

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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5 August 1989



Riding the Dodg-ems in Maryborough

In this issue:

- Community Care Dept, NSW.....15**
Phillip Adams v. John Smith.....21
Has the Traditional Gospel
Service Had It?.....28

Bill Roberts and Andy Dougall riding on the "Dodg-ems" at the recent Maryborough Show.

Bill and Andy are residents of Fair Haven Retirement Home operated by the Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department in Maryborough.

These two daring gentlemen were part of a bus load of residents who are admitted free by the Maryborough Show Society each year.

And, although it rained consistently for the rest of the show, the day the residents attended it was fine.

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Chris Ambrose

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Guest Editorial

In Christian Women's Fellowship there is a wonderful opportunity for action and to begin friendships that can last a lifetime. It needs enthusiasm and...

Imagination

by Dorothy Quantrelle

"I held a moment in my hand.
Brilliant as a star
fragile as a flower,
A tiny sliver of one hour.
I dropped it carelessly
Oh my! I knew not
that I had held
an opportunity."

—from "What Might Have Been"
by Hazel Lee



easier for their fellow person. There seems to have been more comradeship prevalent even among younger adults, in the late 1980s, but never let us think that the world is good enough.

One of the most important elements in any program or organisation is enthusiasm. There is still merit in the old saying, "He who has a thing to sell and goes and whispers in a

Did you know that imagination is the most powerful force we possess?

Have you ever felt frustrated, angry or reacted passively in your Christian Women's Fellowship meeting?, and did you really do anything about it?

In Christian Women's Fellowship there is a wonderful opportunity for reaction to initiate action. It is a place where women can exchange ideas, encourage each other, and begin friendships that when begun in earlier years may last a lifetime.

A little consideration and imagination could develop into a thought provoking idea, it may even revolutionise the whole structure of the program. Your action may save a situation or at least throw some light onto a subject that has been a "thorn in the flesh" for a long time. No action at all contributes nothing in any situation, and people have missed out on the skills you have to offer if you chose to remain passive.

Christian Women's Fellowship is a unique organisation. When members participate constructively they develop a wonderful feeling of acceptance. It is not an exclusive group because it exists for every woman (or man if he so desires) in the church, to be part of something much more far reaching than themselves.

A sense of belonging is all important, in this day and age particularly. Never before has self-worth and self-esteem had such a high profile in the vocabulary of the psychiatrist or psychologist. The era of "do your own thing regardless of other people" is not so common, and many people are seeking ways to make life a bit

well, is not so apt to get the people as he who climbs a tree and yells." No one is ever too old to try something new. The important thing, as Alexander Graham Bell said, is "Don't keep for ever on the public road. Leave the beaten track occasionally and go into the woods. You will be certain to find something that you've never seen before. It may be a little thing, but don't ignore it. Follow it up, explore around it. One discovery will lead to another."

The French writer George Poulet said, "The human being never has the time to be. He only has the time to become." I know many women who have become Christian women because of their involvement in Christian Women's Fellowship. Christian Women's Fellowship is not only a group, state or Federal organisation, it is a world order endeavouring to reach every woman ultimately for Jesus Christ.

Any group club or fellowship to which a person belongs or is a member thereof is not complete in itself. Every gathering of

human beings has its leaders and followers, its doers and its knockers. Have you any special abilities? Most people don't; there are only a few geniuses. Life was meant to be lived, so start with what you have, and seek out the Christian Women's Fel-

**Be enthusiastic,
grasp the opportunity
and influence some-
one for Christ today!**

lowship group in your church. It is but a stepping stone, a launching place, to Christ's commission to us all. His command was, "Go into all the world, and tell the people that I love them."

The two qualities that contain the secret of outstanding accomplishments are curiosity and discontent, and they belong together. Without discontent, curiosity

Magicians

merely dies, without curiosity, discontent is only useless hand writing. Think of Leonardo da Vinci, one of the most curious and discontented men that ever lived, Isaac Newton and Louis Pasteur.

Women like Germaine Greer, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the British politician Shirley Williams, who said, "There are hazards in anything one does, but there are greater hazards in doing nothing."

However and wherever you start remember that curiosity and discontent are continuing operations, you don't turn them on and off, you live with them day by day. Start living today and grasp that opportunity. Find a new friend today. Treat yourself to a few quiet moments today, or start a new hobby. Life is for living, so start living today.

Be enthusiastic, grasp the opportunity and influence someone for Jesus Christ today!

• Dorothy Quantrelle is married to Glen and has four children, Beth, Wendy, Robert and Mandy, and six grandchildren (one boy and five girls). A member of Nunawading, Vic, Dorothy is currently serving as assistant secretary and member of the church executive and church board. She has been an active member of Christian Women's Fellowship for over 30 years, being Past President of both afternoon and evening fellowships. She has served the last five years as Dorcas Superintendent, after serving two years as elected member of CWF Conference Executive and Vice President of CWF Executive 1987-88. She is currently Vic-Tas CWF President. A teacher by profession in dressmaking, pattern drafting and design her community involvement is in the Nunawading International Training in Communication group and the local ladies Probus Club. Dorothy was quite involved in CCTC deputation work for the new campus and is currently involved in study at the Churches of Christ Theological College.



Several Christian amateur magicians have grouped together as "The Master's Magicians". One of them is Geoff Conrau (Zarnok the Magician) of the Montrose, Vic, church.

Geoff featured with his magic at the Boronia, Vic, church at one of its Winter Features at Five. The place was packed as Geoff presented the Gospel through his sleight of hand and illusions. Parents were as enthusiastic as their children, who were spell bound.

Geoff Conrau is also a talented violinist and a secondary

school music teacher. He brought with him to the service his own string quintet. He was assisted by his two schoolgirl daughters, Christie, on the cello, and Alyssa, on the violin, and by Belinda Gillam on viola and Melanie Peake on violin.

Singing for the night was led by Sandra Gibson, known across Australia for her worship leadership at the Canberra Federal Conference.

She was assisted by a local backing group and one of the church's two bands.

The Bible theme for the night was from Acts 8 where another magician, Simon, was converted after discovering the free gift of God which changed human lives, as if by magic.

—Gordon Stirling

Geoff and the other members of "The Master's Magicians" (John Cairns from Ivanhoe church and Richard Cutler from the Ringwood church) can be contacted on (03) 728 4258. This number is serviced by an answering service and reply is guaranteed.

New Units for Calypso Court

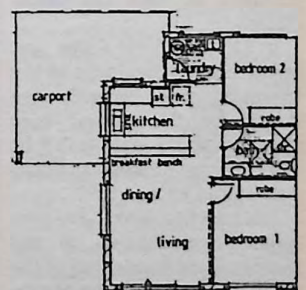
Four new units are to be constructed at Calypso Court, Dickey Beach, Caloundra, in October/November. The Churches of Christ in Queensland Department of Church Development and Education is looking for tradesmen and semi-skilled workers who could assist in this building project. Some holiday accommodation is available for interested workers.

A similar offer to that which

was made when the first units were erected at Calypso Court is again being made. For a donation of \$2,500 the donor will receive 30 weeks of use of a unit over a period of years during the "off peak" period.

Information on the project can be obtained from Jim Deutschmann, Acting Executive Director of the DCDE on (07) 378 1988 or 264 3083(AH).

Layout of the new units



People

Box Hill Hospital Honours Clive Ward



Joan and Clive Ward with the Minister for Health, the Hon. Carolyn Hogg, outside the new Administrative Centre

In February 1982 Clive Ward was appointed to the Board of the Box Hill, Vic, Hospital. He followed in the steps of J.J. Tully of Doncaster, Dr W.A. Kemp and R.H.L. Sparks, both of whom were from Box Hill, and both of whom were previous Presidents of Conference; and Laurie Tully, currently a member of the Doncaster church.

In October 1984 Clive was appointed as President of the Hospital, and recently the Board for the second time amended its by-laws so that he can continue to serve as President until October 1991.

The past five years have seen large developments at the Hospital—re-furbishing of the wards, the construction of new theatres, the extension of the

medical services provided at the Hospital, and at the beginning of 1989 Box Hill Hospital became a major teaching hospital involved with Monash University.

Recently the Board determined to completely refurbish the seven-storey building that had been the nurses home and convert it into the Administrative Centre for both the hospital and the University Clinical School, and it was decided to name this building the "Clive L. Ward Centre" in honour of Clive's service.

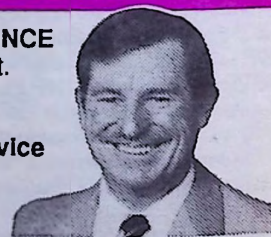
The Minister of Health, the Hon. Carolyn Hogg, unveiled the marble stand that bears the name. Clive commented: "It is an honour which I never expected but for which I am very grateful."

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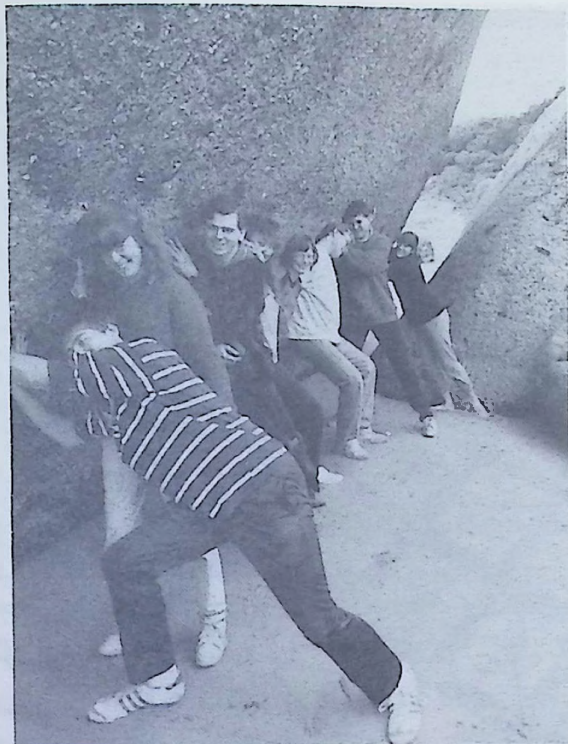
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A Group on the Move!



Spirits were high at the recent Young Adults Car Camp run by the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development. So much so that some of the group tried to budge this rock at Wilsons Promontory National Park.

The camp, run over the last weekend in May, ventured

through some of the most picturesque scenery in Victoria.

The participants travelled first to Inverloch on Friday night and camped on the beach foreshore in tents. Saturday was a pleasant drive down to Wilsons Promontory National Park for lunch and then to Tarra Valley National Park for the night. On Sunday they worshipped at the Traralgon church where Andrew Ball challenged both campers and the local church to "keep moving on" in their Christian faith. The weekend's activities culminated with lunch at Noojee in the hills.

This camp forms part of a new program offered by the Department to help young adults stay involved in an active way in the life of the church.

In September a white water rafting weekend is planned for young marrieds on the Mitchell River near Bairnsdale.

Anyone interested in the youth and young adult ministries of the Department should contact Andrew Ball on (03) 662 2377 during office hours.

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Sunraysia Conference

The churches of Dareton, Mildura and Red Cliffs joined together for the annual Sunraysia Conference on the weekend of 16-18 June.

A catered dinner was held on the Friday as an outreach at the Mildura Function Centre.

Saturday evening was a business session and inspirational rally.

Sunday evening a gospel service was held.

Guest speaker for the weekend was Ron Hewitt of Hawthorn, SA. Ron gave challenging messages at each session. Over 200 attended on the Sunday evening.

"Karios" and "Kaleidoscope" were the artists for the

weekend.

1989-90 officer bearers are: President Peter Waters (Dareton); Vice-President Laurie Stafford (Mildura); Secretary Betty Keatch (Dareton) and Treasurer Marcia Dickie (Dareton).

Conference arranges functions other than the annual conference.

These include the James Dobson films "Turn Your Heart Towards Home", and the Marriage Enrichment Seminar with Brian and Joan White (reported in "AC" 17 June). A "Children for Christ" training session was held on the weekend of 30 June and 1 July.

—Betty Keatch

Give Me a Reason



"Give Me a Reason" is the theme chosen for this year's Christmas Youth Camp to be held at Banksia Peninsula on Lake Victoria. The camp, which runs from 27 December to 2 January, is for young people aged 16 and over and is being directed for the third year in a row by Robert Laird from the Boronia, Vic, church.

Pictured is Malcolm Salmon, graphic designer, who produced and printed the poster for the camp. The poster has particular significance in that it depicts a typical young person who is searching for meaning and identity in life. Colours surround the border or frame-work of reference in the poster, to highlight the fact that there is hope and meaning external

to life as we see it. Andrew Ball, study leader for the camp, has worked hard with both Malcolm and Robert and the leadership team to ensure that the camp appeals particularly to young people outside the church.

Each year the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development sponsors this camp. It is hoped to build on previous work in this area so that new and innovative ways can be developed in order to reach youth with the message of the gospel.

Churches who would like a poster and camp forms and who wish to support this outreach/evangelical camp can contact Andrew Ball on (03) 662 2377.

News

Presentation Quilt by 80 Ladies Commemorates Ministry



The ladies of the Scarborough, WA, church produced this patchwork quilt to present to Gayle Randall, the wife of the minister, Leroy Randall, at the conclusion of his 10 year ministry with the church. Gayle Randall is on the extreme left of the photograph examining the quilt with Julie Cornish (left) and Judy Parker, who organised the assembly of the quilt. The quilt consists of 80 panels, each one produced by one individual. In most cases the needlework incorporates the names of the family involved.

Christian Projects Resounding Success

Christian Projects has released its first newsletter, outlining its dreams and how it proposes to make them come true.

The dream is of an independ-

ent fund to finance leadership development and imaginative projects based on providing goods and services to Christian homes. The resulting profits build the fund.

Churches of Christ ministers have been invited to become CP Agents, or to appoint representatives from their church as the Agent. In the first fortnight 70 responded. In NSW 21

churches (26%) now have a CP Agent, WA has 20 (33%), Vic 12 (11%), SA 8 (12%), Qld 7 (13%) and Tas 4 (44%).

Les Lawlor says...

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Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

JOIN THE ASSEMBLY LINE

To the Editor,

In February 1991 the Seventh Assembly of the World Council of Churches will be held in Canberra, ACT.

I had the privilege of attending the Sixth Assembly in Vancouver in 1983. I was able to share that experience with some people at various meetings. I wish it was possible for more people to share in WCC Assemblies.

For the Canberra Assembly it is hoped that some local churches in Australia will be able to meet some of the Assembly delegates and so catch some of the excitement. However, before that time all churches will have an opportunity of sharing in study programs, preferably as an inter-church activity.

Further to this, all churches can "Join the Assembly Line." For \$100/year, your congregation can contribute to the funding of the Assembly and receive regular mailings on the preparations for the Assembly. I would urge you to support and pray for this most significant event in the life of the Christian church in Australia.

Write to: Australian Coordinator, PO Box C199, Clarence St PO, Sydney 2000.

—Helen Banks
(Belmont, Vic)

OPEN BOARD MEETINGS

To the Editor,

Some 30 odd years ago I concluded that a "medium" sized church of 100-150 members did not have the resources to run the usual activities—Sunday School, youth clubs and fellowships, CWF(s) and sporting clubs—and have a friendship team to cultivate the resulting contacts.

Result: Busy churches dwindling despite great talents. Also, did church growth through Sunday School over three or four generations lead to the church forgetting to talk to adults?

It is stimulating to read in *The Australian Christian* of the importance of planning, defining goals and concepts and policies. (The success story "Focus on Warwick" (17 June issue) tells of a church that never had a Sunday School.)

The question is: "How do we change the pattern?" One inhibiting factor may be that church boards meet in camera. The congregation may not know how their elected members perform, the background to proposals put to it, what is discussed on its behalf, or who are the innovators and the restrainers on the board.

The congregation, being ignorant of detail of board deliberations, is less able to respond, intelligently, to board initiatives or contribute ideas for board consideration.

Is it not time to make board meetings open to members and publish minutes? Perhaps it is already done in some churches, as it is in our Federal, state and local governments. What think you?

—Alec Clutterbuck
(Surrey Hills, Vic)

MINISTRY EXCHANGE

To the Editor,

Terry Carlson, the minister of the Kinghill Christian Church, Kinghill Avenue and Ohio Street, St Joseph, Missouri 64504, USA, is interested in making contact with an Australian minister with the possibility of a pulpit exchange in 1990. Terry, who is a Disciple of Christ minister, would be looking for such an exchange during the June-July period. Ministers interested in examining the possibility of a period serving a conservative church in Missouri can contact Terry direct.

—E.C. Keating
(Nunawading, Vic)

LOGOS FOUNDATION

To the Editor,

Regarding Ken Clinton's letter ("AC" 8 July), I refer Ken and readers to—

1. Hansard, the House of Representatives, 27 July 1989 (pp 1171-1178). Speakers of all major parties condemn the

League of Rights and reference is made to Logos Foundation.

2. Hansard, The Senate, 27 April 1988 (pp 1942-1955). References to Jeremy Lee's activities in the League of Rights.

3. Article, "How the Right Gets It Wrong", by Sally Loane, *The Age*, 21 October 1988 (p 11).

During my term as Vic-Tas Conference President, I became concerned at the uncritical way ideas attributed to Logos Foundation were being accepted and the ignorance of the importance of the separation of church and state as taught by Alexander Campbell and basic to our history.

Re Logos Foundation, Howard Carter describes its relationship with the League of Rights as "political affiliation by empathy rather than collaboration". Senator Boswell, National Party, Queensland, describes the League of Rights as a "subversive" and "destructive group" (Hansard, p 1947), Senator Baume, Liberal, WA,

describes it as "malevolent, it is destructive to people and their values". (Hansard p 1950).

By contrast Howard Carter refers to the League of Rights as one of those "major Christian organisations" with which Logos Foundation has worked for many years. (*Logos Journal* March 1988).

In the same article he acknowledges that Jeremy Lee (former Deputy National Director of the league) is now a member of his church.

Senator Boswell, an active Christian, warns Christians against becoming "innocent vehicles to spread the word of the League of Rights". A most appropriate warning!

—Gerald Rose
(Cheltenham, Vic)

PUBLIC PRAYER

To the Editor,

Public prayer is a corporate act of worship in which the leader gathers up the common prayer of the congregation—

Letters from Tertius

God

To the Editor,

Our Bible study group has been looking at God. Seems an obvious thing for a Bible study group to do doesn't it? After all it's his book we're supposed to be studying! But strangely enough in our group we seem to spend most of the time peddling our own ideas about nearly everything else but God. But at least we always start by talking to God and reading a passage from his word before our meanderings.

In our studies on God it turns out that we all know that God is everywhere, but most of the time we are stuck with the childish habit of thinking of him as away up there somewhere. (Why do they still point upwards or raise their hands upwards in choruses about God?)

As for me, I've always been impressed by the God of the stars and planets and distance space, the God of the mountains and oceans and the God of the great outdoors.

I'm sure that God is in nature and that he is up there as well as being everywhere, but in these studies we seem to be coming to an understanding of God as being very present here, dwelling in us and all around us. It's a bit troublesome when you're used to thinking that you can hide from a more remote and impersonal deity...but very exciting. Amanda exclaimed one night, "He is here while we are talking about him, listening to everything we're saying!" It was a while before the conversation got going again after that.

I couldn't help thinking, yes he is here, and sometimes he might be a little amused at our amateur theology!

—Tertius

Letters to the Editor

"We praise, confess, pray that ..." There is a growing tendency towards "I pray that ..." When the Disciples asked Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray," he gave the divine example in which there is no "I", "me" or "my", only "we", "us" and "our". The only singular pronoun is the second person in "Thy kingdom come," and "Thy will be done."

Another tendency in recent years worthy of comment is the intrusion of "just". "Lord, we just pray that..." Having just prayed for that special thing the leader of corporate prayer goes on to "just pray" for a number of other special things. Why the "just?" Why not "Lord, we pray that...?" "In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" is our encouragement to pray for all sorts of needs for others and for ourselves. We do not "just pray"; we pray entering "boldly before the throne of grace". "Lord, teach us (including the writer) how to pray."

—Ed Roffey
(Mitcham, Vic)

REFLECTIONS ON ECUMENICAL INVOLVEMENT

To the Editor,

I have recently had opportunity to reflect again on our ecumenical involvement. And when I did so, I was amazed at what God has done in his church in my few years in inter-church involvement.

When I joined the Department of Christian Union, the Uniting Church was in the process of formation. It was felt that to ask Churches of Christ to enter the discussions would

create new problems as baptism was not an issue among the three negotiating churches. 12 years after union, baptism is creating a lively debate in the Uniting Church!

On the role of lay leadership, Churches of Christ for many years were distinctive, but with increasing numbers of Pentecostals within Christendom, that has changed. But perhaps of more significance is the developing discussion taking place in the Anglican Church on the role of the laity.

Finally, we have been proud of our emphasis on evangelism. It came as something of a challenge to hear an evangelism program promoted by Orthodox churches in USA. The Orthodox out of their understanding of community are expressing their evangelical appeal in terms of "Me and We and Jesus." What a wonderful balance.

I am reassured about the essential unity of the church.

—Trevor Banks
(Chairman, Department of
Christian Union)

OFFENSIVE OR DEFENSIVE

To the Editor,

It was with a wry smile that I noted a typing error in my recent letter published in *The Australian Christian* (8 July issue).

My intended comment was, "How do we get our churches to address the need for change without them coming on the defensive." Unfortunately the word came out "offensive". If only, if only our churches would go on the offensive!

—Greg Shaw
(Brooklyn Park, SA)

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Media Review

Paper

CHURCH GROWTH AND PASTORAL STRESS

The notes of Rowland Croucher's recent address to the Vic-Tas Ministers' Seminar are available for \$2 from the Secretary, Boronia Church of Christ, PO Box 405, Boronia 3155.

The paper outlines recent research into clergy stress, and deals with some negative effects of the competitive nature of the Church Growth movement on ministers who strive for "success". This is a paper all ministers and elders should read.

—BMcl

Video

OVER THE BACK FENCE

An Approach to Helping

Many of us will be called upon to act as a helper to a friend, neighbour or family member through a problem or crisis.

To be an effective counsellor it is necessary to learn and be able to use the basic skills of communication and counselling.

Many of the currently available training programs are culturally based in the US and, therefore, do not cater for our particular cultural and societal problems, specific needs and special populations.

Another difficulty is that many who live in rural and remote areas are unable to attend such courses.

A group of psychologists, counsellors and social workers from Lifeline, the Queensland Department of Family Services and the Brisbane College of Advanced Education have developed an approach to counselling and communication that will—

- give community members, volunteer workers, professionals and paraprofessionals involved in helping a sound introduction to basic skills;

- enable the learning of such skills in country and remote areas as well as metropolitan areas; and

- be useful for both individual and group training.

The result, after five years of work, is a high quality, comprehensive, creative video training package designed to teach basic communication and counselling skills used in face-to-face and telephone counselling.

The package recognises the need to teach people to know themselves so that they can identify how their biases and different frames of reference effect the communication and counselling processes that occur in counselling.

For more information about the Communication and Counselling Skills Video Training Package contact The Marketing Manager, School of Health and Welfare Studies, Brisbane College of Advanced Education, Carseldine Campus, PO Box 284, Zillmere 4034. Phone (07) 263 6222 extension 392.

Magazine

NEW SERVICE TO CHURCHES

The Federal Board of Christian Education will distribute *Net Results* in Australia from August. *Net Results* is a monthly publication of the National Evangelistic Association of the Disciples of Christ. The 16 page bulletin contains ideas on evangelism and church vitality. Herb Miller is the editor. Herb visited Australia in August–September 1988, at the invitation of the State Home Mission Departments. The change to local distribution will help to save costs and is at the invitation of the NEA.

An annual subscription will cost \$30. Orders may be placed with Grace Sinclair, office secretary to the Board at 52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne 3000, or by phoning (03) 662 2377.

Net Results is serving an increasingly large American audience and circulates among some 60 denominations. Each edition includes articles from evangelism leaders in the Disciples, United Methodist and American Baptist churches. The distinguished church consultant, Lyle Schaller, is a regular contributor. Recent feature articles have included themes such as invitational preaching, the magnetic young adult nucleus, alternatives for the new pastor, threshold evangelism, moving off the plateau, evangelism in the small church, meeting the small church challenge, and steps to reach the "baby boomers".

Once the distribution system is in place it will progressively be possible to purchase back numbers of the publication.

Executive Director of the Federal Board of Christian Education, Don Smith, believes that *Net Results* deserves to be widely read among our Australian churches. The concepts are readily adapted to our Australian scene. Churches are encouraged to take out a subscription and circulate the publication among lay leaders. The Australia-wide distribution of *Net Results* by the FEBC is in keeping with the Board's proposed expanded role in the education and evangelism areas.

Books



FOOTSTEPS

An Adult Christian Discipleship Resource

by Jeff Deuble and Geoff Rowcroft (Vital Publications) \$6

Jeff Deuble and Geoff Rowcroft have written these adult discipleship resources out of their concern for evangelism and the adequate nurture of new disciples. These studies were tested in detail in groups at the Berwick, Vic, church where Geoff and Elaine Rowcroft are currently in ministry. The material has been written for older teenagers and for

adults and is designed to be studied by people who have just made a commitment of faith to Jesus Christ or who are considering that decision. They have written the studies to present a simple, basic and reasonable understanding of what becoming a Christian involves and to facilitate the process of support and nurture between mature and new Christians.

There are six excellent studies that can be used on a personal basis and would take about 45 minutes to fully explore. They would be more suited to group discussions and are excellent for that purpose. Session headings are Starting Over; Seeing Things Differently; In Touch with God; The Church: What's It All About?;

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2422 Logan Rd, Eight Mile Plains, Qld. 341 8500

Media Review

What if I fail? and Marks of Maturity.

There is an interesting Bible reading program that completes the booklet. This outlines a six week daily plan for reading through John's Gospel. Short explanatory notes and reflection questions are supplied which would enhance the use of the studies on a weekly basis.

Available from the Federal Board of Christian Education, 52 La Trobe St, Melbourne 3000. Phone (03) 662 2377.

—CRA



THE MISSION OF GOD IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SUFFERING AND STRUGGLING PEOPLES OF ASIA Biblical Reflections edited by Salvador T. Martinez (The Christian Conference of Asia)

The title of this book is the theme for the 1989 Asia Mission Conference and these 12 studies were intended for discussion at this conference. Six of the studies are specifically on the scriptural text of the Conference, Luke 4:18-19. Each reflection is accompanied by suggested discussion questions. Another addition to the studies

are a series of colour plates of art from various Christian artists from Asia.

While many of the studies have a bias towards a liberation theology approach to the text it is nevertheless interesting to see how Asian Christians interpret the scriptures in the light of their society.

This book is available from the Christian Conference of Asia, 57 Peking Road, 4th Floor, Kowloon, Hong Kong. No price is known.

—CRA

SIGNS, WONDERS AND HEALING When Christians Disagree series edited by John Goldingay (Inter-Varsity Press)

In this book seven prominent British Christian leaders present different views of the current "signs and wonders" revival that we are experiencing. Overall, there is a fair amount of common ground. All are evangelicals, all believe in a God who heals, all believe in the healing miracles of the New Testament, all believe that Jesus heals today.

Some of the questions raised are: Why is it that not everyone is healed? Are we in danger of being preoccupied with healing, giving it a greater importance that it should have? What is the place of healing? Has there been a withdrawal of the powers and miraculous signs since apostolic times?

Why is it that not everyone is healed? One of the writers who strongly supports healing today (Tony Dale) answers this. He acknowledges that not all are healed: even in the New Testament there were those who were not healed. But Dale asks, "Would we stop witnessing to people just because all of them do not immediately respond to the Lord?" (page 73) We are to pray for healing and to witness in response to the Lord's command, the results are in God's hands.

The danger of being preoccupied with healing: Bill Lees believes in the Lord healing today, but believes that teaching on healing is often taken to extremes, and like the teaching on prosperity, can be quite inappropriate and a distraction from our primary commitment to world evangelism (page 124). Several writers highlight the value of suffering and the Christian's coming inheritance in death as other reasons we should not over-

emphasise healing.

Where should healing take place? A most practical section from David Huggett, vicar of St Nicholas' Church in Nottingham, not only emphasises there is a right time for healing (an important parallel with John Wimber's procedure) but a right place. Huggett argues against the "special healing service" in favour of the weekly worship service including a healing segment. His church has set up praying teams who are available at every service. They see that worship, the preaching of the word and healing all go together.

Are signs and wonders for today? Philip Hacking, the chairman of the Keswick Convention, argues that exorcisms, miracles and the role of the prophet disappear after Acts and are not found in the epistles or the church beyond apostolic times. He argues against the expectation of instant answers and believes that James 5 refers to a small group situation where friends can pray for and with one another. Healing prayer must be removed from the communion and the spectacular (page 166). I agree with David Huggett, who quoted David Watson in reference to Hacking's article: "The answer to misuse is not disuse but right use." Philip Hacking's article is too negative for me.

One of the most interesting aspects of the book was the different interpretations to a couple of key texts. The James 5 verses are considered very seriously by David Huggett; Peter May says, "James 5 is more about intercessory prayer than signs and wonders" (page 38) and Tony Dale writes, "It is astounding to me that such a clear command of scripture can be so flagrantly disobeyed by large segments of Christ's church." (page 72)

The John 14:12 verse also tended to be variously interpreted. Jesus said his disciples would do "greater things" than their master. May interprets the verse as referring to foot washing and loving one another (page 41), while Bill Lees sees it as the conversion of the nations (page 128). Roger Cowley encourages us to expect "the disciples' activities will be on a wider scale (and perhaps of greater variety) than Jesus' personal earthly ministry" (page 95).

Clearly God is at work today in a fresh wave of signs and wonders. People are being healed. On one hand we should avoid the showmanship and unsubstantiated claims made by some in the healing ministry. On the other hand don't let us see every healing as a possible counterfeit or work of the devil. Jesus heals today. Thank God for that. In our churches let us renew our expectancy for God to touch people's lives. Let us ask God to show us the ones he wants to heal. Let us use all the resources available to us to bring physical, emotional and spiritual healing to this needy world.

—Barry Jenkins

GROWING OLDER by Una Kroll (Collins Dove) \$9.95

Don't let the cover of this book deter you. Two persons in their 80s who briefly explored the contents said it was well worth reading. I am grateful for their assistance in this book review.

Growing Older is written by an Anglican deaconess who is also a medical doctor so both Christian perspectives and medical issues are explored. With a husband 23 years her senior the author's personal pilgrimage in facing ageing and death gives further credibility.

The final chapter on the pleasures of growing older and the last chapter on finding the victories seeks to balance the many potential medical problems to which our mortal flesh can be heir to.

You will need to do some "Australianising" as this book emanates from experiences in the UK.

Issues are raised which we all have to face as we grow older. For those in their 50s and above it's well worth reading even if all the potential problems tend to be depressing.

—A. George Mathieson

Happenings

In the 30 years since the birth of the SIM related Union Christiana Evangelica (UCE) in Bolivia, growth has averaged 21 new congregations each year. UCE was formed in 1950 with 12 congregations and 625 members. Today UCE churches number 820 with 40,000 members and adherents.

The Bible Society in Australia has launched an appeal for \$350,000 towards the provision of Bibles and New Testaments for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The requests for Scriptures for the Soviet Union include Bibles in Russian, Armenian, Georgian, Latvian and Ukrainian, as well as Bible story books. In Czechoslovakia there are requests for 25,000 Slovak Bibles and 160,000 Czech Bibles and New Testaments.

Roman Catholic women in the US are 30% more likely than Protestant or Jewish women to undergo abortions.

7 Hong Kong denominations are holding a 14 day round-the-clock prayer marathon to show solidarity with the victims of those killed or injured in the recent crackdown by the Chinese authorities.

Max Olding retires this year as Deputy Director of the Queensland Conservatorium. In his reminiscences broadcast on ABC FM recently he recalled playing the organ as a young man for various Melbourne churches including the Swanston Street Church of Christ.

Australia's first Roman Catholic University is to be established in Fremantle, WA. It will be known as the University of Notre Dame Australia and will be developed as a private venture with the help of a Perth millionaire. The university plans to accept 400 students initially but they expect those numbers to swell

to 2,000 by the year 2001.

The ordination of divorced men in the Church of England came nearer when the House of Lords supported lifting the existing ban on entry to the ministry. The Anglican Church in Australia has been ordaining divorced ministers since 1980.

In a recent survey of news items in the US people polled about the relative news importance of 9 special fields, religion was found to rank about in the middle, below education, health and business, but above sports, food, personal advice, entertainment and art.

In a US poll on the value of religious news types of religious news were ranked. The polls gave first place to "social and ethical positions and pronouncements by major faith groups", such as on abortion, nuclear policy and the economy. While "local church news and announcements" ranked second the other highly rated categories "were national and international in scope, rather than locally or individualistically oriented". These included "ethical and social issues", the "role of religion in foreign or international politics", the "role of religion in US politics" and "national religious issues and controversies".

On 1 and 2 July in the city of Rostov the first open conference of leaders of the Non-Registered Evangelical Christian-Baptists Union was held in the USSR. There were 1,000 delegates from around the country. There are 42,000 formal members of these churches with 100,000 regular worshippers.

Armed rebels belonging to the Philippines' Communist New People's Army massacred 39 worshippers as they left a service on 25 June in the village of Digos, Davao del Sur Province, on the island of Mindanao.

The church was a congregation of the United Church of Christ, which is affiliated with the National Council of Churches of the Philippines. No reason is known for the attack. 35 of the dead were women and children, 11 of them under 13 years of age.

The Bulgarian government has issued a ban against a Methodist pastor, forbidding him from public preaching for the rest of his life.

The government of Ghana has launched new measures to control religious groups who are allegedly disrupting "public order," and has ordered all religious groups to register with the Commission on National Culture.

A seminar "Work Injury and Violence" is being held at the Mission of St James and St John, Batman Street, West Melbourne, on 12 August, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. Information on the seminar can be obtained from Jane Dewildt of the Urban Ministry Network on (03) 758 1489.

In Western Australia the Christian Welfare Centre is establishing a group to discuss social welfare/justice issues. Readers interested in joining in any of these discussions should contact John Clapp on (09) 328 4344.

A third of the thousands of children who work in the streets of Bolivia's cities have been abandoned by their families. A report by the La Paz based Social and Economic Studies Centre found that the other two thirds worked in order to supplement their families' modest incomes. The principal occupations were shining shoes, washing or watching cars and selling small items.

The National Library of Australia has announced that *A Circle of Quiet* by Madeline L'Engle has been awarded the 1989 Audio

Book of the Year. Narrated by Irene Pappas, and produced by Christian Blind Mission International, *A Circle of Quiet* has become the inaugural winner of this award.

Following five weeks of evangelistic crusades in Wales by Luis Palau some 80,000 attended and almost 5,000 responded.

A nationwide network of counsellors is being set up in Britain to care for children and adults harmed by satanic covens. Under the auspices of the Evangelical Alliance the coalition has been formed in response to recent cases of child abuse, rape, animal and human sacrifice during satanic rituals.

Canadian Anglicans have agreed to open their communion tables to Lutherans, in a significant step towards unity. Anglicans have also agreed to promote joint religious services on special occasions, with ministers from each church participating and having a minister from either church serve both Lutherans and Anglicans in remote or sparsely populated areas of the country.

The Supreme Court of the State of California in a 7-0 decision ruled in *Nally vs Grace Community Church of the Valley* that pastoral counsellors are not subject to the duty to prevent suicide nor should the general professional duty of care be extended to a nontherapist counsellor who offers counselling to a potentially suicidal person on secular or spiritual matters.

A Baptist church worker, Marla Gomez, was taken from her school classroom in El Salvador in April by armed men in civilian clothes and killed. Later found shot, with her body burned by acid, she was one of many evangelicals murdered or persecuted because they helped their country's

poor and oppressed.

Over 400 Australian Aborigines have been infected with HIV (AIDS) virus, and projections are that up to 52,000 will be infected unless the cycle can be broken, the Anglican minister at Woorabinda Aboriginal Community outside Rockhampton told the North Queensland synod in May.

Aborigines are about 5 times more likely than other Australians to abstain from alcohol, according to a study by the Northern Territory Drug and Alcohol Bureau. The study found 60% of Northern Territory Aborigines did not drink alcohol, compared with about 12% of the general population. But more than two thirds of Aboriginal drinkers drank to dangerous levels.

The number of congregations of the Addis Ababa Synod of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus increased by 150% in 1988.

People with handicaps in the Philippines will soon receive wheelchairs, crutches and other medical equipment, as well as some art supplies as a result of a joint effort between Joni and Friends, World Opportunities and several other agencies and churches. Quadruple-gic Joni Eareckson Tada knows just how difficult life can be for disabled people.

New Zealand gospel artist of the year, Derek Lind, has been invited to perform at two overseas musical festivals this year, including the prestigious Greenbelt festival in Britain in September, and Australia's Blackstump festival in October.

WANTED TO RENT

House on Phillip Island, 28 March-2 April 1990. Ian Corlett (03) 311 3181 (office) (03) 376 3719 (after hours)

The Quarry Workers of Madurai



Mallika is a quarry worker who lives near the city of Madurai, India. Her daily work, breaking up stones into gravel with a steel mallet, brings in 6-8 rupees (about 60 cents) a day.

In the rainy season the quarry fills with water and Mallika cannot work. Without a reliable income the quarry workers quickly fall into a cycle of debt and poverty.

Changes started to happen for Mallika and others like her about a year ago. A field worker from the Madurai Multipurpose Social Service Society (MMSSS), a local church agency, came to work with the people in the quarry. Overtime she gradually helped the people to understand how they could improve their situation.

The quarry workers' first step has been to break free of debt

and plan for the future. Despite their low wages they were able to put aside small amounts of money left over each week. By now the women have saved over 550 rupees (\$60) and the men have accumulated about 1,500 rupees (\$150). This will help them get through the wet season without incurring further debts.

By combining their savings with bank loans and a subsidy from MMSSS, they hope to begin building low-cost houses to replace their shacks.

In June Force Ten, a program of the Australian Council of Churches and Australian Catholic Relief, supported the work of MMSSS with the quarry workers and other communities near Madurai and among the tribal communities in the nearby hills.

The quarry is just one place where MMSSS is using the approach it calls "people-based development". The aim is to develop people and communities so that they can make their own decisions and act to improve their situation.

MMSSS employs field workers who live among poor and oppressed communities for one to two years. They help the people become aware of how to get basic amenities like clean water, health facilities and land title. The field workers also encourage and train potential leaders and help the people to build confidence and skills.

Evangelism 79 Years Later

In 1910 1,200 representatives of Mission Boards and Societies gathered in Edinburgh in Scotland. This major Mission Conference launched the ecumenical movement of this century. 79 years later I attended a meeting in San Antonio known as the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism.

In 1910 99% of the participants of the Conference came from North Atlantic countries. Their theme was "The Evangelisation of the World in our Generation". In 1989 70% of the delegates came from areas to which the mission societies in 1910 sent missionaries. From all corners of the world, representing all continents, all major races, female and male alike, 700 of us gathered in San Antonio, Texas.

In that period of time many things have changed. New nations have emerged and the shackles of colonialism have been thrown off. To quote Eugene Stockwell, "Gone, thank God, is the simplistic reading of history that sees Christian development as the inexorable forward progressive march of human kind. Gone, thank God, is the pretentious ignorance that the best is in the West. Gone, thank God, is the cultural pride that is blind to the age old beauty of mind, experience in spirit of what so many could be called 'pagan'."

It is true that many things have changed in these 79 years. Not all changes have been good. The Christian church has spread throughout the world but there is so much pain, disease, hunger and oppression facing the people in the world. Each child born in the Third World today is immediately in debt to a child born in the First World. Every child is born under the cloud of thermo nuclear catastrophe or expanding ecological suicide.

In 1989 we gathered in San Antonio to look at the prayer of Jesus, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." We took as the theme for the Conference, "Doing Mission Christ's Way". We recalled how



Jesus saw his own mission as recorded in Luke 4 in front of the people of his own home town of Nazareth. We thought about mission in Christ's way as all-encompassing every need of human kind.

In the year 400 AD Christians numbered about 20% of the known population. That figure remained the same for about 1,000 years. Last century there was a vast missionary outreach and Christians climbed to 34% of the world's population at the beginning of this century. Since then it has hovered at around 32%. One third of the world's population calls itself after the name of Christ.

What is mission in Christ's way to the rest of the world? One third can be reached by existing established churches who can offer the Gospel of Christ to others.

The only way, however, the other third will ever hear the Gospel, is if people from beyond their countries bring it to them. The age of mission is by no means over.

Mission in Christ's way must be all embracing. We must all pray to know how the will of God can be done on earth as it is in heaven.

—Jeff May

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who would be responsible to the Relocation Committee for the day to day control of all aspects of the program.

It is envisaged that this would be a part-time position although initially could require considerable time to organise the commencement of the operation. It is felt a retired builder or similar person may be available to assist us in this great undertaking.

The task would require considerable experience in the building industry, particularly in formulation of tender requirements, appointment of sub-contractors and overseeing and inspection of work under construction.

If you feel you could be our person please write to:

Chairman, Relocation Committee
Berwick Regional Church of Christ

PO Box 75,
Berwick 3806

For further information phone

Les Reader on (03) 707 3849 (home) or 793 3348 (work).

We will consider all applications received by Monday 21 August 1989.

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Applications are called for the Christian Projects Award of Excellence

The Award of Excellence was adopted at the Summit Conference held at Point Lonsdale in November 1986. It is designed to recognise worthwhile effort and achievement by men and women in the service of Australian Churches of Christ. It is intended to honour those who have given dedicated and honorary service over a long period, at least five years of which have been served in the specific service for which they are honoured.

A limited number of these awards will be made each year. They are reserved exclusively for lay people who have unselfishly given of themselves in a manner so as to benefit the church which they serve.

The Award of Excellence will be recognised by a handsome certificate.

Applications for this Award close on 15 September 1989 and should be addressed to:

Ian Henry
Chairman, Selections Committee
Christian Projects Office
99 James St
Templestowe 3107

Community Care Department, NSW

Aged Persons Care

The major part of the Department's material resources is involved in our aged care program. This reflects a very real and growing need, which is going to become even more acute over the next two decades, when the number of people over 75 years of age in Australia is going to double.

The Department provides three types of accommodation in self care units, hostels and nursing homes.

The following table shows the locations and numbers of each type of accommodation.

Location	Self Care Units	Hostel Rooms	Nursing Home Beds
Pendle Hill	108	51	61†
Forestville	33	34	
Hornsby		19	
Croydon		29	
Thirroul	11	34	
Green Hills (E. Maitland)	36	41	60*
Mayfield	23		
Coffs Harbour	24		
Albury		41	
Totals	235	250	121

† Joint venture with CWF

* Joint venture with Uniting Church

Prison Chaplaincy

The Department is pleased to have one full-time and two part-time prison chaplains involved in gaols in NSW. Neal Hodgekiss, our full-time prison chaplain at Long Bay Gaol in Sydney, tells of his work in the following article:



On the Other Side of the Fence After 12 Months at Long Bay Gaol

With the increase of inmates to 4,750 in New South Wales, costing about \$30,000 per person per year, the cutting of services and visits, and the planning of more maximum security gaols, a question to ponder for inmates and families is: "In what way can God become involved in the Christian Community and the Community at large?"

I spend most of my time at one of the six gaols at Long Bay, called the Central Industrial Prison (CIP). In May 1988 when I commenced, the CIP was overcrowded with about

420 inmates, with two in many cells, who were locked up about 4 pm each afternoon and released about 8.30 am next morning. Recently the number has increased to about 600 with some cells having three in each with one often having to sleep on a mattress on the concrete floor. It is quoted that about 80% of the inmates have drug-related charges. Ages are from 18 to 34 years.

I am pleased to be at Long Bay with an excellent team of chaplains. Presently in NSW there are 13 full-time chaplains with many others providing part-time care. The daily delight of sharing in Christian conversation with individuals and groups is most encouraging as is watching the practical attitudes change.

We need mature and well-balanced Christians to join the Prison Fellowship. How can we all work together? For example the church in the CIP is made up of inmates, chaplains and about six Prison Fellowship members. The Prison Fellowship and chaplain conduct a practical program at least monthly, assist with church services and

then visit inmates on a regular basis. When inmates are released they assist them to get back into the community, get work and keep at it and find a place of worship.

Crisis Accommodation Centre

We provide emergency short-term accommodation for single mothers and their children. We currently have two premises which, between them, have up to 9 families. In 1988 we cared for 35 women and 61 children in our two centres.

Graham Long, our field officer, tells of his work in the Crisis Centre:



The Crisis Centre

At Pendle Hill we run two houses as a refuge for women and children, caring for up to nine families at a time. To become homeless in Sydney is an easy matter and with waiting lists for public housing now stretching to eight and nine years, it should be no surprise to learn that many families squash into ridiculously overcrowded accommodation, or that many families live in cars, or the street, or just move from refuge to refuge. We accept people for three months and in that time we are generally able to organise more suitable housing. Our ministry is to be the embodiment of love and grace to a people never touched by the church and while we often feel we are pushing water up hill, there are some marvellous stories of people being reborn and the whole project is one that enriches the church in a variety of ways but particularly through the transformation and sharpening of focus in the lives of the volunteers from local churches who support the ministry.

How You Can Help

- Prayer support is needed for the many aspects of the Department's ministry.
- Making a bequest in your will.
- Making a donation towards the work of the Department. Gifts of \$2 or more are tax deductible.
- Good clothing and furniture is needed to assist us in our welfare work.



Self Care Units, Greenhills

Classifieds

BIRTHS

WILLIAMS Congratulations to ChenLu and Warren on the birth of a baby boy, Ashton, 8 July. Grandparents Irene and Max and great grandparents May and Bon Williams (of Clayton, formerly of Horsham).

ENGAGEMENTS

BAKER—DELL-OREFICE Allan and Nola Baker have pleasure in announcing the engagement of Renée to Sebastian, 29 July 1989.

RUBY WEDDINGS

WILSON—STEVENS Elaine and Max wish to announce the anniversary of their marriage on 6 August 1949, at Margaret Street Church, Launceston, Tas, by Stanton H. Wilson. Present address: 30 Emu Road, Glenbrook, NSW.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

EASTON (SELF) Pam and Toni wish to announce their parents' Golden Wedding (50 years). Celebrated at Footscray Church of Christ, 12 August 1939. Officiating ministers W. Wakefield and W. Evans. Open House, Saturday, 12 August, 2 pm to 8 pm, at 60 Phyllis St, Bayswater. (No presents please.) For inquiries phone (03) 729 6606. Congratulations Mum and Dad from Pam, Danny, Danny Jnr, Emily, Mark and Timothy; Toni, Ian, Natasha and Sian. God bless you both.

DEATHS

GILLESPIE, Frank Richard. On 25 May 1989, at Mornington. Beloved husband of Betty, loved father of Bruce, Robin and Jeanette. Loved father-in-law of John and Grandpop of Colin and Philip.

PARKER, Aileen Barbara (nee Pope). Much loved wife of Allan. Passed away peacefully 19 July at the Mallala Hospital, aged 58 years. We thank God for blessing us with such a special wife, mother and grandmother. Much loved mother and grandmother of Judith, Cliff, Kara, Shelly and Richard. Loved and loving mother of Lynette, Michael and grandmother of Brett and Andrew. Loved mother of Deidre. Much loved mother of Robert and Jo and grandmother of James and Nathan. Loved mother and grandmother of David, Jackie, Jason, Lauren and Emma. Loving mother of Andrew (deceased). Our dear mum, Gloria and Peter. Mum always gave God the glory in all situations. Will miss our very special mother, James and Susan.

TREGILGAS, Allan A. Passed away suddenly at QEH, Woodville,

SA, on 11 July 1989. Much loved and loving husband of Glad. Loving and much loved father and father-in-law of Val and Allan Stewart and Joan and Robert Dodd. Proud and devoted and much loved Pa of Andrew, Kylie, Glen, Jodie and Mark. Atrest in the Lord. Peace perfect peace.

IN MEMORIAM

STRACK, George Edmund. 2 August 1988. The memories of your kindness, love and generosity live on.

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Graeme Chapman

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Speaker: Conference

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Esperance Church Opened



Peter and Robin Spence

Over 200 attended the opening of the new Esperance, WA, church on 1 July.

The opening was performed by John Bolton, WA Conference President, and included contributions from the Esperance Shire President, Rev Barry Fearnley, from the local minister's fraternal and Avon Moyle, Executive Director of the Federal Aborigines Board.

Esperance minister, Peter Spence, told the meeting of the decision by the church not to borrow any moneys to complete the building. The Lord honoured the members' faith—as materials were required so the funds came in.

During the week prior to the opening the decision was made to forgo the purchase of a public address system rather than borrow the \$1,600 needed. Two days before the opening a donation of \$1,635 was received

from a WA country church. The PA system was then purchased and finally installed a couple of hours before the ceremony commenced.

The members have moved into their new building completely debt free!

The Esperance church is conducted in conjunction with the Federal Aborigines Board. It is strategically placed in the town's main residential area and attracted its first new member the following day "because it now had its own building".

The church, which grew out of the ministry to Aboriginal teenage girls through the Fairhaven Hostel, has about 40 members, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal. It is well on the way to fulfilling the aim of the FAB to develop a fully autonomous, self-supporting, local church. —AWM

Churches: Beware of Thieves

Thieves are no respecters of churches, any more than arsonists are, as the Mackay, Qld, church found in the case of the fire reported in *The Australian Christian* (22 July issue).

A visiting speaker from the Bible Society sustained property and cash loss from the vestry of the Gartrell Church (Dulwich-Rose Park, SA, United Parish) on 23 July. Fortunately this was covered by insurance held by the Society.

Then a day or so later Graham and Bev Burgan, on a working holiday at Dulwich-Rose Park from their studies at CCTC, Mulgrave, and the East Bentleigh, Vic, church, had their vehicle burgled in the street outside the Church of Christ manse on the last evening of their stay. They lost electronic equipment and cash. Compensatory help was forth-

coming from thoughtful donors.

The vestry pillage reminded the writer that some time back, being delayed by an early Sunday emergency, he found himself too late to get to the 10 am service at Gartrell, so he went to the 10.30 am service at Victoria Terrace. Alas, the door was bolted and barred against nefarious intruders because of a previous theft of the offering from the vestibule. Not wanting to create a disturbance by banging on the outer door (with the noise muted in any case by hearty hymn singing within) there was nothing to do but creep away home and watch the ABC's TV service, feeling very much like an unwise virgin. Subsequently the door protection arrangements were altered to guard against further malpractice. —JL

Harassment of Christians

Last November Jeff May and Barry Jenkins visited Dr Iris Paul in Orissa in South India.

A letter dated 5 May from Iris Paul states:

"Now there is communal tension all over Koraput District and on 24 April, a Christian in a drunken state at Jeypore threw a stone and broke the sacred water-pot of a Hindu girl. The street brawl took up a magnitude beyond expectations with much property destroyed at many centres around here. The RSS (extreme Hindu

organisation) arranged a bandh (strike) in various areas on different days. By God's grace, the bandh at Malkangiri on 26 April was peaceful, but all Christian centres including the church at Korkanda and the mission are now functioning day and night with police protection. It is sad that a small incident has flared up so much tension.

"Kindly pray that there will be peace and the people will learn to love each other and live together."

Have you thought of helping
"The Australian Christian"

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Churches of Christ?

Why not include us in your will?
The following wording could be used
in your will:

I give and bequeath \$ (or a
percentage of the total estate) to
"The Australian Christian", the na-
tional journal of Churches of Christ
in Australia, absolutely for the use
and benefit of the organisation free
from all debts, funeral and tes-
tamentary expenses.



Day Kindergarten Opened



The Member for Ballarat South, the Honourable Frank Sheehan MLA, and Pam Boyle, President of the Parent's Committee of the Kindergarten, preparing to open the new Kindergarten while Ian O'Brien, York St Church of Christ Board Chairman, looks on (Photo courtesy of the *Ballarat Courier*)

The York Street Church of Christ Day Kindergarten in Ballarat, Vic, was officially opened on 27 May. The Member for Ballarat South, Frank Sheehan, performed the ceremony untying a ribbon tied to the doors of the new building.

The opening culminated the completion of stage two of a larger project to extend the church's facilities.

Over the last few years it became obvious that all sections of the church's activities required more space to meet the growing needs in the church and community.

It was agreed to build a new chapel and renovate existing buildings. The former Day Kindergarten shared facilities

with church activities creating problems associated with joint usage. As these facilities were in the centre of the planned building complex it was obvious that the Day Kindergarten would have to be removed. It was agreed to go ahead with a major redevelopment that included a separate day kindergarten and new playgroup.

Initially, no assurance was given of any funding, other than that raised within the church community. However, the Government has since contributed a sum of \$30,000 toward rebuilding the Kindergarten. It has cost the church more than \$57,248 to build the Kindergarten, although the estimated value of the building was

\$106,000. The resultant savings were made by willing volunteer labour and donations of work and materials.

The Kindergarten is a valuable asset, but it also provides a wonderful opportunity for outreach into the community. It has given the church opportunity to meet a need within the community that would have been lost had this building program not included a community facility for our generations of the future.

—Heather Gordon

WA State Youth Games

Warwick, WA, was the host church for the 1989 WA State Youth Games held over the long weekend on 3 and 4 June.

14 churches were represented by 375 competitors at St Stephen's Uniting School, who generously allowed us the use of their incredible facilities. This enabled the majority of events to be held at one location.

On the Saturday we managed to cover tennis, netball, football, softball, volleyball, squash and a marathon, then moved to basketball in the evening at Perry Lakes Basketball Stadium.

The games are a wonderful means to encourage young people to invite their friends and experience the warmth of Christian fellowship.

The highlight of the weekend was the worship service at Warwick. 300 heard Richard Pengelley, vice-captain of the Olympic water polo team and Chairman of Christians in Sport in WA share his testimony of being a Christian in the world of sport. Following the service a luncheon was held and trophies presented by Richard to the successful churches.

Warwick were the overall winners on this occasion, followed closely by Harvey and then Nollamara.

1990 is the Centenary Year for Churches of Christ in WA and we are looking forward to this event being a major contribution to the celebrations by the young people.

—Lyn Devlin
(Youth Co-Ordinator at Warwick)

Leaving the Ministry

The major reasons ministers leave the ministry is that they feel inadequate for the job, according to a US United Church of Christ survey. Other reasons, in order, include: unable to relocate when required, family problems, increased opportunity, illness or breakdown, professional dissatisfaction, lack of church spiritual growth, divorce, money problems, more attractive job.

In his analysis of the survey, Michael G. McBride summarises why pastors may feel inadequate: "A 'model' pastor ...labours from eight in the

morning until ten in the evening in every type of work. He is 26 years old and has been preaching for 30 years. He has a burning desire to work with teenagers and spend all his time with older folks...He makes 15 calls a day on church members, spends all his time evangelising the unchurched, and is never out of the office."

—Ministry (January 1989)

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Withcott Growing



Part of the congregation at Withcott

The Withcott, Qld, church is another growing church that is currently meeting in a shopping centre. In the three and a half years that Steve Fahey has been ministering with the church, attendances have grown from 29 to 116. Active membership in the past year has grown from 59 to 86, an increase of 46%. Steve recently agreed to minister with the Withcott for another six years.

The Withcott church commenced in November 1982. When Steve commenced his ministry the membership was 14.

On 4 June the church began meeting for services in the local shopping centre. Until that time the church meet in the local CWA Hall, but because of space restrictions they were forced to hold two morning services. So far they have had over 120 attending each of the services in the shopping centre. They are

renting two shops, on a month to month basis, which they have made into one worship centre.

On 12 July the Gatton Shire Council will make a decision concerning the subdivision of land near Tomatoland where the church hopes to purchase almost eight acres of land for a future church building. [The Council approved the subdivision and now the owner and the church are negotiating the purchase of the property.]

At present they move to the Margaret St, Toowoomba, building on a Sunday afternoon to conduct any baptisms. Over the past few years there have been almost 60 baptisms.

When asked what was the main reason for Withcott's growth Steve commented: "Quality worship services that are relevant to people today." They regularly have a guest artist and Steve's preaching is on issues that are relevant to

Being a Christian in Australia Today

Muriel Porter is writing a book for delegates and others attending the World Council of Churches Assembly in Canberra in 1991 about Australia and its experience of religion. The book will include a section on what it means to be a Christian in Australia today.

She needs some pithy, thought-provoking comments from Christians from all traditions, all ages, all cultures, around the country.

What is it like to be a Christian in Australia today? What difference does it make, or is there no difference at all? What influence does the Christian church have? What are its problems or drawbacks in Australian society? Is Australia a Christian nation? If not, why

not? How far is the multi-faith dimension influencing the way Christians think about themselves, their country or religion in general? What is the future of the Christian church in Australia? What might churches be like in 20 years time?

Your church might like to discuss these questions and contribute to the book. Muriel is also interested to hear of any specially interesting or innovative programs being pursued by Christians, either individually or corporately, in church or community.

Contributions should be sent to Dr Muriel Porter, Joint Board of Christian Education, Second Floor, 10 Queen St, Melbourne 3000, by 31 October.

life. Steve also writes for the local newspaper on faith issues. The service is held at 8.30 am with morning tea to follow, and this is followed by Sunday School, which 25 attend.

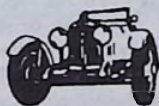
The growth has come from the attraction of the worship services and has meant that the congregation has a large number of young families present. However the church is not made up of just this one age group—there are older couples also worshipping at Withcott.

Currently the church has a

youth group for Grades 7-10 operating on Friday evenings with 50 members. The other youth group for Grades 11 plus has only 20 members at present. One of the emphases of the church is small groups. Tuesday is the main day for these groups with a ladies group meeting in the afternoon and three groups meeting in various homes in the evening.

Steve is one of the ministers attending the Leadership 2000 seminar in Singapore organised by Christian Projects.

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Dean Sander

A Church ABC

Ascot Vale is an inner suburban area of Melbourne, Vic. It has a large public housing estate, but is also experiencing a resurgence of middle class professional families.

The church commenced in 1892. In 1979 the church hall was burnt and then in 1980 the church was burnt to the ground. So the older hall was renovated to provide to-

Wednesday evenings, and the church has witnessed lives being changed due to worship.

For 11 years Ascot Vale has run a half way house. Until three years ago the emphasis was on alcohol rehabilitation but

an electrician before training at MBI for four years. He also did four years at the College of the Bible and recently completed a Bachelor of Arts. His wife Margaret grew up in the Essendon church, and they have three young sons, Ashley, 7, Heath, 5, and Tyson, 2.

Two Bible studies are held each week. One is led by the minister, the other, a KYB

Focus on Ascot Vale

day's worship centre and a four-bedroom manse was built, free of debt.

The membership consists of 50 adults, of which only seven are elderly, but there are also 28 children under nine and more babies are expected. Services are held on Sundays at 10 am. The service has an emphasis on celebration and reflection and a time of healing is included each week in the Lord's supper. The church has a grand piano, which enhances the talents of Stephen Reinmuth as he leads the worship. He is assisted by Reda Boulas on drums. These two have produced a worship cassette (available for \$11, telephone (03) 370 4923). Special services are held on some

now this has changed to helping intravenous drug users. Ross Bourdon, the minister, runs the house, supported by a group of volunteers from the church.

Two compulsory meetings are held for participants each week, as well as two supervised urine samples, which are analysed at Clinilab, in Prahran. The church is currently looking for larger premises for this work.

Ross has been in ministry at Ascot Vale for nearly eight years. It was his first church. He was born in Nhill, Vic, and worked as

group, by Carolyn Hamond. The board, which has great unity, has also been meeting weekly for prayer and study with the "Let It Begin with Me" course by Herb Miller.

The church has an active prayer link and a very caring attitude that shows itself in practical ways. A playgroup held on Tuesday mornings is full to overflowing with young mothers and children from the community.

Given that Ascot Vale has a very transient population, the church offers stability and healing in a fractured society. The members praise the Lord for the wonderful sense of love and unity in the place.

Growing Spiritually

The Supernatural Flows into the Natural

by Gladys Powell

From the first time I encountered God in my life—when I was introduced to him by my sister in prayer at a very early age—I was aware of God as someone outside the natural boundaries of life. Yet even though he was above and beyond the world I knew God was somehow mystically involved with me in my everyday experiences as I prayed to him.

Then as a teenager at the Inglewood, WA, church, I met in a fuller way as I decided under the ministries of Roy Raymond and Nancy Paul to give my life to God. This fullness included being introduced to Jesus Christ as my friend—discovering the stories of the supernatural tasks he engaged in as he healed the sick in body and spirit and made them whole. I wondered about the supernatural power that raised Jesus from death to life and about his supernatural appearances to his disciples as he met them inside closed doors and showed his body, still with the

wounds of crucifixion upon it.

For a long time I held in there by faith, living through the period of "Is God dead?" that was enveloping the world in the 1960s and 1970s. Then at the beginning of renewal in the church and the struggles I had accepting this new move of God's Holy Spirit, when we were ministering at Whitfords, WA, about 1977, I had an encounter with God. In a dream I felt myself propelled into the presence of God and a voice asking, "What is it that you want from me?" My answer to the question burst forth from me—"Joy"—that is exactly what I received—bathed in the white light of God's love—I felt love and peace reach into my inner being as I experienced joy as I never had before. Never more would I wonder, "Is God real; is God really alive?" I will know forever that God is and he acts in the lives of his people today.

After this a new dimension was added to my life and since then the natural and

the supernatural experiences of my life have flowed together more often as God speaks to my heart in beautiful ways as he heals my body and soul and calms my mind by his presence, as I open myself to his Holy Spirit. I am more aware of his healing in other people's lives and never cease to marvel at the spiritual resurrection that takes place in others as they surrender more fully to his Holy Spirit.

I find that today God's people are more willing to share when the supernatural invades the natural for them, than they were in my earlier experience. Together we can write the church history of today as Jesus Christ manifests himself through ministry to his people. May we together discover more of the supernatural flowing into the natural.

Joy.

• Gladys Powell is a member of the Perth City, WA, church.

Adversary

Atheist Phillip Adams and evangelical biker preacher John Smith discussed and debated heroes of the faith, whether Christianity "delivers", divisions in the church, censorship and Phillip's perceived deafening silence from the church on the issue of multiculturalism

Phillip Adams Interviews John Smith

Celebrated Australian atheist media figure Phillip Adams interviewed evangelical biker preacher John Smith on two separate occasions on Sydney radio 2UE and Melbourne radio 3AK.

The first interview was hard hitting, causing many listeners to phone or write in asking that the two might talk to each other again. Phillip had closed the interview with, "John, come back soon. We'll have another wrangle; great to see you." The official invitation for the second interview came shortly after.

The first interview saw Phillip introduce John to his listeners by quoting a recent survey of Christians in Australia that nominated John as the most influential religious figure in this country.

Phillip went straight on the attack dismissing religion generally, including 2,000 years of Christianity, by directly equating it all with recent hysteria over Salman Rushdie's book, current strife in the Middle East and ongoing conflict in Northern Ireland.

John responded strongly that this argument was facile, claiming that many powerful political movements in history had sought to legitimise their cause(s) by labelling themselves as Christian or religious. John then proceeded to attach what he called Phillip's "fundamentalist agnosticism" that would only give out labels and platitudes rather than come out open and vulnerable to truly enter into dialogue over the issues surrounding the human condition.

They discussed and debated: heroes of

the faith, whether Christianity "delivers", divisions in the church, censorship and Phillip's perceived deafening silence from the church on the issue of multiculturalism.

Phillip then threw John a gentle question giving him the opportunity to tell the listeners something of his own conversion story. During this, John attempted to build a bridge by opening up social issues but Phillip stated that he was familiar with many of John's positions and convinced of his perception, sincerity and integrity. What Phillip really wanted to know was how someone whom he accepted to be genuinely intelligent could actually believe in God, Jesus, the after-life, and all the rest.

Of interest to readers is that Phillip actually spelt out the image of Jesus that particularly appeals to him. He stated of the image of Jesus that John was presenting, "Your Jesus is one who doesn't like the status quo, he doesn't like the corruption of the church, he doesn't like moral or intellectual laziness. He wants to change the world. But that's not everyone's view of Jesus Christ, is it? Most Christians, it seems to me, have a smug Jesus and a smug religion. Why have you chosen this view of Jesus Christ? Why have you become such an activist, rather than taking Malcolm Muggeridge's line and saying it's got nothing to do with the temporal world, forget that—Christians shouldn't worry about politics or social conditions, Christians should be looking simply to their spiritual life and the life hereafter."

Phillip also expounded his own philosophy of an utterly absurd, meaningless universe wherein we can each live in the context of our own personal, subjective, "little m" meaning. John tackled Phillip strongly dismissing the proposed link between meaning and subjective, absurdist philosophies. John upheld the position that if the entire universe were to be meaningless, then nothing within it could logically be held to be meaningful. At a personal level, John's challenge to Phillip was that Phillip's world view was one that would cause him to lack the commitment to transcend difficult situations and stand for that which is right in the face of adversity as, for example, Martin Luther King had done.

The second interview was just as fiery.

Many issues were discussed. The major issue was, beyond all the weaknesses in the atheist argument and in the individual lives of the atheists, "Where are Australian Christians in general failing to get their message across?"

Phillip summed it up succinctly, "By their fruits you will know them." When it came to defending Jesus and his life and teaching, John's argument flowed with strength. Because of John's gift and call, he was also in his element when talking of people's need for faith, particularly in the context of our dying secular Western culture. But to defend Christianity in history, John found himself strong in the debate only when defending Christianity that was lived out as its Author intended.

—Care and Communication Concern

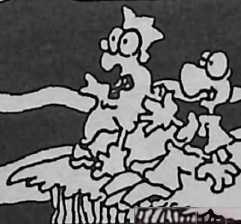


Pontius' Puddle

CERTAIN THINGS ABOUT JUDGMENT DAY REALLY SCARE ME.

RELAX. WE HAVE GOD'S ASSURANCE THAT HIS JUDGMENT WILL BE FAIR--IMPARTIAL--JUST!

THOSE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT FRIGHTEEN ME!



Comment

Worship or Entertainment?

by Ray Hawkins

The line is invisible. It is also narrow. To make things more complicated, the line seems to move. It will be in one place for me, a different place for you, and for another, it has moved again.

However when the line is crossed, a different dimension is entered. The two realms are not necessarily antagonistic, but they can clash.

The two dimensions come under the headings "Worship" and "Entertainment". I'm sure that ever since Adam had children this has been a source of debate and dissension within a worshipping community. Today it is reaching "higher pitch" thanks to modern electronics.

There appears to be much emphasis today on music within worship and what is right and proper, what is worshipful and what is entertainment. Where is the line between the "spit and shine" of professionalism and the warmth of the natu-

Worship

is from the heart.
is participation.
creates awe
leads to commitment
is a two way relationship
is in the company of the saints
has a cleansing effect
relies on truth
has the expectation of the miraculous
produces change

Entertainment

plays on the emotions
is a spectator sport
causes applause
produces pleasant memories
is an individualistic receiving
is in the company of anyone
has a stimulating effect
relies on skill
has the expectation of the spectacular
maintains the status quo

ral? Where does the desire to give a good performance so that people feel good and the confrontation of the Gospel clash?

I have tried to assess the difference between Worship and Entertainment and I submit my thinking for your interaction. I know each has its place within the church, but when one seeks to intrude into the other's realm, discord soon arises.

Whatever we do as Christians should be to the Glory of God. This covers worship and entertainment. But remember God requires our worship, he needs not our entertainment.

• Ray Hawkins is minister of the Maitland, NSW, church, and is Immediate Past President of NSW Conference.

Student Profile

Richard Brown

Richard Brown, BE (Hons), age 30, worked as a mechanical engineer with the State Rail Authority of NSW before entering college. He is a fourth year student and is married to Sheryle. His story:

My early Christian life was nurtured by the Hamilton Church of Christ Sunday School where I accepted Christ. Later at the North Turrumurra church I received encouragement and ministry, and found that in turn I was motivated to be involved in ministries such as the Sunday School, the diaconate, board secretary and volunteer with the Churches of Christ Mission in PNG. These experiences made me realise that my skills and abilities were not as advanced as my desire to serve Christ's church. I felt I would be more effective if I were to receive training. So after prayer and advice I commenced at Carlingford College. At the time I was not sure exactly what my calling from God was and it was with trepidation that I resigned from my job to enter college.

College has been a time of discipline in study and flexibility to explore various avenues of ministry. I have appreciated the opportunity to be involved in church work through student ministries, however



crosscultural ministry and mission are my loves. It was difficult to gain experience in these areas while studying, but by undertaking the internship program I was able to do overseas work for one semester. From November 1988 to May 1989 my wife and I worked with Wycliffe Bible Translators in the Philippines. This gave us the opportunity to gain first-hand experience with a translator. It was really worthwhile and confirmed our calling to undertake a translation ministry. We have applied to enter the Summer Institute of Linguistics in 1990. Undertaking the first missionary in-

ternship from college took a lot of organisation and work, but I have appreciated all the help and encouragement the college has given me. This flexibility in training for students is the thing I most appreciate about the college. It is vital because the students come from a wide variety of backgrounds and are called to a wide variety of ministries. Rigid programs can stifle a student's development.

No discussion of the college would be complete without mentioning my fellow students. Living and learning with them has been one of the highlights of college life. Together we have learned the need for mutual support, which will continue beyond graduation with reunions, letters and prayer.

As I look forward to future ministry I feel as I did when I entered college: trepidation. Yet it is not the same as then. My experience at college, student churches and in the Philippines has helped me develop a confidence in God and in myself. I have a vision of helping to give the Word of God to the 2,500 language groups that do not yet have it, and I feel more able to face the unknown in the knowledge that while God may not let me see all my future, he will give me strength to face what each step brings.

Ministers' Workshop

The Minister's Prayer Life

by Barry Jenkins

Herb Miller told the story of the petrol tanker driver who ran out of petrol!

That's how I often find myself; expected to be giving out and feeding others while I am starved myself. How can a minister avoid his prayer life being forced out of his life by a busy timetable with so many demands?

Accountability

We ask others how they are getting along spiritually. We need caring elders, close friends and family members who will ask us about our time with the Lord. Those who are concerned enough about us to make us accountable for our devotional life and our prayer times.

Fellowship In Prayer

I find the most stimulating prayer times are not in the large congregation or when I am alone with God, but when two or three are gathered together. The prayer triplet has accountability and fellowship too.

Recognise Those Who Have a Gift of Prayer

Clearly prayer is a gift that needs to be encouraged. Some of the burden of a pastor's prayer life will be lifted if he knows that individuals and small groups will share the burden of prayer with him. He does not then feel guilty if he does not name each member and church contact personally before the Lord. The small group will share that burden of intercession. He can be free to spend more time receiving from the Lord and in worshipping the Lord.

Build Variety Into Prayer

Just as we might use variety in our devotional resources, Scripture Union, Every Day with Jesus, a volume of William Barclay etc., so we ought to vary our approach to prayer:

- keep a journal...
- keep notes in a diary...
- use prayers of Christians from the past...
- use prayers from Scripture...
- walk and pray...
- sing when you pray...

Relate Your Public Ministry to Your Prayer and Devotional Life

The key to a healthy congregation according to H.H. Halley, the author of the amazing *Halley's Bible Handbook*, is for the whole church to be reading, studying and applying the same passage of scripture through the week and in the Sunday ministry. Personal devotional life and public ministry should be closely linked.

Acknowledge Answered Prayer

Be ready to acknowledge areas of prayer needs. Be equally ready to acknowledge the answers to prayer. Nothing stimulates us to pray better than answered prayer.

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

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

Hints for Children's Sermons

1. Do not teach children anything that they will need to relearn later.
2. Always include the day-to-day experience of the children you are addressing.
3. Beware of biblical accounts originally meant for adults. Be conscious of the literal interpretation that children will give a biblical story.
4. Make sure that each sermon has one and only one point; remember that you need only one "portable" idea to be effective.
5. Place each children's sermon within a context: (a) within the service of worship, which develops a central theme; (b) within

the curriculum of the Sunday school; (c) within a curriculum related to the lectionary; or (d) within a long-range plan for leading the congregation.

6. Remember that sermons with the greatest impact are those which actively and physically involve the listener; next greatest in impact are those which can be seen as well as heard. Remember the learning pyramid.

7. Know the basic difference between pre-school, elementary-school, and older elementary-school children. Then decide how best to target your sermon so that it will challenge some and be understood by

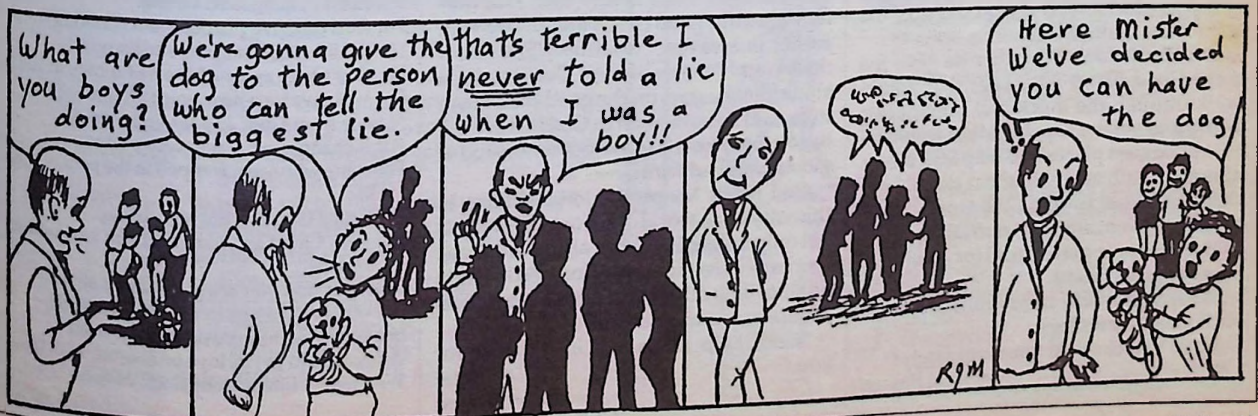
most.

8. Watch your language. Be aware that although analogies and allegories may be clear to you, they will probably confuse children.

9. Ask yourself two questions: Am I trivialising the Gospel by focusing on character-building (moralism), or neglecting the One who empowers us to overcome hate with love (humanism)?

10. Tell the story in such a way that children experience God's love as radical reversal and surprising joy.

• Taken from *Gospel-Telling* by Richard Coleman (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company)



Reflections

Good News Legs



Sometimes I wonder what I'm doing here in Papua New Guinea. Last Sunday, I particularly questioned my sanity. It had been raining most of the night and continued as the new day dawned.

The call to worship sounded out across the village so John and I donned raincoats, dressed the children appropriately, and headed out into the rain. We did very well negotiating our way through the grounds of the Bible School, but as we entered the village the trouble began. You see, that is where the mud also begins! Being wet mud you need to walk very carefully. Some of the teachers from the Bible School were walking with us and I was busy telling one of them how I needed to walk carefully as I was carrying our 12 week old son and I didn't want to slip. And...you guessed it. Next thing I knew, I was giving a practical demonstration of that which I was hoping to avoid. I felt so embarrassed. Thankfully nobody and nothing but my pride was hurt. I saw no use in going home to change as I would just have to come back this way and face the mud again, so off I went to worship, dirty dress and all. After worship as I made my way back through the village I was given lots of advice on how to walk through the mud, but the best advice I heard was, "Grow some New Guinea legs." We had a good laugh about that one, but I really wouldn't mind if God did give me some New Guinea legs.

But first I think I'd rather he gave me some Good News legs. Legs that would walk through the muck and mire of this world and yet not slip. Legs that would go to the boggiest places and help lead others along the path and help them stand. Legs that would run through the worst conditions to prevent another from falling. Legs that would help blaze a trail for another to come to Jesus Christ.

What this world needs now is people with Good News legs.

Have you checked your legs lately?

—Hazel Bassett

Late Late Theology

While we are busy entertaining alpha waves, some good theology is happening on the UHF and VHF bands. Be comforted that you are not the first to sleep through a theology class, but be aware that around 2 am once or twice a week some celluloid interpretations of classic literature is beamed toward your home.

Steinbeck's *East of Eden*; *Of Mice and Men*; Shaffer's *Equus*; Williams' *Sweet Bird of Youth*; all recent presentations, make powerful theological statements which inform our view and enrich our understanding of how we relate to God and each other.

In *Of Mice and Men*, Steinbeck is asking: "Is man destined to live in isolation, or is community possible?" Similarly, the brotherly mutual concern between George and Lenny causes even the casual viewer to ask: "Am I my brother's keeper?"

While not as overtly Biblical as *East of Eden*, *Of Mice and Men* builds its theological message layer upon layer. The itinerant farm worker is seen as the fulfilment of

God's curse on Cain, working the land without receiving its bounty. The idealised farm, a place of abundance and joy, that George and Lenny hope for is an ill-fated attempt to return to Eden. The futility of this dream is underscored by George's surname, Milton, suggesting that paradise really has been lost.

George can be seen as a saviour-figure for Lenny, extricating him from the "trouble" into which he unintentionally blunders. Finally, he sacrifices himself by shooting Lenny to save him from life of incarceration or institutionalisation.

Produced in black and white, this 1941 version starring Burgess Meredith and Lon Chaney Jr was produced and directed by Lewis Milestone. While cinematic technique has made quantum strides in the last half century, this reasonable adaptation of Steinbeck's novella lacks nothing in its ability to state the theological problem and show how its characters come to grips with their situation.

—Garry Harris

Windows

Our bedroom in Yamen, Papua New Guinea, has windows (flywire only) in two walls. The other night as I was feeding our small son I noticed the many stars twinkling in the sky. I could also see the outline of coconut palms and banana trees (there are some distinct advantages in being in "the bush"). Then turning to look out of the other window I was surprised not to see stars. The stars were hidden behind storm clouds. Furthermore the only plant outlined in this window was the betelnut palm, the fruit of which is narcotic. From one window I could see light and good fruit but from the other window I could see gloom and bad fruit.

Thinking about this contrast I came to think of Jesus's words, "In the same way, let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven." (Matthew 5:16) How does your life measure up? Does our light shine like the stars on the good fruit of our lives, and so point men to God? Or are our lives more like the other window—full of gloom and bad fruit?

God needs his people to be shining in this very dark world. God needs his lights not only here in PNG, but also in Australia (perhaps even more so?) God needs bright lights to help others find him. Are our lives a help or a hindrance to God?

"God, help make our lives count for you."

—Hazel Bassett

Life Is from God

"Life is for living," the old woman said and adjusting her tea cosy hat

She gathered the goodies found deep in the tip and returned to her junk-laden flat.

"Life is for living," the old codger cried as he dug in the bin for a snack

Then slept with his treasures, his whisky and smokes and a newspaper over his back.

"Sure, life is for living," a teenager shrieked as he flirted with death on the train

It didn't hit home that his mates had been killed. For the thrills he went back again.

"Life is for living," the junky cried loud, hating his life of abuse

"But who has an answer?" the junky would shrug and give up and say, "What's the use?"

Oh, "Life is for living" is a dangerous phrase If it justifies actions so wrong,

For God can give purpose and meaning to life He can lift us from sorrow to song.

He won't take away all the sad things in life But will give us a new point of view.

"Life is from God" is a far better creed,

For it changes what we want to do.

For some who seem trapped in the pain of their life

To escape is to live not just strive

For with Christ as your Head you can hold on to hope

And will find you are glad you're alive.

For others a change to examine yourself

See how God has provided your need

And respond to His love by sharing with those Who need "Life is from God" as their creed.

—Kaye Caporn

Discipleship

•Rowena Peat, Kylie Binstead, Jonathan Folkes, Tania Porteous, Julius Skinner, Rachael Hall, Kalamunda, WA •Graham Strack, Essendon, Vic •C. Smith, Maitland, NSW •Anne McCulloch, Paul Papi, Crown St, Toowoomba, Qld •Joyce Weyman, Evelyn Facutt, Seven Hills, NSW •Peter Elshaug, Peel St, Ballarat, Vic •Angela Rigda, Andrew Mackay, Matthew Mackay, Balaklava, SA •Narelle Griffin, Happy Valley, SA •Monique ten Hoopen, Phillip Peacock, Glen Waverley, Vic •Melinda Rawlins, Tricia Blenkinsop, Magill, SA •Mrs Peg Green, Trevor Peters, Sharon Porter, Claire Reader, Michelle Smith, Bronwyn Davis, Rhonda Davis, Berwick, Vic

Marriages

•Wendy Westbrook to Craig Loyden, Redcliffe, Qld •Kathy Hegarty to Mark Linton, Hurstbridge, Vic •Lucy Mostaccero to David Peters, Grote St, Adelaide, SA •Monique Graetz to Robert Campbell, Berwick, Vic

Deaths

•Lorraine Rogers, Ascot Vale, Vic •Ruby Boyle, Warrnambool, Vic •Arthur Coad, Peel St, Ballarat, Vic •Mrs Aileen Parker, Balaklava, SA •Nita Hansen, Grote St, Adelaide, SA •Mrs Gladys Barnes, Berwick, Vic

Changes

QUEENSTOWN: Minister—C.W.

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SOUTHPORT: Church Office—PO Box 974, Southport, Qld 4215. Phone (075) 94 6154 or 94 6633.
SANDRINGHAM: Name of church changed to Church of Christ — Hampton St.

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

PROSSER (HOLMES), Myrtle May

(9.7.89) With the passing of May Prosser the Red Hill, Vic, church lost one of its longest serving members. Born in 1892, May was the granddaughter of the pioneer family who commenced the church in 1885. In 1915 she married Norman Prosser, the son of another pioneering family. Norman died in 1949. A baptised member for 85 years, May was involved in many of the church's activities over that time and was a Life Member of the Bible Society. In 1985 she had the honour of cutting the cake at the church's centenary celebrations. A lady of quiet, practical faith, May devoted herself to her large family and her church and always maintained interest in current affairs and district news. May is survived by eight children (two deceased), 29 grandchildren, 50 great grandchildren and 1 great great grandson, all of whom are much blessed by the memory of such a loving and faithful lady.

—JRS

ROGERS, Lorraine Nola
(26.6.89) Lorraine lived in Avondale Heights, Vic, and attended St

Phillips Anglican Church for many years. She was a very bright student and recently completed her BA, which was awarded posthumously last month. This year Lorraine began studying at Ridley College. She married David Rogers 18 months ago. They attended Ascot Vale together before this and regularly afterwards. It's difficult to imagine anyone more hopeful or more joyous coming into church each week. Her sudden death has left us bereft of a dear friend. A large funeral was held which I was privileged to share in.

—Ross Bourdon

STOKIE, George

(2.7.89) George was born in Kew, Vic, in 1908. In 1928 he joined the Preston church during A.J. Fisher's ministry. In 1930 George married Muriel Robbins, her father conducting the service. Subsequently George and Muriel became foundation members of West Preston. In 1936 they and their young family moved to Hampton where, over many years, they gave loyal support to the local church. George had an unassuming and optimistic disposition. He was devoted to his family. In the commercial world, in the Victorian Railways and Tourist Bureau and in other enterprises, he was highly regarded for his integrity and Christian principles. The funeral service was conducted in the Cheltenham church by Gerald Rose who expressed a warm tribute to the exemplary life of one who

lived for others. To his widow, Muriel; his children Dorothy (Mrs Greatbatch), Don, Jeanne (Mrs VanderSluys), the grandchildren and all sorrowing relatives, Christian sympathy is expressed.

—SW

WEST, Florence Isabel (Flo)

(11.7.89) Flo West was born on 13 August 1907, at Kingston Station, south of Brisbane. She was a faithful supporter of the Redcliffe, Qld, church. Flo worked as a seamstress in her early years but will be remembered for her love for her garden. Her quiet and gentle nature endeared her to many in and out of the church. Her faith remained firm despite her illness. A short time after being hospitalised for an operation Flo died. Her funeral service was held in the church where she was a member and she will be greatly missed.

—A.C. Risson

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Church News

Vic

HAMILTON (Ray Eldridge) Boy's club commenced under leadership of Ray Philip ... Girls' Brigade numbers grown to 35 plus ... Sunday School being led by Norma & Geoff Beard ... Small legacy left to church by beloved member, Kit Hadden ... Monthly luncheon popular, with time of study, prayer & fellowship, visiting different homes ... Monthly stalls still looked forward to by people outside church. **ESSENDON (Ken Stothard)** CWF recent street stall netted \$900 ... Visited Northcote Home to entertain ... Jim Hemsley in Mount Royal for rehabilitation ... 14 May Lillian Kemp & Olive Anderson were honoured when elder Neil Hutton dedicated plaque to their memory ... 20 June entertained at Murrumbena ... CWF collecting goods for Dept of Community Care ... Graham Strack baptised. Narelle, granddaughter of the late Ern McIlhagger & Margaret Goninon, baptised.

ECHUCA (A. Symes) Church study groups will start this week. Some will meet in members' homes & will continue for some time ... Lady & young members are taking part in morning services ... CWF active selling waste rags. 10 members have four sources each meeting ... Talent money knitting for Women's Hospital, Elderly Citizens, catering for people following funerals, holding street stalls.

ASCOT VALE (Ross Bourdon) Church saddened by sudden death of Lorraine Rogers ... Alan Vincent, seven years free of alcohol, testified in church. Alan was an early resident of our Half Way House ... Minister & board meeting regularly for prayer & Bible study ... Minister received BA degree & appointed chaplain to Royal Children's Hospital ... Winter clothing being distributed onto Estate to needy.

WARRNAMBOOL (Peter Broadbent) Minister attended Leaders' Day at Mulgrave ... Recent guest speakers Fred Anderson (Inter-Min), Ray Eldridge (Hamilton) & Roger Holland (Bible Society) ... Children from HIS Club raised \$250 for "Bibles for Africa" BS project ... A third home group formed ... Church praying & gathering resources for "Vision East" project. First step to be fortnightly Sunday afternoon children's ministry.

HURSTBRIDGE (Andrew George) Church praising God for the healing from cancer of Grace Jackson following prayer & anoint-

ing with oil ... Youth group recommenced under the leadership of Colin & Janet Young ... Church leading town's opposition to a proposal to establish a tavern ... Maintenance of chapel & grounds proceeding in stages ... Church excited at Ministry of Housing units opening opposite the chapel.

PEEL ST, BALLARAT (L.D. Woodward) Minister accepted invitation from Maryborough, Qld, to commence 1990 ... Seona Rankin, Peter & Vicki Elshaug welcomed into fellowship after recent baptisms ... David Woodward been in USA attending North American Christian Convention ... Recent speaker W. Tabbemea, Theological College. \$600 handed to their building fund ... Church saddened at the death of Arthur Coad ... Men's dinner club very successful. John Vernon speaker. **REDCLIFFS (R. Sharrad)** Recent service fully conducted by Mildura FOCUS group. Mrs J. Mellberg speaker ... R. Sharrad has just completed an appreciated series on Philippians ... "Kid's Club" interest being maintained ... Members away touring overseas & in Australia.

PRESTON (J. McCormick) Linda Morgan had a lovely time in Wales holidaying with her son & granddaughter ... Peter Gabriel, minister of the Greek Evangelical congregation who meet in our church each Sunday afternoon, spoke at a morning service ... Hazel & Jack McCormick spoke & showed slides at CWF on their recent Central Australia trip.

DANDENONG (G. Foon, G. Elsdon) 16 July was the final service at Mason St. Past & present members attended. A short history of the church was read followed by greetings from previous ministers. This was followed by a basket luncheon ... We commenced our services at Cleeland High School Hall at 10 am & 7 pm at 23 Ann St, Dandenong, until our complex is completed.

GLEN WAVERLEY (Ron Elbourne, Lindsay Croxford, Doug Fitzpatrick) Building program under way to double the size of worship auditorium & update premises ... We have been pleased to welcome a number of new members recently ... Church annual meeting was a time of thanksgiving & praise to God. Two focus spots featured small groups & youth work ... 40 young people combined with Nunawading & Berwick to enjoy ESA Camp at Marysville. **CHELSEA (T. Frazer)** Members from Ormond joined in social evening of square dancing as part of

board's program to build church friendships ... George & Olga Kidman celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary ... Ian White-lock has accepted an invitation to ministry commencing at end of Tom Frazer's term at the end of the year ... Brian Fielder conducted monthly friendship hour of music & afternoon tea for residents of local special accommodation homes & others ... Parkdale members built numbers to 30 for carpet bowls night. **BERWICK (Geoff Rowcroft, Peter Holt)** members settled into new worship complex following farewell service to Lyall Road chapel ... fellowship enjoyed by all participants in combined churches volleyball competition ... Youth leaders attended retreat weekend. Social Concern afternoon/concertheld for Senior Citizens ... Bush dance organised at new complex ... Purpose statement for this church prepared following input from members.

Qld

REDCLIFFE (A. Risson) Were pleased to welcome past minister John Bassett & family to services, also John & Betty Sharpe from

New Tribes Mission ... Welcomed students Trish Brunet & Tony Gibson in "Back to Redcliffe" day ... The CWF anniversary celebration was enjoyed with musical ministry by Del Wood & trio ... All usual church activities continuing. **CROWNST, TOOWOOMBA (Ron Green)** Several new families attending ... Family service, preceded by fellowship tea, first Sunday night of month popular ... CWF held Mother's Day luncheon with Gloria Flett, Country VP, guest speaker ... Craft mornings held twice monthly with young mothers attending creche for preschoolers ... Tuesday Bible studies held in different homes ... Prayer meeting in chapel Saturday mornings ... Minister's resignation owing to ill-health accepted with regret.

Tas

DEVONPORT (B. Butler) During winter months family services are held each fortnight, alternating between Sunday morning services & 5 pm Sunday night family fellowship teas ... New families attending ... Members encouraged to invite families home on "free" Sunday evenings with view to friendship building & doing "Christianity Explained" course.

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Church News

SA

ELIZABETH (R. Oke) On the first Sunday in July we had a deputation from the CCTC who spoke & did items at our morning service. At night we had Jim Keatch speak for the youth service ... Tim Hanna, a past member, now minister & College lecturer, spoke at both services the following Sunday.

GLENELG (N. Bradley) Three babies dedicated in May ... Successful church fete raised \$4,100 ... Attendances are encouraging ... 14 children attend Play Group every Tuesday ... Kids Alive commenced October, now has 36 kids every Thursday ... Craft Group has 90 on Thursdays ... 60 attended CWF Delphin Island cruise ... Winter series at 5 pm. 49 present when Jasra Singers visited ... Overseas Mission Sunday David West speaker.

HAWTHORN (Ron Hewitt) State President Trevor Lawrie guest speaker 16 June ... Ron Hewitt conducted mission at Mildura in June ... Dorothy Geyer delightful visit over 55 group ... Jan Mountjoy accepted as Wycliffe associate ... Josie Pederson returned to Bible College of Victoria ... Ralph & Robina Knight presented with book to mark 60th wedding anniversary 17 July ... Sympathy extended to Ruth Pye on the loss of her mother ... Pauline Orr spoke to Friendship Hour about cactus plants.

BALAKLAVA (Graham Lawrie)

Volunteers surfaced the area surrounding the church, hall & Mutter buildings with pavers ... Dorothy Geyer spoke to ladies on Dorcas Display Day ... Liedertafel Choir sang at cabaret for Bible Society funds ... Many enjoyed American speaker, Fr Dean Braun, at local Town Hall ... Fond memories remain of the loving ministry of our later sister, Aileen Parker ... 105 attended camp at Emmaus led by Darren Kenneally.

HAPPY VALLEY (Russell Allison) Narelle Griffin baptised ... Annual square dance enjoyed by all ... Dorothy Allison wrote hymn especially for Thanksgiving Service on 25 June. Trevor Lawrie was guest speaker ... Nigel & Barbara Bonney, Karen & Andrew Bowden, Darren & Sharon McLachlan transferred into membership ... Evening basketball service well attended ... George Mathieson guest speaker 16 July ... Cake stall held at Blackwood.

MAGILL (Trevor Lawrie, David Marr) A very special baptism service on 16 July with Shelley Artis making her public confession of Christ ... Gail Stubberfield welcomed into the new role of Bible School Co-ordinator ... New approach to the 9.30 services with the Bible School students sharing in the earlier worship ... Prayer, planning & preparation underway for Bill Gaunson mission 8-18 September.

GROTE ST, ADELAIDE (Ian Adams) Conference approved

Christian Community Care Centre transferred from 104 Grote St to Magarey Hall upstairs in church building. Carpet laid & partitions ordered. "Upper Storey" shop to be opened soon. 14 enrolled for counselling classes to assist in Community Care outreach ... Three prayer groups & prayer chain each week ... Kids's Club during school holidays. 51 homes contacted. Seven accepted Jesus.

NSW

GEORGETOWN (W. Flett) Church will be celebrating 50th anniversary 5 May 1990, & would like to contact old members & contributors of photos, memorabilia, letters, etc., suitable for commemorative book. Details to E. Thompson, 138 Marshall St, Garden Suburb 2288.

MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins) Sunday Seminar with Judy Gordon on spiritual gifts was excellent ... Hostel resident C. Smith baptised & welcomed into membership ... Pauline Reid from Newcastle Youth Service spoke at Dinner date on homelessness in the Hunter Valley. This held at our Hostel by Regional Social Service Committee ... Church Growth series by minister very stimulating ... Father of minister died in Wyong Hospital. M. Hall took service at Wyoming ... Bible Society's series Messages from the Memory Bank, excellent video production for youth/adults.

MT DRUITT (Hugh Roose) Praise the Lord! 23 new Christians since October, the majority children. Seven children & two adults from one Estate ... Anne Cohen, local state MP, came to coffee dessert night ... Friday Club for Grades 3-6 running successfully. Majority of children from unchurched homes.

WA

MANDURAH (R. Ryall) Church greatly regrets need for Roger Ryall to resign as minister 30 July ... Jacki Forrest (Brighton, SA) & Pam Knight (Hamilton Hill, WA) welcomed by transfer ... John Spencer new liaison officer to board from Home Missions ... Ladies gave clothing for Aborigines Missions at Looma, as well as for CWC ... 4 July several members lunched with College team, hearing an update on its work at new campus ... CWF helped church with gift of \$800 from two recent street stalls.

KALAMUNDA (John Thornhill, Mark Proud, Paul Sanders) John Thornhill speaking on series "Church with Infectious Lifestyle" ... 20 participating in discipleship/counselling course with John Bond ... 45 ladies attended "Feminar" mid-year seminar at Keswick. Speaker Betty Wood ... Plans for family bush dance & also family camp early Sept ... Jim Longbottom visited with team from CCTC ... 30 young people participated in C of C State Youth Games.

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You Were Asking?

Has the Traditional Gospel Service Had It?

by Graham Agnew

There was a time when evening services in Churches of Christ represented the front line in a local congregation's evangelistic strategy. Today, a growing number of churches are reducing the frequency of evening services, abandoning them altogether or going for alternative forms of service in homes and other small group settings.

I am one who believes that there is still enormous evangelistic potential in a night service that (believe it or not) retains some of the traditional elements of an old-time gospel service, including a strong emphasis on music and a persuasive presentation of the Good News in all its power and fullness.

However, lest readers think that I am in favour of a return to "the good old days", complete with Sankeys, Alexanders and gospel address designed to give people nightmares about the eternal fires, let me hasten to list what I believe to be the key requirements for running an effective "Gospel Celebration" in today's scene:

1. A commitment by the church board and the minister(s) to outreach. Non-Christians must be the group for which the service is primarily geared. A mere repeat of the morning service, with its more sombre and conservative feel, is almost certain to be less than effective.

2. A willingness to "loosen up" in style and presentation. I have found that most non-Christians want something that is warm and real when it comes to church. Informal language, appropriate laughter and special effects (lighting etc.) are but a few of the things that should be considered in trying to create the right sort of atmosphere in an evening celebration. The

event must do far more than merely appeal to your most conservative elder.

3. The music must be bright and must be contemporary. At Marion on Sunday nights we use exclusively praise choruses or hymns that can be "beefed up" a little. Artists must have the capacity to sing the modern Christian songs and not the good old favourites of yesteryear.

4. The preaching must be Christ-centred and earthed in real life. It must touch people at the level of the heart as well as the head; it must be more topical and less expositional. Personally, I have never seen the evening celebrational as a teaching opportunity, but rather as a promotional opportunity—for Christ and for the Good News! For me, the invitation for people to respond openly to the claims of Christ is an integral part of such preaching.

5. Above all, the Celebration must not be seen as an end in itself. It must be merely the "shop front" to a comprehensive program that is designed to help people aspire to their full potential—spiritually, emotionally and socially. Naturally, this will mean things like small group Bible studies, social and recreational groups etc.

Yes, the traditional gospel service, in most areas, probably has had it; but the lively Gospel Celebration is alive and well in growing churches all around Australia. The organisation can be relatively simple; the results quite dramatic; but the price of implementation is usually very high!

• Please send your questions for this column to "You We re Asking?", c/o The Australian Christian, PO Box 101, North Essendon 3041.

The Last Word

We say man is created in the image of God. I refuse to imagine a God who is miserable, poor, ignorant, oppressed, wretched—which is the lot of the majority of those who he created in his own image.

—Julius Nyerere

Wife, reading newspaper, to husband: "How long has it been since we had it so good?"

★★★★

A subscriber was writing to the editor of a magazine: "Dear sir: When I subscribed a year ago, you stated that if I were not satisfied at the end of the year I could have my money back. Well, I would like to have it back.

"On second thoughts, to save you the trouble you may apply it on my next year's subscription."

★★★★

"Your brother is small for his age."

"Oh, no. He is only my half-brother."

★★★★

"We all, in our heart of hearts, would like to break a record of some sort or other," says an essayist.

Quite true.

Our neighbour plays several.

★★★★

He was at his club, and he had talked politics for an hour and a half.

"That's the situation in a nutshell," he declared at the close.

"Heavens!" exclaimed a member to his neighbour, "What a nut!"

★★★★

Sergeant: "Which eye do you close when shooting?"

Recruit: "Both."

★★★★

A new restaurant opened its doors with this announcement: "Value here! We charge you by weight! We weigh you coming in, then weigh you going out! You pay the difference!"

★★★★

"I got a job working for a chemist. I'm supposed to increase business."

"What do you do? Stand out front and make people sick?"



We can't all be heroes—somebody has to sit on the kerb and clap as they go by!

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