promotion and the implementation of Church Growth principles in order to

problems with other church families, or being overworked in the church, eventually lead to some sort of cry for help. If this cry is not heard, it leads to leads to anger, which then leads to the process of becoming less active. The signs include the withdrawal of offerings, decreased attendances at worship, dropping out from Bible study and fellowship groups, withdrawing children from church organisations, and then finally officially resigning from tasks in the church. During the next 6-8 weeks if no visit is made by the church, and no attempt is made to re-establish effective communication with the person, then a "sealing off" takes place and the person can then be considered to have dropped out. They will then reinvest in other activities or organisations.

Maurie, who has had many years of experience in training counselors for Lifeline, effectively used group and simulation exercises to help us understand what happens in this process. One in particular, where I withdrew from the group and later was visited by two members of my group, helped me understand how easy it is for a person to become increasingly less likely to return to the group the more time elapses without having been visited. When I translated my experience to the situation of a person who has some real pain, the point became very clear.

Looking back I now see this as one of the most important seminars that DCD has presented. I anticipate that we will plan to take the next step and invite Maurie Hodgeson to lead an intensive workshop on this subject in order to train people in the process of restoring lapsed members to fellowship. Our cousins in the American Disciples of Christ have achieved quite extraordinary results having trained specially selected people in this way. We are anxious to do the same and, even if we can't nail up the back door, at least we can make it smaller.

• Bob Smith is the Executive Director of the Department of Church Development and Education of Churches of Christ in NSW.



achieve a modest but welcome trickle of new members, I became aware of how little consideration we have given to conserving those hard-won gains.

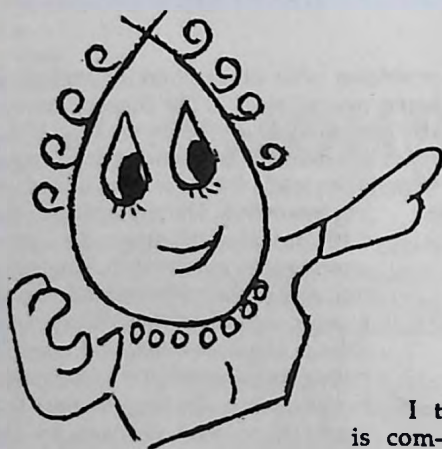
The rest of the seminar, following an excellent presentation by Barry McMurtrie showing how the Wollongong church had reduced its drop-out rate to 20% of its gross growth rate, was presented by Maurie Hodgeson. Maurie, who has trained by Dr John Savage, acknowledged as the leading authority in the world on the "drop-out" phenomenon, took us through the process whereby a member becomes inactive. He pointed out that research shows that a cluster of anxiety provoking events relating to such things as family problems, problems with the minister,

# Growing Spiritually

## Spiritual Growth

by Merle Peacock

*"The Lord is the strength of my life.  
Of whom shall I be afraid." Psalm 27:1b.*



It is comparatively easy to depict my physical growth by means of a simple graph but my first reaction upon being invited to write an article for this column in *The Australian Christian* was to ask myself, "How can I condense 54 years of spiritual growth (and decline) into 350 words?"

For I realised that my spiritual growth, like my physical growth, began in my mother's womb. I was the wanted, loved, first child of Les and Elsie Peacock, the first grandchild of Tom and Ada Peacock, the third little girl to be greeted by great-grandma Masters and all these forebears were, or had been, actively involved with the Church of Christ at Inglewood, WA.

And it was to this congregation when Charlie Hunt was the minister to which I was taken when two weeks old to be welcomed and "clucked" over! This was also the congregation where at two and a half years of age I was enrolled in the Sunday School and in which at three years of age I gave my first public solo performance (on an anniversary platform holding my Dad's hand!). This congregation asked me at 13 years to be secretary of the Junior Christian Endeavour, at 15 years to teach in the Kindergarten, at 16 years to be superintendent of the Primary Department, at 23 years to be leader of the CYF, at 36 years to be an elected member and minute secretary of the church board, at 40 years to preside at the communion service.

As I managed to control my trembling legs for long enough to get me to the front row of the Sixth Avenue chapel to acknowledge Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God and my Saviour (at 14) and as I nervously and reluctantly accepted various

duties and responsibilities at Inglewood, I realise now that I grew, yes, I grew spiritually.

I also grew as I listened to my Dad's stories (mainly from the Bible); as I read (Bible stories, Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories and SS prizes); as I learned by heart hundreds of verses from the Scriptures (to get good marks in the Scripture Examinations!); as I attended church and sang hymns and heard Ern Sherman's children's talks and Roy Raymond's sermons; as I participated in camps, youth demonstrations, plays and choirs; as I accepted the Youth Committee's invitation, through Fred Stephenson, to be full-time Field Worker.

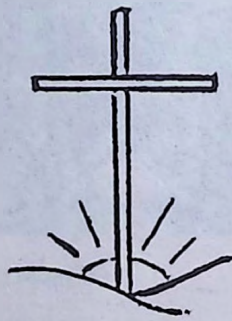
In 350 words I can't hope to mention all the ways in which I have experienced spiritual growth during my lifetime. However I will conclude with this one example. I am naturally a very shy, nervous individual who finds it extremely difficult to speak in public or private about my deeper feelings and aspirations. I guess I could be classified as an "introvert" although I do my best to fight against this natural tendency and force myself, when the occasion demands, to be more of an extrovert.

Then just a few weeks ago I purchased and attached to my dressing table mirror a cardboard sticker on which were the words of Psalm 27, verse 1b. Back to mind flooded memories of the many times during my twenties and thirties when I'd sung Frances Allitsen's musical setting of Psalm 27. Then into my hands came the 1988 Year Book of Churches of Christ in WA and on the cover President Don Parker's theme, "Be Confident, Fix your eyes on Jesus." (Hebrews 12:2)

Suddenly the penny dropped!...Forget yourself, Merle! It doesn't matter if other people think you are stupid. Use your God given capabilities. Ask your questions. The Lord is your strength!

Yes, at 54 years of age, I'm still growing!

• Merle Peacock is a member of the North Beach, WA, church.



# Ministers'

## Relating to

by Jeff

Effectiveness and longevity in local church ministry is dependent upon how well a minister relates to, and works with, others in the leadership team. The relationship between minister and elders is therefore crucially important:

1. It affects the personal well-being and functioning of both minister and elders. Feelings of isolation, frustration, disillusionment and burn-out are all too possible where we don't enjoy a supportive group of significant others who can share the load. Conversely, positive teamwork and group life are a tremendous source of fulfilment, encouragement and motivation.

2. It bears directly on the standard of leadership and decision-making. Research links the quality of relationships within a group to the quality of that group's output and decision making. Good relationships build creative and innovative energy, and increase commitment to decisions and goals.

3. It enhances the ability of the leadership to positively influence the church. Where morale is high, and where trust, caring, unity and mutual respect are evident within the leadership team, the potential for modelling and engineering similar dynamics within the wider church are significantly increased.

Here are some things ministers can do to relate more effectively to their elders:

### 1. Reach Out

Communicate genuine warmth, love and appreciation. Seek to include the elders as valued members of the team. Elders pick up these or other "vibes" from the minister, and respond accordingly. Usually the minister determines the relational norms and dynamics within the leadership. It's never too late to initiate a deeper sense of "koinonia" and "partnership in the gospel".

### 2. Invest Time

I make no apology for the fact that I spend more time ministering to, and relating with, my elders than any other person or group within the church. We meet together weekly. One meeting a month is designated "business"—the others are times to grow together through scriptural reflection, sharing and praying for ourselves and the church. Infrequent or business-oriented elder's meetings are not conducive to developing closeness and deeper relationships. There is little opportunity to create unity and engender support, trust and openness between minister and elders.

# Workshop

## Your Elders

Deuble

ers. Eldership retreats are also an excellent means of team-building and visionary planning, especially residential ones.

### 3. Develop Trust

Trust is born of integrity, honesty, consistency and dependability. Ministers seeking a relationship of mutual trust and respect will not only model these qualities, but will adopt a policy of direct, open, honest and loving communication at all times. When ministers are willing to risk self-disclosure, to become vulnerable and share their own weaknesses, strengths, joys, hurts and sorrows, it goes a long way towards creating an environment of greater transparency and deeper trust.

### 4. Empower for Ministry

The empowering-leadership model of Jesus' ministry was not one where he lorded it over the disciples, or used them for his own ends, but where he was both their inspirational example and the one who selflessly invested himself in their growth and well-being. Ministers would do well to adopt a similar approach with their elders.

Ministers eager to empower their elders involve them in significant leadership and ministry according to their gifts. They continually pray for, equip, support, affirm and encourage them along the way. "Esteeming others highly", they don't mind if somebody else has some of the limelight. Rather, they actively promote and life the image of the leaders in the life of the church, seek to increase their visibility. Being free of "selfish ambition or conceit", they do not feel they have a monopoly on all the good ideas. As has been said: "There is no limit to the good a man can do, if he's happy for another to receive the credit."

We need to become aware that the spiritual life and dynamic of any group of people seldom, if ever, rises above that of its leadership. If renewal, growth or koinonia is to come, it must begin with us and flow through us. For Churches of Christ that means it usually won't begin if it isn't happening within the eldership.

• Jeff Deuble is minister of the Castle Hill (NSW) church and author of *Effective Eldership*.

Edited by Brian White, Field Director of the Vic-Tas Dept of MED and the Federal Board of Christian Education.

# Student Profile

• The first in a new series introducing readers to students in our colleges

## Mark Butler



Mark, Nicola and Daniel Butler

Mark Butler is a first-year student at the Churches of Christ Theological College. He is the grandson of Gordon Stirling.

Mark's decision to enter the ministry was not taken lightly.

Having practised as a registered nurse for several years, Mark moved into private enterprise and had risen to the rank of manager of the ACT branch of a national company dealing in medical equipment. His future was secure. He had the prospect of a senior position in marketing. With Nicola his wife and baby Daniel he was enjoying all the comforts of an upwardly mobile family, yet he felt a sense of uneasiness.

The thought of entering the ministry had been in the back of his mind from his late teens and he shared this possibility with Nicola before they were married. As the years passed Mark felt an increasing sense of compulsion to respond to the call of God to ministry. Both sought the counsel of their minister and elders and visited the college to meet with and talk with the Principal and members of the faculty.

Neither Mark nor Nicola have regretted their decision to forsake their careers to enter the ministry. "We share a wonderful peace of mind and a sense of excitement about the future," declares Mark. "Despite the upheaval of leaving home and loved ones to come to Victoria, despite the inconvenience of living out of suitcases for several months until the college unit was ready for us to occupy, we feel better about ourselves than ever before and are looking forward to serving God in the college and later in a pastoral ministry setting.

"First semester has been a real growth experience. I have gained so many new perspectives, which have had important implications for my faith. The Bible has come alive for me. More than ever before I see it as a book for today—a book of good news."

Dr Paul White, known internationally as the "Jungle Doctor", has been awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

# The Cultic Connection

## Christadelphianism

### Part 2

#### Adrian van Leen concludes his account of the Christadelphians

Leaflets, booklets, brochures advertising public meetings and further free literature are all part of the Christadelphian public relations program. They also hold "Bible Exhibitions". Like the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Christadelphians have recognised the value of the printed page. They use topical issues and an emphasis on Bible study and interpretation to attract people to their programs. And attract people they do. Most who turn to the Christadelphians, however, tend to be Christians who are uncertain about their faith or their church and who lack a solid Biblical basis for their personal commitment.

Many of the Christadelphian publications come from Britain. *Glad Tidings* is the name of their regular magazine for world circulation. In Australia they regularly publish booklets under the banner *Herald of the Coming Age* by Logos Publications. Much of their material is distributed through the Gospel Extension Society.

Similarities and reflections of the Jehovah's Witnesses, the late Herbert Armstrong's Worldwide Church of God (of *Plain Truth* "fame"), Seventh Day Adventism, and Mormonism can be seen in Christadelphianism. All, with the exception of the WCG, had their beginnings in the mid 1800s and continue to reflect their early background influences.

#### The Bible Only?

The Christadelphians, like the Jehovah's Witnesses, have prided themselves in being Bible students. The Bible is constantly upheld as the source of right knowledge that leads to salvation. In other words, the Bible is all you need.

They accuse the rest of us of adding to the Biblical message: "The faith of Christendom...is shown to be compounded largely of fables." "Unfortunately, confusion reigns in Christendom as to what constitutes the truth. Contradictory doctrines are proclaimed in the name of Christ; contention and argument ensues where there should be harmony and co-operation. Why? Because so many seek to impose their ideas upon the teachings of the Bible, instead of hearkening to what it has to say for itself."

The solutions to the problems of "Christendom" is to read the Bible. The trouble is that you can't read and understand the Bible by yourself—you are not worthy,

and therefore God deliberately made the Bible difficult to understand. There is a solution though—study the Bible with the help of Christadelphian lessons, books, booklets and messages. Apparently they are worthy, and so are able to explain the Bible.

In explaining the need for their lessons, one of their writers, H.P. Mansfield, comments: "But why is such help needed? If a correct understanding of the Bible is essential to true worship, why did God set forth his revelation in a book so difficult to comprehend? The answer is an important one. God's purpose is not merely to save people, but to make them worth saving. This can only be brought about by changing their outlook and characters to conform to him, and this can only be done by superimposing his mind on theirs.

To that end, it is essential for him to make flesh think along the channel of his own mind so far as the principles and precepts are concerned. If a person is induced to think as God would have him do, then such thoughts will colour his outlook and ultimately his conduct."

The Christadelphians would have us believe that they alone think as God thinks, and that their lessons and materials, with their interpretation of the Bible, enables God to "superimpose his mind" on ours. They condemn others for "imposing their ideas upon the teachings of the Bible" and then blatantly justify their own impositions with pious phrases suggesting that they alone are God's channel for today.

#### Salvation

Salvation is only to be found in the Christadelphian ecclesia. It requires two essential ingredients: (1) right knowledge, and (2) right baptism.

Right knowledge comes in acceptance of, and conformity to, Christadelphian doctrines and Biblical interpretations. Acceptance of any other views will lead to the damnation of non-existence. One is justified "from all past sins by faith" and justified "by works unto eternal life".

Only baptism administered by Christadelphians (after showing proof of having right knowledge) is valid. It is baptismal regeneration, by immersion. All other baptism, including immersion of believers, is rejected, and those so baptised must be re-baptised.

Faithful Christadelphians will be resur-

rected to rule with Christ from Jerusalem during the millenium. After the 1,000 year reign of Christ all non-Christadelphians alive at the first resurrection who rejected Christ during the millenium will go into the oblivion of the second death.

All those who died as young children, who were ignorant of Christadelphianism, the unjust and the mentally handicapped, will not be resurrected, and will remain eternally dead.

#### Doctrines Rejected

Christadelphians reject the doctrine of the Trinity as pagan mythology. They deny the deity and pre-existence of Jesus Christ, declaring that Jesus is not co-equal with the Father. They declare him to be the Son of God, not God the Son. They believe he existed only as a thought in the mind of God before he was born of Mary. He was born as a perfect character who therefore deserved resurrection to eternal life.

They teach that God dwells personally and bodily in heaven and therefore cannot be everywhere at once (omnipresent). He sends the "focalising power of the divine will" the Holy Spirit, "diffused throughout the universe, and is the substratum of all creation". So they deny that the Holy Spirit is a person and part of the Godhead (other than a divine influence).

Man is no different from the animals, and has no soul. There is nothing after death to live on. There is no hell. There is only the grave and complete non-existence. The two resurrections are only for Christadelphians and the just—then comes life on planet earth for good Christadelphians and oblivion for all others.

The Devil is non-existent—other than simply being man's sinful nature. The demons are "the fanciful creation of a pagan mind", to explain away all mental illness and similar diseases.

#### Last Things

Like so many other cultic groups, the Christadelphians are adventists. They believe that they alone have the key to prophesy, and are able to understand and interpret prophecies dealing with the second coming of Christ. They constantly emphasise the imminence of the Second Coming by interpreting Bible passages by world events. Again, like so many others, their zeal and extremism has led to prophetic miscalculations.

## Love Your Children

by Ron Schepsis

Long before Robert Roberts, the Christadelphian leader who followed after the founder, Dr John Thomas, settled in Australia, he had worked out an end-times timetable. In his 1862 book, *Christendom Astray*, he wrote that the Second Coming of Christ "may happen within the next twelve months". He anticipated that the Kingdom would be established 44 years later, in 1906. In the 1884 edition of the same book he had worked out how old the age of the world was at the birth of Christ, and from some additional strange calculations come to the conclusion that "...there wants only about five years to complete the 6,000 years of the great world-week..." He went on to say that after 1910 the millenium would commence but that in fact Christ would return before that date to organise the setting up of his Kingdom to begin after the 6,000 years came to an end in 1910.

Like all date-setters before him, and since, Roberts was a failure. He qualified for the title of "False Prophet" in more ways than one.

While still emphasising the imminent return of Christ, the Christadelphians have, in recent years, wisely avoided further date-setting.

The Christadelphian system is a legalistic system where doctrinal "t"s must be crossed and "i"s dotted.

There is little evidence of the love of brothers, or the love of Christ. Like so many other legalistic cults, there is no attempt to minister, collectively, to the down and outs, to have missions to the Aborigines or to open welfare work in the name, and love, of Christ.

The Apostle Paul knew all about legalists who wanted to argue about words and their meanings (something Christadelphians delight in). He warned Timothy about those who were conceited (believing that they alone had the truth) and who had a "morbid craving for controversy and for disputes about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, base suspicions and wrangling among men..." (1 Timothy 6:3-5).

The Christadelphians, and other cultists, see things out of perspective when they see Christians divided. Divisions do exist, no one can deny that, but it's high time that Christians realised that those things that unite us are far greater, and more important, than those things that divide us.

Let us unite in our faith and commitment to Christ, let us study and grow together in a greater understanding and depth of faith and let us put the cults to silence and shame by being examples of Christ "in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12).

While the ongoing controversy of why those who train for the ministry are leaving is debated within our movement, I propose another reason. Let us look at the formative years and experiences of a student minister.

Being a student in theological college, training for ministry, is much like being in the formative years of childhood.

Those in the formative years of human development tell us that the most important years of child rearing are the formative years, from birth to five. In the same way the first five years are crucial to those who undertake to be the next generation of pastoral ministers and leaders of our movement. They are faced with four or more years of training and then their first years out in ministry.

The basis of a child's personality is built in those first five years. The foundation stones are laid and much of the child's attitudes and responses to life are fashioned during this time. It is also said that many of the crises and problems of life can be avoided if these years are stable and secure. Clearly the whole child's life is influenced by what happens in these years.

If being a theological student training for ministry is like being a child, then churches are the parents of those training for ministry whether they realise it or not.

This reminds me of an old saying that still rings true today.

"Children learn what they live."

"If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.

If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.

If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilt.

If a child lives with tolerance, he learns

to be patient.

If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence.

If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.

If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.

If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith.

If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.

If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world."

Some ministers relate to their student minister with criticism, hostility, ridicule and shame. Consequently students may grow to be negative in their understanding of the ministry. Many do not complete the course or are fearful of the ministry. On the other hand there are churches who relate to their student minister with encouragement, praise, fairness, security, approval and acceptance. These students develop taking a firm hold of ministry, boldly proclaiming the word and giving leadership.

Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."

It is the student church not the college that has the primary task of rearing the young minister.

I call all student churches to encourage their students to maturity by positive attitudes.

I thank God and those churches that I have been in during my student years for having treated me with love, tolerance, fairness and encouragement.

*Ron Schepsis is a student at the Churches of Christ in New South Wales Theological College at Carlingford.*

## Weeping in the City Square

In a cold city square we stand  
with them, listening to voices from Beijing.  
This crowd is not frozen by the winter  
wind

but by the sounds from Tiananmen Square  
of kin weeping, weeping, weeping  
for their lost humanity

The sad and solemn speeches are ended.  
The funeral march washes over their grieving  
while we look for comfort from our flag  
flying  
limply and shamefully in a midday fog

as if weeping, weeping, weeping  
for a lost humanity

A lone bird circles, then hovers above  
the fountain that sprays over white chrysanthemums.  
The image of bleeding, dying students is  
fading,  
replaced by the figure from dark Gethsemane  
who is weeping, weeping, weeping  
for our lost humanity.

—Bruce McIntosh

# Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

## ALLISON, Hazel

(30.5.89) Hazel Waterman was born in Adelaide in 1903. Following a period in WA, she came to live in Adelaide and joined the Grote Street church. In the choir she met Walter Allison and they married in 1932. Making their home in Linden Park they transferred to the Dulwich church. Hazel and Walter enjoyed almost 50 years membership there before going to Park Rose Nursing Home at Blackforest. Hazel sang in the choir, was a member of CWF and Dorcas and taught Sunday school. Walter died in 1984. Their strong Christian faith was a blessing in their home, church and community. —RHB

## CARTLEDGE, Rich

(1.6.89) Richard Jeffrey was born in Ballarat, Vic 27.7.26. A craftsman who really loved his work, Rich married Betty Williams in 1954. They had four children—David, Lindy, Ross and Janine. Since his baptism in Christ in 1950 he was a tireless and faithful worker for his Lord, serving as Sunday school teacher, group leader, deacon and elder. A man of faith, a true leader who led by example, a generous person who possessed a great love and care for people, he was loved within the Dawson St fellowship and will be greatly missed. Over 300 attended a thanksgiving and memorial service conducted by Jim Cunningham (minister) assisted by Graeme Chapman (past minister). —J.E. Bridson

## MILNE, Millicent Alice

(18.5.89) Millicent was the youngest child of Mr and Mrs T.B. Verco and passed away in her 99th year. After marriage to David Roby Milne, she lived at "Hope Farm", Bordertown. There are five children—Arthur, Dorothy, Stanley, Roy and Heather. Millicent was active in St John and the Voluntary Aid Detachment during war years. She was a life member of WCTU. She attended Mundulla for 50 years with the family, being a founding member of the Mundulla-Wamponny Women's Fellowship, also active in Sunday School, Christian Endeavour and Mission Band. She loved her Bible and was a competent scholar, but beyond this she loved and served Christ. After her husband's death she moved to the Nursing Home, Park Rose, Adelaide, where she lived happily until her death. —W.E. Fisher

## MITCHELL, Peter William

(7.6.89) Born 17.9.22 at Kew, Vic, Peter returned home to the place of his "spiritual" birth (Ballarat) only two days before his death. A large number of friends and family travelled from many parts of Victoria and interstate to attend a thanksgiving and memorial service at Dawson Street, conducted by Andrew Henley, minister from Ocean Grove. Eulogies presented by Peter Burnham and Graeme Chapman revealed the qualities we knew so well, a generous caring person, leader, representative on the Home Mission Department, deacon and elder; a man who put his faith into action in so many areas. Peter married Helen Slater in 1948. They had five children—Jennifer, Jillian, Russell, Roger and Andrew. —J.E. Bridson

## NICHOLS, David Alma

(8.6.89) Alma Nichol was born at Koonya on the Tasman Peninsula on 17.7.12. One of 9 children, his early life was one of hardship. He worked in a variety of positions—timbermills, orchards—and later owned a fishing boat. Over the years his health began to fail, and in 1982 he made his commitment to Christ while in hospital. Baptised at the age of 70, he became a member of the Nubeena church. Regular at the morning service, Alma was a man God had touched and changed his whole outlook, turning him into a quiet, loving man who loved his Lord, church and family. —Gordon Henderson

## PIEPER, Alma Ethel

(24.3.89) Alma Ethel Pieper was born into the Boettcher family at Marburg on 13.9.03. Alma responded to an invitation at a mission in Marburg on 11.9.16 and married Alexander Pieper at Marburg on 1.2.28. Her Christian service and participation was with the churches at Marburg, Femvale, Lowood, East Ipswich, Redcliffe and Bribie Island. She was always faithful in whatever she did—serving as organist, Sunday school teacher and participating in women's groups. Her husband, Alex, served as elder in the Redcliffe church and after his death she moved to live in the Bribie Island Retirement Village seven years ago. She is survived by one son, Maurice (Gympie), two daughters, Eila (Mrs Stan Domrow, Caloundra) and Juanita (Mrs Alan Hilford, Redcliffe). There are 13 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. —A.C. Risson

## STEVENS, Alma May

(29.5.89) Mrs Stevens was in her 100th year. She grew up in Launceston, Tas, where she married Ernest Stevens and raised four children: Merle (Alderton), Harold, Ernest and Leo. Most of the family moved eventually to SA and were active at Edwardstown. Her husband died 25 years ago and in due course May lived with Merle and attended Brighton, SA, church. Although physically restricted through the nineties, her mind remained clear and sharp to the end. Her son, Ern, ministered in SA and Victoria. Three grandsons are in ministry and two granddaughters married ministers. May's vital faith and strong personality live on. The family gathered at Brighton for her funeral on 31 May. —Neville Moore

## STREET, Lyla

Born at Bream Creek in Tasmania 1906 Lyla was to discover her life's work when she married her husband (the late Harold Street) in 1930. In many ways she proved herself an excellent minister's wife, walking many miles visiting with her husband, offering meals to the destitute and in many ways caring for people. In earlier years she was an excellent singer using her gift to praise her Lord in churches and on radio. She shared ministries with Harold from the Tasman Peninsula to the warmer climes of Queensland and also in Victoria. Our love and prayers go with her children Grahame, Ian, Berice, Kathleen and Robert, her 13 grandchildren and four great grandchildren. —George Warren

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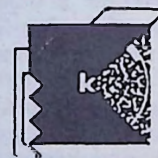
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This year the firm was incorporated as a company with Penelope Mulholland becoming a joint director. Our office is in Williamstown, where we carry out residential, retail and community based projects.

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## Discipleship

•Audra Field, Kylie Field, Bruce Wear, Brighton, SA •Ian Milne, Torrensville, SA •Ian Miller, Finders Park, SA •Michelle Lang, William Hawksworth, Springvale, Vic •Joyce Bilney, Micheal Parr, Mark Brooks, Paul Feder, Henley Beach, SA •Louise Stanford, Thornleigh, NSW •Annette & Andrew Clegg, Alyssa Waome, Simon Smith, Harlaxton, Toowoomba, Qld •Norma Anderson, Jenny Martin, Swan Hill, Vic •Mrs Mavis Dawson, Kedron, Qld •Mrs Isabel Tripp, Ulverstone, Tas •Fiona Kendell, Albury, NSW •James Yang, Kay Hardie, Perth City, WA

## Marriages

•Jodie Hull to David Thompson, Sue Grose to Colin Hull, Debbie Thomas to Anthony Lock, Brighton, SA •Wanda Spence to Garry McLeod, Springvale, Vic

## Deaths

•Mrs Melville Marks, Frank Gillespie, Tootgarook, Vic •Mrs May Stevens, Brighton, SA •Ada Treloar, Keith Morris, Ashburton, Vic •Mrs Helen Davis, Mrs Edna Cole, Mrs May Stewart-Jamieson, Ormond, Vic •Jean Faulds, Mandurah, WA •H.G. (Bill) Foster, Collins St, Hobart, Tas •Alma Nichols, Nubeena, Tas •Marjorie Pavier, Mundalla, SA •Mrs Millicent Milne, Park Rose, SA •Mrs E. Bridgman, Hawthorn, SA •Winifred Spriggs Snr, Bill Sherman, Harold Scholl, Harlaxton, Toowoomba, Qld •Claire Smith, Swan Hill, Vic •W.T. Atkin MBE, Northcote, Vic •Mrs Maude Combridge, Albury, NSW •Jean Torrance, Perth City, WA

## Changes

**CROYDON:** Secretary—Bill Green, 10 Towerhill Drive, North Ringwood, Vic 3134. Phone (03) 876 3416.

**FEDERAL LITERATURE DEPARTMENT:** Secretary—Mrs E.M. Rankine a new phone number has been allocated to her area and it is now (03) 889 2881.

**MAITLAND:** Minister—R.N. Hawkins, PO Box 435, East Maitland, NSW 2323. Secretary—C. Barrett, PO Box 88, East Maitland, NSW 2323.

**NUNAWADING:** Minister—M.D. Hamilton, 21 Dawe Road, Mitcham, Vic 3132. Phone (03) 873 3534.

**BIRD, Malcoln, 4/17 Duncoon St, Murrumbidgee 3163. Phone (03) 569 6297.**

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## Vic

**TOOTGAROOK (Mal Glezendanner)** CWF Sunday ably taken by ladies. Marjorie Brough speaker ... Ladies sent \$100 to Esperance for building fund ... Ladies enjoyed informative talk by Marion Robertson "A State of Change—Ageing" ... Evening service now 5 pm for winter ... Margaret & Reg Hillbrich farewelled prior to their entering Baxter Retirement Village ... Dorothy Smith arranged audiovisual on World Convention.

**DANDENONG (Graeme Foon, Greg Elsdon)** Dorothy & Graeme Brough celebrated 25th wedding anniversary ... Womens choir & woman president conducted CWF Sunday ... Anne Smith made her decision through operation good news ... Mission towards 2000 held in May. Speaker David Price from Bible College of Victoria ... Church supporting two families on mission field with \$200 a month ... Christmas in June held. Speaker Mike Esbensen. Food & toys given to Kensington work.

**ASHBURTON (K. Barton)** Harvest Thanksgiving benefited Community Care & local needs ... Letter-box drop resulted in some new people attending services ... Worship service centred on theme of "The Good Shepherd", the subject of a new painting presented to the church by Elizabeth Barks ... Kids' Club held successful "sleep-in" & also featured in family worship service ... Lois Smith speaker at CWF service ... Church saddened by deaths of Ada Treloar & Keith Morris.

**KYNETON (Peter Eades)** Church manse dedicated 21 May. President Phyl Davis accompanied by members of the Dept MED attended the service. Support from local churches, members & friends, much appreciated ... Gospel serv-

ices will be held 5 pm on last Sunday of the month followed by tea. A wonderful time of fellowship ... Thank you one & all for prayer & support.

**ORMOND (G.O. Stibbe)** Afternoon CWF project set of scripture chorus transparencies & EWF a photocopier for the church ... Bible study groups continue ... Progressive dinner great success ... Family week climaxed with successful basket tea ... Members participated in Walk Against Want, also 40 Hour Famine ... Reachout committee organised door knock to newcomers in area ... \$248 raised for Leprosy Mission ... Church anniversary on 25 June.

**CHELSEA (T. Frazer)** \$600 raised by CWF street stall of cakes, clothing & plants ... Harold & May Taylor attended Elder's Day at Mulgrave Theological College ... Board subcommittee is to revise the procedures for election of elders & deacons ... Queen's Birthday weekend utilised for church camp combined with Parkdale members at Bay Park Lodge, Mount Martha. **SPRINGVALE (T. Ede, P. Lyne)** Two baptisms with several more planned ... Five members did short course on evangelism at CCTC ... 110 present for combined Pentecost celebration with German Lutheran Church ... Sunday School celebrated 48th anniversary ... Jeanette Broughton back from USA trip & six days in Cuba as Bible courier for Open Doors ... Much interest from "Genesis Solution" film & Creation Science speaker Ron Suter ... Christian video & audio tape library being set up.

**MARYBOROUGH** Guest speakers continue to support our congregation until full-time ministry begins Jan 1990 with Bruce Anderson ... Mission Band ladies had wonderful effort supplying & packing nine boxes of clothing for church

### Churches of Christ Retirement Services Inc in South Australia Invite applications for the position of **ADMINISTRATOR**

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# Church News

Opportunity Shops in Melbourne ... Annual church fair being held 7 Oct ... Church luncheon 9 July with Barry & Andree Shepherd.

**KEILOR EAST (Ian Smith)** 35 attended family camp at Dean ... Family "Specials" first Sunday in month. Puppets, trombone, drums, piano, organ used ... Pastoral care team formed ... Ladies' Dinner 19 July ... Talent scheme under way to raise money for full-time minister ... Youth group growing in faith & numbers ... Minister involved with appeal against brothel in Airport West ... Farewelled Nissen family moving to Cairns.

**RINGWOOD (Barry Jenkins, Michael Grechko)** The church farewelled Bryan & Jenny Mee at a tea on 18 June. Bryan has commenced a ministry at Nerang in Qld ... Vivianne Burns, a student minister from Bible College of Victoria, has been accepted to do some additional studies at CCTC Mulgrave from July ... Over 40 young people attended youth camp at Torquay ... Group meeting on a weekly basis to study the role of healing in the church.

**BOX HILL (J. Edwards)** Dr Jim Ridgway speaker at Men's Dinner ... Bring a Friend Sunday resulted in 40 guests Six adults & eight children have since returned to worship over three weeks. Regular visitation involved ... Women's cabaret evening speaker Sylvia Frazer. Ted & Rosemary König guest artists ... Gospel singer Mel Davison appreciated ... CWF held birthday celebration ... Cell groups meet weekly ... Six new members received by transfer.

**OAKLEIGH (L.S. Dewberry)** Church pleased to have Betty Dewberry back after successful knee reconstruction ... Dorothy Quantrelle spoke at CWF on 6 June ... Tom Weir home from hospital ... Evening CWF enjoyed slides shown by Freda Fraser ... Mavis Elbourne spoke at CWF World celebration service ... Harvest Festival gifts went to Emmaus, Christian Guest Home & CCTC ... Bible School though small in numbers donated \$50 to Harvest Festival.

**SWAN HILL (L.J. Mayes)** Successful family camp held at Halls Gap over Queen's Birthday weekend. Minister led studies on cell groups & their role in the church family. Campers shared with Stowell church for am worship service ... Two ladies baptised during June ... 140 attended morning guest service on 4 June with most staying for lunch afterwards ... Another ladies share group commenced.

**SOUTH YARRA (A.B. Clark)** Gospel Singers concert held 20 June ... Rita Roberts is slowly recovering in health at Peter James Centre ... Prayers go out for Rita's sister, Mrs Hilda Barbour, in St Leonor Nursing Home, Malvern. Congratulations to Hilda who is celebrating her 90th birthday on 5 July ... At CWF ladies entertained with slides of Queensland, the Centre, Alice Springs etc ... Sympathy extended to Flo Davidson & Lou Clark.

**NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn)** A thanksgiving service for W.T. Atkin was held on 20 June. The chapel was full & past ministers & representatives of Conference spoke on the life & work of W.T. Atkin. Bruce Alcorn conducted the service during which he said W.T. Atkin had served Northcote church for 53 years as minister & elder. After the service the funeral proceeded to Fawkner Crematorium.

**BENTLEIGH (Alan McMillan, Marj Buckingham)** CWF held successful street stall; also adopted Werribee CWF jointly with Knoxfield. Three groups met at Knoxfield. Visit to Werribee planned ... Some members took part in tree planting at Mulgrave ... Represented at Elders Seminar ... Plans well in hand for 60th celebrations in October ... Interest shown in evening home prayer meeting.

## Qld

**BONGEEN (B.M. Nowltzke)** CWF conducted very successful stall at Bongeene State School 50th Jubilee Fete ... Visitors from Fairfield, NSW, worshipped with us after the fete ... Visiting speakers occupied pulpit while minister on holidays ... Members of Division of Men's Work had dinner with local men ... Progressive supper held & feature was a cotton ride ... Young people competed in Sonshine Games, Brisbane.

**BRIBIE ISLAND** June marked 14th anniversary. Guest speakers Hon. Evan Adermann & Tony Baird. Membership highlighted occasion ... Statistically year disappointing. Commenced year with 45 members. Gain in membership five. Loss by deaths five ... Prayer solicited for Sunday School scholars ... Church now free of debt save couple of interest free loans ... Thanks to all visiting preachers during year.

**HARLAXTON, TOOWOOMBA (Daryl Thorpe)** Tony Williamson visited PNG missions for two months ... Fay Christensen completed missiology course in Pasadena, USA, which will help with her

work in PNG ... *No Easy Road* study book on prayer is challenging those participating ... Church celebrated its 67th anniversary with guest speaker Don Spencer, Principal of KCC ... 43 left for Ayers Rock. This is the fifth safari organised by the church.

**WITHCOTT (Steve Fahey)** Finished Qld Conference year with a 46% increase in active membership (59 to 86) ... 28 baptised into Christ in last 12 months ... 4 June marked commencement of services in local shopping centre ... Average attendance for Sunday morning services increasing. Now around 115 ... Church sees the need for a large block of land for future needs. Prayer sought for guidance & finance ... Small groups studying Sermon on the Mount.

**KEDRON (Noel Baxter)** 60th anniversary celebrated over weekend 2-4 June with guest speaker Graham Agnew. Youth group reunion held Friday night, some of the 70 present meeting for first time in 15 years. Graham conducted church leaders' seminar during Saturday & fun time enjoyed at Saturday night "Galah Concert". Many visitors for Sunday am anniversary service & pm combined Northside rally with Graham Agnew preaching.

**MAROOCHYDORE (Geoff Risson)** Reach-out process strengthened by establishment of Small Groups for Bible study during the week. Many non-church people coming. One group is specifically designed for the family situation ... Church sponsored "Christianity Explained" seminar which provided tools for use in the process of evangelism ... Minister addressed Australian conference for pastors of Vietnamese Evangelical Church of Australia in Brisbane ... Church supporting young family in final year with New Tribes Mission in NSW. They are awaiting a posting to an area in north of Australia.

## SA

**TORRENSVILLE (Keith Miller)** Mother's Day highlighted by two baptisms, Ian Milne welcomed into Torrensville fellowship, Ian Miller welcomed into Flinders Park fellowship ... Special luncheon held to celebrate 64th church anniversary & Doreen Tucker's 70th birthday ... Christian Fellowship celebrated 40th birthday with bus trip to Hahndorf ... Monthly nursing home visits continuing. Patients responding to love & witness of church members.

**BRIGHTON (Keith Bowes, Neville Moore)** Renovated buildings well used ... Prayer day had groups sharing every hour in chapel ... Combined churches Pentecost service a joyful celebration ... 25 new members or attenders welcomed at luncheon ... Three more baptisms ... Workshops on Listening & on Sharing Faith valuable for 20 participants ... Col & Vida Curtis missed after shifting to Park Rose Village.

**ALBERT PARK (Steve Ogden)** Worship services on "The Faith of the People" have commenced with lay people preaching & sharing their faith ... Church board reflecting on the life of the church & its future in a series of meetings over next six months ... Dorothy Geyer visiting AP 18 June ... Overseas Missions prayer afternoon 1 July with Jeff May & Dorothy ... Church project started for solar panels for Yamen, PNG ... Recent events men's breakfast, CWF & Friendship Club birthdays.

**HENLEY BEACH (Brian Hill)** Team from the MV *Doulos* shared the evening service on 28 May ... Joyce Bilney, Michael Parr, Mark Brooks, Paul Feder baptised on 4 June. Youth group led this service ... Dorothy Geyer guest speaker on 11 June ... Quiet time seminar conducted by Ian Forbes from LIFE Ministries on 16 & 17 June ... Young people involved in the 40 Hour Famine ... Volleyball team excited at winning the premiership.

**HAWTHORN (Ron Hewltt)** Julie Trinnick guest speaker at Mother's Day service conducted by the ladies of the church ... Alex & Nadia Kozned, two of our missionary family, returned from USA & spoke about the work of Aurora Communications in Alaska ... Week of special meetings conducted by Keith Horne proved a great blessing to all ages ... Raelene Pederson & Geoff & Jacki Tonkin (Wycliffe) presented a tableau in costume revealing the dangers they face in Pakistan ... Challenging morning services based on Acts to continue for whole year.

**KADINA (S.N. Klito)** Life elder A.P. Russack presented with an Australia Day Citizen's Award for services to the community ... Former Liberal MP E.K. Russack awarded an OAM for services to community & State Parliament in Queen's Birthday honours ... Two young people baptised in May ... Night services during winter being held at 5.30 pm ... Craft group operating & well supported ... Two youth groups working effectively & touching the lives of many young people.

# Church News

## NSW

**EPPING (S. Curkpatrick, D. Moyes)** The musical "Lord of Our Days" was presented by church members, directed by Lois Elsmore ... A recent Mission Focus weekend featured Jeff May in a Saturday family night & as guest speaker at Sunday worship ... Joan Pye (Federal Conference Secretary) & Gordon Moyes participated in the ordination of Jeff Pope ... The church will miss Dr Lewis & Mrs Betty Foster, who left recently for further travel & ministry before returning home to USA.

**BELMORE (Wayne Shepherd)** 83rd church anniversary guest speaker Neville Aubrey of Taree. Slavic, Korean & Belmore's fellowship brought readings & choir items ... Recent Saturday Art & Handicraft display was given by migrants who attend the Friendship Centre ... Busy day at Wednesday Playgroup for leaders Kay & Kerry & helpers Beth & Lorna when 35 mothers & 45 children attended ... Social Club activities have proved a good community contact as well as fellowship for church members.

**TAREE (N.G. Aubrey)** 126th anniversary celebrations were held on 17 & 18 June. Guest speaker was Graeme Warne, lecturer at Kenmore Christian College. A well attended dinner was held on the Saturday evening followed by solos from Heather Murray & an address from Graeme. Sunday

services were also well attended & again included special music. A cheque for \$200 was presented to the church from the CWF as a "birthday" gift.

**THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley)** Over the Queen's Birthday weekend 20 of our young people participated in the DCD State Youth Games at Wollongong. On the Monday a good number shared in the mystery car drive with the mystery destination being Fagan's Park, Arcadia ... During the pm service on 18 June Louise Stanford was baptised by Franklyn Elliott. At the close of the service a teenage lad made his decision.

**ALBURY (Alex Wilson)** Great fellowship, studies & communion time at church camp ... John Sattish, Indian evangelist, guest speaker at "Getting to Know You" group ... Alex Wilson, Allan Blyth attend Vic-Tas Ministers' Conference ... Anonymous \$500 gift received to reduce church debt ... 16 residents joined recent Borella House service ... Children led worship beautifully at Sunday School anniversary where \$125 was given to buy Bibles for Russia.

## Tas

**NUBEENA (G. Henderson)** Mother's Day with a difference. Sunday School entertaining the parents & grandparents & then a cuppa. Youth group & men took the evening service ... Steve War-

wick from the Huon churches visited as Conference President ... Neil Mundy & Greg Jacobson left for three week outreach mission in the Philippines ... Barry Hinton admitted to hospital for operation ... Visitors have included past minister Cec Neville & wife ... Gideons visited High School.

**LAUNCESTON (Rod Foster)** Marriage growth & small groups seminars were conducted by Brian & Joan White 15-20 June. Brian spoke at all Sunday services ... A representative from the John Smith mission spoke at both morning services 25 June. WEC students conducted the evening service with Lorrece Hor Kwong, our new associate minister, delivering her first sermon.

**ULVERSTONE (Tom & Ruth Edge)** CWF Mother's Night attracted 60 ... Club Solo night out at "Calamity Jane" ... Church assisted in Red Shield Appeal ... Ministers attended Marriage Seminar in Launceston & Minister's Seminar in Hobart ... Ruth conducting a group for young mums at local Community House ... Ladies providing toddler & baby minding service Thursday mornings to give mums "time-out" ... Ladies Learn & Share afternoon teas well attended.

## WA

**MANDURAH (R. Ryall)** Dorothy Lee will be much missed when she returns interstate. Betty Campbell

has been elected in her place as secretary ... Regular worshipper Jean Faulds died 16 May. Roger conducted burial service ... Excellent seminars presented by Moving Images at Mandurah & Coodanup HS with good support from local churches ... Jessie Dawe making splendid recovery after heart operation ... Vi Bell welcomed by transfer from Perth 11 June.

**SUBIACO (Nigel Merrick)** Church farewelled Nigel, Chelle, Melinda, Stephen, Angela, Jonathan & Matthew Merrick. Luncheon held to show appreciation for Nigel & Chelle's nine year ministry. Speeches & items given by various members ... John Lee accepted into Carlingford College, Sydney. Commencement study in 1990 ... 10 Scripture in Schools teachers taking part in study course ... Group of members preparing for trip to Vanuatu in December to take part in Missionary Convention ... Graham Johnston (previously from Leighton Ford Ministries) from US to take up ministry early September.

**PERTH CITY (G. Powell)** Encouraging growth in membership (2 by baptism, 11 by transfer) and welcome participation by Asians is transforming our church ... 4 small house groups meet for prayer and Bible study, a youth group meets weekly and a music group (3 violins, 2 cellos, a flute, guitar and piano) enriches morning services ... 92 year old Gertie Shannon recovering well from broken hip.

## 43rd FEDERAL CONFERENCE

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

8-14 October 1990

THEME: NOW IS THE TIME TO SERVE THE LORD

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CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS SECRETARY: Mrs C. Forster, PO Box 508, Kenmore 4069 Phone (07) 378 0400

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# Comment

## Losing Touch with the World!

Some good sermons are waiting to be liberated from three current reports.

First the national Anglican newspaper *Church Scene* (9 June) reporting on the 30th anniversary of the Billy Graham crusade noted that 5.5% of the converts were from "depressed residential areas" and only 7.5% were in labouring jobs.

Next came the news that churches now own more property in the Sydney central business district than do banks!

And finally the daily press reported that "clergy were losing touch with the world". (*The Australian Clergy* by Philip J. Hughes (Acorn Press) \$9.95)

It's around the last report I'd like to do some sermon preparation.

### Losing Touch

Once again the Christian Research Association has provided an insight into what clergy are thinking. The major findings of this study reveal that—

- significant numbers of clergy had switched denominations;
- half were in team ministries;
- the average minister was male and in his mid forties;
- faith is being "religious" with few ethical implications.

According to the authors, clergy are at a crisis point and they have handled that crisis by withdrawing from—

- seeking an understanding of the faith that might be meaningful to the world, locating faith in the personal realm of a relationship with God; and
- ministry in the world by identifying the primary function of the church as that of worship and their own primary task as that of leading worship.

### Self Edifying

It's a disturbing picture of ministry in Australia.

Ministers, according to the report "tend

to gather around themselves people like themselves". Particularly is this true in terms of those who are encouraged to take positions of leadership.

The result—"people in the pews look after the minister and he or she looks after them. Both clergy and laity spend a great deal of their time supporting and ministering to each other, and keeping the machinery of the institution running smoothly."

This in turn means that there is little interest in being involved in "the work of God's Kingdom in the world". Neither clergy or laity see their own roles or those of the church as involving a responsibility to transform society or to challenge social evil or injustices.

It means a retreat into the security of the self, a preoccupation with "stress management" if you're a minister, or probing your "self esteem" if you're a member of your congregations study group.

### Challenge

The pages of this journal frequently provide a mirror image of this study.

Yet the challenge remains.

"Ways must be found to engage the world, to encourage people to reflect creatively in life, to consider the nature of the world in which they live, and the nature of the values by which we live: to persuade people to take God seriously. Within the church the challenge of the ministry is that of leading people through their relationships with God and with each other into the world so that God's kingdom might be found on earth as it is in heaven."

If you've ever wondered by so many Church of Christ ministers become chaplains, why so many ministers' conferences are preoccupied with "personal relations" or why so many congregations spend their time studying their "frustrations" or "anger" then this is the book for you.

—Alan Matheson

# The Last Word

After the friendship of God, a friend's affection is the greatest treasure.

—author unknown

*The Catholic Spirit* of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia, captions a picture: "The cleaning of the organ...was completed 14 August. All the pipes were removed and taken to Columbus where they were washed in a very strong detergent to remove all accumulated dirt."

\*\*\*\*\*

Back from a tour of Scotland, a traveller reported that at breakfast in one B&B a guest, unhappy with the thin porridge, asked for toast.

He was given one slice and a tiny blob of honey, prompting this remark to the landlady: "I see you keep a bee."

\*\*\*\*\*

Maybe you think these jokes are bad, But you'd quickly change your views If you compared the jokes we print With the ones we never use.

\*\*\*\*\*

A: Did you know that I wrote something for *The Australian Christian* and that it was accepted?

B: What was it?

A: A cheque for a year's subscription!

\*\*\*\*\*

Burglar Bill: Quiet! Somebody might hear us!

Burglar Bob: Don't be silly! How could anyone hear us with all this noise going on?

\*\*\*\*\*

The engine of the jet plane cut out at several thousand feet and the pilot had to bail out. On the way down the pilot was amazed to see a chef going the other way. "Have you seen a jet plane going down?" the pilot called out. "No", answered the chef, "but have you seen a gas stove going up?"

\*\*\*\*\*



Grandma, are you really going to ride home on the broom, like Daddy said?



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