

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA
Registered for Australia Post Publication No. VAR 0761
Volume 91, No. 2
18 February 1989

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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Vol. 92

No. 2

18 February 1989

Managing Editor
Chris Ambrose

Issue	Deadline
4 March	22 February
18 March	8 March
8 April	29 March

Address for All Correspondence
(including all subscription payments)

PO Box 101
North Essendon 3041
Telephone (03) 379 1219
After Hours (03) 337 8349



Member
publication of the
Australian
Religious Press
Association

National logo of
Churches of Christ
in Australia



"The Australian Christian" is published by
the Board of Management of the
Australian Christian, a Department of
the Federal Conference of

Churches of Christ in Australia.

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Printing by New Lithographics
(Vic) Pty Ltd, 63 Sunbury Cres,
Surrey Hills 3127

Responsibility for electoral material is
accepted by Chris Ambrose,
3 Hamlyn St Essendon 3040

Advertising Rates

Displayed: \$4.40 per column
centimetre

Classifieds: \$9 for the first 25 words
and 10c for each additional word

Guest Editorial

Contending for the Faith (Jude 3)

by Ralph Bennett

In Churches of Christ we call ourselves the "people of the book." Yet we often come to worship and learn and we do not even have our Bibles with us!

Really now, do we know the Word of God as we think we do, or as we should, given all the time and opportunities we've had to learn? I wonder if we have spent too much time reading what others say about the Word, but we just do not sit down and read the Word itself!

Is it so serious that we can no longer afford the luxury of assuming anything spiritual about anyone in Australia (church members too)? Today people just do not know the Word and especially the New Testament message "once for all delivered unto the saints." Thus Jude 3 is the theme I have chosen for my presidential year in Queensland.

My proposition is this: such "earnest contending for the faith" is part and parcel of the Christian's walk in spirit and in truth.

Jesus of course is our example always in all things. He earnestly contended in the wilds with the Devil when he was hit with every form of temptation. He also contended with legalists, sceptics, hypocrites, false teachers, misguided moralists—the lot. And of course the pinnacle of his glorious contending came when he prayed through great agony and drops of blood in the garden of Gethsemane, and there made the decision to go to the cross for people like us.

Another individual who sets a tremendous example is the Apostle Paul. Read Romans 7 and the struggle Paul confessed existed in his life. He described himself as a walking civil war! But he contended earnestly and Jesus Christ rescued him. Thus Paul said, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:1)

As individuals fought the good fight of the faith, so did entire groups of believers like the early New Testament church in Jerusalem. Acts 2:42 records four clear areas of their contending. They devoted themselves to: the apostle's teaching (once delivered); the fellowship (of the saints); the breaking of bread (the common faith

shared) and the prayers of oneness of mind, heart and action (Jude 20).

Some 60 years later the New Testament church was still contending. Look at the church in Philadelphia in Revelation 3. They were highly commended by the risen Lord because they agonised in: keeping the Word (unchanged with no alterations); the name of Jesus was not defiled amongst them and they had patience to hold on fast to the Word (they lived it). In stark contrast to this the church at Laodecia was lukewarm, wishy washy and the Lord was going to spit it out.

One final, beautiful example of Jude 3 is found in the church at Berea (Acts 17:10-12). They were more noble than those at Thessalonica. What does this mean? The Amplified Bible puts it: "They were entirely ready and accepted and welcomed the message of Jesus Christ with inclination of mind and eagerness, searching and examining the scriptures daily to see if these things were so."

As a people let us get back to the Book of Books. I wonder if we have majored in minors far too long. Let us pass on "the faith once and for all delivered unto the saints."

Let us not be just "content", but willing and able to "earnestly contend." Why such a fuss about the Bible? Because "faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." (Romans 10:17)

N.B. Are we a people of the Book? Let us show it now by reading and studying Philipians 1:27-29.

• Born and raised in the US Ralph found Christ later in life. He graduated from San Jose Bible College, California, and was involved in several new church planting ministries in the US. In 1970 the family migrated to Australia to Nowra, NSW to commence a new work in co-operation with the Wollongong church. He had ministries at Annerley, Qld, Papua New Guinea, Hervey Bay, Qld, and has been ministering in the West Morton circuit since 1985. In January 1988 he and his wife Barbara became Australian citizens. In October 1988 he became Queensland Conference President. Currently his wife Barbara is QCWF President. Their three children live in Queensland.

In England the problem of runaway children is on a far larger scale than many realise.

It is estimated that 75,000 young people

go missing in Britain each year. 65% of runaways are from families, 34% are from local authority care and 1% from boarding schools.

The Dreaming Lizard Retreat

The Dreaming Lizard Spiritual Retreat has been established by Allan and Des Purnell. It is situated on three acres of natural bushland on the fringe of Melbourne. Set in the attractive Upper Yarra Valley the retreat is located on the Yarra River at North Warrandyte opposite the Warrandyte State park.

Retreat programs will be conducted from Des and Allan's home which has been designed both to cater for groups of up to 20 and to blend into the environment. Lots of windows allow people to easily observe the bird life that inhabits the property as well as the animal life that occasionally visits.

The retreat's name is derived from a combination of ideas.

"Dreaming" is both a reflection of the spirituality of the first inhabitants of the land and of the spiritual journey which has led Des and Allan to establish the retreat. The "Lizard" arises from the retreat's location at Blue Tongue Bend on the Yarra, which flows by one corner of the property.

Des Purnell will be leading retreats. She has had ministries at the Traralgon, Cheltenham and Coburg churches and presently her and Allan are in membership at Greensborough. Allan, who has a background in accounting and currently lectures in that area, will do the administrative tasks. He will also be developing the property's facilities and will lead any canoe activities associated with retreats.



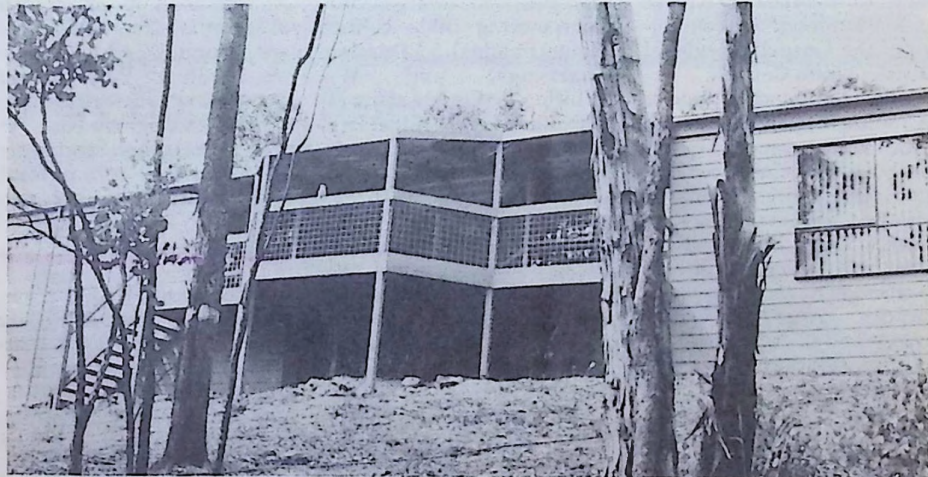
Des and Allan Purnell

During her pastoral ministries Des became acutely aware that people would benefit from a variety of spiritual experiences. She believes that reflecting on our faith from several perspectives can help put us in touch with the wealth of our own inner spiritual experience

participants will be led in experiences ranging from finding God in peacefulness and natural beauty, to discovering inner vulnerability and strength. From these experiences it is anticipated that people will gain fresh insights leading to new hope and clearer spiritual goals.

The themes of retreats during 1989 will be "Australian Spirituality", "Feminine and Masculine Aspects of God and Faith", "Faith Issues for Survivors of Sexual Abuse" and "Faith Issues encountered in Life Threatening Disease or Events". (See advertisement on page 4 for further details.)

Retreat programs are open to all. The Retreat offers a special environment which promotes integration of personal experiences, feelings and faith. It is hoped that the Retreat will provide a non-threatening setting to introduce "unchurched" friends to Christian concepts and experiences. Des and Allan are very excited by the project and would be pleased to receive comments and questions on (03) 712 0386.



drawn from our individual and corporate life stories.

Des brings to the retreat program a broad range of experiences to complement her ministry skills. She is a qualified nurse and has had varied experience in nursing and counselling positions. She holds instructor qualifications in communications and in relationship areas.

The prime aim of the Retreat is to provide spiritually directed retreats for groups of up to 20. These will provide an opportunity to explore issues not often addressed in other settings. Retreats will offer a structured time where partici-

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End of an Era at Thornlie

18 December saw the end of an era for the Thornlie, WA, church. John and Julie Bond concluded a very happy and successful ministry of 11 years.

They came to Thornlie following John's graduation from Woolwich Bible College. At that time the membership was 31, meeting in the local school. The ministry began as a step of faith for both minister and the church, with midweek meetings held in the Bond home. During the 11 years together, the church has grown from 31 to 640 active members. Regularly there are 900 to 1,000 in attendance at Sunday services and there are 40 full- or part-time paid workers in a program that includes Christian community centres and 7-day activities. Last December there were 15 baptisms. The church has a faith missionary program, which gave \$147,000 to missions last year, and the faith promise for this year is \$200,000. The fine church complex was opened in 1981, free of debt, at a cost of \$275,000. There is a church Christian college with 250 scholars. The college is situated on 37 acres of land and is free of debt. Plans are under construction with a view to relocating the church on the same block of land.

Recently, the City of Gosnells recognised John's contribution to the youth of the

city by awarding him a Bicentennial Youth Award. On 14 December the chapel was packed to say a thank you to John, Julie and family for their vision, dynamic leadership and splendid example of self sacrifice and dedication to ministry and evangelism. The church has grown through evangelistic thrust and discipleship. Many fine tributes were paid to their leadership and thanks expressed by the young people in the gift of a fine crockery and cutlery set. The church presented them with a coffee table and a cheque for \$2000.

As well as his busy ministry John is on the national and state boards of directors of Youth for Christ. He was an honorary member of the Thornlie Rotary Club. He has served on the State Conference Executive and on the foundation committee of the Gosnells Regional District Youth Council.

John is the founding director of Sonlife Ministries, through which he has travelled extensively in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Hong Kong and the USA speaking to young people, businessmen, churches, community groups, sporting groups and salesmen through evangelistic crusades, teaching, training and motivational seminars. This is now John's full-time ministry.



John and Julie Bond and family

John is now ministering in local church outreach in Qld (Maroochydore, Bundaberg, Brisbane), NSW (Marrickville, incorporating Bible college student training), SA (Marion, Noarlunga) and WA (Whitfords, Craigie, Busselton, Bunbury, Bridgetown, Scarborough, Thornlie). In July he will be attending Lausanne as an Australian participant and in August he will be in Singapore to share in a leadership training program. Additional programs include a Gideons convention a Keswick convention and apologetic lecturing in Bible colleges and churches.

John plans to be available to the churches of Australia and South East Asia for itinerant evangelism and discipleship training. Most of 1989 is already planned. Interested churches

can contact John at PO Box 154, Maddington 6109.

George and Betty Wood of America took up the position of senior minister on 5 February. George Wood has ministered with the Billy Graham Association as associate evangelist with Leighton Ford. He is a dynamic speaker and leader and the church looks forward to the future under his leadership.

A baptismal candidate from north London nearly ended up in hot water. Immersion heaters left in the new baptistry overnight raised the temperature overnight so high that the congregation was greeted by clouds of steam. It took 20 minutes of carting cold water to cool the baptistry down sufficiently.

SPIRITUAL RETREAT



Leader: Des Purnell
Administrator: Allan Purnell
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Phone: (03) 712 0386

—PROGRAM FOR 1989—

4-5 March	Australian Spirituality
6-7 May	Feminine and Masculine Aspects of God and Faith
29-30 July	Faith Issues for Survivors of Sexual Abuse
21-22 October	Faith Issues Encountered in Life Threatening Events

Cost: \$40 per person for two day non-residential program
Bookings: Essential (closing one week before each retreat)
Write or telephone for more details.

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Baptisms at Edwardstown

For nearly two years the Edwardstown, SA, church has been developing a curriculum that would lead children to an intelligent and sincere faith in Christ.

It is based on a systematic theology book with a reformed flavour called *Leading Little Ones to God* by Marian School- and.

The book has lived up to its name with children surprising the adults with their ability to grasp even the more difficult concepts of God. Perhaps another teacher was at work also?

Can young children come to God? Timothy, Paul's most trusted companion and co-worker, did. Systematic teaching of scripture and the transparent faith of his teachers brought him to a saving faith in Christ (see 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14,



Elder Graham Mortimer presenting a Bible to Tamara Willis, one of the Junior Church students baptised in a recent morning service

15). The Edwardstown church is moving ahead on that assumption.

The F.A.B. is on target—annual offering 19 March

Award for Service

In the 1989 Australia Day Honours Chief Inspector Roy Weir was a recipient of the Australian Police Medal, the highest award for distinguished police service.

The son of Mr & Mrs T.V. Weir and presently Chairman of the board at the Preston, Vic, church, Roy has served as a policeman for 31 years. He spent 13 years as a member of the accident appreciation section and more recently has been Officer in Charge of the Traffic Operation Group at Nunawading. Over the years he has spoken at a number of church fellowships regarding his experiences in the Traffic Branch.

Apart from the joy of raising their own family Roy has also supported his wife Jean as they have fostered 58 babies prior to their adoption.

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Baby Boom in Balaklava



Balaklava is in the centre of a farming community in the mid North of South Australia. The church began in 1877 when the Verco Bros operated a large four storied flour mill in the town. Now in its 112th year the church is not only still alive but still growing.

The minister, Graham

Lawrie, stands on the steps surrounded by the Young Marrieds group and some of the 12 babies born into the congregation during 1988. Most of the young couples and their babies are fifth and sixth generation descendants of the earliest members of the church. Like several of the parents

Graham is also a descendant of John Lawrie who came to the area in 1858 and commenced Church of Christ services at Alma.

On 20 November 1988 a service of praise and thanksgiving was held when the families received a blessing from the ministers and elders.

Theological College Opened at Mulgrave

Mulgrave now has another significant landmark. On Saturday, 11 February 1989, His Excellency, Dr Davis McCaughey, AC, Governor of Victoria, opened the new campus of the Churches of Christ Theological College. The campus is situated on a beautiful 3.5 ha property in Jacksons Road, Mulgrave, opposite Gate 6 of VFL Park, with magnificent views to the Dandenongs.

The new college is designed to meet the challenges of the future and provides the most modern facilities for theological education and ministerial training in Australia. The large teaching and administration centre is built around a landscaped courtyard. It comprises a well-equipped lecture theatre seating 150, three large lecture rooms, six tutorial rooms, including one especially set up for training in counselling, a student lounge, a dining room, a kitchen, offices and a spacious double-storey library. Residential units for students are also provided on campus.

The primary purpose of the college is to train Churches of Christ ministers, but the college also provides many opportunities for others to undertake courses in theology and related areas. Through its affiliation with the Melbourne College of Divinity it offers the popular degree of Bachelor of Theology, which is available to lay people as well as to ministerial candidates. The new campus also provides educational opportunities for the wider community through both evening and Saturday

morning classes as well as through short-term courses which are available to the general public.

The college has a proud heritage. Formerly known as the College of the Bible, it was founded in 1907 and from 1910 until now was situated along Gardiners Creek, Glen Iris. In October 1984, the Victorian State Government served notice of compulsory acquisition on the Glen Iris campus

to construct the arterial road linking the South Eastern and Mulgrave Freeways.

The Principal of the college, Dr W. Tabbernee, said that, at first, despite having known for some time about the possibility of a forced move, it still came as somewhat of a shock. It has been sad to leave a campus that has been the home of the college for so long, but, he concluded, "Coming to grips with the inevitability of the move enabled us to do some exciting planning. It generated a bold new vision for the future. In October 1986 the New Campus Campaign was launched by the Chairman, Sir Geoffrey



The Governor of Victoria Dr Davis McCaughey, opening the new campus of the Churches of Christ Theological College

Foot, to raise the difference between compensation received for the Glen Iris property and the cost of Stage 1 of the Mulgrave campus. The target set was \$1,000,000 in gifts plus \$150,000 in interest-free loans to be raised by the opening of the new college. This was the largest capital campaign ever undertaken by Churches of Christ in Australia. It has been exciting to witness how the vision of a new campus has captured the imagination of the college's many supporters.

Eleven students have been accepted by the Admissions Committee to undertake full-time theological and ministe-

rial training beginning this year to join those already in training. All have unique stories to tell about how the Lord has led them to commit their lives in full-time Christian service. Some have left the security of their professions, some have forsaken influential executive positions, all have made sacrifices in obedience to the call of God.

An additional 30 students have been accepted to pursue part-time studies at the college and more are expected to enrol on Registration Day. The words of the college motto are so apt: "To God be the Glory!"

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School Chaplaincy Expansion in Victoria

There has been an unprecedented expansion of chaplaincy in state postprimary schools in Victoria in 1989. Six new appointments have been commenced in country schools to bring to a total 35 chaplains

employed by the Council for Christian Education in Schools.

The new appointments are at Wangaratta High School, Horsham High and Technical Schools, Geelong High School, Queenscliff High School, Kan-

garoo Flat Technical School, and Castlemaine High and Technical Schools. Chaplains can be either lay or ordained, male or female and come from member churches of the council.



The nine Churches of Christ chaplains in the CCES team: (back row) Peter Richter, Cliff Blowers, Leigh Mellberg, Russell Wesley, Ed Ots, Bruce Waldron, Laurie Barker, (front row) Peter Cannon, Warren Condron

Welcome Stranger

Churches of Christ gave a clear message to immigrants and refugees... welcome stranger. They declared that in God's sight all people are equal. Race, ethnic origin, colour, creed or nationality do not negate this equality, they stated. Delegates to the 42nd Federal Conference called on member churches to accept into our society people from other countries. They also affirmed a policy of multiculturalism which promotes social cohesion and cultural identity.

Similar challenges came from

a Heads of Australian Churches statement issued on 11 December 1988. The then Federal Conference President, Neil Gilmore, with the heads of other churches, reminded Christians that: "In Christ we have glimpsed God's love reaching out towards all people everywhere without distinction."

They pointed out that "The Christian churches are themselves communities in which people of differing cultural backgrounds have experienced reconciliation under the Lord-

ship of Jesus Christ."

They urge therefore that Christians commit themselves to seeking acceptance for people of the minority groups.

Both the Conference and the Heads of Australian Churches statements insist on the continuing acceptance of refugees. The Federal Conference urged the Federal Government to show a more compassionate concern for the plight of refugees.

—Louis van Laar
(Federal Social Justice Committee)

The Church in the Market Place

The Whitford, WA, church in 1983 literally became the church in the marketplace when it began meeting in the supermarket section of the shopping centre.

But then two things began to happen—the church numbers increased and the need for a supermarket in the area also grew. So in March 1988 work began to renovate and extend the shopping centre and build a functional community worship centre at the same time. The worship centre opened in October and in December the supermarket reopened as Supa Valu. Whitford is still the church in the market place and aims to be relevant and involved in the life of the community.

A full page in the *Wanneroo Times* gave details of the church and invited people to come and enjoy fellowship in the new centre. It wanted people to know about its lively and vibrant services, help available and the church's weekly program and activities.

The ministers at Whitford are Trevor Wolfe, from London, and a former missionary in Indonesia, Ian Lethbridge, an Australian who worked in the Marine Research Laboratories before entering the ministry, and Kent Keller, from Illinois, USA, who came to the church in 1985 as youth minister.

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Letters to the Editor

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

CHURCHES OF CHRIST CALENDAR

To the Editor,

In recent years I have been somewhat perplexed over our Churches of Christ calendar. Like a lot of your readers I note the advertisement asking for contributions of slides, that meet stated criteria, that appears in April. For the last three years I have selected photos that meet these criteria and posted them in. Every year they are posted back with a letter saying that the quality of my work is equal to anything submitted, but they were not included. How many members has this happened to?

What perplexes me is that year after year the photographs included are repetitive in theme (birds, flowers, and bodies of water—eight photos fit into these three categories, with the 1987 calendar having even more), many are not very interestingly composed (December's photo this year is a classic), and dominated by two people, W.H. Brice and G. Clarke (seven photos out of 13!), one of which gives the impression of being out of focus because it was taken at too low a shutter speed.

Would someone please explain why for the sake of all who submit work?

—G. Maguire
(Wentworthville, NSW)

P.S. As it is doubtful that my work will be included after this letter I encourage members to submit their best work for next year's calendar.

REPLY

To the Editor,

The Federal Literature Department is indebted to G. Maguire and your other readers for the hundreds of high standard 35 mm transparencies that are sent in response to its advertised request in *The Australian Christian* each year for the Churches of Christ calendar.

The selection process

involves a number of people including people who have experience at judging in photographic competitions and clubs.

We recognise the subjective nature of any judgement we make in the final selection. The fact that seven photographs out of 13 used were submitted by W.H. Brice and G. Clarke is purely coincidental and simply arrived at on the basis of the criteria established.

G. Maguire and many other people who have sent 35 mm transparencies have frequently had some of their submissions retained in the first or second or even third stages of selection but have not been finally selected. I can appreciate their disappointment.

I am glad that G. Maguire will again submit some pictures for the 1990 calendar and assure him that his letter will not negatively affect our selection.

—Ken Clinton
(Chairman Federal Literature Department)

Note: The advertisement for slides for inclusion in the 1990 Calendar is in this issue and they need to be sent in by 31 March.

THEOLOGICAL FENCE SITTERS

To the Editor,

With the exception of Ron Graham none of our theologians is apparently brave enough, through this paper, to reason through Paul's complex texts regarding women's role in the church.

Are our college lecturers just standing back and waiting for the Anglican and Roman Catholic lawmakers to come to some finality on the issue?

1 Timothy 2:8-15 coupled with 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 sound harsh indictments against women, but they were written for cruel days, days when grace was waging a world shaking battle against the traditions of the law. Who can blame Paul, the chief changer of the old order, if he occasionally was hoist on his own petard! We see this when he was

persuaded to join in the old ceremony of offering an animal sacrifice for his sins while preaching the blood of Christ (Acts 21:21-26).

But for today's diehard traditionalists women must always remain submissively silent as under the old Jewish law. Didn't Paul say so? Never mind the liberating power of the Holy Spirit, poured out on the people on the day of Pentecost, poured out on both Jews and gentiles, bond and free, men and women. Does the Holy Spirit take second place to Paul?

And woman...well she must pay for her sin...bringing forth her children in shamefaced sobriety. You see, she was deceived, but Adam was not.

—Gladys Butler
(Bruce Rock, WA)

HYMNS AND HAND RAISING

To the Editor,

Providing that it does not interfere with the worship of others, there is no reason why we should not raise our hands

during hymn singing as J. Olsen ("AC" 17 December) points out. However, there is no need to take the plea to "lift up our hands" in Lam 2:19 any more literally than the plea to "lift up our hearts" in Lam 3:41.

It should be recognised that there are auto suggestive elements about hand raising associated with many modern hymns. Hand raising is strongly suggested by the devices of upward movement of melody, upward change of pitch and repetition. The widespread use of these devices cues conditioned responses. Physiologically raising our hands at appropriate moments may actually help us hit the high notes.

While some of the modern hymns have nice tunes and appropriate words, some clearly owe more to the Beatles than to Beethoven. By all means let us use the new hymns but let us remember that some will not always be happy with them and their behavioural accompaniments.

—H.E. Hayward
(Berowra, NSW)

Letters from Tertius

The Persecuted Parson

My mate from St Chad's was so glum that his chin was almost on his chest. "Tertius," he said, "what do you do in your denomination to get rid of the parson who is emptying his church?" I said that I didn't know, as I didn't think we had any. I said that if it happened we might pray for another church to take him.

He didn't want advice, he just wanted to talk. "Half the people at St Chad's have left the church and won't come back as long as our present vicar is there," he said. "He has offended them and upset them, and when they go he says that they are persecuting him. He says that Jesus lost his crowd, and should he expect anything else?"

My mate stopped for breath and then went on. "He says why should he expect to be popular? None of the prophets was popular. And if people persecuted him because of his prophetic message, so be it!"

He looked at me pleadingly. "But Tertius, how can you get through to him that it is not his Christlikeness or prophetic preaching that is upsetting people, but his rudeness, his tactlessness, his abruptness, and his straight out ungraciousness?"

"Maybe you should let the bishop know," I ventured.

"He's a mate of the bishop," he said.

"Maybe you should talk to God about it, you and the ones who have left," I suggested.

He left me with a look that said, "Even the Lord can't do a thing with some people!"

—Tertius

Letters to the Editor

42ND FEDERAL CONFERENCE

To the Editor,

I write to commend all responsible for organising the 42nd Federal Conference and National Ministers' Seminar.

Neil Gilmore and his team of locals impressed me with their planning, organisation and efficient mode of operation. Everything was taken care of with no fuss; transport to and from the airport (even at 6 am), excellent accommodation and meals at the ANU, a shuttle bus to visit places of interest, even morning and afternoon teas!

The times of worship were innovative and inspirational. I shall not quickly forget the moving time as representatives of each state lit candles from one common candle, expressing our unity.

The evening rallies were great experiences of corporate worship. The singing of appropriate

choruses of praise and lively preaching, both challenged and encouraged.

Compliments must go to Neil Gilmore for the efficient way he presided over the business sessions. His maturity and sensitivity enabled a smooth flowing discussion of all issues.

If you missed the 42nd Federal Conference you really missed one of the most outstanding events within the life of Churches of Christ in recent years.

Thank you Neil and the churches of Canberra for making this such a memorable experience for us all.

—Jeff Weston
(Hobart, Tas)

FAMILIES UNDER THREAT

To the Editor,

Australia is in real danger. Its morals are so corrupt, its living standards so "self" in-

spired, and its heart so riddled with deceit, mistrust and filth of all types i.e. corruption, illicit sex, homosexuality and so on.

The family, God's most precious institution is under extreme threat. "Lawfully we can just live together so why marry?" and so on. The victims of many, many family break-ups, its children in their thousands, are growing up anti-marriage. Even thousands more are in de facto "families". Many of these are even more against the family.

It is a fact too that Satan worshippers all over Australia pray to Satan for the destruction of the family, this most precious God given institution. How God must grieve, must hurt, even cry for Australia.

How Australia needs our witness of good, healthy Christian families. How its precious, priceless children need good godly Bible based families. How many many thousands of "little Aussies" bleed and cry for someone to love them, to accept them as a part of a real family.

My heart bleeds, does yours?

My heart cries, does yours?

God loves all Australians. Let us stand up and be counted for God and for the family, for Australia's sake.

—Dave Vincent
(Mt Druitt, NSW)

Our aim—supporting the
Aboriginal church.

LETTER WRITING WORKS

To the Editor,

I recently visited the Woolworths supermarket where my family shops regularly for groceries and was distressed to find a new pornographic magazine titled *The Picture* on prominent display at all checkouts. I felt angry that such material was permitted to be on public display in a place where literally thousands of our children and young people pass every week.

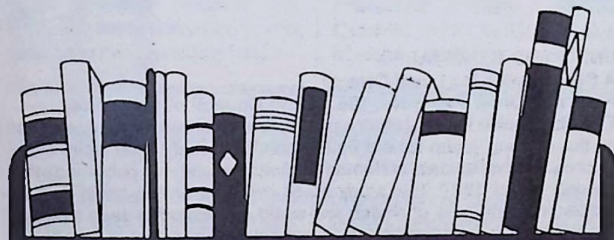
I wrote immediately to the state manager of Woolworths and asked that these magazines be removed. I also encouraged our congregation at Ipswich to write a letter. The result was that Woolworths have now removed this magazine from every store in Queensland.

I want to publicly commend Woolworths for this decision. I would also encourage Christians in our churches to write letters about similar issues. At Ipswich we were amazed at what could be achieved by a few of us writing a letter.

Let us rise up and no longer be prepared to sit back and hope that someone else will do it for us.

—Larry Holt
(Ipswich, Qld)

The Hungarian Boy Scout Federation has been re-established 40 years after being dissolved by the state. In Hungary it has historically had a close relationship with the churches.



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Attention! PHOTOGRAPHERS

The Federal Literature Department invites readers to forward 35 mm colour transparencies or slides for possible inclusion in the 1990 Churches of Christ calendar. Slides are needed from each State and Territory in Australia, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu.

Please forward to: Mrs E.M. Rankine
5 Atkins Ave
Glen Iris 3146
by 31 March 1989

Criteria for selection includes photographic excellence, variety of subject matter and the church year.

Media Review

Papers

ASIAN IMMIGRATION DEBATE

The December 1988 issue of *Zadok Perspectives* includes articles on the Christian attitude to the current Asian immigration debate. John Harris, the Director of the Zadok Institute for Christianity and Society, presents a clear biblical position on the equality of all humankind, supported by personal anecdotes and the views of some Asian Christians. Senator Baden Teague writes as a Liberal politician seeking a return to party policies in which racial or ethnic origin is a non-issue.

Zadok Perspectives is available from the Zadok Institute, Blackall St, Barton, ACT 2600, (062) 73 1634, for \$3 plus 80¢ postage.

Books

THE MAN IN THE YELLOW SUIT

A Mr Ree Story

by Ron Holmes (Vital Publications) \$5.00 (plus postage)



This story starts on the *Abel Tasman* on her way to Tasmania, when a family meet Mr Ree, a famous magician who in his campervan "Wanda" is driving around Australia looking for his wife and son. Also on the boat is a man in a yellow suit, who is a bit of a mystery. Later on they are at Adventure Bay on Bruny Island on their holiday when all sorts of activities take place, including a kidnapping and the smuggling of jewelry and activities that of are interest to the police. This is a good adventure book for children around the ages of 10-14. This is the second story about Mr Ree.

The Man in the Yellow Suit is available for \$5.00 plus \$1.20 postage from Ron Holmes, 6 Keirana Ave, Pt Noarlunga 5167, or from Mrs E. Rankine, Federal Literature Department, 5 Atkins Ave, Glen Iris 3146.

—Kate Ambrose

WHERE THE RIVER FLOWS

Sharing the Gospel in a Changing Australia

by Peter and Sue Kaldor (Lancer Books) \$8.95.

Where the River Flows is a collection of the stories and experiences of sharing the gospel from across Australia. Last year Peter released the book *Who Goes Where? Who Doesn't Care?* which examined the various statistics available about church attendance and belief in Australia. This book is the result of papers prepared for a conference in late 1987 which was to examine the points of entry for the gospel into the Australian culture.

Peter and Sue Kaldor have travelled around a variety of groups and Christian churches examining the way that some sub-cultures are reached by Christians. This is not a book that examines the theological reasons for sharing the gospel. It is also not a book that gives a "how to do it" approach to evangelism. This is more a sociological examination of the way that certain groups are reaching out into their communities with the gospel message. Peter and Sue Kaldor are convinced that the gaps

between the church and Australian society can be bridged. They have sought to tell the stories of some groups that they have seen bridging this gap. The reader is then urged to reflect on their local church situation and their own Christian life and to see if there are some methods they may adopt to help bridge those gaps.

The first section of the book looks at two key aspects of Australian society today: rapid change and social diversity. Part two, the major part of the work is described as "Seeking the Riverbanks", which is the examination of meeting needs across Australia. The final section contains some reflections on the way that God may work in various situations in Australia today.

Highly recommended.

— CRA

KIRSTY'S KITE

written by Carol Curtis Stilz

Illustrated by Gwen Harrison (Albatross Books) \$14.95.

This is a beautifully designed and illustrated hardback children's book. This book is designed to be read to young children and whilst the story itself is good and each page does not have too many words on it I had a small question as to the use of one or two very adult words by the young girl Kirsty in the story. My two youngest children (10 and 7) enjoyed the story when it was read to them and they said that it was "all right" and they also enjoyed the illustrations. The book has been written specifically to help children to cope with death, particularly those of a close relative. In this case it is Kirsty's mother who has died and also her grandfather reflects on his feelings of loss with the death of his wife. The story does raise issues relating to death that could well prompt children to ask further questions (Jack, my youngest, certainly asked me a question about angels after we had read the story.)

This is an excellent book, very well produced. Whilst the price would appear expensive to many it is about average for a children's book of this quality.

— CRA

UNITY AND RENEWAL

A Study Guide for Local Groups

Faith and Order Paper No. 136 (World Council of Churches)

This study guide for local churches or ecumenical groups was produced by the steering group for the Faith and Order study "The Unity of the Church and the Renewal of Human Community" and was published in the second half of 1987. This study guide is based on the belief that the brokenness and unity of church and world are related to each other. As is stated in the Introduction "The ecumenical movement is an effort to overcome divisions within and between churches." These studies are designed to provoke thought on this issue.

There are four studies in this small leaflet plus a variety of worship resources to be used by the group. The studies are titled: Social and Political Context; Community of Women and Men; The Church; and Interfaith Relationships.

This study material should be available from the Australian Council of Churches, Box C199, Clarence Street P.O., Sydney 2000.

— CRA



Now folks, we're going to have a strip film...

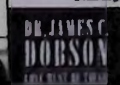
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2422 Logan Rd, Eight Mile Plains, Qld. 341 9500



Christmas in Prison

American Dave McBride and Canadian Mervyn Budd were reaching the end of a five week trek in the Himalayas last October when they were arrested at a police checkpoint near the East Nepal border. Found in their possession were Christian books, Bibles and tapes and a diary describing their trip.

It was Dave McBride's diary that clinched their arrest. They were then placed in a cell 10 foot by 10 foot that also held 16 murderers and eight thieves. Their charge, which carries a six year sentence in Nepal, preaching Christianity and causing a disturbance to Hinduism.

Their arrest is not unusual. Nepal is the only Hindu Kingdom in the world and it enforces harsh laws against those who convert or attempt to exercise another religion. 200 similar cases to these two young men are now pending trial.

What is unusual is that these two men have been denied bail and under Nepalese law they may not even be tried for two years.

At present Dave McBride's wife Carol is in India awaiting a visa for Nepal. She and her eight month old son have not seen Dave for over four months.

A spokesperson for Operation Mobilisation, for whom the two men are full-time workers, commented that although they were selling Christian books they were carrying nothing that had been banned from sale in Nepali bookshops.

Christians are urged to write to the Nepal Embassy to protest the breach of basic human rights and to call for the freedom of religion. In Australia Warwick M.M. Deacock is the Honorary Royal Nepalese Consul General and he can be contacted at Suit 1 Strand Centre, 870 Military Rd, Mosman 2088.

Oberammergau 1990

With more than a decade of this century remaining it's not often that one is advised of a final chance to do or see something before the year 2000! But when we're referring to Germany's Oberammergau Passion Play, the advice is both timely and urgent because here is a unique and awe-inspiring presentation that has, as part of its 350 year tradition, the idea of performances being held only every 10 years.

Angas Travel, one of the most reputable and experienced travel agencies in Adelaide, has appointed Graham and Bev Agnew of Marion, SA, and Ron and Maureen Kennedy of Beverly Hills, NSW, as their official Churches of Christ tour leaders and both couples are gearing up enthusiastically for the tours. All are experienced overseas travellers and tour leaders.

Those who travel with the Agnews will leave towards the end of July and enjoy 21 fun filled days touring parts of Britain, Belgium, Holland, France, Germany and Switzer-

land. Meanwhile, the Kennedy's tour, departing May 1990 and lasting for 17 days, will take in such fascinating places as Athens, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Nazareth and Bethlehem as well as many significant cities and scenic attractions in Europe.

The central highlight of both tours will, of course, be the two unforgettable nights spent in the Oberammergau mountain village to witness the world famous Passion Play. Already scores of groups from the USA, South America and Japan have booked tours to see this unforgettable 6 hour spectacle and so it is imperative that would-be travellers respond early to this once in a lifetime opportunity.

Further details are available from Graham and Bev Agnew, 52 Oliphant Ave, Marion 5043, Phone (08) 277 7388 (church office) or (08) 298 8681 (manse), or from Ron and Maureen Kennedy, 8 Beresford Ave, Beverly Hills 2209, Phone (02) 580 8165 (church office) or (02) 50 6853 (manse).

Junk Mail Churches

Church Growth guru Peter Wagner and Norman Whan, director of church planting for an Evangelical Friends group, say the best way to start a church is through direct mail and telemarketing campaigns.

All a minister needs to do is enlist volunteers or hire students to make 20,000 brief

phone calls to determine interest in a new church. Then send direct mail pieces about five times to those who are interested, which they estimate to be 2,000. Follow that up with final phone calls, and 200 will probably attend the new congregation's first service.

—The Christian Ministry



Graham and Bev Agnew



Ron and Maureen Kennedy

Pontius' Puddle



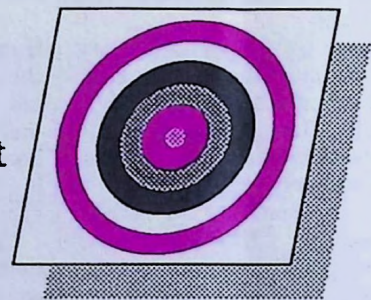
F.A.B. HELPING BUILD THE

RESET YOUR SIGHTS

Rapid changes in government policy have brought about a **change in direction** for the F.A.B. Child care has finished.

The F.A.B. and its missionary/pastors are **aiming** to—

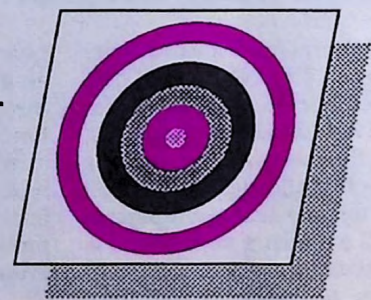
- * Build and strengthen Aboriginal churches
- * Train pastors and church leaders
- * Provide the necessary financial and spiritual support
- * Care for aged Aborigines
- * Support families
- * Encourage Aboriginal initiatives in the areas of—
 - Church ministry
 - Youth work
 - Training
 - Community development



THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE—TO PROVIDE TRAINING

* A humble start has been made but there are many **targets** to reach. The young churches **urgently** need—

- Bible training
- Help with church administration
- Discipling skills



Our Australian churches have actively supported Aborigines mission endeavour for **almost 50 years**.

God has raised up **Aboriginal** pastors to minister to their own people. But they still need your help—prayerful and financial.

May we **set our sights** on supporting the **growing** Aboriginal church.

SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE F.A.B. ANNUAL OFFERING 19 MARCH

ABORIGINAL CHURCH

CURRENT FIELDS AND CENTRES



The Federal Aborigines Board is actively involved in Aboriginal churches at—

Normanton	Albury	Bunbury
Mareeba	Mooroopna	Carnarvon
Eidsvold	Port Lincoln	Port Hedland
Brisbane	Norseman	Marble Bar
Tamworth	Esperance	Looma

These churches need to know that our Australian churches stand behind them as they continue to develop the pastoral and leadership skills they need to grow the **Aboriginal church**.

The F.A.B. and these young churches each aim to grow **autonomous, self-propagating** fellowships.

Happenings

A pioneering effort to translate the scriptures into the Kurdish language is underway, spearheaded by People International, a mission based in England. The translation will provide workers with the ability to reach, among many others, the Kurdish refugees who fled into Eastern Turkey from Iraq last fall to avoid government attacks.

The Australian Evangelical Alliance has compiled a prayer diary especially for use between 4 Feb and 14 May. During these 100 days it is hoped that many individuals and prayer groups will pray for outreach and renewal around Australia.

The Monash University Centre for Continuing Education is holding a one day workshop on 21 March on "Facilitating Adult Learning within the Christian Church". The workshop costs \$96 (or \$83 if paid by 6 March). Details available from CCE, Monash University, Clayton 3168 or by phoning (03) 565 4719.

Peter Philip has resigned from World Vision, where he has been their media director for the last 12 years, to become the new general manager of The Advocate, Victoria's Roman Catholic newspaper. Peter is currently President of the Australian Religious Press Association.

Almost 14 million fewer Americans attend Sunday School now compared with 1970, according to a study by church growth consultant Win Arn. In 1970 31% of church members went to Sunday School, but only 18% attended in 1986.

There are 19 million members of the Communist Party in the USSR, about 6% of the population of 287 million. The number of Christians is about 54 million, or 19%. About 80% of the population have religious ties.

Church membership in the UK has declined by 1.2

million since the 1970s according to statistics published in the 1989 UK Christian Handbook. Of the mainline churches only the Baptists increased. Black churches, Pentecostals and the House Church movement are growing quickly. The total number of Christian churches in the UK declined by more than 4,000 since 1970 to 49,600.

The American Family Association claims that Christian protests have caused the film "The Last Temptation of Christ" to lose money for Universal Pictures. The Association said that only about 1% of theatres in the USA had shown the film and Universal had recovered less than \$4 million of their \$15-17 million investment.

The Victorian Government introduced legislation on 1 January that will ban tobacco advertisements on shop fronts, awnings and boards and will phase out tobacco advertisements on illuminated signs and billboards.

The US Congress has passed a bill requiring all alcoholic beverages distributed in the USA to have a label stating: "Government warning: (1) According to the Surgeon General, women should not drink alcoholic beverages during pregnancy because of the risk of birth defects. (2) Consumption of alcoholic beverages impairs your ability to drive a car or operate machinery and may cause health problems."

Operation Mobilisation's ship *Doulos* has berthed in Auckland and will visit Tauranga, New Plymouth, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin during her visit, which will last until 27 April.

Exiled Soviet rock musician Valeri Barinov is planning a missionary journey using his latest rock musical, which is to start in May in the Soviet

Union. If he is granted permission for the tour. He is then to visit every Eastern European country he can get into. After a time in Western Europe his team hope to travel around Asia including China ending the outreach in Israel in 4 years time.

A total of 132,976 cases of AIDS had been reported in 177 countries by the end of 1988, almost double the number reported by the end of 1987, says a survey released by the World Health Organisation. The largest number of cases is in the US (80,538) followed by Uganda (5,508) and France (4,874), though neither Uganda nor France have filed recent reports.

Two missionaries are being held in Colombia, reportedly by drug traffickers. They are threatening to kill one of the missionaries for each Colombian extradited to the US to face drug charges.

A report "Are you looking for a Filipino Wife?" prepared by the General Synod of the Anglican Church calls on governments to legislate to register or licence introduction agencies. It also recommends a government review of the advertising of Asian women as brides and calls for the support of aid projects which are directed to nongovernment organisations working to improve the position of women in the Philippines.

The Australian Research Theology Foundation is interested in promoting a wide range of research and exploration into religion and education. They have \$80,000 available for suitable projects over the next two years and groups or individuals looking for funding should apply for 1989 grants to the Foundation at 40 Canning St, North Melbourne 3051, before 1 March.

The Bible Society in Aus-

tralia has a new General Secretary, Bruce Pearce from South Australia. A Baptist, he has had a long association with the Bible Society. He was SA State Secretary 1958-1968 and in 1968 he was appointed as Secretary for Asia for the Bible Society in London.

A Bride Tidings International conference held in Surabaya, Indonesia, held 23-30 October last year was attended by more than 1,000 pastors and evangelists from Indonesia and several other countries. The event was highly unusual as it was held with the endorsement of the Indonesian government.

Australia ranks 9th in the international league of beer drinkers. Australians drink an average of 111.3 litres of beer a year compared with top ranking West Germany's 146.6 litres.

The Carols by Candlelight program planned for the Beenleigh, Qld, Showgrounds was cancelled when the Ministers Fraternal withdrew support after learning that the Mormon church would play a major role in the evening's program.

The Methodist Church of South Africa, one of the country's largest denominations, is debating whether to declare itself a "peace church". Such a stance would allow many young South African Methodists to obtain conscientious objector status and avoid conscription.

The video boom has reached addiction proportions among youth in Africa and India. Stories of children being lured out of school, stealing money, and resorting to violence to go to video centres are becoming more common.

Youth With a Mission teams will be working in the western suburbs of Melbourne 27 March-9 July presenting drama and puppets as

part of a regional evangelism program. The highlight of the team's work is the performance of "Toymaker and Son" a moving account of the gospel told through mime and dance.

In Britain the second National Day of Repentance and Prayer has been called for 4 March. It gives an opportunity for all Christians to pray on behalf of the nation, while at the same time recognising the sin of the church and the nation.

Two school teachers in Kenya have each been given prison sentences for owning copies of the banned church magazine *Beyond*. The government banned the magazine last year after it published articles on alleged malpractices in Kenya's elections.

A minister in the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa has had his salary suspended for a statement he helped prepare which criticised apartheid.

The world's biggest mosque is now under construction in Casablanca, Morocco. It is scheduled to be dedicated by King Hassan II on 9 July, his 60th birthday. The total cost of the mosque will be at least US\$240 million and the building will hold more than 18,000 people.

The Californian Supreme Court has ruled that a Christian Scientist can be prosecuted for failing to provide medical care for her 4 year old daughter who died of acute bacterial meningitis in 1984. One comment in the judgement was, "Parents have no right to free exercise of religion at the price of a child's life."

The French Government has intervened to order a major drug company to resume production of a controversial abortion pill. The RU486 pill made by Roussel Uclaf can be taken up to the 10th week of pregnancy.

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

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Reach out with Kyneton Church
and support an older church facing new opportunities



Construction of new ministers residence estimated to cost \$80,000

To be funded by Properties Corporation loan of \$60,000

Church fundraising and your donations \$20,000

Your prayers, investments and donations are needed now

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52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne 3000

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Terms and Conditions of Investments (\$100.00 minimum)

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Interest Requirements

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

✓ Tick term and interest requirements

Date Usual signature

Church membership

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

Cash Donation

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

Name

Address

Church Membership

Classifieds

BIRTHS

NANKIVELL (Nee HEIER) To Brenda and Rod at Balaklava, South Australia, a son, on 6 February, Simon Bradley. Brother for Janice and Ashley. All well.

ENGAGEMENTS

BAKER — EDWARDS Alan and Nola Baker, Swanston street, Melbourne, and Ron and Joyce Edwards, Dandenong, have pleasure in announcing the engagement of Joy-Anne and Daryl on 14 February 1989.

BLANEY — FRAZER Ruth and the late Keith Blaney of Brisbane, Queensland, and Thelma and the late George Frazer have pleasure in announcing the engagement of Rob and Wendy.

CORLETT—CLAYDEN Ian and Curley with Carl and Myra announce with joy the engagement of Allison and Phillip.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

COLE—NICHOLS, Charles and Beryl. Dorothy and Gwen have pleasure in announcing the Golden Wedding anniversary of their parents who were married at the Swanston Street, Melbourne, Church of Christ by Principal T.H. Scambler on 1 March, 1939. Now residing at 25 Osprey Drive, Thornlands, Qld.

IN MEMORIAM

SIMMONS (LUNN) Helen. 15 February "In God's garden you rest above. In our thoughts you rest with love" Loving daughter of Alice and Arnold, loved sister of Judith. **VAN DESSEL (THOMAS)** Beryl. Dearly beloved daughter of Charles and Alma, sister of Bill, passed away 2.2.88, will always be remembered.

Remain on target—Aborigines offering 19 March



IAN CORLETT IN SUNSHINE

5 February saw Ian Corlett commence a new outreach ministry in Sunshine and outer western suburbs. This is a new joint initiative of the Sunshine church and the Department.

Your support in prayer and gifts is invited.

DEPARTMENT OF MISSION, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT
52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne 3000

SHORT-TERM ACCOMODATION

BALLARAT AREA. Accommodation required for two ladies and two gentlemen visiting Ballarat area from the Christian Guest Home, Oakleigh, for Senior Citizen's Week, particularly 25 and 26 February.

Contact Noala Guatta, Christian Guest Home on (03) 568 1046.

TO LET

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

HOUSEBOAT "White Heron" 10 berth. Moored at Blanchetown, SA Phone (08) 380.5009 or (085) 40.5100 or write PO Box 65, St Agnes 5097.

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renovations, car ports, pergolas, any job large or small. For free quotes phone (03) 873 1247. Vermont, Vic.

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Change of Service Times
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Sunshine 3020

All welcome to
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South Yarra

Church of Christ
HOME COMING
SERVICE

Sunday 26 February

11 a.m.: Dr Bill Tabbernee

Principal, College of the Bible

2.45 pm Miss Hazel Skuce

will speak on her work in India
Lunch and afternoon tea
provided

Bright singing
Good fellowship
Phone (03) 241 3961

Former members of MORELAND CHURCH

are invited to a
Reunion Service

to be held in conjunction with Coburg's 69th Anniversary
Sunday, 7 May, 11 am

A BYO luncheon will follow this service and there will be ample opportunity for reminiscing!

Please tell your friends.

RSVP Alva Candlish (03) 354 9381
Dorothy & Henry Anderson (03) 386 5125
Hazel & Bert Blain (03) 386 1663

Past members and friends are invited to the

35th Church Anniversary

BRIGHTON CHURCH OF CHRIST

(S A)

(formerly Brighton Gardens)

12 March 1989

10 am Communion service

Noon Luncheon & inspection of renovated buildings

7 pm Gospel celebration

Ring the church office (08) 296 7478 (mornings) or Wenham's (08) 296 1469 for a detailed leaflet or enquiries.

An Historical Treasure!

One Hour Videotape of
FAREWELL TO GLEN IRIS
AND GRADUATION

An excellent tape featuring
E.L. Williams, K.R. Bowes and W. Tabbernee

\$28 (including postage)

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7 Elm Road, Glen Iris, Vic 3148
Phone (03) 25 8085

A Church ABC

Ormond is a settled middle-class suburb of Melbourne, but with younger people now moving into the area. The church building, which is situated on the corner of busy North Road and Arnott Street, was built in 1955 with alterations in 1985. The facilities are good—there is a large hall with a stage and rooms for Sunday School. The attractive chapel is a traditional style, fully carpeted, with an overall impression of brightness.

The church began in 1925, and at present there are over 90 members with an average attendance of 71. The membership is ageing but there are younger people coming in. Now in his tenth year at Ormond, the minister is **Glen Stibbe**, who came from Arana Hills in Brisbane. He and his wife

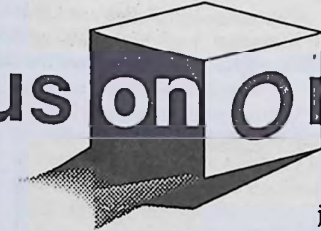
Betty have two grown sons. Glen is ably assisted by intern **Michael Adamson**, who is in his final year at the **Wollongong Institute for Contemporary Church Leadership**. Michael was originally from Berwick and is married to **Melissa**. He is ma-

bration service at 7 pm with an attendance usually of about 50 but which can increase to over 100 on occasions.

Weekly activities include small groups for Bible study etc., an active young adults group, **Good Companions** and **Explorers**, afternoon and evening women's fellowships, a men's prayer group, a drop-in centre for people in the community and a youth club starting shortly. There is also a day kindergarten run by volunteer members of the church for 30 children three days a week. This activity has been conducted for over 30 years.

Ormond has always been an active church. It has been working with **Reach Out Resources** and has a commitment to church growth. Strong and scripturally based, it has great faith in its future.

Focus on Ormond



young adults ministry. Services are at 10 am, which includes the Sunday School for the first part of the service, with a family service on the first Sunday of the month, and a gospel celebration service at 7 pm with an attendance usually of about 50 but which can increase to over 100 on occasions.

Minister's Workshop

Researching Your District

by **Lionel Berthelsen**

An understanding of the community is essential if a church is to reach it with the good news about Jesus. A number of sources of information provide the necessary insight.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (located in each capital city)

The ABS is a good starting point. You need the 1986 "Census of Population and Housing" (a 7 page document costing \$2) What area do you want to look at? Information is readily available for both post-code and local government areas. So check to see if either of them is roughly equivalent to your ministry area. If not, talk to the ABS about it.

Realise that this data is only significant when compared to a wider area. (Is it significant if 0.6% of persons in your area claim to be "Church of Christ"? It is if you live in NSW, where the average across the state is 0.3%.) If you are analysing a suburb in a major city, choose the city for comparison; if you are looking at a country town, choose the state as a whole.

Now go through the data for your area with a fine tooth comb, constantly comparing your figures with the figures for your control area. Make a list of all the significant variations you can find. Finally, try to build up a profile of your community from

the list of discoveries you have compiled.

Talking and Observing

It is also very enlightening to wander around your ministry area with your eyes open! Look at the standard of housing. Where are the better houses? The cheaper houses? What cars are driven? Where are the shopping areas?

The schools? What sources of entertainment are there for the kids? Is there good public transport?

"Wander around your ministry area with your eyes open."

Talking to community leaders also provides insights—headmasters, local shop owners, council aldermen, local doctors, business people, social workers etc. Ask: "What do you see as the needs of this community? What can be done about them?"

We should not overlook "ordinary" people. In his early days Robert Schuller used to take two weeks each year just to go door to door—not primarily to invite people to church, but to talk to people and let them express their concerns and talk about their needs. Out of this he would construct his church's programs.

Studies on the Australian Context

Several important books have been published in the last couple of years to help us understand the religious orientation of Australians. Two of the best are **Peter Kaldor's Who Goes Where? Who Doesn't Care?** (Lancer, 1987) and **Mal Garvin's Us Aussies** (Hayzon, 1987). Garvin seeks to develop an Australian self-understanding—essential if we are to "get under the skin" of fellow Australians, and minister to them in meaningful ways.

Kaldor's book is subtitled "Going to Church in Australia". It shows that all those people out there are not the same, but form a complex mosaic of peoples. And the church is good at reaching some kinds of people but not others. Essential reading!

So go for it! It's only as we understand our community that we can expect to develop effective strategies for reaching it with the good news.

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

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

Back to School: Religion in Life

In so-called secular Australia, 80% of parents want some form of religious education for their children at primary school, opinion polls show. Increasingly schools are responding to this need.

"We can't keep up with the demand," said the Rev. Andrew Curnow, Director of the Victorian-based Council for Christian Education in Schools. "We have more schools waiting for our services than we can supply."

The wheel has turned full circle, explained Mr Curnow. Where a decade ago parents might not have been so concerned about this area of their children's education, now they actively want their children taught beliefs and values.

After six years with CCES, Mr Curnow, an Anglican priest, is returning to parish life. He has been appointed vicar of St George's Church, Malvern, Vic.

He admitted to feeling some sorrow at leaving CCES, which is a unique Australian organisation. An ecumenical body representing the Anglican, Baptist, Churches of Christ, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Salvation Army and Uniting Churches, its major role is the development of curricula for religious education in schools.

It looks back on almost 100 years of service since its predecessor, a joint churches' council, began providing ecumenical materials for Victorian schools in 1890. The Victorian Education Act of 1872 stipu-

for primary school children. It is written by CCES staff, and published by the Joint Board of Christian Education.

Religion in Life is used in 60% of Victoria's schools, a 13% increase over the past decade.



lates that no denominational teaching is allowed in the state education system; religious education must follow an Agreed Syllabus.

Today, the Agreed Syllabus in Victoria is *Religion in Life*, a highly acclaimed curriculum

It is also used in New Zealand and every other state of Australia, including Western Australia, where it has recently been approved as the Agreed Syllabus. There are now 360,000 children using *Religion in Life*. Introduced in 1974, it is in its fifth edition.

It is a unique program, Mr Curnow pointed out, because it starts from where the children are. "We take children's key life experiences, and then relate appropriate Christian materials to those experiences," he said.

"For instance, in Years 3 and 4, an important experience for children is the birthday party. We might use that celebration to talk about Jesus and the feeding of the five thousand, and then move on to talk about the fact that many people in the world are hungry.

"We don't start with a series of parables or other Bible stories, and tell them in a manner suited to the age of the children. We always go the other way around."

The program is regularly revised. An editorial committee, which includes a leading theologian, classroom teachers and teacher-educators oversees each revision.

"At the moment one of our concerns is to ensure that our language is inclusive," said Mr Curnow. "In fact, *Religion in Life* has been a pioneer in producing religious education with a strong emphasis on women as role models. I would say that half our role models are women.

"In multicultural, multifield Australia, a Christian religious education program is not out of place in state primary schools," Mr Curnow said.

"From the word go, we assumed that Australia is a multicultural society. Reference is made to other ethnic groups, and we take care that photos show a multicultural content.

"But we don't feel that it is appropriate to introduce a phenomenological approach to religion at primary level. Certainly in upper primary the presence of other world religions in Australia is introduced.

"Australia is still overwhelmingly a Christian country. Other faiths only account for a tiny proportion of the population."

"It is just as important for those who teach religious education to be sensitive to the other factors influencing Australian society.

"It is no good teachers talking about God as a loving father, assuming that everyone has a loving father, when half the kids in the class belong to single parent families," he said.

As well as *Religion in Life*, CCES and the Joint Board of Christian Education combine to produce *Tracks*, a program for Years 7 and 8. A new venture in 1988, *Tracks* is designed to be taught by school chaplains.

More information about *Religion in Life* and *Tracks* is available from the Joint Board of Christian Education, Second Floor, 10 Queen Street, Melbourne 3000.

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Press On

by Ian Alves

To me spiritual growth means pressing on.

I am encouraged by the letter Paul wrote to that very supportive group of Christians in Philippi, particularly where he says, "...I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."

It is so easy to look back on past achievements and glories. To remember the good old days; those times when... But to do that is to stagnate spiritually.

Paul wrote this little letter to the Philippian church from gaol. It would have been easy for him to feel sorry for himself. The great evangelist and missionary stuck in a miserable environment with only a handful of people to witness to.

Yet he can write, "Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus."

Far too many Christians are narrow sighted when it comes to spirituality. They are content to either live off the spirituality of others or see spirituality emerging through very orthodox methods of religious observance.

When we take Paul's approach we are open to new insights and experiences of how God can and wants to work in our lives.

My own circumstances have changed, having moved from a church where we saw baptisms every week to one where we have not had one to date.

But I press on; endeavouring not only to live up to what I have already attained but to develop my understanding of what it means to fix one's eyes on Jesus and to walk daily in the Spirit.

Even in a stimulating spiritual environment people have given the impression that at last they have found it—at last they have arrived.

These people stand on very dangerous ground. As Paul emphasised: "I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things."

To all those who are in Christ I say "press on", there is still a lot more in store for you.

• Ian Alves is the minister at the Chatswood, NSW, church.

The Fellowship of Women

The fellowship of women in a church
Is something you may need to search
For quite some time to find another like it.
We share so many things together,
The fun, the work, the stormy weather,
The faith we have in God.
Inside and outside the Fellowship we learn to care,
The work is done, the power of Prayer is there,
And friendships form.
Each tries to be aware of love to share with one another,
Aware of need to give to sister or to brother.
Each tries to be aware of when to cheer
And when it's quiet that's needed,
And each one tries to give.
The faces of the women change, some stay
Some go, and some return or stay away,
But always there remains the Fellowship.
We value it, this precious thing we share
And bonds of friendship grow,
Because the Lord Himself is always there.

—Pat Kerr

from *Mountaintops, Plains and Valleys*

Australia Day Tennis

A highlight of the church calendar in Western Australia is the annual tennis competition on Australia Day. This year 240 players came from city and country churches.

The setting is the 20 grass courts at McCullam Park on the banks of the Swan River at South Perth. Many families and supporters attended and enjoyed the parkland setting. This year it was a very pleasant 36° and there was plenty of enthusiasm for tennis. Each pair played eight sets of 20 minutes each.

The following pairs were presented trophies by the State Conference President Don Parker. Mens A Greg and Richard Esmond (Harvey); Mens B1 Rob Standord and Chris Knight (Harvey); Mens B2 Craig Matthews and Bradley Potter (Nollamara); Mens C Keith and Doug Coot (Nollamara); Mens D Malcolm and Stephen Shreeve (Warwick); Ladies A Joan Rogers and Olwyn Shannon (Dalkeith Road); Ladies B Lyn and Tamara Devlin (Warwick); Mixed A Raema and David Stanford (South Perth); Mixed B1 Laura Wilson and Roger Hogben (Wembley); Mixed B2 Corinne Rivett and Bruce Eagles (Warwick); Mixed B3 Noelene and Nicholas Norrish (Northam); Junior Girls Anthea Riches and Tracey Vawser (Wembley Downs) and Junior Boys Cameron Yorke and Matthew Read (Bullcreek).

—Graham Carslake
(Co-ordinator)

Two psychologists say the way Christians view their relationship with God may affect their health. Passive Christians, it is claimed, view health as largely a matter of chance of God's will, while active Christians—those who see God as a partner to work with—feel they have a responsibility to develop healthy habits. They also pray more—and the psychologists note that prayer has been found to reduce tension.

Alan Male was honoured with an AM in the Australia Day honours list.

The government of Singapore is apparently cracking down on Christian doctors who are trying to convert their patients. A new directive orders doctors not to proselytise patients facing death.

Estimates put the number of homeless in America anywhere from 500,000 to 3 million (and at least 100,000 of these are children).

Federal Conference

Conference Resolutions

• Further resolutions passed at the recent 42nd Federal Conference included the following:

Immigration

In respect to the immigration debate in Australia, this Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia affirms the fact that in God's sight all people are equal, regardless of race, ethnic origin, colour, nationality or creed.

As God's people we acknowledge our Christian commitment to accept into our society people from other countries, and welcome their contribution to the life of our nation and churches.

In addition we affirm a policy of multiculturalism which promotes social cohesion and cultural identity, recognising that all of us share responsibility for shaping of the direction in which our society develops.

Addendum: We call upon the Commonwealth Government and the Opposition to return to bipartisan immigration policy for Australia, without regard to race, ethnic origin, colour, nationality and creed and a more human, compassionate refugee policy and guidelines.

Seventh Assembly of the WCC

That this 42nd Federal Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia welcome the 7th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Canberra 1991 as a major historic event for the Christian churches of Australia.

The Conference encourages members of Churches of Christ in Australia

(1) to join in Bible study, prayer and worship in preparation for the Assembly;

(2) to participate in the Assembly wherever possible;

(3) to give financial support to the Assembly; and

(4) so to work with Christians from other traditions as to manifest a significant degree of co-operation and unity in Australian churches.

Clergy Drop-out Rate

That the Federal Conference

Executive investigate the factors which shape the decision of Churches of Christ ministers in Australia to move out from local church ministry and to suggest to the next Conference ways of overcoming it, and ways of opening up possibilities of their moving back again.

44th Federal Conference

That this Federal Conference accept the invitation extended by the Victorian State Conference to hold the 44th Federal Conference in Melbourne at a date yet to be arranged.

State Aborigines Committees

That this Federal Conference strongly urges each State Conference to move towards ensuring that 50% of the membership of its State Aborigines Committee shall be church members of Aboriginal descent.

Moral Standards of the Nation

As Christian people we confess that as a nation for over 200 years we have contributed to the breakdown of society through such things as genocide, drug and alcohol abuse, prostitution, domestic violence, crime, tax cheating, covetousness, greed, gambling, homosexuality, family breakdown and divorce.

Often as Christians we are apathetic and accept these things as a way of life.

As the Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia we seek God's forgiveness for both the sins of our nation and our neglect of these issues and call our member churches to prayer for guidance in raising the moral standards of our nation.

Task Force on the Future

That the report and recommendations of the Task Force on the Future be referred to the Federal Conference Executive for consideration and consultation with relevant Departments and other and organisation, and implementation as appropriate.

Task Force Formed... To Involve You!

At the Australian Christian Women's Fellowship Federal Conference meeting held on Wednesday, 18 January, this year in Canberra, several notices of motion were passed, one of which reads as follows:

"That a task force be appointed to look at women's fellowship and ministry in our churches with a view to considering an alternative administration to the existing ACWF."

As a result, an initial Task Force meeting was held the next day with state and territory CWF representatives attending. The structure (concerning personnel and location) of the Task Force was confirmed. It was decided that there be one representative from each state/territory, two members from the past ACWF executive (one of these members being the chairperson) and the ACWF president (the latter three having a non-voting capacity) on the Task Force. Individual representatives to arrange proxy if unavailable to attend future meetings, which were agreed to be held in Canberra, or by telephone conference.

Request for input for the following terms of reference are now being made. The future of Christian Women's Fellowship in Australia involves you...we need your submission. You may make your contribution

through your local CWF executive, and thus your state CWF executive, or to Heather Jauncey directly as an individual.

Terms of Reference

(2-6 presently under exploration)

2. To define the composition and duties of the "Department of Women's Ministry".

2.2 To suggest a title/name for the proposed "Department".

3. To discuss the future of a Women's Day during Federal Conference.

4. To recommend a location for the "Department".

5. To identify the means of funding ACWF ongoing financial commitments and the proposed "Department".

6. To make recommendations to amend the present Constitutions of the Australian Christian Women's Fellowship Federal Conference of Churches of Christ and General Conference, accordingly.

If you have any enquiries please direct them to your state/territory CWF executive or to Mrs Jauncey.

We welcome submissions from all—women and men.

The Chairperson of the Task Force is Mrs Heather Jauncey, 4 Vercoe Place, Fraser 2615. Phone (062) 58 5692.



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Worship & Communion Services

7.00 p.m.

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Wednesday

1.15 p.m. to 1.45 p.m.

Lunchtime Service

For further enquiries, please ring (03) 663 3884

Discipleship

•Gloria Archer, West Preston, Vic
•Jeremy McIntyre, Bongeem, Qld
•Graham & Natalie Cook, Balaklava, SA •Wolfgang Kozman, Bowral, NSW •Merediti Hannaford, Kelly Manning, Geoffrey Whitford, Brighton, SA •Myrtle Rutledge, John Matassa, Ruth Bush, Kalgoorlie, WA, •Andrea Porter, Barbara Lee, Warrnambool, Vic, •Connie & Craig Hansen, Ken Ross, Greg Domaille, Swan Hill, Vic

Marriages

•Russell Curacha to Bruce Wear, Melody Jolly to Ivan Smith, Claire Miller to Shaun Warren, Karen Matthews to Grant Eckermann, Leona Drummond to John Monaghan, Brighton, SA
Deaths
•Jack Findley, Dora Nankivell, Ringwood, Vic •Jean Hawck, Gatton, Qld •Beatrice Neighbour, Keith Easton, Glenelg, SA •Robert Lock, Balaklava, SA •Jim Skurray, Kensington Park, SA •Adrian Chennall, Brighton, SA

Set your sights—help grow an Aboriginal church

In the last decade the number of missionaries sent out by Japanese churches has more than doubled, from 130 to 291.

Dr Andrew Kirk from the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity, is conducting a seminar on "God's Word in a Complex World", interpreting Biblical truth for social responsibility, on Sunday, 19 March, at St Matthews Anglican Church, High Street, Prahran, Vic. Equinox to Alan Nicols (03) 417 4338.

KNOXFIELD Church of Christ 25th Birthday Celebration

Sunday, 26 February
10 am

Preacher: E.L. Williams

Guest Artists:

Liz and Kevin Baxter
Morning Tea Provided

All Welcome

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN QUEENSLAND SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

call for applications for the position of
**ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR—
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We are seeking a person with successful management experience, superior leadership, public relations, and financial skills. The person we are seeking will be creative and possess strong people skills with a solid commitment to a quality of care.

The position will involve management and administration, under the direction of the Administrator of the Gold Coast Aged Care, facilities at Lady Small Haven, Golden Age Retirement Village and Marana Gardens. These include nursing homes, aged care hostels and self care units. There will be special responsibility for Lady Small Haven.

Lady Small Haven is an established quality aged care facility consisting of a 46 bed nursing home, 51 bed hostel, 20 semi-independent and 62 independent living units.

Salary will commence at \$32,306 per annum.

An application form and job description is available from the Administrator, 60 Ridgeway Avenue, Southport 4215. Application form and a complete resume should be lodged before 15 March 1989, suitably marked for the confidential attention of Mr Phil Kennedy.

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

Zambia, which lost over 112,000 ha of grasslands to locusts last year, is now faced with a second generation of the insects.

Africa's food aid requirements will fall by 3% this year. But wars, locusts and shrinking economies will mean continuing hunger, according to the UN's Food and Agricultural Organisation.

Changes of Address

RINGWOOD: Minister—Mike Grechko, 24 Alice St, Croydon, Vic 3136. Phone (03) 723 4428.

BONGEEN: Secretary—Mrs M.H. Nowitzke, MS 795, Bowenville, Qld 4404.

BOWRAL: Secretary—Phillip Giddings, 19 Clarke St, Bowral, NSW 2576. Phone (048) 61 3651.

OFFICE SECRETARY

Swanston Street Church of Christ

invite inquiries for this position which includes reception, typing and word processing.

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CHURCHES OF CHRIST RETIREMENT SERVICE INC. IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA invite applications for the position of **CHAPLAIN**

The position requires chaplaincy services to residents, their relatives and staff of Homes for the Aged.

Commencement as early as possible is desired but it is understood that conclusion of a ministry may need to be awaited.

Enquiries should be addressed to:

The Administrator
Churches of Christ Retirement Services

104 Grote Street

Adelaide 5000

Phone (08) 231 2837

Applications close 31 March 1989

Obituaries

COLLINS (PAYNE), Leonard (13.12.88) The eldest son of Herbert George and Louisa Payne, Len was born in Prahran, Vic, in 1904. His father's ministry brought the family to Queensland where Len continued to be active in the church and in working with the youth. Len is survived by William Payne, his only son. Len was a builder, draughtsman and farmer. Some years ago he moved to Hawthorne from his farm at Woodford. The last years of his life were devoted to the Hawthorne church in Brisbane, and to the youth round about. He was a faithful man who loved the Lord and served him with a passion. He contributed so much to the lives of the young people at Hawthorne and was, and still is, an inspiration to all.

—Jim Hearder

FOOTE, Victoria (1.1.89) Victoria Hawkins was born in SA in 1898 and was baptised in the Mile End church. She married Allan Foote in 1927 and they had two daughters, Ishbel (wife of Ian Diamond) and Christine (wife of Ken Barnes). Mrs Foote was widowed in 1938 and returned to her work as a pharmacist at the same time being active in churches at Maylands, Glenelg, Semaphore and Mt Compass. She came to Victoria in 1958 and lived at Mt Evelyn and Ringwood. 1967-70 she spent with Ken and Christine in the USA. She retired to Merimbula in 1977 and died the same day as her close friend Dora Nankivell at Inlay Nursing Home in Pambula. She witnessed to her faith in many situations and in her later years travelled widely, attending many World Conventions.

—Barry Jenkins

HAWCK, Jean (15.1.89) Jean was born to godly parents, James and Elizabeth Dick, on 9 June 1922. She gave her life to the Lord at about 15 years of age, was baptised and became a member of the Mt Walker, Qld, church. Allan Hawck and Jean were married on 25 August 1945, and lived at Gatton. Their marriage was blessed with three children—Lyn, Trevor and Judy. All the family came into membership of the Gatton church. Jean's music, her work with women in CWF and on the Amaroos Committee, has been greatly appreciated. She was a much loved member of our church family. We commend Allan and all the family to the love and care of the Lord.

—Barry Benz

NANKIVELL, Dora (1.1.89) Dora Membrey first met Wilf Nankivell when she was teach-

ing at University High School and they lived in the same boarding house. She followed Wilf to the USA in 1923 where he was involved in study and ministry and there they married and had three sons, Ian, Frank and Neil. On their return they had ministries in Surrey Hills, Vic, Unley, SA, and at Camberwell, Ringwood and Mt Evelyn. In each place Dora played a significant part in the life of the church. She was also President of the WCTU and CWF in both SA and Victoria. After their Ringwood ministry they retired. After her husband's death in 1975 Dora was made an elder at Ringwood. She was Elder Emeritus at her death at the age of 90 at the Christian Guest Home, Oakleigh. Mrs Nank, as she was affectionately known, was a rare combination of a widely read, educated lady, a hard working, practical housewife and a compassionate spiritual counsellor.

—Barry Jenkins

NORRIS, Leo Leo Norris was born in Tamworth, NSW, on 13 October 1917 and spent his whole life there. Married to Esther they both committed themselves to follow Jesus Christ at an Eric Hart tent mission in 1953. Leo helped build the Tamworth church in 1954 and played a large part in the administration for the rest of his life. He served as deacon and elder and was treasurer for as long as anyone can remember. Gal 5:22-23 describes the evidence of the love of God in Leo, "The Quiet Achiever's" life. Leo was to preside at the Lord's Table the day after he was called home and a hymn he had chosen for that service was 419 in the hymnbook: "My Jesus I Love Thee". Leo will be remembered as a gentle man of strong faith.

SEARLE, Hazel Ann (23.10.88) When Hazel Ann Searle died suddenly there was a deep sense of loss by many who had known her lifetime of Christian service, particularly in the Reservoir and Parkdale churches. A resourceful person, Hazel was always seen to be actively engaged in practical sharing of her faith. At Parkdale she had taught in the Sunday School, led Good Companions clubs, participated in CWF work and provided a lead and example in the important work of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. A large number gathered at the Parkdale church for the funeral service. Hazel is survived by two daughters, Valerie and Lyn, six grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

—Keith Pitt

SEARLE, John Edward (5.12.88) John Edward Searle was affectionately known as Jack for most of his life as a minister of Churches of Christ. Jack passed to be with the Lord just a few weeks after the death of his wife Hazel. Jack Searle was in his 91st year, and graduated from the College of the Bible in 1922. Fruitful ministries were conducted at Woorinen, Brim, Yarrowonga, Maryborough, Ararat, Thornbury, North Williamstown, North Richmond, Preston, Briar Hill and North Fitzroy. These ministries brought him a great deal of respect as he faithfully ministered the Word, and became pastor and friend of many people. His first wife, Myrtle, shared these ministries with him, and predeceased him 21 years ago. When Jack married Hazel Thomas 15 years ago, he took up residence in Mentone and joined Hazel in membership at the Parkdale church. At the end of his life John left a legacy of commitment and respect, which led to a large number of friends, relatives and fellow ministers gathering at the Preston church for a service of thanksgiving led by Keith Pitt and W.W. Saunders. Sympathy is conveyed to sons Ken and Bruce, daughters-in-law, Linda and Joan, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

—Keith Pitt

WA

CARNARVON (Don Bone) After a break of some years a Christian Fellowship has commenced at Onslow under leadership of Geoff & Carol Littlefair ... CWF's Living Link attended federal Conference in Canberra whilst on holidays from her work in Olive Laird Hostel ... Don Bone presented a gospel segment over local radio reaching outback sheep & cattle stations.

KALGOORLIE (Gene Howell, Larry Gibb) Gene & Pam Howell returned from three month study tour of England ... Gene extends ministry another five years ... Many who holidayed at Esperance now returned ... Nursery started during first morning service ... Two services recommenced after holidays ... Farewelled David, Debbie Skipworth & family, Chris & Pam Allen, Peter Jenner, Graham & Bea Wilmot, Andrew Kinney who joins Glen & Terri-Anne Rogers at Queensland College, Eric & Sue Keily.

Aim to help the F.A.B.

Vic

WEST PRESTON (Chris Field) Good to have Jack Brideson back worshipping with us ... Some members artists at local community Carols by Candlelight ... Chapel packed for Sunday School Christmas play bringing home the real meaning of Christmas ... Archer Ministry sang as Gloria Music baptised ... Preparations well under way for 60th church anniversary 4-5 March ... Elders & secretary preached while Chris on holidays.

RINGWOOD (Barry Jenkins, Bryan Mee, Mike Grechko) Bryan Mee in charge while Barry Jenkins returned to India in Nov & Dec ... Mike Grechko commenced as associate minister with particular responsibility for youth & training leaders. Mike has completed studies at Bible College of Vic. Induction service held 5 Feb ... Jan evening services featured ministers from local Uniting, Anglican, Presbyterian & Baptist churches ... Several members involved in leadership of camps & four young men part of CSSM team at Tidal River.

SANDRINGHAM (P. Pitts) Recent AGM appointed B Quinn as new secretary ... A Payne worship convener & V Gole Elder Emeritus ... Church entering new beginning with Peter Pitts inducted by Gerald Rose, Conf Pres ... Morning services conducted by CWF, Young Marrieds, youth group & cell groups ... Services of Stephen Rose through 1988 appreciated ... Special speakers during holidays John & Eira Clapp, David Reynolds & elders of the church.

PARKDALE (Keith Pitt, Linda Pilton) Well-attended homecoming had Ben Crowden, past minister, as speaker ... Members helped distribute 500 copies of Celebration New Testaments for "Operation Good News" in 1988 ... Linda Pilton welcomed as student youth minister for 1989 ... Fellowship enjoyed with & support given to Pat & Kath Ahern, New Tribes Mission, West New Britain ... CWF celebrated an "Aussie Bush Christmas" for end-of-year program.

WARRNAMBOOL (Peter Broadbent) Bruce Black & partner won veteran's section of Murray Marathon ... "Hey, Hey" Club recommenced, with a focus on baptism for their first lesson the year, following the baptism of one their members ... 35 ladies enjoyed dessert & coffee evening at the manse ... Minister & family away for a week's holiday in Feb.

Church News

Qld

MACKAY (Norm Flett) Carols by Candlelight at the Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre was successfully led by Mackay church members ... Many members including pastor Norm & Barb Flett away for annual holidays ... January has been a sad time for the church as we've said goodbye to three families. Michael & Jackie Hall & family have been transferred to Biloela. Phil & Ange Kerr & family will be spending the next couple of years at Kenmore Christian College & Alan & Jayne Cann & family are spending three months with YWAM in Canberra.

BONGEEN (B.M. Nowitzke) Carols by Candlelight services held at Bongeene & Cecil Plains. Minister spoke at Bongeene service held at State School ... Ten pin bowling night enjoyed by many as was New Year's eve masquerade bush social.

GATTON (Barry Benz) Minister Barry Benz has accepted an indefinite term of ministry with the church. We are looking forward to a fruitful sharing together ... Church was saddened by sudden passing of Jean Hawck, a much loved & appreciated member, on 15 Jan ... "Life Skills" courses offered by church to community in Term 1 1989 including a Grief Support Group & a film series on marriage & family by Howard Hendricks.

SA

GLENELG (N.W. Bradley) Newly formed Kids Club has reached membership of 50 ... Senior Happy Days showing growth with fortnightly luncheons ... Christmas celebrations for 100 craft group members ... Chapel well filled for annual Christmas lesson & carols ... Presentation made for long & faithful service of organist & choir conductor, Elwyn Pederson, following retirement ... Playgroup saw some new faces in last quarter ... 70 sharing weekly Bible study notes ... Church saddened at passing of much loved Beatrice Neighbour & Keith Easton.

BALAKLAVA (Graham Lawrie) Carol service & basket lunch held to share Christmas experiences in verse, song or real life account ... Float entered in town Christmas Pageant ... Gifts & food parcels sent to COCOA & Community Care

... Christmas picnic held at Apex Park for Women's Home Fellowship ... Sue Greenshields has moved to Kalgoorlie ... Lawrence Tucker having heart surgery.

KENSINGTON PARK (J. Fewster) Farewell services for minister Bert & Nancy Coleman on 29 Jan. Representatives spoke appreciably of two year ministry. Love gift of money presented at lunch following service ... Joan Fewster inducted into full-time ministry by Brian Phelps (State Board) on 5 Feb. Many friends attended as Joan & Geoff Fewster received into

membership. Lunch after service engendered friendly relationships. **BRIGHTON (K. Bowes, N. Moore)** Three senior young people baptised ... Christmas Eve & Christmas Day services well attended times of celebration ... Retired minister Colin Curtis in hospital ... Voluntary co-ordinators appointed for pastoral care, community care & prayer ... Renovations of original building nearing completion ... Youth program for 1989 reorganised with separate high school & young adult groups & with committed core groups being developed.

NSW

SOUTH TAMWORTH (John Howes) God's messages brought by the men of the fellowship during John Howes' absence ... All auxiliaries are preparing for the year's activities. Included are men's teas—causing enthusiasm as they have been in abeyance for some time ... Frank Johnson speaker at gospel service conducted by younger members.

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As People Grow Older



As People Grow Older is a new program that is designed to help people who are caring for dependent elderly people. It is especially designed for the family caregiver who is engaged in a constant service of love in caring for a spouse, parent, parent-in-law, sibling or friend. All too often these people are forgotten by the community and they are under constant pressure, both emotional and physical.

As People Grow older was launched recently as a community project by the East Kew Uniting Church. The project Director is Dr Noel Schultz, the minister of the church, and his wife Dr Cynthia Schultz, who is a consulting psychologist, is a consultant to the project.

The aim of the course is to help caregivers to understand the aging process and the needs of dependent elderly people, to assist them in making full use of community resources available to them, to provide them with better coping skills and to help them establish between themselves an ongoing support network.

At present there are four groups planned for 1989 with about 15 involved in each group. Group sessions are for two and a half hours and the groups meet for nine weeks. The first group is commencing on 4 April. The project aims to have voluntary respite caregivers available so that people

are able to attend the course.

In England more than 20% of women over the age of 40 have responsibility for at least one aged parent or relative. In Australia it is estimated that a similar number of family caregivers are also struggling to survive in the community. As well as people caring for elderly relatives there are increasing numbers of people caring for children and other family members who are being released from mental health and other institutions to live in the community. This program is designed to help these people build a network of fellow carers and thus share the burden during times of stress.

As People Grow Older is also offering courses for people who are wishing to become voluntary respite caregivers. These trained volunteers will look after the elderly people in their own home while the family caregivers are attending a support group.

One interesting feature of the program is that it is being funded by a grant of \$47,000 from the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation. This Foundation has been set up by the Victorian Government using funds from a tax on tobacco to be used for health and sports promotion.

Talking to Dr Schultz he was very willing to talk to a local church and run the program on their premises if they were able to gather together a group of about 12-15 family caregivers in their local area rather than having to go to East Kew.

The program is being piloted during 1989 with the aim of running a variety of training programs, and produce a manual, in 1990 to enable churches and other community groups to operate similar programs in their church.

Details of the various components of As People Grow Older can be obtained from the project office at 142 Normanby Rd, East Kew 3102 or by phoning (03) 859 1206 or 890 4221.

The Last Word

Solemn prayers, rapturous devotions, are but repeated hypocrisies unless the heart and mind be conformable to them.

—William Law

A man can fail many times, but he isn't a failure until he starts to blame somebody.

★★★★★

Teacher: How's your spelling? How do you spell Sydney?

Student: The harbour or the city?

★★★★★

Eye specialist: Ever had an eye injury?

Patient: Well, yes, years ago I was homed in the eye by a cow.

Eye specialist: Which one, do you remember?

Patient: Daisy.

★★★★★

At a faculty student reception the chaplain met an intense student with the light of battle in his eyes. "Sir," said the boy belligerently, "religion is a crutch!"

"I couldn't agree more," replied the chaplain, and before the astonished student had time to respond he added, "but who isn't limping?"

★★★★★

Visitor: Very nice service, but what a pity the organ wheezes so much!

Regular: That wasn't the organ! That was the organist. He's got asthmal!

★★★★★

"What a long letter you have there!"

"Yes, sixteen pages from Lizzie."

"What does she say?"

"That she will tell me all the news when she sees me."

★★★★★

A look of recognition came over the diner's face as a newcomer entered the restaurant. "Pardon me, sir," he said, "but I think we met here a fortnight ago."

The newcomer shook his head. "Sorry," he said politely, "but I don't know you."

"Maybe not," replied the other. "I don't know you—but I recognise the umbrella."

"That's impossible, sir," came the retort. "A fortnight ago I didn't have an umbrella."

"No, but I did!"



The drawback with TV is that you have to wake up to go to bed.

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