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For to us a Child
is born,
to us a Son is given.

And he will be called

Wonderful Counsellor,

Everlasting
Father, Mighty

God,
Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

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Guest Editorial

Welcome to Australia!!! Land of the knockers. Whatever happened to...

The Ministry of Encouragement

by John Hunter

Welcome to Australia !!!

Where the tall poppy syndrome is alive and well.

Unfortunately, even among Christians we see objections to people who are making a success of their lives.

Whatever Happened to the Ministry of Encouragement?

Now, "encouragement" is not listed with the gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12), nor is it part of the fruit referred to by Paul in Galatians 5. Strong's concordance does not have any reference to the ministry in the New Testament. Are we then to assume that such an attitude is contrary to Scripture? In Deuteronomy 1:38 after Moses has been told he will not enter the Promised Land, God asks him to encourage Joshua. The Good News Bible puts it as "strengthen his determination".

The RSV in Romans 12:1 talks about a "mutual encouragement" and Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says "...encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." Paul seems to recognise the work that is being done in that church and is commending them for the encouragement they are giving each other.

Roget's Thesaurus gives synonyms such as "enliven, animate, hearten, invigorate, energise, act like a tonic". How great it would be to see churches "lively, animated and full of energy." It can be like that if we want it to be and work towards that aim.

The use of teens and new Christians in worship and service needs to be addressed. Very few churches appear to have a program to help these people in Christian service. It would seem to be possible in three ways: train, monitor, praise.

Train

Not every church has the resources for training, but there are experts available

and willing to help. Not every church has the people willing to be trained either. But that is being negative. What about the hundreds who are willing and eager to learn? Each congregation ought to include such sessions in the yearly program. An ongoing improvement in worship is an aim worth striving for.

Christian Endeavour was a great training ground for participation in worship. Unfortunately, in recent times there does not seem the same degree of interest in CE.

Monitor

It is not sufficient to train someone in a particular area and say, "Go do it." We need to continually assess the worth of our worship services, and our outreach programs. Are they effective? Are they reaching the people

they are designed to reach? Are those we are training successful in their work? Is the program meeting the needs of the people? If not, why not?

Praise

In every situation there is always some area that can be looked on as successful. Back to the tall poppies. Why is it, I sometimes wonder, that Australians cannot tolerate someone who has made it to the top by sheer determination and hard work? This is also true in church circles when a person who has been willing to give time and effort in improving their abilities is (a) not asked to participate, or (b) given a not so good review on their first occasion.

Is this not time for the "Ministry of Encouragement" to be exercised? It is a ministry that all can share in. It does not need a particular gift. It does not need specialised knowledge or expertise. Just good old fashioned concern and love.

• John Hunter is currently President of the NSW Conference. He is part of the elder-ship team at Narrawœna church and is managing director of a family company approaching its centenary.

Marion Care Workers



Keith Conlan (ABC) on behalf of Morlalta Trust presents a \$5,000 cheque to Keith Horne (Co-ordinator) of the Marion Community Centre for the family relief program

50 students recently completed the 1989 Care Workers Course and received their certificates.

Over the four years since it commenced, 150 have successfully undertaken the course, including the volunteer staff of the Marion, SA, Community Centre.

This year a number of the participants were students with the Churches of Christ Theological College at Mulgrave and undertook the course as part of the College's extension studies.

The co-ordinator was Keith Horne, and lecturers and group leaders were Roger Duffy, Dr Keith Bowes, Ros Green, and Brian Ricketts.

While the class is drawn mainly from the membership of the Marion church, a significant number now come from other churches and denominations across Adelaide.

The Community Centre has had an extremely busy year. Over 800 families were assisted through the regular emergency relief program.

There has been a significant lift in crisis counselling, and a further "sign of the times" has been the increase in the number of homeless and unemployed young people coming to the centre for assistance.

The "Telelink" program has consolidated and has four

groups operating. The Lunch Club has proved to be extremely popular and will be expanded. Community donations and earned income has freed the church of all costs of running the centre with the exception of building loan repayments.

Once again the Centre will carry on behalf of the community the responsibility for the Christmas Relief Program for the Southern Suburbs. This will mean Christmas hampers and toys for almost 200 families.

The centre is completely staffed by volunteers and has a significant back-up by professional care workers and agencies, who also give their services without cost.

Recently Keith Horne, who co-ordinates the centre, was invited to address officers and workers of the Salvation Army's Welfare Services at a staff retreat.

The pastoral care program of Marion church is also co-ordinated through the centre and two of the church's ministers and the pastoral worker are based in the building.

What started only four years ago as an act of care and concern by the church has become a model of community care and counselling in the city of Adelaide.

—Keith Horne

Work Injury and Violence

In August the Church and Trade Unions Committee and the Social Questions Committee of the Victorian Council of Churches held a seminar on the "Oppression of Injured Workers". Recently a report of the seminar was released.

At the launch of the report the whole question of the avoidance of injuries and illnesses that relate to the work place was raised. The claim was made that despite the establishment of WorkCare in Victoria there were still just as many claims for negligence today as in the past. One other consideration raised by the seminar is that, in all the recent debate about WorkCare and the concern over long-term injured, these workers have been ignored in any discussions. The seminar com-

mented: "Now injured workers need to be included in the building of a just compensation and rehabilitation system."

The seminar challenged churches and trade unions to understand some of the violence and stigmatisation that injured workers suffer. Churches were called to add injured workers to their agenda. Churches were called to listen to injured workers and to learn from their experiences and to learn about injustices that occur. The call was also made for churches to be more active in solidarity with injured workers. The other area of concern expressed in the seminar was that churches "need to tackle the ideology of productivity which underlies the structure of workplaces".

Church Growth Seminars

How is a loving and caring church built so that it grows by attraction?

This topic will be on the agenda of three seminars to be held in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne during February 1990, led by the Drs Win Arn, Charles Arn and Robert Orr.

Win Arn is recognised around the world as the pioneer in American church growth. In 1973, as a denominational executive, he enrolled in a class, taught by Donald McGavran, on the principles of church growth. These seemed relevant to his churches. With McGavran he co-authored *How to Grow a Church* and produced a film based on the book. Church Growth Inc, was born. Since then over 40,000 clergy and 250,000 lay leaders have attended seminars he has led or sponsored. Over 2.5 million have seen the 38 films his Institute has produced.

"Chip" Arn has had a 10-year involvement with the Institute and is responsible for research, curriculum development and communication. Like his father, he has co-authored a number of books, including

Who Cares about Love, an outstanding book that all congregations who profess to be loving and caring should read!

Bob Orr's primary responsibility is for seminars and leadership training.

The Australian Fellowship for Church Growth is sponsoring the seminars in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.

In Brisbane a Church Growth Worship will be held at the Wesley Hospital Auditorium 8 and 9 February. Details from the Rev Cec Schloss, GPO Box 674, Brisbane 4001.

"How to Close the Back Door of Your Church" is the Sydney seminar to be held at the Rockdale Salvation Army, 12 and 13 February. Details from Capt James Condon, PO Box 100, Waterloo 2203.

In Melbourne the seminar is "How to Diagnose and Renew Your Church". The seminar will be at the Box Hill Salvation Army, 15 and 16 February. Details from AFCC, PO Box 1287K, Melbourne 3001.

Further information may be obtained from the Rev John Connan, Secretary, AFCC, 26 High Street, Frankston 3199. Phone (03) 783 3400.

Australia Day Certificate Presented to Kennedys



Alderman Lex Bell presents Phil, Lynn, Michelle and Lisa Kennedy with the Australia Day certificate

Gold Coast, Qld, Mayor Lex Bell recently paid tribute to Phil Kennedy, Administrator of the Golden Age Retirement Village and Lady Small Haven.

Phil, his wife Lynn and daughters Michelle and Lisa, were awarded an Australia Day Council certificate of appreciation.

The certificate was for their "valuable contribution to the celebration of Australia Day".

The Kennedy family, from the Nerang church, made quite an impression on the city of Edmond, Oklahoma, USA, on their 12-month exchange visit as administrator of the Oklahoma Christian Home.

So much so that Edmond celebrated Australia Day this year and took the unprecedented step of flying a foreign flag over the city hall.

In addition the Kennedy family were given the keys to the city.

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Peter and Kerry Schulz Return

After three years service, Peter and Kerry Schulz have returned home to Australia. Their area of service has been at Londua Training Centre on the west of Ambae Island in Vanuatu.

Peter has been teaching carpentry and small business skills while Kerry has taught English and handled the multitude of other jobs.

Part of Peter's task has also been to train someone to take over from him.

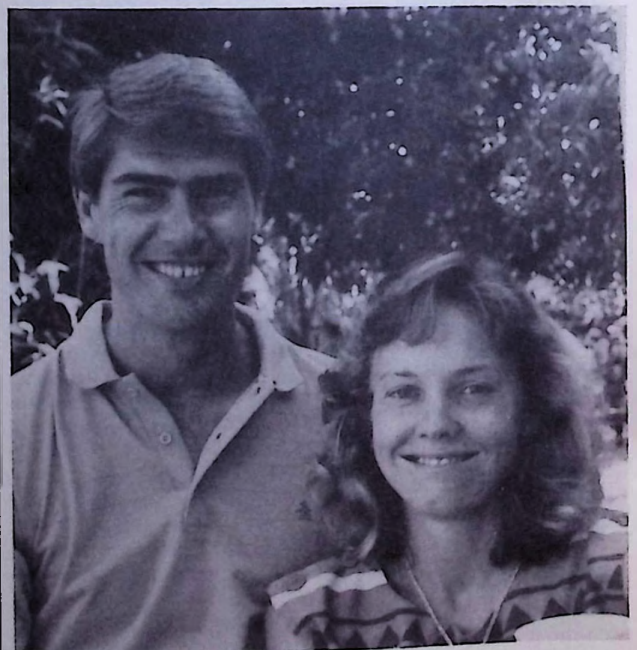
Both Peter and Kerry have involved themselves deeply in the lives of the students in the surrounding community.

They have been well loved and appreciated.

Bill Bule, Executive Director of Churches of Christ in Vanuatu, writes, "We are sorry to see Peter and Kerry leaving at the end of this year.

"They have identified themselves well with the people and have contributed much to the school and the people of Vanuatu.

"Our thanks to the Overseas



Mission Board for sending them to us and please pass on our thanks to their home church and those who have supported them."

Peter and Kerry's first child, Joel, was born on 2 December.

—Jeff May
(Executive Director, OMB)

1989 a Very Good Year for South Australia

1989 was a very good year for South Australian Churches of Christ.

The Melbourne Street property was purchased after more than 40 property inspections. We now have a new centre that will give us room for meetings, seminars and workshops, together with a resource centre and a place for our people to meet just to chat and relax. We expect to move early in 1990.

A new State Minister, Ron Roberts, has been appointed and will commence his work early next year.

Ron Robert's appointment has created a great deal of excitement and has received an overwhelming endorsement from churches and ministers. With Jim Keatch and Keith Aird, he will lead South Australia in to the next decade.

A Conference Review was called for in 1989, and a hard-working committee headed by Sid Beck will table recommendations to Conference 1990. It is hoped this will result in a more effective, efficient and church-related structure for Conference Committees.

Programs were extremely well supported and the implications of two of these in particular (Dr Lew Born and Dr Kennon Callahan) will have far-reaching implications for churches striving for excellence and effectiveness.

Strategy Statements by the Evangelism and Church Resources Committee and State Board have been worked

through and carry a solid commitment to church planting and building effectiveness in the local church.

Ministers of our churches have shared four special meetings growing out of a session led by Jim Keatch at the Magarey Lectureship. These have created such a sense of togetherness, openness and concern among ministers that only God knows where it will lead. But we do know it is going to be exciting!

Church planting has led to moves into the Aldinga area and investigations into Seaford and Gawler areas. A new church every two years (at least) is the way key committees and leaders are talking and planning.

Hindmarsh church has figured in many significant forward moves over the last 100 years. With its closing a trust has been established that by the end of 1990 could have \$500,000 in investments. This will be used in a way that will not only maintain the value of the capital, but also, more importantly, will underwrite new ministries in growth areas.

So Hindmarsh, the church that gave us the Home Missions Committee years ago, will truly live on in vibrant new congregations.

Community Care has made some very exciting moves. The most significant at this stage is the move into the renovated premises of the Grote Street

church. When the administration office moves to Melbourne Street in 1990, the established work in the city area will continue. Other moves to set up regional centres in churches located in areas of urban need are underway.

Youth camps have had splendid attendances and the policy of growing a new generation of campers is paying off with increasing numbers and effectiveness.

Centre staff have had a wide involvement in churches across the State, ranging through Sunday services, board meetings, country conferences, workshops and consultations. Keith Horne, Keith Aird, Jim Keatch and George Mathieson have been busy. The fact that two of these have not been salaried appointments helped to consolidate our finances. For the move into the nineties the appointment of Shirley Alderton to an administrative role freed the State Minister for a wider involvement with people and churches.

Often taken for granted by our churches is the work of the "lay" people involved in our Conference work. Some of these not only hold important positions in the secular world and in their church, but they also fill key roles in committees. They give and give and keep on giving and without them our achievements would have been impossible. Thank you to all involved.

—Keith Horne

Net Results Circulation Grows

Net Results is a monthly publication from the Disciples of Christ Evangelistic Association, edited by Herb Miller.

The 16-page bulletin contains ideas and articles on church development and evangelism themes.

The October issue carries an article by Herb Miller on the theme "Recovering Our Lost Denominational Identity".

It is particularly directed to situations like ours where we may hear the statement: "Our members don't know what our church believes any more!"

The material will be of special interest to ministers and church leaders.

Australian subscriptions to *Net Results* have climbed steadily since national distribution was commenced by the Federal Board of Christian Education in September.

Negotiations are currently being completed for the sale or hire of a series of National Evangelistic Association videos on the themes of inactive members, outreach calling and evangelism effectiveness.

These resources will become available during 1990.

Net Results is available on order from the Federal Board of Christian Education, 52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne 3000. The annual subscription is \$30.



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Chinese Outreach

The Richmond, Vic, Vietnamese congregation commenced in October an outreach work to Chinese people, a number of whom are students from China and who are currently doing special courses in Melbourne. Some of the students have arrived since the internal difficulties in China in June. They have a diverse range of occupations, including medicine and the hospitality industry. Some of the students are seen here with Nathan Nhan (third left), minister of the church, Hue Nhan (centre), a deacon, and Don Smith of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development. The outreach is providing real opportunities to share the gospel. Three of the students have been baptised.

Mooroopna Meet

A recent monthly meeting of the Vic-Tas Aborigines Mission Department was held at Mooroopna, hosted by the local church at lunch and at an evening barbecue.

In the afternoon an "open meeting" was held on the subject "Co-operation and Support in Ministry", when several speakers voiced the needs of people around the district and along the rivers.

At the evening meeting approx. 200 attended to listen to personal testimonies and appreciate items, both vocal and instrumental. Cecil Grant gave

the address.

Churches wishing to invite speakers for deputation or to see the updated audio-visual, "Towards 2000", should contact the secretary, Harold Taylor, 35 Arnold Drive, Chelsea 3196. Phone (03) 773 2728.

Reception

Phyl Davis, Vic-Tas Conference President, and Dorothy Quantrelle, Vic-Tas CWF President, welcomed 180 guests to the 1989 Combined President's Reception on 10 November.



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The guest speaker was Dr Peter Marshall, Executive Director of ITIM, who spoke on "Faith for Every Day Living."

Guest soloist was Brian Jacques (Burwood), the song leader was Paul Burnham (North Balwyn minister) and the musicians were Tim and Juliette Keating and Ian Beasy, from the Nunawading church.

Trampoline Tin

The St Arnaud, Vic, church has only a small membership,

but following a visit by Julie Trinnick of the Overseas Mission Department, they decided to buy a trampoline mat for the students at Ranwadi in Vanuatu. They therefore started a "trampoline tin" to accept everyone's small change.

Young children enjoyed popping small coins in the tin for other children's needs far away, and the small change built up—recently the church presented a cheque for \$200 to buy the mat.



In September a party of workers from the Nunawading, Vic, church, helped to build living quarters for teachers at the Londua Training Centre on Ambae Island in Vanuatu. Here the building is shown nearing completion

Asbestos and Churches

Committee work in church and government has a lot in common. After the opening prayer there is often not a great deal of difference.

I'm an engineer on the property committee of Chatswood Central Uniting Church. I also work for the Federal Government's building arm, Australian Construction Services. In my spare time I ponder how Christians should operate their enterprises and my text on the subject, *The Partnership*, was published by Hexagon Press in 1986.

Chatswood Central's hall was built with asbestos sprayed on to improve the appearance of off-the-form concrete, a common practice 20-30 years ago. Over the past few years however this became more of a worry to people as the word asbestos has come to be an emotive term.

Now, the Commonwealth is supposed to hold wealth in common for us and they happened to have a specialist team of people skilled and equipped in safely removing asbestos from Commonwealth properties. As I said in *The Partnership*, a public service should be rendered at cost, including overhead and staff costs, since the capital has already been contributed by the people.

The Commonwealth removed the asbestos from the church's hall at a price that covered wages and materials, the first job done for a non-Commonwealth property in NSW. The precedent has therefore been set and if your building has an asbestos problem you may inquire from the District Manager of the Concord, NSW, Business Centre of Australian Construction Services on (02) 73 1251.

—G. Doel

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CP Awards of Excellence

Ian Henry, Chairman, Christian Projects Selection Committee, has announced the CP Awards of Excellence.

These awards form part of the Christian Projects charter of developing leadership within Churches of Christ, providing funds for personal or church projects and enhancing the profile or identity of Churches of Christ in Australia. They constitute the peak of the honours that the CP Trustees can bestow.

The Christian Projects Award of Excellence is available to those who have not only given of themselves unselfishly over many years, in the interest of their church, for there are many hundreds of faithful servants in this category, but it is also intended more for those who have either initiated, developed or made a major contribution to a specific activity with which they can be clearly be identified.

CP Awards of Excellence are reserved for lay workers, and are intended as a rare honour. Recipients will each receive a handsome certificate as a token of appreciation, applauding the dedicated work and effort that they have devoted to Churches of Christ activities.

The Awards

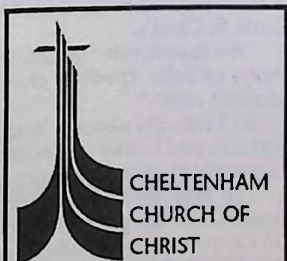
Hilton and Daphne Argall, a joint award (Canley Heights, NSW), have a long period of faithful service to their church and to the NSW Dept of Church Development and Education. In addition they have organised an excellent catering service, which they offer to churches, conference departments and youth camps. The only cost is the cost of the food. Everything else Hilton and Daphne provide themselves. They have attended every department youth camp for many years. They serve long hours in preparation, ordering, transporting, cooking, serving and clearing up. When necessary Hilton takes annual leave from work and he and Daphne do all the catering, sometimes for several hundred people.

Beth Brokensha is in the front line of the pastoral care program of the Marion church. She gives virtually four full days per week to the Centre, one of the best known in Adelaide, in a voluntary capacity. As co-ordinator of that department of the church, she is tireless in organising the work of

other volunteers and in counselling many who pass through the Centre. Beth has a deep involvement with all aspects of the work, which is designed to spread hope, comfort and encouragement.

Ingrid Gilmour is commended for her dedicated, unselfish service and inspiring leadership over 32 years to the Gardiner Church of Christ Friendship Club. This award recognises Ingrid's distinctive effort as a tireless worker and organiser of the Friendship Club. The Club contributes to church funds and to other causes. It is an outstanding success and offers a hand of friendship to the lonely and elderly.

Vic Gole (Hampton Street, Vic), was a household name in Churches of Christ circles for many years. In addition to his long association and work on behalf of his own church he is known for his work with the Properties Corporation and as a lay preacher. The CP Award of Merit recognises his long association, his leadership and dynamism in building the Christian Men's Fellowship.



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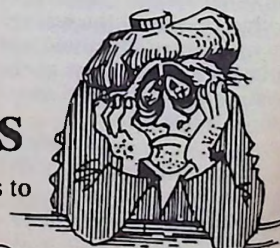
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Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

The Gospel and Politics

To the Editor,

Agreeing with the sentiments of Peter Pitts ("AC" 2 September), I would question Gerald Rose's ("AC" 21 October) practical application of the Gospel to the whole world, to every creature.

He states, "When laws are enacted to enforce particular beliefs on others they become oppressive." Surely a statement lacking some credit when we consider that our laws are largely based on the Christian Gospel, which is God's will for all mankind. Considering also that Paul says that law is for people who wish to live contrary to the Gospel (1 Timothy 1:8-11).

We cannot legislate morality. However, when the Christian church practically applies the Gospel to the appropriate need, by the authority of Jesus Christ, the conscience of the people is affected.

The question then is "Is the church applying the Gospel to the political scene?" It would seem to me that by and large many Christians are naive regarding the battle going on in world politics, which is attempting to defeat the purpose of Christ. There would seem to be too many firing volleys at each other within the ranks of the church, whilst the real enemy remains unidentified and continues to fire salvos at the Christian bulwarks and foundations of our society.

—T.A. Fraser
(Maitland, NSW)

The Nature of Scripture

To the Editor,

Ron Graham ("AC" 18 November) has rightly pointed to difficulties with some inspirationist views of the New Testament. However, I would be reluctant to attribute inconsistencies in the Pauline corpus to how the Apostle felt on the day.

In Galatians 3:28 and 1 Timothy 2:11-15 there is no inconsistency if the distinction made by Paul and others between "role" and "status" is borne in

mind. The view of these writers is that society and institutions (including the church) consisted of positions to which certain duties and obligations are attached.

Paul's view was that the Kingdom of God was best served if role holders faithfully performed the duties and obligations attaching to the roles. It was important for each to respect the authority attached to another's role.

In modern society differing levels of status are attached to various roles. In the church we tend to see the minister as being more "important" than the doorkeeper.

In the divine society no such distinctions are made. Paul reduces all humanity to the status of sinner, but also to the same status in Christ and to the same hope of resurrection. I wish we could grasp the revolutionary nature of this sociology.

—Harold E. Hayward
(Berowra, NSW)

[Edited to 200 word limit on Letters to the Editor]

Addition

To the Editor,

E.A. Barton ("AC" 18 November) has added greatly to my letter ("AC" 21 October). I would respectfully suggest to her that she re-read my letter as nowhere did I suggest, or even mention "blasphemy against the Holy Spirit", nor did I even mention "speaking in tongues".

I do not consider it a "gift of discernment" to read into a letter what was not there.

—J. Olsen
(Merrylands, NSW)

Back to Basics

To the Editor,

I share the concerns of Alf Bourne ("AC" 21 October), but assure him that he is only a voice crying in the wilderness when he calls for a return to biblical basics.

However, this should in no way discourage him from taking his stand on the vital issues he mentioned. Nor should it deter him from pleading earnestly for a complete restoration of New Testament Christi-

anity in spite of recent attempts to jettison God's revealed word in favour of human traditions, liberal theology, ecumenical involvement, charismatic influence and feminist authority.

It should now be obvious to him and many others, that what was once regarded as an innocuous drift has suddenly become a significant slide.

—F.D. Craig
(Newcastle, NSW)

Worship in Movement

To the Editor,

The section of the letter from Joseph Troy ("AC" 18 November), is a scriptural attack against Carol Caulton from a person who has never seen this display of worship.

Carol Caulton is the wife of our minister, Kevin Caulton, and is his loyal supporter and an example to us all.

She has introduced "Worship in Movement" and trained our group in which the young-

est is six and the oldest is over 50.

To give an example, one of the movements is "Watch and Pray" (Matthew 26:41). All of the movement has a Christian theme, which sincerely, sensitively and delicately depicts worship in reverence, humility, love, compassion and caring. It is not satanic.

Many of the hymns we sing contain body language (e.g. 63 and 415 in the Churches of Christ Hymn Book). There are many examples in the Bible where people lifted up their hands, bowed down or fell down and worshipped the true and living God and Jesus Christ.

"Worship in Movement" is designed to bring a deeper spiritual awareness to the on-lookers as they listened to the narrative it portrays (see John 13:34-35 and Romans 12:1-2).

—Elsie Morton
(Lyons, ACT)

Letters from Tertius

The Church...OK?

To the Editor,

There was an interchurch service at St Chad's. I was familiar with the Apostles Creed, but this time they used the Nicene Creed. It was a bit beyond me. I mentioned as much to my mate from St Chad's.

"We're used to it," he said. "When we recite 'I believe in the one, holy, catholic, apostolic church' we say under our breath, 'that doesn't exist'."

As I thought about it later I thought that he was being a bit cynical, and I came to the conclusion that the one, holy, catholic, apostolic church does really exist.

The holy bit I understand, as our minister explains that it means belonging solely to God. I'm sure that the church belongs to God because no political party or business enterprise would want it...not even the devil. I'm glad that God still owns it...and apparently loves it!

I've always known that catholic means universal, and as far as I know the church is about everywhere. And I suppose that apostolic means true to the teachings of the Apostles. No doubt there are heretics and accidental ones like me who can commit heresy without realising it. But no-one else is delivering the message of the Apostles. And I suppose there is really only one church, although we've carved it up a bit. But I think we're a lot more united than we used to be...take me and my mate from St Chad's for instance.

Next time I see him I'll tell him that I believe in the one holy, catholic, apostolic church. As long as he doesn't get the idea that I'm turning C of E!

—Tertius

Dates

National

January

8-14 National Youth Convention in Perth

February

24 National Resource Seminar with Mike Yaconelli in Sydney

March

2 World Day of Prayer

18 Annual offering—Aborigines Mission

New South Wales

February

2 CWF day at Burwood at 10.30 am

March

6 CWF evening rally at Auburn

24 Vision 1990—Youth contacts and leaders dinner

31 Camp leaders training day

Tasmania

March

17 Tasmanian Convention at Launceston

Western Australia

January

29 Centenary Australia Day tennis

Victoria

February

3 Explorers Breakfast

10 CCTC Garden Party and opening of College year

19 Good Companions leaders night

23-25 Adventure Committee surf camp

25 Chaplains annual service and luncheon at North Balwyn

March

2-4 Camp leadership training weekend

3 Central & Northern District Conference

9-11 Singles Happening at Swan Hill

16 Childrens Ministry leaders gathering

21 CWF Project '90 at Hawthorn State College

24 Youth Vision launch event

24 Adventure Committee advanced driving course

Queensland

January

7-12 Junior Camp (Grades 5-7)

February

27 QCWF Rally at Leichhardt

March

3-4 Western Districts Fellowship at Hopeland

9-11 QCWF Camp at Caloundra

The Dedicated Teacher

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." (Luke 4:18-19). Claiming to be the fulfilment of those prophecies, as Jesus did in the synagogue, was a pretty bold statement.

It would be difficult to argue that God doesn't desire the same sort of things for Australians today.

Those who come to our churches may well hear those words proclaimed, but we can no longer (if we ever could) rely on people coming to our door when they are not Christians.

The importance of working with young people is often recognised in the commissioning and dedication of Sunday School teachers and youth leaders at the beginning of each year. Many churches are also

committed to cross-cultural mission.

A combination of these two aspects could add a great impetus to the church's work and witness among young people. There is little doubt that Christian school teachers and Scripture teachers occupy a strategic position in the missionary outreach of our churches.

As part of a church's equipping and encouraging teachers to face the pressures, spiritual and otherwise, of their jobs and as a reminder of their responsibility before God, a commissioning or dedication service could be held in the course of a worship service. The promotion of regular prayer support of individual teachers by other members of the congregation is of vital importance if teachers are to witness effectively.

A plea to ministers to hold a dedication service on the Sunday before the commencement of the school year is made by the NSW Teachers' Christian Fellowship.

PBC Graduation

The new Scarborough Church of Christ chapel was filled to capacity on 2 December for the 61st Perth Bible College Graduation service.

PBC had experienced an exciting year with student numbers well up on previous years and the opening of the new CCI training base in Manila.

An audio-visual presentation clearly explained the various training options that PBC now offers, including the new traineeship programs that commence next year.

Two students received an LTh and 15 an ATH, including Ann Cottam (Kalamunda), Heather Newton (Kalamunda), Roger Kilworth (Inglewood), Raymonde Richard (Scarborough), Dianne Leathard (Nollamara), Wendy Hollingsworth (Thornlie).

18 students received various awards including Garry Cowley (Rivervale) a diploma,

Wendy Hollingsworth and Dianne Leathard associate diplomas and Belinda Offer (Scarborough) a certificate.

Vice-Principal Dennis Watkins farewell Lydia Zacharias, who had been working with PBC for the past two years and who is returning to Canada.

College Principal Dr Alan F. Meers gave the charge to the graduating students.

PBC already has 15 applications in hand for 1990 and it is anticipated that another 10 applications will be received before the College year commences on 26 February.

Resignation

News has just come through of the resignation of Bill and Ria Keddie from the Overseas Mission work in Zimbabwe. Bill has been working as the Divinity Teacher and Chaplain at the Dadaya High School.



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Media Review

Books

My Neighbour—Myself Visions of Diakonia

by Claudius Cecon and Kristian Paludan (WCC Publications)

This is a collection of excerpts of interviews with people from all over the world, grassroots activists, church leaders, church agency representatives and aid recipients, who share their hopes and frustrations and their personal struggles and visions. The interviews were conducted at the Larnaca consultation on inter-church aid, refugee and world service.

The question asked was how can Christian service, "diakonia", become an essential part of the wider struggles for justice and peace? This account is a vision of what "diakonia" can be.

The interviews are divided into three main sections, headed by overviews: "The Context of Christian Service", "Opting for Life" and "Visions for the Future".

Available from the Australian Council of Churches.

—CRA

Rescue Shop

by John Allan (The Paternoster Press)

This book contains 10 workshops that aim to give Christians the skills they need to recover (evangelise) people for Jesus. As the blurb on the back cover states, "Step by step, [the sessions] identify difficulties and offer practical guidance about when to speak, what to say, and how to care for new Christians." The material is very well set out and the studies would be excellent for group use. They are easy to follow, with good illustrations, and permission has been given to photocopy the material for group studies.

This is an excellent resource for churches interested in meeting people in their local community with the gospel and ensuring that the presentation is by the ordinary member of the church.

However the cover is more suited to a children's adventure book and has nothing whatsoever to do with the excellent contents.

—CRA

A New Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship

edited by J.G. Davies (SCM Press) \$43.90

The challenge of this review is to convey within a dozen lines the incalculable value of this book as a reference tool in the hands of ministers, teachers and worship leaders. The danger is that my loftiest praise may grossly understate this sizable volume's potential as a source of information on all things liturgical.

Edited by J.G. Davies, the Edward Cadbury Professor of Theology at the University of Birmingham, the list of contributors reads like a Who's Who of Liturgical Theology. Contributors include F.F. Bruce, Horton Davies, R.H. Fuller, Rosemary R. Reuther, John E. Skoglund, Keith Watkins, James F. White et al.


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Thoroughly ecumenical in scope, this major contribution addresses details as wide-ranging as the Old Catholic Marriage Service to the worship style of the Seventh Day Adventists and the Jehovah's Witnesses. Subjects are as diverse as Byzantine Chants to the Liberation Worship of Latin America and the Feminist Liturgical Movement.

This is no esoteric tome written by academics for academics, though it is decidedly scholarly. It treats worship at a very practical level with excellent sections on children, the deaf and the blind in worship.

This would be a valuable addition to any church library and would serve to enrich the deliberations of any worship committee interested in deepening its understanding of its task.

—Garry Harris

The Gospel According to Matthew

An Introduction and Commentary

by R.T. France (Inter-Varsity Press & William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co) \$12.50

The Tyndale New Testament Commentary series is being gradually upgraded. This volume replaces one written in 1961 by R.V.G. Tasker. The Tyndale series (both Old and New Testaments) are some of the best commentaries pitched at the learned layman. As the publishers say: "These commentaries are designed to help the reader of the Bible understand what the text actually says and what it means."

As with the other volumes in the series the vast bulk of the text is taken up in a section-by-section examination of the Gospel of Matthew, drawing out the main themes. Particular difficulties are given a fuller and appropriate discussion. In this commentary 346 out of 416 pages are spent on commentary. Again there is a good introduction that covers many of the issues in relation to the authorship etc. The introduction discusses the place of Matthew among the other gospels, characteristics of Matthew's gospel, its origin and Matthew's central theological emphases.

—CRA

Withit Church of Christ

Sunday Services

6 am for Saturday
night party-goers

8 am for Sunday
picnickers

10 am for late risers

Noon for martyrs

RNH

Media Review

The Analytical Concordance to the Revised Standard Version

(William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co) \$62

We have waited years for this, and now we have all 1,548 A4 pages. A computer-compiled complete concordance of all the English words used in translating the RSV, and all the Hebrew, Greek and Latin words from which the English words are translated.

If you look up the English word "preach" you will find one Hebrew word and nine Greek words that are translated "preach". With the use of an easy code you can immediately see which original word was used in each context. You can then look up the Greek word to check out the various English words it is translated into. For instance, the best known Greek word for preach, *euangelizo*, is translated: announce, bring good news, proclaim, receive good news, tell good news, preach good news and preach the gospel as required by the context.

All proper nouns are listed separately, together with their Hebrew and/or Greek forms. The best available Hebrew, Greek and Latin scholarship has been called on to ensure accurate representation.

There are some interesting facts to be discovered by the inquiring mind. For instance, "meditate" is well represented in the OT but does not appear in the NT. The word "compassion" is equally an OT word as it is a NT word. The most important subject in the Bible, i.e. the word that occurs most, is "God" (combined with "Lord") and the next is "people". Then that is what the Bible is really about: the relationship between the two.

This Concordance has been selling on a special price of \$62 from the Bible Society.

—B. McI

Shall We?

additional text by Stephen Lang and Adelaide Teninga (World Home Bible League) \$1

This is another in the series of booklets published by the World Home Bible League that are designed to be handed to people in various situations. They comprise suitable Scripture verses or portions, devotional poetry and appropriate photographs. They are meant to be devotional material for groups.

Shall We? is designed for older teens who are approaching questions regarding dating and sexual activity and love and is an attempt to set out the Christian approach to these matters in a gentle but firm manner.

A full catalogue of the various booklets available can be obtained from the World Home Bible League, PO Box 464, Penrith 2750, or by phoning (02) 673 3055.

The Beginnings of the Church

by F.D. Cwiekowski (Gill and Macmillan)

This is modern Roman Catholic scholarship at its best.

The writer sets out to introduce Roman Catholics to Biblical scholarship, and its implications for the church. He hopes "other Christians may also find it helpful". The writer commences with an excellent summary of the growth of Biblical scholarship (both an excellent summary of the growth of Biblical scholarship (both Roman Catholic and Protestant) over the past 100 years, and gently leads his readers to the painful truth, i.e. for Catholics, that women played a major role in the establishment of the church (page 50), that Jesus was a reformer rather than a conservative (p 53), that Peter did not found the church in Rome (p 99) and that the early Christian communities that gave rise to the various Gospels as we know them differed in their understanding and interpretation of the mission of Jesus (p 97).

This book must have a profound influence on the thinking of the Roman Catholic Church, but it also has challenges for conser-

vative Protestants as well. For instance, his conclusion that there was at least one female apostle in the early church (p 124) and that the injunction that women be silent in the Corinthian church was possibly written into the later texts (p 125). He also highlights the strong influence of liberal Greek thinking and culture on the early church (pp 80-84) and subsequently the democratic decision making processes adopted by the early church (p 122). Churches of Christ can take comfort at least in his support of believers' baptism by immersion and the breaking of bread with thanksgiving (eucharist) as the earliest practices.

This is a very important book that demands our attention. It is not difficult for laypeople to follow, but Protestants will have to be patient with the references to Roman encyclicals.

—B. McI

Just a Housewife?

additional text by Betty Howse (The World Home Bible League) \$1

This small booklet would be suitable to give to a friend, perhaps a new Christian, or just to someone who needs a small gift and a kindly word. Each page has some poetry and suitable Bible verses. As cards are so expensive this booklet is a handy replacement and could meet the needs of someone looking for some reassurance.

The World Home Bible League can be contacted at PO Box 464, Penrith 2750.

—SW



God's Prophet, God's Servant

A Study in Jeremiah and Isaiah 40-55

by John Goldingay (The Paternoster Press)

These studies arise out of John Goldingay's teaching and preaching ministry and thus while they deal with matters in a scholarly way they are related to the average person in the pew. This is a book that does take careful and thoughtful reading but which is still practical in its application to living as Christians

today.

John Goldingay himself says: "I have often come back to the portrait of a prophet's ministry in the Book of Jeremiah, and the portrait of a servant's ministry in Isaiah 40-55. If we want to understand what serving God involves, then these are chapters we cannot ignore. It is easy to think of ministry as a privilege or an honour, as a way of exercising our gifts or even of finding fulfilment for ourselves. The portraits of the prophet and the servant do not necessarily deny that it may be those things; they do invite us into some deeper and more demanding perspectives.

"Yet they are also demanding sections of the Bible in another sense. What is the significance of Jeremiah's unveiling of his own experiences as a prophet? And how are we to understand the servant passages of Isaiah 40-55? The more I have studied these passages, the more clear I have become that the only way to understand them is to see them firmly in their context in Isaiah 40-55 as a whole. It is then that the challenge which they set alongside Jeremiah's emerges with an awesome clarity."

This is an excellent examination of Jeremiah and Isaiah 40-55. It is not a commentary but an attempt to seek out the message that is relevant to the Christian. Readers must be aware that these passages are very important to the message of Jesus himself and to the basis of the Christian faith.

—CRA

Happenings

More than 300 leaders of Adelaide's churches at meetings organised by Radio Alta Miragave strong support for the establishment of a full-time dedicated Christian radio station in Adelaide.

Scripture Union staff worker Jorge Flores and his wife and three children are among some 40,000 families who have been made homeless as a result of the fighting in San Salvador, El Salvador's capital city. There is a reported serious shortage of food, blankets and medical supplies.

Two decades of political instability and the disease AIDS have created over 1.5 million orphans in Uganda, the country's Ministry of Rehabilitation and Social Services has revealed.

On 15 November John Smith addressed the Victorian Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast in the Member's Dining Room. 25 members attended at the 8 am breakfast, which was good considering that the Parliament did not rise until 1 am the night before. The Prayer Breakfast is a product of the Victorian Parliamentary Christian Fellowship, which is a cross-party fellowship with all political parties represented.

A 67-year-old American woman has been awarded \$300,000 for damages suffered when she fell backward and was not caught during a healing crusade. She said she had fallen many times before and had always been caught.

The Comanesti Baptist Church in Romania, whose building was bulldozed by the authorities in May, has been refused permission by the town mayor to use a house they purchased for worship.

Oral Roberts has closed his City of Faith Hospital and Medical School and will sell his home to help meet a \$US25 million deficit

caused by declining donations.

Members of the Turkish secret police broke up a Protestant worship service in Istanbul on 12 November. They declared the religious gathering was illegal. Christian church services have been conducted regularly for 2 years in a hotel, and are visited mainly by foreigners.

As reported in the last issue of *The Australian Christian*, Greg Shaw, Brooklyn Park, SA, attended the Pro Athletes Outreach Conference in Los Angeles during November. During his trip, financed by a CP 1000 grant, Greg also spent 3 days in Kansas City with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes finding out about their outreach to sports-oriented people from high school through to college, both players and coaches.

In 1988 the Korean Bible Society exported 4.3 million Bibles and New Testaments, and produced a further 3.16 million for local use. Scriptures were printed in 119 languages and exported to 91 different countries, including Uganda and Iceland and Spanish-speaking countries.

When 600 Presbyterians from Mitonic in Southern Mexico refused to accede to demands by the local mayor and tribal leaders to renounce their faith, they were violently expelled from their homes.

The sole Native American "general authority" in the Mormon Church, George Lee, has been excommunicated. While no one is saying why he was excommunicated letters obtained by Ex-Mormons for Jesus indicate that among other things he had expressed concern at "a racist attitude I could just no longer stand".

Trans World Radio has been granted permission by Soviet officials for an interdenominational organisa-

tion to set up radio production facilities in the Soviet Union, including at least 3 studios, a mobile reading vehicle and several portable recording units.

Sydney's two archbishops (Anglican and Roman Catholic) have supported a private member's bill currently before the NSW Parliament that seeks to limit the availability of abortions.

Mothers should not be imprisoned for anything but the most serious of offences, yet they comprise some 60% of female prisoners. Sr Kate Conley, chaplain to Northfield Women's Prison, said this at the "Prison: The Last Resort" conference, organised by the SA Council of Churches.

The churches have not given enough leadership in the area of stabilising family life and upholding the value of marriage, according to Mrs Valerie Renkema, national secretary of the Australian Family Association.

Over 2,500 situations vacant are available for Australians in cross-cultural mission work. That's according to the Australian Evangelical Alliance Missions Commission, which draws together some 60 missions and related bodies, including all the major evangelical denominational and para-church missions.

Because of the widespread shortage of priests a national conference of US Roman Catholic bishops on 8 November voted 225:18 in favour of new guidelines for Sunday celebrations in parishes where a priest is unavailable. A parish lay leader is to oversee worship, and lay ministers may lead a congregation in songs and prayers, read from the Bible and explain the meaning of the Scriptures. They may distribute communion if bread and wine have been consecrated previously by a priest.

The Australian Council for Overseas Aid has urged the Federal Government not to send aid to Eastern Europe. ACFOA Executive Director, Russell Rollason, said, "The move towards democracy in eastern Europe is most welcome but if these countries are recognised as developing countries then aid will be diverted from the Third World, which can only result in even greater poverty and suffering."

Penny Jamieson is to be the new bishop of the Diocese of Dunedin in the (Anglican) Church of the Province of New Zealand. She is to be consecrated in mid-1990. She will be the first woman to head an Anglican diocese. The first female Anglican bishop, Barbara Harris, is a suffragan (assisting) bishop in the US.

In an ecumenical exchange a Lutheran and an Anglican congregation in suburban Minneapolis have traded buildings. The Lutheran parish outgrew its facilities, while the Anglican one found its buildings too large for its current membership. So the leaders of the two parishes agreed to swap.

The Polish Government has dissolved the state Office for Religious Affairs, set up in 1950.

A Church of Scotland minister has recommended that couples who live together before marriage should be given a different wedding service from the traditional one.

The Synod of the Evangelical Church of Greifswald in East Germany has passed a vote of no confidence in its bishop. Members criticised Bishop Horst Glenke for his decisions in connection with the expensive restoration of their Cathedral, and inviting the party leader Erich Honecker to the dedication service without consulting other church leaders.

In Turkey the number of Christians now amounts to

barely 0.33% of the population, according to a recent survey of churches. A decrease since 1915 has been partly due to massive discrimination and persecutions by the Muslim majority, leading to the emigration of Christians and their families to Europe and the Middle East.

The infant mortality rate in Washington, DC, the US capital, has climbed to 32.2 deaths per 1,000 live births—worse than the rate in some Two-Thirds World countries. Health officials say drug abuse is the major cause.

Christians in New Zealand are being asked to participate in 40 days of prayer and fasting as their country's 150th birthday celebrations commence. Beginning on 29 December the period of prayer will run until 6 February, the anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi and the founding of New Zealand as a nation.

Jimmy Swaggart insists he is not starting a new denomination. His World Evangelism Fellowship is simply receiving applications from churches that want to join and issuing ordination and licensing certificates.

Just 16% of Canadians aged 19–24 attend church. If current trends continue, 95% of the country's people will be unchurched by the year 2000, according to the organisers of Vision 2000 Canada, a nationwide effort to reach the country with the gospel.

22 groups and a dozen or more churches will be involved in various outreach activities at the Commonwealth Games in Auckland next month. Heading the list is YWAM, which will be fielding a Polynesian performing team, an Australian drama team, a cultural performance team from Indonesia, a "Toymaker and Son" musical team and a mime and dance troupe.

CMS

THE AUSTRALIAN CHURCH MANAGEMENT SOLUTION

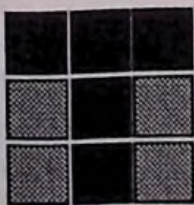
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Written by Tower Systems, CMS is regularly enhanced to maintain its effectiveness. At least two updates are provided each year.

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Kennon Callahan for SA

Following a successful seminar early this year, when more than 250 ministers and church leaders spent four days working with Dr Kennon Callahan, a distinguished Church Program consultant from the USA, an invitation to return to South Australia in 1990 was extended by popular demand.



Kennon Callahan

Dr Callahan has accepted the invitation of the Churches of Christ and Uniting Church Joint Planning Committee to spend a month in South Australia in July 1990.

Author of the book, *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church*, Dr Callahan draws on over 20 years of consulting experience and research involving hundreds of churches. He has a background as a senior minister in a very large and effective church. He is able to address problem areas inhibiting growth and design effective programs for the local church.

The 1990 program includes a 60-parish consultation (2-6 July), consultation with Churches of Christ ministers and leaders (18 July), joint consultation on financing the

church's mission (20 July), in-service training for ministers and leaders (23-27 July) and a public seminar, "Building an Effective Congregation" (28 July).

Topics to be covered in the in-service training will include local evangelism, planting new congregations, selecting and training leaders, motivating a congregation, stewardship as a way of life, effective pastoral care and administering a local congregation.

With the exception of the 60-parish consultation some places have been reserved for other churches and interstate leaders.

Dr Callahan can inspire and encourage churches large or small, develop a realistic assessment of present standing and vitality, define strengths in relationship to characteristics of effective congregations and translate these into strategic objectives that will advance long-term effectiveness and mission.

Interested leaders are invited to contact Keith Horne, Churches of Christ Centre, 104 Grote Street, Adelaide 5000.

A Refugee Finds Refuge

Only four months after breaking his leg, 21-year-old Minh Duong rode his bike 1,600 km around NSW to raise money so that people in Africa would be able to read the Bible.

Minh, a refugee from Vietnam, took part in the annual Bike for Bibles event organised by the Bible Society.

When the Communists took over his family's vegetable seed business in Vietnam in 1979, Minh's father booked space on a refugee ship for his wife and five children. The one square metre of space allocated to each of the 1,000 refugees on board was reduced by half when the Vietnamese government refused to let the ship sail unless a further 2,000 refugees were also taken on board.

Although he was only 10 Minh vividly remembers the four long weeks he spent on board the ship in Hong Kong harbour while the Hong Kong and Vietnamese governments argued about whether or not to let the 3,000 refugees ashore.

He also remembers the 18 months in a crowded refugee camp in Hong Kong. Then there was the strangeness of the language and culture when he landed with his refugee card in Australia.

Despite all this Minh is cheerful and always ready to help others. The reason becomes clear as he talks readily and enthusiastically about the place of the Bible in his life.

Minh attended a Scripture Union bike camp in 1984 and for the first time heard about Jesus, the Saviour of the world. For several months Minh

thought about what he had heard, attended ISCF meetings and read the Bible he had been given.

Finally, he realised what Jesus had done for him and decided to make him the Lord of his life.

Minh admits life has not been free of problems. Yet he is a well-adapted university student with a purpose in life. Ask him how he handles the pressures of living in a strange country where he should be feeling lonely, unsure of his identity and fearful of the future, and he will tell you, "No problem. I turn to the Bible. If I am lonely I read it and know I have a friend; if I am worried about the future, I read it and know God has a plan for my life; if I am unsure of my identity, I read it and know I am a child of God and that is all that really matters. I cannot imagine how I would cope with life without the Bible."

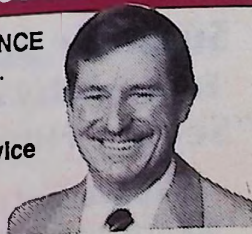
Minh's concern for people who have to cope with life without a Bible led him into the Bible Society's Bike for Bibles event, during which he raised \$800 in sponsorship.

"Minh's courage and determination to ride have been an inspiration to all who have met him," said Bob Forrest, Australian Co-ordinator of the annual Bike for Bibles ride. "Perhaps some of the Scriptures he helps provide will reach some of the many thousands of refugees in Africa bringing them the same hope and confidence Minh has found."

Minh attends the Pendle Hill, NSW, church.

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Classifieds

BIRTHS

ANDREWS (HARTLEY) Carol and John give thanks to God for the safe arrival of their beautiful daughter, Catherine Elizabeth, on 30 November. Granddaughter for Barbara and Howard and Margaret and John.

CORLETT Ian and Curley give thanks to God for his precious gift Rebecca Anne Rose.

WILTON (EDMONDS) Malcolm, Anita and Susan announce with pleasure the safe arrival of Louise Anita at Frances Pery House on 27 November.

ENGAGEMENTS

JENKINS—CHUGG Glenda and Peter have pleasure in announcing the engagement of Karen and David on 17 November 1989.

THANE—VAUGHAN Eris and David have pleasure in announcing the engagements on 3 December of their twin daughters Bronwyn and Carolyn to twin brothers John and David. "Those who plan what is good find love and faithfulness." Proverbs 14:22.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

FISHER—BRIGGS It is with thanksgiving that Norman and Audrey celebrate 50 years of marriage on 20 January 1990. The wedding was conducted by Norm's father, A.J. Fisher, and C.J. Robinson in the Preston Church of Christ. Love from their children, Judith, Ron, Ross, Margaret and Anita, and their families. Present address: Long Island Village, Unit 68, 1 Overton Rd, Frankston 3199.

IN MEMORIAM

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

SMITH, Jack. 14.12.86. In loving memory of my dear husband. Psalm 73:26—Dorothy.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

AMBROSE Chris and Mary wish all their friends a joyous Christmas. We thank all *The Australian Christian* subscribers for their loyalty and support during the past year.

CUDDY Tom sends his Christian greetings to all of his friends in Christ. He would also like to thank all who helped to make his 90th birthday such a success. Numbers 6:24—26.

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We invite you to the

Belgrave Heights Christmas Convention

Convention Ave, Belgrave Heights (Melway 84 E3)

Tuesday evening, 26 December, to Monday afternoon, 1 January

Meetings each day in auditorium seating 2000
(Note: No meeting Saturday afternoon)

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Rev Don Churchman from England

Dr G.C.D. James from Singapore

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7, 14, 21 & 28 January 1990

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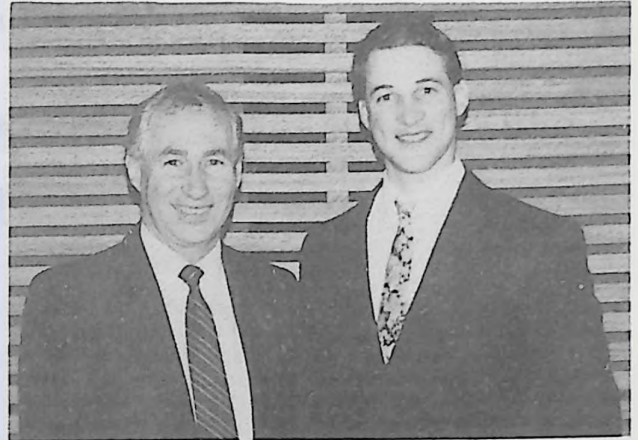
Carlingford Graduation: A Families Affair

On Friday, 24 November, a large and enthusiastic audience gathered for the 1989 Graduation Service of the Churches of Christ in New South Wales Theological College. There was fine singing from the College Music Group, led by Robyn Moses. Steven Wescombe, a third year student, sang well and the congregational singing was inspiring. All present were really challenged by an excellent address from the speaker for the occasion, Dr Gordon Moyes, Superintendent of the Wesley Central Mission. The Prayer of Commissioning was given by Brian White. John Hunter, the New South Wales Conference

President, brought a greeting on behalf of State Conference.

Diplomas and Certificates were presented to fourteen students by Dennis Nutt, the Acting Principal. The Honours Diploma was awarded to Peter Raymond and Dale White. The Diploma of Ministry was awarded to Rod Beer, Richard Brown, Paul Guest, Elizabeth Hah, David Moyes, Maggie Peereboom, Tony Sands, Ron Schepis, Shane Scott, Stephen Templeton and Stephen Willis. The Certificate of Christian Service was awarded to Marjan Beer.

As well as satisfying the requirements for the various College awards the following



The Whites: Brian and Dale

have also completed the requirements for the award of the Bachelor of Theology (BTh) degree within the Sydney College of Divinity: M. Beer, R. Beer, R. Brown, D. Moyes, P. Raymond, T. Sands, R. Schepis, D. White and S. Willis.

The graduation was a special occasion for the families of Gordon and Beverley Moyes and Brian and Joan White. Gordon had a son and son-in-law graduating—while some of our ministers have had sons graduate this was the first time in the College's history when a minister has had two of the family graduate on the same night. It was also a special occasion for Brian White, whose son Dale graduated.

Another first was the graduation of Elizabeth Hah, who is the first student from the Insti-

tute of Contemporary Church Leadership at Wollongong to receive the College Diploma of Ministry.

The graduates will be serving in the following places:

Rod and Marjan Beer: Ararat, Victoria

Richard Brown: Wycliffe Bible Translators, Victoria
Paul Guest: Zillmere, Queensland

Elizabeth Hah: Wollongong, NSW

David Moyes: Epping, NSW
Maggie Peereboom: Mona Vale Uniting, NSW

Peter Raymond: Liverpool West, NSW

Ron Schepis: East Keilor, Vic
Stephen Templeton: Dawson St, Ballarat, Victoria

Dale White: Mt Clear, Ballarat, Victoria

Stephen Willis: Swan Hill, Victoria



The Moyes boys: Ron Schepis and Gordon and David Moyes

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7 January
"Facing the 90s with Great Faith"
—Peter Nelson

21 January
"Brave New World or Apocalypse Now?"
—Paul Potter

14 January
"The God of the 90s"
—Don Herbert

28 January
"Australians All Let Us Rejoice: Will We Have Much to Rejoice about in the 90s"
—Kevin Caulton

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6 of the candidates elected to the 72-member constituent assembly of Namibia are ordained ministers. All 6 represent SWAPO (South-West Africa People's Organization), which gathered 41 seats in the assembly.

The poor relations between church and state in most African countries is a result of failure to separate church from state affairs, Uganda's Prime Minister, Dr Samson Kisekka, said recently. He called on African governments to implement the human rights declaration by promoting the freedom of conscience among their citizens.

The Christian family is alive and doing well in many areas and is about the "Father's business"

Maintaining the Family Business

by Bryan Mee

Time was, in Australia, that much of her economic well-being depended on the "family business". The business could vary from the corner shop to stores and factories employing hundreds and thousands but it was still the family business. It could be a small mixed farm or a large station measured in square miles. In other words it didn't matter how big or how small, the family had a love and a loyalty that kept the business going in what were, on some occasions, hard times. Now this appears to have all changed, with the "family business" being bought out by large national or multinational corporations. Loyalty has given way to legalism, as takeover battles are fought and lost. So much of what was Australian "business" is no longer so.

As it is with economics, so it is with the family in Australia. It is under threat of takeover and exploitation. Even the word "family" itself has lost much of its meaning, needing to be prefixed by "extended", "nuclear", "single parent", "heterosexual", "homosexual", "conjoined", and so it goes on. The family is no longer a place where parents and children and assorted other relatives grow, love and fight together—it is now a political football.

Well if this sounds somewhat vaguely familiar and downright depressing then read on, because there is good news.

The Christian family is alive and doing well in many areas, and is about the "Father's business". There is no need to accept the mournful moans of the sociological tipsters that the "family" is out of the race. Rather, we can take the Word of God and the promises it contains and stand on them and

say this family, your family, is still "open for business".

Two brief passages. The first is found in Joshua 24:15 where Joshua declares, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." This great declaration comes as he calls the children of Israel to renew the Covenant at Shechem. He recalls what God has done in the past caring for them and thus he is saying so it will be in the future. But regardless of what anyone else does, Joshua says, his family business was still open and loyal to its supplier.

Later in Isaiah 59:21 we find the words, "My Spirit, who is on you...will not depart from your mouth, or from the mouths of your children, or from the mouths of their descendants from this time on and forever." There is no equivocation. The promise is sure. This is the covenant, I believe, Joshua renewed. God's Spirit, the Holy Spirit, is promised to all those families who are prepared to stand up for him, and say they will serve him. It isn't the promise of a ritualistic handing on from one generation to another of God's truth, but rather, it is the promise that God's truth will be renewed, reborn in each generation of those that love him.

Maintaining the family business is dependant upon the Holy Spirit resting on, in and working through each Christian parent and family.

Other words can be written and quoted, but what matters is that if one generation hasn't been in touch with the Father and imbued with the Holy Spirit, it is going to be so much more difficult for the next and subsequent generations.

All this, you may say, does not guarantee success, and you

will quote all the problems of PKs, MKs and kids in general. But what it does assure you and me of is the very best of starts for our kids. Certainly, with free will they may choose to reject the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, but more often than not, they are simply responding to doubts rather than assurance.

Too many parents, and that includes Christian ones, sit back and wait for their children to "break loose", "go off the rails and other assorted terms, as if it has to be.

As parents, they are conforming to what this world says, and not what the Word of God says, and let's face it, this world reflects what Satan, the author of lies, feeds it. Whose word can you trust, God, the creator, or the world, man and society? Can there be any question? As parents, as families, grandparents and children, let us declare with Joshua, "As for our family, we will serve the Lord." Then go on to stand on the promises of Isaiah 59. Don't doubt, don't reflect this world's attitude, believe positively that you and your family are still in business in the power of the Holy Spirit.

• Bryan Mee is minister at the Nerang, Qld, church. Bryan wishes to testify to the foundation work put in by his father and earlier ancestors to their family business. That business, with three children going on with the Lord, and two sons-in-law in love with the Lord, as well as his daughters, is now as it has been for generations—the Lord's business. No takeover bid is imminent, and its doors are still open to customers. There is no cost—the invitation to salvation is given free!

Moving beyond the church's recognised forms of ministry, a rural presbytery of the Uniting Church, Eyre Peninsula presbytery in SA, has begun appointing lay people to serve as ministers under short-term contracts, in areas where no ordained minister is stationed.

The experience of churches ministering in the aftermath of bushfires and other disasters has helped give rise to a comprehensive manual for churches on disaster relief ministry, just published by the SA Synod of the Uniting Church.

Victorian churches have restated their firm opposition to casinos in the face of a statement by the State Opposition leader, Baptist member Alan Brown, that he has appointed a 4-person committee to investigate the introduction of casinos to the state. Church spokesmen said their stance had not changed since all denominations made joint submissions to 2 State Government inquiries into casinos and poker machines in 1983.

Several opportunities for worship are being offered on Christmas Day on trains of the West German Federal Railways. Three are taking place in a special compartment on an express train which goes from Hamburg to Frankfurt. Other worship services are to occur on a train going from Munich to Hanover and at the main railway station in Frankfurt.

Bernie Green, a state manager for the St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia, says competition from private companies has caused a decline of 25% in contributions to SVP clothing bins. He said private operators have a negative impact on the ability of charities to help the needy. He said the law should be changed to require private collectors to state clearly on their bins where the donated goods are going.

"P.E."

Occasionally a person rises above the crowd.

A wide range of attributes will cause this to happen. It may be a charismatic personality. Political savvy will make it happen for others. The circumstances of time and place will propel one into prominence once in a while. In the case of Percy Egerton Thomas, one has difficulty in putting a finger on precisely the right word. But I have chosen the word "example".

By education, upbringing and temperament, P.E. Thomas was possessed by the idea of the restoration of a person to wholeness with God. His preaching and pastoral care were examples through which he made most of his impact on two full generations. His ideas about the church and all that it implied resulted from and contributed to the understanding of the movement known as Churches of Christ.

His death was the end of an era because P.E., as he was affectionately known, was the last minister of his generation in New South Wales. He trained at Christian College, Canton, Missouri from 1914 to 1918 and returned to Australia to begin a period of 50 years continuous ministry in New South Wales. Two of those ministries, at Belmore and Marrickville, encompassed a period of 31 years and were a time of wide-ranging influence. Altogether he had five full-time ministries.

P.E. Thomas was a fine preacher. But more than that, he was a living example of what he preached. His messages were always clear, precise and challenging and his preaching could never be accused of being superficial. He was also a fine pastor who had the ability to read a person's real needs very quickly. His pastoral care also had a social outlook and where the situation demanded it he could be very generous.

His involvement in the kingdom, however, went far beyond the local congregation. He was the New South Wales Conference President in 1943 and in

the years 1940 to 1946 was editor of the *Christian Messenger*. He also served on a number of Brotherhood Committees including Overseas Missions, Home Missions and the Advisory Board. P.E. Thomas retired from full-time ministry in 1959. However, for the next ten years he carried out five interim ministries, some of them in difficult circumstances.

In retirement he maintained a keen interest in the work of the church. He continued to write and in September 1986, aged 93, wrote a guest editorial for *The Australian Christian* on the subject: "So Send I You'...What Me?" in which he challenged the church to continue the work of evangelism and teach the true cost of Christian discipleship.

As Allan Rae said in his final tribute: "We say thank you to God for the life of P.E. Thomas. For all his life has meant to the many people he has ministered unto and whose lives have been reached for God." This writer endorses those sentiments completely, for P.E. Thomas' example was one of the factors that set his feet on the path to full-time Christian ministry.

—Dennis Nutt

The UN representative of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, Zehdi Labib Terzi, is a Christian. A member of the Damascus-based Antiochian Eastern Orthodox Patriarchate, the diplomat says, "When any Christian tells me the State of Israel is the fulfilment of the Bible, I disagree. To my understanding, the fulfilment was the advent of Christ, I can't believe anyone has a biblical right to Palestine."

Some 665 million new jobs will have to be found in developing countries over the next 20 years, just to give employment to children already born. This is greater than the total number now employed in North America, Europe, the Soviet Union, Japan and Oceania.

Partnership in Housing



Jeff Deuble presenting gifts to fair organiser Sue Klampton

The significance of becoming the very first church in Australia to enter a covenant relationship with Habitat for Humanity was emphasised on 19 November when Dr Gordon Moyes made a special presentation to the Castle Hill, NSW, church.

Habitat for Humanity is a grass-roots Christian housing ministry whose objective is to eliminate poverty housing from the world and make decent shelter a matter of conscience. Its motto is that "every person deserves at least a simple, decent place to live".

The genius of Habitat is that houses are built on donated or discounted land, using donated or discounted materials, with volunteer labour. Specially selected families provide 500 hours "sweat labour" in the construction of their dwelling, and are able to purchase it on a non-profit, no-interest basis, with fixed affordable repayments. Such a scheme helps affluent and poor work together in equal partnership. It enhances the security, personal dignity and self-worth of the underprivileged. It empowers them and bypasses the trap of welfare dependency. And it's a biblical principle (Leviticus 25:35-38).

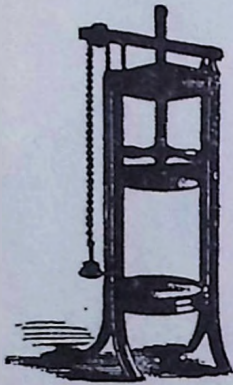
From humble beginnings in Georgia, USA, in 1976, Habitat for Humanity quickly spread to other nations. There are now 378 affiliates in the USA, Canada and South Africa, and 71 sponsored projects in 27 developing countries. Habitat came to Australia in 1988 and Ted Swisher was appointed Executive Director in February 1989.

By becoming a Habitat Convenanting Church, Castle Hill has made a commitment of financial and human resources in several ways—through prayer, promotion, fundraising and assisting in the construction of homes. The first project will be the construction of five town houses on donated land at Plympton in Sydney.

The day prior to the the covenant presentation, the church held a fair on its grounds and raised \$5,000. After only a few months over \$7000 of the \$10,000 target for the year has been achieved. Minister Jeff Deuble spoke of the many positive spin-offs for the church, and the witness to the community that the fair had been.

Castle Hill's interest in Habitat was sparked when some of the members heard about the concept through well-known Christian speaker, Tony Cam-polo.

Christmas Gift Suggestions from *The Australian Christian*

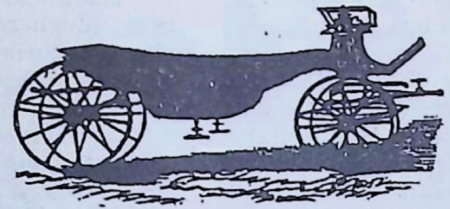
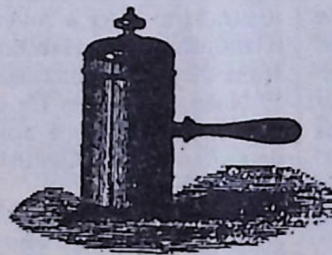


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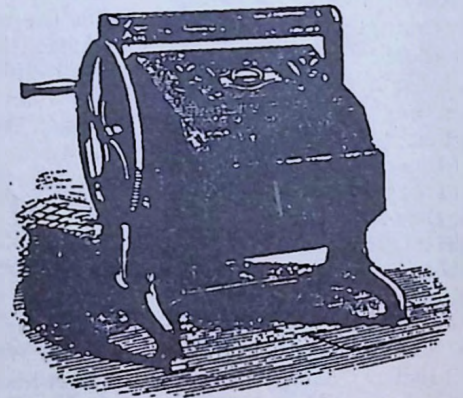
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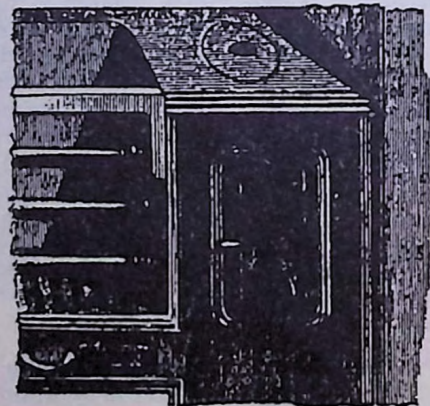
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Victor Harbor Celebrates



Ken Sinkinson, Helen Sinkinson and Mona Verco at Mrs Peck's (centre, with corsage)

Victor Harbor, SA, celebrated its 60th anniversary over two weekends.

In April there was a light-hearted weekend of nostalgia. This included on the Saturday a talk on the history of the church by Ken Collins, a member for over 35 years, at a morning tea and a "black stump"-type social compered by Wally Bradley. On the Sunday Ken Sinkinson, one of the church's longest-serving members, cut the ribbon to "open" the building, which was celebrating its 50th birthday. This was followed by a service of thanksgiving, a lunch and a "Music, Musings and Memories" afternoon.

Then in October Gordon and Lesley Stirling led a weekend of encouragement and challenge. Meetings on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday culminated in two special services on the Sunday. The morning service focused on thanksgiving. For the evening service members moved to the Newland Memorial Uniting Church and were joined by a large crowd from other churches for celebration and inspiration. —Suzanne Turner

Off-Campus

Six students participated in the first year of the SA Off-Campus Program of the CCTC.

Three took courses offered by the Adelaide College of Divinity in Old Testament, New Testament, Theology and Church History. Four did the Churches of Christ History and Theology reading course under the guidance of the Director and five undertook Pastoral Care and Counselling, which included the Care Workers course conducted by the Marion church.

The Director provides a link between the College and these

CHURCHES OF CHRIST THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
GARDEN PARTY

You are invited to the College Garden Party to be held in the grounds of the Mulgrave Campus at 40-60 Jacksons Road, Mulgrave on Saturday, 10 February 1990 at 4.30 pm-7.30 pm

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students. Some students will take on-campus studies in later years to complete their Diplomas. Others plan to use their retirement years as lay ministers in a ministry team. It is possible to undertake the Certificate in Christian Studies off-campus. Each student has valued the guidance offered

and the quality of the studies. Next year similar courses will be available. Two short-term courses open to all members of Adelaide churches will also be run. Details will be published early in 1990. Inquiries to the Director, Dr Keith Bowes, on (08) 296 7478 (church office) or (08) 298 4557.

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A Church ABC

Historic Kyneton, Vic, is situated on the road to Bendigo, 100 km from Melbourne. An old goldmining town, with surrounding farms, it is now also becoming a town for commuters to the city. It is noted for its many historic buildings and its daffodil festival.

The Church of Christ was started by the Harman family, and the church building was opened in 1927. The weatherboard chapel that seats approx. 80 and hall are situated in Simpson Street. For nearly all the years since then Kyneton was a student church, ably supported by members such as the Goudie, Crymble, Ross, Price, Gilmore, Beer and Bingham families. Three years ago, however, Rob Frazer was called to a part-time ministry, then last year in a big step of faith the church built a new manse

in Jacobs Street and called Peter Eades to minister.

The membership is now about 35. Services are held at 11 am, and there is a gospel outreach service on the last Sunday of each month at 7 pm

The church has outreach programs to the Ray M. Begg hostel for the elderly (a service each Sunday night) and to the Kyneton Lodge for mentally disabled, and Nell Harber and Cecilia Walker, two senior

Following his graduation last year, Peter began at Kyneton in December. He has six children and eight grandchildren, but only Donna and Julie are still at home with Peter and his wife, Shirley.

A feature of Kyneton is its very active and enthusiastic ministers' fraternal. Every minister in the town is represented, from

Focus on Kyneton

(summer) or 5 pm (winter). The latter has proved very popular, with 50-60 attending.

There is a Bible School that meets at 9.45 am. Recently they were encouraged by a large attendance of scholars, parents and supporters at their breakup. They hope to have a Kids Club next year. There is a 16-strong youth group, ably led by Gordon Addison from Malmsbury. A prayer group meets on Tuesday mornings in different homes.

members, visit the Alexander Home at Castlemaine.

Kyneton's first full-time minister is Peter Eades. Originally from New Zealand, and the son of a minister, Peter was a railway guard for many years, before becoming a paintmaker in a factory, where he was seriously injured when a 44-gallon drum fell on him. Following his recovery he worked with youth groups and youth camps before being called to the College of the Bible.

Roman Catholic to Assemblies of God. They meet every Tuesday morning for prayer and plan activities such as a combined carol service and a visit by the God Squad. The gospel outreach evening services often has speakers from other denominations.

The board of the Kyneton church has shown vision in their move to get a manse and a minister and are looking forward to further building up the church.

Growing Spiritually

Noah's Ark: Rescue Craft, Raft or Luxury Liner?

by Dennis Ryle, Modbury, SA

Who would have thought of Noah as contemporary spiritual mentor? Somewhere back before the mists of the beginnings of time, he appears a remote figure. Yet when we are confronted by similar times of personal deluge and we pay attention to him and his experience through the Great Flood, we are in a strong place to claim our "ark of salvation".

Did you know that the "baby-boom" generation is subject to more radical change than the previous 70 life-times combined? The pressure of change is as keenly felt by the "pre-World War II" and "silicon-chip" generations. The 20th century phenomenon of rapid change forms much of the background to the "deluge" we

experience.

But our personal inundations are generally much more specific. The demands of parenting, work and study bring their own dilemmas, often compounded. If you are in a "people-helping" occupation, paid or voluntary, the compounded problems of others can add to that sense of overwhelming inundation. The danger of drowning, signalled by signs of physical stress and the emotional wasteland of burn out, becomes ever present.

Noah's inundation was just as real, if not more tangible. But, by God's grace, he had gone through many years of preparation. When the Deluge hit, there was an "ark of salvation" ready to carry him and

his family through the waters of destruction.

Contemplating Noah's story, I am invited to consider my "ark of salvation". When the waters threaten to overwhelm, what is my ark like? What kind of preparation has God's grace allowed me to experience over my years of spiritual formation. To what degree has my "growing into the likeness of Christ" prepared me for the current flood? To what extent am I participating in the maintaining of my ark? Is God's grace sufficient to carry me over the waters of destruction—not protecting me from the pounding and the buffeting—but keeping me safe from drowning? Hedley Beare suggests that the sincere pilgrim has "painstakingly developed such an

interior ark that allows them to weather any flood". (Hedley Beare: "A Journey into Paradox: Dilemmas in the Personal Spiritual Pilgrimage", *Eremos Newsletter Occasional Essay Supplement*, June 1989)

I must confess that there are occasions when my ark seems little more than a swamped life-raft—indeed, when the sea is glass-smooth—it's more like a luxury liner! But Noah, who undoubtedly had his moments of testing, survived to see the rainbow and offer his sacrifice of thanksgiving.

I suspect that, in Christ, this is the way it is for his servants too. 1 Peter 3: 20-22, in drawing the parallel between Noah's rescue and the experience of Christian wholeness, suggests that this is so!

Student Profile

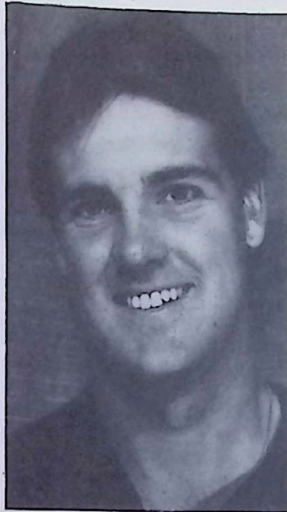
Neale Meredith

Neale Meredith, age 22, worked in real estate before entering the Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College and is about to enter third year. His story:

I became a Christian about four and a half years ago at the Engadine, NSW, church and received terrific and encouraging teaching and guidance, firstly from Steve Thomas, then from Kevin Simington and Terry Grant.

As I went through the last two to three years of my schooling, all I wanted to do was to go into real estate, or more specifically, property valuation. It was during my last year that I met the Lord. It all happened so quickly. Suddenly there was more to life than I'd ever experienced or expected. I continued in my aspirations and completed my Higher School Certificate, expecting to get the marks I needed, but to my dismay I didn't. I did not know what to do, but it wasn't long before God assured me that he had plans for me, although it took me a couple of years to accept or realise this.

My desire to enter College to train for the ministry was the obvious result of all that God was doing in my life. I also feel that he is calling me strongly to minister to the youth of Australia, in an endeavour to steer



them into the loving arms of Jesus Christ.

The last two years at College have been vastly different. I think that in the first year I stuck my head in the sand and just got by, treating it in many ways as if it was any other tertiary institution. However, this year I have endeavoured to allow God, through the College and other people, to change me and teach me how to live the life that he would want me to live. It has been a difficult year, but one in which I have learnt a great deal, and one which I'd gladly repeat if necessary.

I'm strongly committed to young people in this country. I

feel that in many churches there is not enough emphasis placed on this part of the church of today!

As a part of this, I'm doing my practical experience for College at Bexley North church. I have completed one year there, and will be staying on next year. This has been a great experience as the Lord has strengthened me in many areas.

Outside my College curriculum, I find myself committed to a number of things. First, the New South Wales Youth Ministry Council under the leadership of Chris Hutton has really helped in keeping my finger on the pulse of what is happening in youth ministry in the state and in the nation—which by the way is exciting.

In addition to this I have also begun to get involved with Scripture Union Family Missions. The two years I have served on the Harrington team have been a most rewarding experience for me, and I believe that this ministry will be leading the church into the 90s in evangelism, as young people from all Christian denominations get involved first hand in front line evangelism.

I'm looking forward, in great anticipation, to the years that will follow, both in College and in future ministry, wherever my faithful God will lead me.

Alas Eden

Pity us Lord, we have lost our innocence.
A tree has fallen in Paradise
And nothing is now forbidden.
So we fear because we are capable of anything,
Even the unthinkable.
Especially the unthinkable.

Now we will kill our brother
Not because he is evil,
But because he is other.
Because he is not me.

—Garry Harris

Pontius' Puddle



Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Bruce, Mrs Christina Ann
(25.11.89) Died at Allandale Hospital. Formerly Miss Hultgren, a member of the Rockdale, NSW, church in the 1950s and 60s. Married Walter Sydney Bruce in 1968. She died aged 97. A nursing sister, she set up private practice with her nurse sister Ida. Originally from Tasmania. R.N. Hawkins took the cremation service. He was a teenager at Rockdale when this lady was a member there.

—R.N. Hawkins

Forrest, Myrtle
(30.10.89) Myrtle was baptised in 1926 at age 12 following an E.C. Hinrichsen mission at Kalgoorlie. She was actively involved in the church until moving to the SW of WA. She returned to the Goldfields

and was married by S.E.M. Riches in 1941. She was actively involved until moving to Kempsey, NSW, in 1979. Her husband passed away in 1985 and she returned to Kalgoorlie. Due to sickness she was unable to attend many services. Mrs Forrest moved to Northam in May 1989 with Lola (daughter) and Max Francis. She quickly touched the hearts of people in the Northam church. She leaves Bill, Allan, Daryl and Lola and families. A lovely lady.

—Graham Butler

Matthews, Ina Irene
Ina died as quietly and gently as she had lived. 85 years of age, she was a loved member of the Marion, SA, church. Born in Kadina, she became a member of the Mile End church. When she moved to Parkholme with husband Cyril they became foundation members of Ascot Park. Until this year she was

an active member of the Friendship Club. Widowed for 26 years she lived in a unit reflecting her personality—neatness, warmth and care. Her children Val (Blackwood) and Ken (Brighton) and their families are a living expression of her faith and life style.

—K.D. Home

Outlaw, George St John
A highly respected and much-loved member of the Marion, SA, church, who died aged 94. In recent years a resident of Parkrose Village, Everard Park. Over his life he served his Lord with distinction. He held the office of secretary at Hawthorn and Hindmarsh and elder at Fullarton and Ascot Park. With the linking of Ascot Park and Clovelly Park to form Marion he was elected "elder emeritus". With his wife Edith he was deeply involved in Brotherhood activities. Her death and that of his only child Jenny four years ago hurt him deeply. Yet to the end he was a gentleman and a caring elder. He holds forever the love and respect of the congregation.

—K.D. Home

Thomas, Charles
(19.11.89) Charles was born at Drummond, Vic, 80 years ago. In the early days Charles and Vera knew each other. Vera came to

Melbourne to make a life for herself. Charles followed. He established his own business laying asphalt. Charles and Vera were engaged in 1936 and later married. They established the family home in Malvern. There they had three children. Over 30 years ago Charles made a commitment to Christ in the Gardiner church and for many years was a deacon. Nine years ago Charles and Vera moved to Mornington. Charles Thomas is remembered for his industry, his thoroughness, his honesty and as a man of faith. Sympathy is extended to Vera, Ron and Carleen, Elaine and Arthur, Jenny and Neil, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

—Allan A. Avery

1990 DOOR WAY TOURS AVAILABLE FOR YOU

CHURCH OF CHRIST SAVINGS ON OUR CRUISE ALLOTMENTS

- | | |
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| FAIRSTAR CRUISE 31 | 9 MARCH, 10 NIGHTS |
| Visiting Vila, Mystery Isle, Isle of Pines, Noumea. Save 10% "A, B Decks" | |
| SEA PRINCESS CRUISE 4 | 25 MARCH, 14 NIGHTS |
| Visiting Brisbane, Noumea, Vila, Suva, Lautoka. Save \$800 per couple (\$400 each) Outside cabins | |
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DOOR WAY TO OBERAMMERGAU **31 DAYS MAY 1990**
Tour Leader Graham Chambers

We have tickets for the opening performance of the Passion Play (with two grades of accommodation) Our 50-seater coach restricted to 36 passengers. Departs Tuesday, 15 May, visiting Amsterdam, Rothenburg, Passion Play, Salzburg, Vienna, Venice, Assisi, Rome, Florence, Nice, Interlaken, Lucerne, Loire Valley, Paris, London. First class hotels, more meals, sightseeing and many extras that are often optional on other tours. Tour cost from \$6259 share twin. Don't delay and miss out on this wonderful tour. Optional return to Australia

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10 days of spring magic visiting Flinders Ranges, Barossa Valley, Adelaide, cruising Murray mouth, Hahndorf and Grampians. Share twin \$899

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Mission, Education and
Development

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6.30 pm
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If you would like to enjoy friendly "one of the family" hospitality in Canberra write for particulars to:

Lyn Swift
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Waramanga 2611
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Melba 2615
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Advance bookings appreciated

Discipleship

•Karen Galliford, Colonel Light Gardens, SA •Mrs Sally Hepi, Bowral, NSW •Lorna Pritchard, Maurice King, Peel St, Ballarat, Vic •Kim Downie, Tim Simpson, Stephen Cooling, Manifold Heights, Vic •Emma Holten, Northam, WA •Denise Holdsworth, Kevin Clifford, Troy Stephens, Michele Manniche, Victoria Hynde, Dawn, Andrew & Susan McLean, Peter & Corry Petrusma, Berwick, Vic •Dyanne Denson, Brim, WA •Bonnie Luttrell, Alison Blain, Warracknabeal, Vic •Carol Lane, Warrnambool, Vic •Sarah Butler, Victor Harbor, SA •Monica Moore, Rachel Potter, Belconnen, ACT •Nicole Barns, Kerry-Anne Clark, Grote St, SA

Marriages

•Margaret Body to Graeme Baldock, Peel St, Ballarat, Vic

Deaths

•A. (Bert) Rosewarne, Colonel Light Gardens, SA •Myrtle Forrest, Cliff Hollett, Northam, WA •Mrs Gladys Barnes, Berwick, Vic •Jean Horrocks, Laine Ingham, Brighton, SA •Mrs Christina Ann Bruce, Maitland, NSW

Gardiner Church of Christ
cnr Malvern Road
and Scott Grove
Christmas Pageant
24 December
6 pm

The Christmas story presented with moving narrative, sacred song, colourful costumes, beautiful music. Farewell to Harold Steele following pageant.

DIAMOND WEDDING
Friends of
Mr & Mrs E.L. Williams
are invited to an
Open House
to celebrate their diamond wedding
on 27 January 1990
2-5 pm
in the College lounge, CCTC,
40-60 Jacksons Rd, Mulgrave
No presents by request
Refreshments will be served

Changes

Thornleigh: Secretary—All correspondence to be addressed to the Secretary, Thornleigh Church of Christ, PO Box 579, Pennant Hills, NSW 2120.

Gardiner: Secretary—Bruce Verity, Flat 4, 29 Carroll Crescent, Glen Iris, Vic 3146. Phone (03) 822 2898.

Niven: Alan and Chris—2 Halifax Street, Mulgrave, Vic 3170. Phone (03) 546 6652.

Victor Harbor: Minister—R.H. & W.A. Patterson: 3 Swain Road, Victor Harbor, SA 5211. Phone (085) 52 1718.

ESSENDON

Church of Christ
celebrate their
75th anniversary
on 3 March 1990

Guest speaker:
Lindsay Croxford
Followed by fellowship
luncheon

All past members and
friends are invited

Inquiries: Secretary
James A. Strack
(03) 375 2950

Back to Portland Church of Christ

Portland celebrates its
50th Anniversary
6-7 January 1990

All past members and
friends are invited
Guest speaker
Sat 6 Jan. 5.30 pm Tea
Welcome and fellowship
Sun 7 Jan
10 am Worship &
Communion
followed by fellowship
lunch
7 pm Service
Speaker: R. Hough

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Church of Christ
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**Spirit-Led, Innovative
Person**
to co-ordinate and
minister in the expand-
ing outreach program
Initial appointment will
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Initial enquiries:
Traralgon Church of
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(051) 74 4757 (AH)

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1929-1989**

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MULGRAVE CHURCH OF CHRIST



40-60 Jacksons Road, Mulgrave

Services commence at
10 am, Sunday, 4 February

Alan Niven is interested in hearing from anyone who may be looking for a church in the Mulgrave area or from anyone who has relatives, friends or associates who may be interested in a visit.

Alan can be contacted on (03) 546 6652 or at CCTC on (03) 790 1000.

Letters can be addressed to the church c/o the College. Initially all services will be held at the College Campus in the main lecture theatre.

**Churches of Christ in Queensland
Social Service Department**
Applications are invited for the position of
Director of Nursing

for a
**38-bed nursing home at
Fassifern Retirement Village
Boonah, Queensland**

Responsibilities involve being the Director of Nursing of a 38-bed nursing home at Stark Avenue, Boonah. The applicant we are seeking must be a registered nurse who preferably has had experience (and/or qualifications) in geriatric nursing and be able to work within a Christian context.

The successful applicant will be required to work within the administration framework of the Boonah Regional Social Service Committee and will receive the salary and allowances as provided under the Hospital Nurses Award—State, Queensland, which is currently \$38,526.80 per annum, plus allowances.

Commencement Date: 26 February 1990

Applications Close: 8 January 1990

Applications containing copies of appropriate certificates of training and registration together with an outline of training and experience and the names, addresses and phone numbers of two referees should be sent to—

The Administrator
Fassifern Retirement Village
Stark Avenue
Boonah 4310

Church News

Vic

PEEL ST, BALLARAT David Woodward concluded ministry on 26 November with two baptisms ... Annual meeting held recently. Elder Albert Graham, Deacons Wally Anstis, Les Clark, Ed Lenthall & Neil Reed ... Divine Drama studies concluded ... Tender Loving Care groups have filled an important part in the life of the church ... Live & learn conducted evening service 19 November ... Vince Gibbs ministry to commence 21 January.

MARYBOROUGH Members are thankful for continued support from visiting speakers until the induction of new minister Bruce Anderson in January ... Musical afternoon "Keyboard Kapers" resulted in \$309 being raised & added to "new" piano fund. Ladies Aid also donated \$100 ... Church luncheon planned for "chat" with Steve & Val Warwick 10 December ... Church choir will assist in Christmas services.

MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (Paul Downie, Max Ball) Congratulations Paul Downie on receiving Graduate Diploma in Ministry ... With regret the elders received Paul's resignation effective 11 Feb, 1990, due to health reasons. Paul is taking 12 months leave from pastoral ministry ... "Close to the Edge" ministry working closely with Life-cry ... Puppet team "Noughts & Crosses" kept busy ... Over 500 tomato plants sold for church funds ... Distribution of 1989 CWF funds \$697.

SOUTH YARRA (A.B. Clark, Graeme Bradley) Meetings well attended ... Annual meeting held 5 Nov. Auxiliaries reported good progress ... Jean Kennon now in Emmaus Guest Home ... Rita Roberts attending church again after illness ... Congratulations to Roger Blom, champion for NSW scrabble contest ... CWF special Christmas meeting 5 Dec ... Gospel Singers Christmas concert 12 Dec ... Several members attended Devonshire Tea held at Prahran.

SURREY HILLS (Milton Olliver, Arthur Withers) At AGM it was agreed that Wattle Park no longer be included in church title ... Special edition of "Friendly Word", church weekly news-sheet, distributed to 111 families whom we contacted ... Julie Adam, Ray Brough, Doug Adam elected elders, R. Minahan, E. Salisbury deacons ... **FISH** (secondary students years 8-11) took part in am service. Andrew Ball speaker ... Changes in ministry team 1990.

BERWICK (Peter Holt) Jenny Wake appointed administrative

secretary ... New elders appointed are Russell Croxford & Alan Crowden ... Guest speakers have been Graeme Chapman, Dr Bill Tabbernee & Keith Farmer ... Gordon Stirling appointed part-time interim minister 1990 ... Country fair raised \$7,500 towards new church complex ... 130 attended church camp at Sommers ... 210 elderly people entertained at musical afternoon ... Church concert & Sunday School picnic held.

WARRACKNABEAL, BRIM (Rhonda & Kevin Luttrell) Church growing under the Luttrell's ministry. Three baptisms & six others received into membership throughout the year ... Bible study prayer groups well attended & enjoyed ... Young people being involved in morning services ... Church planning meeting under leadership of Ian Allsop proving beneficial in the ongoing ministry ... Luttrells being well received in the town as they share in the wider ministry.

BORONIA (K. Milne, G. Stirling, M. Folland) New faces on board following annual meeting. Prs Burnham elder, Trevor Dow & John Masterton deacons ... Good Companions & Explorers conducted recent evening services ... Dr Bill Tabbernee spoke of WCC meetings in Budapest & Seoul ... 50 attended CCTC graduation & ordination service to support Mike & Ruth Folland ... Sunday morning service 10 am during December & January.

BRUNSWICK (V. Quayle) 107th anniversary with Conference President Phyl Davis guest speaker & Moonee Ponds Salvation Army PSA ... Outreach work rewarding. November service with New Testament & Ross Bourdon very well attended. December service the carol service to highlight Christmas Bowl appeal ... 18 December is the Christmas for Others party for those less fortunate ... Took part in Regional Church Fair, which was successful.

WARRNAMBOOL (Peter Broadbent) Recent guests to evening services included Charles Gray of HCJB & Jenny Flack ... "G'day Sunday" outreach begun in East Warrnambool with enthusiastic children ... Regional CWF gathering held with D. Quantrelle, M. McLeod & J. Andrews ... Picnic held instead of monthly church lunch with SS staff arranging games ... Home groups studying 1 Corinthians.

PARKDALE (Keith Pitt) 1990 theme "Joining Hands in Mission" introduced at church family breakfast ... Linda Pilton farewelled recently ... Bruce Waldron was guest

speaker at Homecoming 1989 ... Alison Pitt amongst the graduates & ordinands at College graduation ... Keith Pitt congratulated on 25 years in ministry ... Fellowship barbecue & service shared with Chelsea ... Eve Harland celebrated her 90th birthday.

ECHUCA (A. Symes) Men's tea & final meetings for year ... Growth Groups are quite active ... Youth club active with ten-pin bowling, car trips etc ... Youth singing group formed ... Combined youth rally at high school ... Linette Hipwell in accident. Other sick ones improving ... Ladies gift box for elderly filling ... Arthur Hipwell in hospital for treatment ... Children social evening during week.

NORTH ESSENDON (Graham & Bev Burgan) Farewells to David Rees, off to Germany, Dot Dowling, to Ballarat, & David Perkin ... Graham & Bev Burgan student ministers 1990 ... Meeting 26 November discussed future directions ... Trial 9.30/10 am combined services have commenced ... George & Elsie Rowlings celebrated 55th anniversary ... Trivia & card nights to aid Indian children ... Churches held Bethlehem Market for Camp Challenge.

NSW

EPHING (Stephen Curkpatrick, David Moyes) David Moyes ordained by Federal Conference ... Preparation underway for after-school teenage activities accommodating 200 for 1990 ... Auxiliaries ended year with considerable growth & outreach achievement ... 1989 a great year with church morale high & positive optimism towards new developments. According to older members best it has been for years! ... Ministers have enjoyed a highly complementary team ministry.

THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley) Reports received at annual meeting revealed church is in good heart. Cell Groups growing with at least 20 groups with 206 participating. Appreciation expressed to retiring deacons Neil Bames (property), John Flannery (secretary) & Graham Moore (missions). New deacons Mrs June West (secretary) & Kaylyn Winch (missions) ... Sympathy extended to families of Fred Breiesser & Mrs Billie Wilson, who passed away recently.

MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins) Director, Ambassadors for Christ, Max Horton, took several meetings. Meryl Horton presented musical

programs for ladies. Combined C of C men's dinner with Max ... Knights of Healing by Hunter Valley church blessed ... Prospective members tea well received ... Dinner with G. Rattan, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to my Funeral", a funeral director 30 years. Gaylene Hawkins soloist ... K. Pond graduated Tahlee Bible College. **THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley)** During evening service 26 November Kim Roberts welcomed as youth minister. He has completed third year at Carlingford & now enters internship with Thornleigh full time. He takes over from Stuart Wesley, who, with Carolyn, goes to USA in January for six months. This is Stuart's internship. He will study Youth Disciplining Ministry & visit three churches. On return he will continue as an associate minister.

WA

NORTHAM (Graham Butler) Ladies without any connection with church involved in craft meetings ... Young people really blessed in Prayer Cell ... Four Bible studies being held in homes & church ... Church packed for both services Bible School anniversary ... Five teaching Scripture in primary schools ... Couple to take high school chaplaincy 1990 ... Minister speaking of our function in the body & the needs of commitment to fellowship.

ALBANY (Mark Randall) Nadine Phillips & Grant Stone announced their engagement ... Family camp was held at the end of September. Ken Laffer, minister of Noranda church, was speaker ... Sunday School has grown & celebrated with special singing & items ... Congratulations to Mark & Kerry Randall, our minister & his wife, on the birth of their second daughter & fourth child, Clair Helen ... 1989 has been a very successful year.

Tas

LAUNCESTON (Rod Foster) 147 present at Brigades parade on 26 Nov ... Jane Partridge presented program at CWF break-up when gifts brought for Royal Derwent Hospital ... CWF had speaker on skin cancer ... Small groups break-up tea held on 3 Dec & at 7 pm one of the groups presented a play & program on their study of Nehemiah.

Church News

Qld

BUNDABERG (Alan Leane)

Happy AGM 16 November. Future planning positive & constructive. Decision made to become a budgeting church. Plans for extension of our youth activities including engaging DCDE's Cheryl Hoffman for Feb. Finance provision equally shared by DCDE & Bundaberg ... Agreed for each member to purchase new C of C Hymnal & donate it to church. Following Sunday 150 new hymnals donated ... Debt of \$30,000 for new chapel/hall reduced to \$17,000 in 12 months.

NERANG (B. Mee) Bryan & Jenny left warm fellowship of Ringwood for warm climes of Gold Coast in June ... They found church of falling attendances & no regular evening services. Slide halted & membership currently 70. Attendances averaging 60 am & 30 pm ... Bryan Mee received Diploma in Ministry from CCTC 17 November & ordained by Federal Conference ... Vanuatu missionaries Lyall & Jill Muller & children welcomed. Family shared experiences during evening service.

SA

GROTE ST, ADELAIDE (Ian Adams) Church family joined in celebrating Ian & Julie Adams' 25th wedding anniversary & Jacintha Wright's 80th birthday ... Kids's Club: 75 attended during week, 120 at tea & special service with kids & parents ... Youth group leaders L. McGing, L. Hutchinson, C. Canning. Good attendance ... "Chat 'n Craft" commenced on Fridays 10 am-3 pm is proving successful. Manager B. Pearce, teachers F. Bell & C. Canning.

COLONEL LIGHT GARDENS (Ted Heard) Karen Galliford baptised ... Inter-denominational service on "Prison: The Last Resort" ... Monthly combined evening service with Hawthorn church ... Danny Wilson resigned as minister to work in Vic. Danny, Katrina & Jessie farewelled at luncheon ... Church saddened by death of Bert Rosewarne ... Art & Craft Fair raised over \$3,000.

BRIGHTON (Keith Bowes, Neville Moore) Board planning conference held ... In 1990 congregation to set long-term objectives & work at mission to community ... Loss & Grief Workshop helpful for 30 ... Kids Club shared in family service after sleep-over ... Active high school group led evening service

on "Obedience" ... Friendship Centre fair raised \$2,000 ... Four premierships for basketball teams ... Record offerings during October.

DULWICH/ROSE PARK UNITED PARISH (Rob Williams, Roger Brown) Ian Tanner, director of Uniting Vision, Uniting Church, & Rob Leane, Churches of Christ president elect, received cheques for this parish's contributions to mission projects at 26 November service. Ian Tanner recalled his membership at our Nailsworth church as young man & found his

bride Joan there ... Trevor Lawrie, Conf Pres, returned to his old "stamping ground" for parish 18th anniversary 3 Dec.

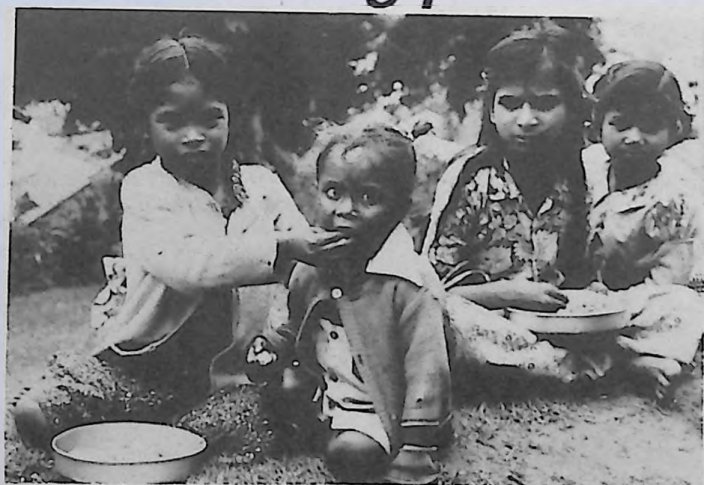
VICTOR HARBOR (A. Clark) Church preparing for departure of Adrian & Maureen Clark & family in January ... Ladies from local churches invited to CWF fun & fellowship night ... About 30 enjoyed caravan & camping weekend at Milang ... Junior CYF bike-a-thon raised \$300 for needy in Nepal ... Sunday School anniversary very well attended ... Friendship Centre garden party most successful rais-

ing \$400+ ... New board elected for 1990.

GROTE ST, ADELAIDE (Ian Adams) Annual meeting 8 November. E. Finck & D. Pearce elders, J. McDonald secretary, T. Arcus treasurer, L. Adams, A. Burns, R. Burford, R. Burt, D. & L. Kruger deacons ... CWF annual meeting elected J. Adams president & J. McDonald secretary ... Two baptisms ... Bowlers' service featured Adelaide Male Voice Choir ... All auxiliaries Christmas party 9 Dec ... Christmas Pageant 16-17 Dec ... Carols on steps 22 Dec.

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Comment

With all the busyness of your Christmas rush and its festivities will the One born at Bethlehem find a wantok and gain admission to your house this year?

No Wantoks at Bethlehem!

by Graeme Batley

As a developing country, Papua New Guinea is unable to extend any of the variety of social security benefits and pensions that people in Australia receive. PNG has therefore had to find another solution to its many welfare problems. In the village situation, the needs are met through a different social organisation. Everybody belongs to a group through their immediate and extended family ties, and their clan affiliations. Thus the elderly, the sick and the needy become a group concern within the village social relationships.

This group identification also extends itself to those who have moved away from their villages and have found success in the towns. Here the "wantoks", or those of the same "one talk" in the local vernacular, must ensure that their success benefits their group as a whole. A generous wantok will therefore regularly send gifts and money to his village relatives to satisfy his group obligations.

In modern times the work of the wantok has assumed an important new role. With many young people drifting to the towns in search of education or employment, it is customary for the wantok to provide them with accommodation and all basic needs until the newcomers become established in their own right. Others come for a brief stay with their wantoks before returning happily to their village, and the wantoks often contribute generously to the cost of the fares home.

The wantok system is such an integral part of Papua New Guinean group relationships that they find it difficult to understand therefore the failure of the residents at Bethlehem to accept Joseph and Mary upon their arrival there. As the couple's ancestral town, it seems strange to them that there was not a wantok to cater for this couple's needs.

The failure of the group to care for its own is a remarkably sad highlight in the story, but there is more to take note of. Have you ever noticed that Mary had to wrap her own baby in swaddling clothes? (Luke 2:7) In PNG it is customary for the village women to come and take charge of the delivery and provide the initial attention to the baby. Hence the implication is that the birth was a totally lonely affair, and that Mary had to do the things that in normal circumstances her wantok womenfolk would have done for her.

Together we can rejoice that Christmas reminds us that a Saviour for the world was born, but it is also appropriate to reflect how he came to his own in a most unexpected way and that his own received him not. The nativity is an abject picture of poverty and shameful rejection. So with all the busyness of your Christmas rush and its festivities, will the One born at Bethlehem two thousand years ago find a wantok and gain admission to your house this year?

• Graeme Batley is at Samban, PNG

The Last Word

What God sends is better than what men ask for.
—Croatian Proverb

Trying to sell a freezer the sales assistant pointed out: "You can save enough on your food bills to pay for it."

"Yes, I know" the potential buyer agreed, "But you see we're paying for our car on the bus fares we save. Then we're paying for the washing machine on the laundry bills we save and we're paying for the house on the rent we're saving. We just can't afford to save any more money just now."

★★★★★

It is easy to get everything you want provided you first learn to do without things you can get.

★★★★★

The student minister began the children's message by telling the kids about Jeremiah the prophet. "Who can tell me what a prophet is?" the student minister asked.

An eager nine year old raised a hand and said, "It's when you buy something for 15c and sell it for 25!"

★★★★★

When the Rev Frank Harrington started his ministry in Hinesville, Georgia, two elders in his church were candidates for the mayoralty. The young preacher had to walk with much caution the impartial, equal-time line. At the post office one morning, a church member who was flagrantly partisan asked, "Mr Harrington, what do you think about the election?"

"I'm praying about it," Frank told her. "Well, what are you praying for?" the partisan Presbyterian wanted to know.

The preacher told her, "I'm thanking God for the secret ballot."

★★★★★

The class had been instructed to write an essay on winter. Before they began the teacher gave them a few hints, and among other things suggested that they might introduce a short paragraph on migration.

One child's attempt read as follows: "In winter it is very cold. Many old people die in winter and many birds also go to a warmer climate."

★★★★★



Don't drive as if you owned the road—drive as if you owned the other car!



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