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*Edith Dart celebrating  
her 104th birthday  
at Lady Small Haven  
on the Gold Coast, Qld,  
with her daughter  
Phyl Rayner-Wiseman*

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# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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## Guest Editorial

### To become what God wants us to be, we must change God's Women in Action

by Helen J. Hall

When I chose my theme for this year, "This Is the Day", I did so believing that now was the time to address the challenges facing us in Christian Women's Fellowship, and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to work towards creative change with enthusiasm and confidence.

Recently, at the CWF Retreat at Monbulk under the leadership of June Doster from the USA, we began to realise some of those goals. For the first time we began to establish a process for change to discover new directions. We were able to produce some basic requirements for action in program planning to meet the needs of all the women in our churches.

We place great value on our CWF heritage, and we celebrate quietly today what has been achieved, but we celebrate tomorrow with enthusiasm. The harvest is great and we must be alert to situations where our witness enables the Spirit of God to create new opportunities.

"Changepoints" in the lives of many of our well-known men and women in the Scriptures gave to them times of great tension and the inevitable feeling of being abandoned by God, but, no matter how change gripped the lives of these great giants of faith, the sovereignty of God and his great plan was always accomplished.

I know that the word "feminist" is not readily accepted in church circles. It became a threat to society in the 1960s and 1970s as a force intent on undermining the male authority, but it has become a challenge to the church. The traditional role model of the woman has changed. Today women do have other options and opportunities—equality, choices, dignity and freedom. The feminist movement is very strong in society.

Where do women stand in church guidelines today? Do those guidelines give women the strength to deal with issues in society today? The feminist Christian is not involved in a power struggle; she looks at the Scriptures as a human being and believes that right from the creation both man and woman were created in the image of God and that God blessed both. As they stood together under the punishment of God, he spoke to each equally.

I have no problem with the Scriptures in regard to women. I don't know of any-

thing in all human history that has done so much for the status of women as the advent of Jesus Christ. His attitude towards women went against the culture of the day. In all the Gospels, Jesus met women and their needs—he related to women equally as he related to men. They were part of his life and ministry, were among his followers, remained faith-

ful at the foot of the cross when practically all others had fled and were present at his resurrection

Some of us take the writings of Paul out of context. I believe he wrote words of advice and encouragement to specific churches with specific problems, and that his authority came from the Holy Spirit. He did not make laws for the whole church. Paul also wrote the Magna Carta for humanity: "Unity in Christ transcends ethnic, social, and sexual distinction."

Does the church really refuse to see the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of women?

At Federal Conference in Canberra, Dorothy Pollard, a lecturer at the United Theological College in Sydney is quoted as saying, "Christian feminists are attempting to offer a challenge to the church in its attitudes and structures. It is not an attempt to destroy people's faith, but to open up to all of us the amazing breadth of Gospel, and to remind us that the God we love and serve is always greater than narrow formulations and images. God is a God of women and men as they work in mutuality and equality, to bring about God's reign among people."

In order to become what God wants us to be, we must change. As we meet the challenges and create the changes in Christian Women's Fellowship, it will not be what "we" will do—but what God will do through us.

• Helen Hall is the Vic-Tas CWF President. She has been a member at Cheltenham, Vic, church for 35 years. During that time she has served as an elder, deacon, church visitor, Sunday school teacher and study group leader. She has been a member of CWF for 35 years, serving on the Brotherhood Social Service/Community Care Committees and the CWF Missionary Committee and was a camp convener in the 1960s, leading some of the first camps in Tasmania. Married to Graham, she has four children and eight grandchildren.

## A New Beginning on the NSW South Coast



Callala Beach families who attended planning meeting

A number of families from the Callala Beach, NSW, area had an historic meeting on 9 June, as they met with members of the Nowra church to become the nucleus of a new branch of the Christian church, to commence on Christmas Day 1990.

It was unanimously decided to commence working towards providing for the spiritual and

social needs of the people of this Shoalhaven area.

Headed by evangelist/pastor Peter de Wildt and his wife Hennie, of Culburra, the meeting had the enthusiastic support of Ross and Jan Wakeley, minister of the Nowra church, locals John and Carol Peel, Bruce and Pam Murphy, Richard and Jan Powell of Culburra and David and Lynda

Avery, an elder of the Nowra church. All through various experiences felt led to be part of this exciting new beginning of serving the community with ministry in Jesus' name.

It is envisaged that the service will commence on Christmas Day and then weekly services at a venue in the Callala area as yet to be decided. As there is no viable Christian

outreach in the area, all agreed that this was a unique opportunity to advance the Good News of God's love in action through positive active service in the community.

As well as weekly worship services for the whole family, it is envisaged that a Sunday school, youth activities and a social program will commence as soon as possible in 1991.

## New Plan for Brisbane Homes

The Queensland Social Service Department has announced a bold new plan to reshape the Department's aged care work in Brisbane.

The move involves the building of two new nursing homes. A 30-bed nursing home is to be built beside the 97 Gleneagles units in New Farm and a second 40-bed nursing home is to be built in the outer southern suburbs of Brisbane in Acacia Ridge.

• **Hillcrest Nursing Home:** The beds for the nursing home at Gleneagles will come from taking 13 nursing home beds from Burdeu House and a further 17 beds from Hillcrest. This will enable Hillcrest to be given a much-needed remodelling and allow needed services to be put into the facility.

• **Burdeu House** is to be upgraded to a 30-bed aged care hostel and at a later stage will

have to be rebuilt. Burdeu House was the first residential aged care facility established by Churches of Christ in Queensland. It commenced in 1950.

• **Brig-o-doon Nursing Home** is to be replaced by the new nursing home at Acacia Ridge with the addition of four beds from Hillcrest. The transfer of a further four beds from Hillcrest will enable a much-needed lounge area to be established on the top floor. Hillcrest will be reduced to a 63-bed nursing home.

• **Acacia Ridge:** The department has signed a contract for the purchase of 2.136 ha fronting Mortimer and Oswin Streets for \$520,000. The purchase includes a brick house, which is appropriately situated to become an administration centre and staff residence for a future nursing home, hostel

and retirement village units.

The Brisbane region has needed a Churches of Christ Retirement Village with resident-funded units for many years, and at last this dream is in sight.

• **Alexandra Hills:** Working drawings have commenced for the building of a 50-bed aged care hostel called Alexandra Gardens at Alexandra Hills beside the Redlands church and the Redlands Child Care and Community Centre. This new hostel will seek to incorporate some of the latest concepts in design and will consist of three 10-bed houses and a 20-bed house to be built with six Housing Accommodation Assistance Scheme single-bedroom units.

### Building Program

The first buildings to be commenced in 1990 will be

Gleneagles Nursing Home at New Farm and the Alexandra Gardens Hostel and Units at Alexandra Hills. When these are complete Hillcrest Nursing Home will be remodelled and Burdeu House will be upgraded to meet the new standards.

The next major task is the building of new Brig-o-doon Nursing Home in 1992 and on its completion the development of the new lounge at Hillcrest Nursing Home.

In announcing the program the Executive Director, Dr Don Stewart, said that the development of the large social service network of care provision was due in no small measure to the care base that had been established in Brisbane and now it was time for the Brisbane facilities to be brought up to a standard similar to those in other places.

## Visitors Program for the WCC Assembly

The WCC Assembly in Canberra in February 1991 will have a profound effect and will make a great impact on those who are delegates. The Assembly will also make an impact on Australia. One way it does that is through the Visitors Program.

Very few people actually go to represent their denomination as delegates. For example, Churchers of Christ has one delegate. But many more Australians can participate as part of the Visitors Program. There will be 1,500 in the Visitors Program and 700 of those will come from Australia. The rest will come from New Zealand, USA, Canada, Europe and a few from Asia and the Pacific.

The Visitors Program shares in as much of the Assembly program as possible. The members attend worship each morning with the Assembly delegates. A limited number each session will be in the Convention Centre to hear the presentation of Plenary Sessions. Other members will watch on closed circuit television in the adjacent hall.

For the eight days that the delegates are involved in sub-groups the Visitors Program will have its own Bible studies each morning to be followed by a range of electives that are called Activity Channels. The Bible studies will be led by both Australian and overseas leaders and there will be small

group discussion. Each day that the Activity Channels are in operation there will be 10 choices. Eight will be on sub-themes, such as "Giver of Life—Sustain Your Creation" and "Spirit of Unity—Reconcile Your People". The other electives will give people an opportunity to meet a significant person in the ecumenical movement or to consider one of the places of tension in the world.

A local committee chaired by Dr Christine Gapes is busy preparing outlines for the 48 sessions that will be part of the Activity Channel. Some of the topics are "Giver of Life—Creation Seen by Women", a session in the park with someone who understands trees leading to poems and prayers, "The Local Congregation As a Community of Free People", "Worship As a Form of Renewal", "Understanding Aboriginal Spirituality" and "Prayers for Unity and Reconciliation"—a session of prayer.

There are other activities specifically for the Visitors Program. It is hoped that Dr Emilio Castro, the General Secretary of the WCC, will have a session with the visitors.

There will be 40 theological students from Australia and New Zealand doing ecumenics. At least 12 with disabilities will be part of the group.

Applications should be in by the end of June or very soon after.

## Keith Farmer at Northern Rivers Convention

The Northern Rivers Convention, held at Tweed Heads, NSW, this year, was a day of inspiration and fellowship.

Keith Farmer brought three penetrating messages on "Coping with Conflict", which were greatly appreciated.

The ministers of each church (Roger Foletta, Ballina, Darryl Seip, Murwillumbah, Ian Phillips, Lismore and Bangalow, and Richard Oakes and Guy Cooper, Tweed Heads) spoke briefly on their local scene.

Judy Gordon, visiting from Sydney, brought greetings. Don and Ann Bigelow brought musical items.

At the evening session the Murwillumbah young people presented an exciting musical, "Live It to the Max".

Fellowship shared at the afternoon tea and the hamburger evening meal demonstrated the joy of meeting together.

On the Sunday Dr Farmer was speaker at Lismore and Murwillumbah.

—Richard Oakes

## Church Exodus

Less than 20% of Australians attend church regularly, says a report released on 12 June.

The report, based on a national social science survey, shows weekly church attendance fell from about 25% in the 1960s to 20% in 1979.

Since then it has fluctuated just below the 20% mark.

Compared with other Western countries, Australian church attendance is low.

The US has the most diligent churchgoers, with 33-36% attending weekly.

About 30% in Italy put up a regular attendance, followed by the Austrians at 24-26%

Below the Australian figures are the Dutch, of whom only

16% attend regularly, the West Germans (13-15%), the British (12-13%) and the Swiss (11%).

The most apathetic churchgoers are in Hungary, where only 3% attend each week.

The report studies the church attendance patterns of Catholics and Protestants, but found church attendance had little to do with culture, political links or religion.

—Helen Thew in *The Advertiser* (Adelaide)

## Singles Trip

Want to go on a trip, but have no one to travel with? Well, cheer up! There are lots of people out there just like you. And Christian Projects is offering all of you a chance to go touring together.

What is a single? If you're widowed, divorced or never married you qualify.

The trip, 8-23 September, is an around-Australia tour. It begins in Sydney or Melbourne (you meet up in Wagga Wagga), goes through Coober Pedy, on to Ayers Rock and Alice Springs and over to Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef. Then you fly back home.

This is a camping trip, but you can choose to stay in cabins or overnight vans if you prefer.

The cost, including returning air fare, all meals and entrance fees is \$1,395 from Melbourne or \$1,375 from Sydney. A \$200 deposit is required to confirm booking. The deadline is 27 July.

The profits from trips like this will be used to fund leadership development in Churches of Christ in Australia.

Christian Projects, the organisation sponsoring this trip, provides goods and services to people, mainly in Churches of Christ, because that's who's head of us.

This trip is one of those "goods and services".

For more information on Christian Projects products or for a brochure on this trip, phone toll free (008) 242 904 or Sydney 417 7830. Or you can write to us at 141 Victoria Ave, Chatswood 2067.



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## Faith and Charity Help Edith Dart to 104

Lady Small Haven at Benowa on the Gold Coast provided the setting on 14 June for Mrs Edith Maud Dart to celebrate 104 years young.

Mrs Dart gathered plenty of wind to blow out six candles on a huge pink birthday cake. There should have been 104 candles, but family members, staff and friends joked they were afraid the fire brigade would have to be called to put them out.

The philosophy of Mrs Edith Dart has been "give, don't take". She acquired it more than 100 years ago from her father, a Danish-born farmer, and mother, an English migrant, as a girl in Laidley, 80 km south-east of Brisbane.

"I have done everything a good Christian woman should do," said Mrs Dart, who became a Christian at the age 14. "Having faith in God and thinking of others is what's important."

Mrs Dart, widow of former Wynnum MP, William Dart, was a charity worker in her

younger days. During the Depression she was president of the Benevolent Society and helped people struggling against unemployment and poverty. Her husband, then a shire councillor, collected boots for people who worked on the roads.

Mrs Dart said her religious faith had given her the resilience and flexibility to adapt to the changes of the 20th century.

"Eat fish and chicken, lots of vegetables and not too much red meat and have never smoked nor imbibed alcohol."

Her surviving children, Phyl Rayner-Wiseman and Alan Dart, and family, together with members from state and federal parliaments, gathered for Mrs Dart's birthday.

The family was represented by a total of six grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren.

Lady Small Haven is one of the Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department's communities.

## Clive Stebbins to Head International Needs

International Needs—Australia has announced the appointment of Clive Stebbins as National Director.

Clive Stebbins is well known to Christians in Melbourne, where for the past 36 years he

has been the Director of Melbourne Youth for Christ. During his time in YFC Clive has spent considerable time in India and other third-world countries leading youth teams and is well acquainted with the needs and opportunities for sharing the Gospel in these countries. Clive shares the vision of helping national Christians reach their own people for Christ.

International Needs began in 1974 when Ray Harrison, a New Zealander, then World Director of Youth for Christ, attended the World Congress on Evangelization in Lausanne and sensed God calling him into a new and broader form of ministry.

The International Needs ministry differs from country to country according to the

## From Chapel to Church



Photo courtesy of the Northern Times

### Vic Quayle Inducts Tom Frazer

The red brown dust of the Mallee has continued to blow over the towns of Boort and Pyramid Hill in the north-west of Victoria, and for over 70 years the Spirit of God has been at work in the area as the two Churches of Christ have faithfully proclaimed the good news of Jesus Christ.

Sunday, 27 May, was a time of special celebration for each church as Tom Frazer was in-

ducted into the ministry by Vic Quayle, former minister in the late 1940s.

At each service, Boort in the afternoon, Pyramid Hill at night, Vic, using illustrations from past ministry experiences with the churches, encouraged members to be faithful to their call to be ministers together and not get seized up (as his motor-bike had) by outside forces. He also reminded the churches of Jesus' promise to guide and protect, as he recalled the tree that gave protection from the hail storm.

Representatives from Gordon Shire, including the Shire President, and from other churches, expressed words of welcome at each service.

Tom Frazer recently concluded eight years of ministry at Chelsea, Vic. Originally a Linotype operator, the local paper made a special point of the change from 25 years as a union member in the chapel of the print shop to a four-year degree course then work in a new chapel—the church.

With a population of under 900 in each town, the churches do not expect to see super churches evolve, but are looking forward to continuing faithful service to their Lord with their new minister.

areas of need as determined by a national board. In Bangladesh this includes a children's village and vocational training school, in India training tentmaker evangelists and rural medical clinics, the ZACTS Institute in Zambia and church planting and evangelism in the Philippines. There are more than 200 national workers in more than 20 countries.

In Australia, International Needs has been represented by Glenda de Jager, who has administered the organisation for the past 16 years in a voluntary capacity. Glenda is a member of the Nunawading, Vic, church.

A commissioning service will be held on 29 July at 7 pm at Waverley Baptist Church (cnr Lum and Waverley Roads).



Clive Stebbins

## New Directions for FBCE



Some of the participants at the conference: back row: Dean Hamilton, Chris Hutton, Faith Johnson, Jim Keatch, Alan Hirsch, Doug Fitzpatrick, front: Des Croot and Jim Deutschmann

The Federal Board of Christian Education annual meeting approved proposals to inaugurate a new Australian Board of Church Development and Education at Federal Conference, Brisbane, in October.

The new structure, subject to approval by Conference, will integrate education and evangelism roles by merging the Conference of Home Mission representatives and the Federal Board of Christian Education into a new unified structure. The Federal Board of Christian Education was established in 1948 and the home mission representatives commenced annual meetings during the 1950s. The proposed changes have already been approved by all State Conference executives and all state departments of mission or church development. The new body will aim to continue past tasks and offer an increasing range of services and resources.

Two major initiatives for the 90s are the "Australia Grow" proposals in education and evangelism. New educational resources in the areas of family life ministry, adult education and training, and children's ministry are progressively being prepared. An education

policy statement was forwarded to all churches in March. The "Australia Grow" evangelism initiative will be progressively launched by state departments in the 1990-91 period. Victoria-Tasmania, at events in both states in June, is inviting churches to become partners in the "Australia Grow" venture.

Twelve recent publications from the Board were tabled, along with details of forthcoming publications and video resources. A further five printed resources are due this year. These include *Entering God's Kingdom*, an evangelism study, *Being Young—Being a Believer*, a youth study, *Effective Assimilation* and *Effective Pastoral Care*, new resources for leaders, and a Bible study, *Being Sure*, the second in the new Growing Faith Bible Study Series.

### Youth Ministry

The vitality of youth work across the states was noted. The National Youth Convention in Perth was an outstanding success and among the best attended for a number of years. Detailed planning has commenced for the 6-12 January 1992 Convention to be held at

## The President on the Move

Following holidays in January there was much administrative work to be carried out in the Qld Social Service Department. Administering a church department with 70 employees and spread over a wide area is always time consuming. The month of February was exciting from a number of aspects, the Branch-out Program (alcohol and drug recovery maintenance program) was making good progress in the sale of its tomatoes, which is part of the activity therapy. I began an involvement with the Bundamba, Qld, church.

I attended meetings of the HACCAC (Home and Community Care Advisory Committee), which provides advice jointly to the Commonwealth and Queensland ministers and the QACAC (Queensland Aged Care Advisory Committee), which provides advice to the Commonwealth Minister for Aged Care.

I was involved with the AAVCA (Australian Affiliation of Voluntary Care Associations) in negotiations with officers of the Commonwealth Department of Community Services and Health over residents' rights in nursing homes and aged care hostels.

During March the heavy load of administration continued but there was opportunity to visit the Social Service Department's major hostels at Maryborough, Gold Coast, Toowoomba and Boonah to assist in the formulation of extensive upgrading plans for each of them. As Federal Conference President I opened the new Church of Christ Family Care Services Centre in Maryborough.

During April I attended the meeting of the Federal Confer-

ence Executive in Melbourne and the next day flew to Darwin to spend six days with Tony Ochse, the minister of the Darwin church. It was a good opportunity to share in fellowship and to discuss the development of the church. I was the preacher at the Sunday service. It was also a good opportunity to see the Child Care Centre and to discuss its operation with Sally Hudson, the director of the program.

I attended the silver jubilee open day at Kenmore Christian College with about 500 others. It was a great day with the opening of eight three-bedroom units for married students. While much work was done by volunteers, the additions are valued at about \$1 million. The month closed with a meeting of the AAVCA in Canberra from which I continue as the National Secretary.

I started off the month of May by flying with Jeff May to Vanuatu so that I would be able to attend the Annual Conference of the Churches of Christ in Vanuatu, which was held at Lombaha on Ambae Island. I was in Vanuatu for 10 days and managed in that time to gain a reasonably wide experience of the Conference work there and of the issues that confront the churches. I was impressed with the Ni-Vanuatu leadership.

With my Secretary, Corinne Forster, on holidays, I have been stumbling through the administration with the added problem that one of our builders has gone into liquidation. Problems—but as I once heard, problems are but hills to climb, from which the view is more extensive.

—Donald Stewart

Harrierville in the Victorian Alps. A National Youth Consultation and Youth Ministers Conference is planned for Melbourne in July 1991. This event is expected to set important new directions for national youth ministry.

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## To Russia with Love: A Million New Testaments

Following research carried out over the last two months, the Bible League in Australia has decided to launch Project—"To Russia with Love".

Readers will recall that some 18 months ago the Bible League sent 1.3 million Portuguese New Testaments to Brazil as a gift from Australian Christians.

Dr Winston Gauder, the League's General Secretary said, "Our negotiations to date indicate that we can get the best economies again for the Russian New Testament project and print and ship a copy to Moscow, at just 50 cents!"

Bible League affiliates meeting in Manila earlier in June had full reports on the status of Scripture placement needs around the world. Rev. Dennis Mulder, International Coordinator for the Bible League, said, "In the past 12 months, since political change has come to most of Eastern Europe and the USSR, the Bible League has been working overtime to produce and ship Bibles and New Testaments in the Russian, Ukrainian and Romanian languages."

The surge of interest in the USSR has initially caused some unforeseen problems with distribution.

Some reports indicate that the few registered churches in Russia who have received the first wave of Bibles and other materials have found it difficult to efficiently forward them to the hundreds of unregistered churches across the country.

To help alleviate this bottleneck and to effectively reach the smaller vibrant churches, the Bible League is now giving priority to agencies that have connections with unregistered churches.

In some cases the material is transported by rail through Siberia directly to the neglected congregations.

Dr Gauder, in spelling out the extent of the thrust into Russia reports that 1 million Scriptures are already being sent from Japan.

The Bible League USA has signed a matching partnership arrangement with Slavic Gospel Association President Peter Deyneka Jr through which a greater thrust will be achieved. A children's picture Bible (four Gospels) has also been made available for this ministry.

It is estimated that there are just 5 million Bibles for a population of more than 285 million. For this reason the League is also working with other agencies like Mission Possible, Bibeln Till Alla Sweden, Slavic Gospel Association and others. The Bible League is a major print organisation, which is able to get the best economies in the world market and resource bona fide organisations that have a hands-on ministry.

The Bible League is able to produce a full Russian hardcover Bible at around \$4 through its international direct shipment program. These Scriptures are supplied at no cost to genuine users for inreach and outreach activities.

According to Rev. Gregory Kommendant of the Baptist Union in Russia, "We need 50 million Bibles now—not a year from now. We don't know what the situation will be like a year from now."

The Bible League has received permission from the Soviet Government to distribute 12 million Scriptures throughout the nation.

Dr Gauder says, "Australian Christians will be thrilled at the possibility of printing and shipping the 1 million Russian Testaments from our own country. This is a fantastic opportunity we have because we can also use Australian labour and technology and resources especially at a time when the economy is slowing down."

Send gifts, pledges and donations to Project—To Russia with Love, c/o The Bible League, PO Box 464, Penrith 2750. Phone (02) 673 3055.

## Soviet Pentecostals Hold Official Conference

Pentecostals in the Russian Republic of the Soviet Union have held a conference in Moscow, reports the Soviet news agency TASS. Representatives of about 100 churches elected a council and a superintendent and two deputies.

Pentecostals had been outlawed as a separate denomination in the Soviet Union since 1930, notes Keston College. This conference was their first officially sanctioned gathering since 1929.

In 1945 Pentecostals were forced to amalgamate with the Baptists, although in the 1970s and 1980s a number of their congregations were allowed to register independently. However, these so-called autonomous churches were not allowed to form their own union or association of churches or hold conferences.

In April 1989 it was announced that a secret regulation of 1961 that listed Pentecostals as a denomination that could in no circumstances be officially registered had been annulled by the government

Council for Religious Affairs. Following this announcement, in May 1989 Pentecostal leaders in the Baptist Union decided to leave the Baptists and apply to form their own union. About 250 congregations with a total of 42,000 members separated from the Baptists. Leaders hoped to be able to combine with some 200 autonomous congregations with 20,000 members and possibly to attract unregistered Pentecostals to their new body. However, until now they have had no opportunity to meet officially to organise themselves. Most Pentecostals are in Ukraine, and there is no indication as to when they will be able to hold a conference there.

The Russian Federation Pentecostals elected as their leader pastor Roman Bilas. Their 100 churches, some of which were until recently unregistered, have 6,000 members. Bilas states that the Pentecostals aim to promote evangelism, take part in peace activity and engage in charitable work.

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# Letters to the Editor

## Letters are limited to 200 words

### Orders of Service

To the Editor,

From time to time over many years, I have been pleased to use orders of service cards which were first printed by the late W.S. Lowe, ex-New Zealander and later minister of the Margaret St, Launceston, Tas, and Brighton, Vic, churches, before he became a Trade Commissioner for Australia in Africa and then returned to Melbourne.

Those cards represent in some way the real meaning of the church as it worships at various times. The orders of service cover such aspects as themes to do with "The Church—Which Is His Body" or "The Fruit of the Spirit" or "What Is Man?" The other two that I have are "Divine Forgiveness" and "Easter Sunday". The orders of service then cover such topics as "Confession", "God Condemns Sin", "God's Love for the Sinner" and "The Power of His Forgiving Love".

I have cards numbered 4, 6, 8, 9 and 10 and would be pleased to hear from anyone who has the complete set so that I could bring them "up to date".

Maybe theological colleges could pursue this matter further, at some profit to the work of the churches as they gather together to worship.

—Bruce Burn  
(Morwell, Vic)

### New International Body

To the Editor,

The rather touching letter from isolated British member H.F. Cox of Cambridge ("AC" 9 June) seeking fellowship through an Australian penfriend prompts me to suggest the establishment of an International Conference of Co-operating Churches of Christ. Undoubtedly there are many isolated members and churches associated with our movement around the world that would gain strength by being put in touch with each other.

The proposed ICCCC might look at ways of increasing fellowship between isolated congregations and members as well as providing a basis for co-operation in ministry and mission. At one stage we had some churches in Eastern Europe and perhaps this is a mission field we should now be examining. Regrettably the World Convention would not be a suitable forum for such initiatives.

Perhaps this matter could be discussed at Federal Conference.

—H.E. Hayward  
(Berowra, NSW)

### ACC Delegation to Cambodia and Vietnam

To the Editor,

The Director of World Christian Action, Peter Holden, is advising Australian churches that Archbishop Keith Raynor, Acting Primate of the Anglican Church, and Janet Wood, Uniting Church of Australia, are visiting the above two war-ravaged countries on "our" behalf. A leader of the Church of Christ in Thailand will travel with them.

These two representatives will gain a first-hand view of the problems and needs and also assess what role they consider Australian churches as a whole can play alongside the Asian churches towards making peace in the region.

At this point the ACC asks for an ongoing commitment to prayer, to advocacy and the gaining of knowledge plus to relief support and a response to refugee difficulties. They also aim for an exchange program, people to people, over two years.

Peter challenges all "to take a leap beyond the familiar into the relative unknown", a characteristic of the faith of the church. Further reports and Bible studies will become available shortly.

The Department of Christian Union commends the challenge offered to Conferences, churches and individuals of our churches.

—David Allison  
Secretary

### Women In Church

To the Editor,

In his letter relative to women's leadership role in church ("AC" 16 December 1989), Harold Hayward drew two distinctions between the Kingdom of God and the "divine society", having to do with role and status respectively. In his 7 April clarification he says that he had had two purposes in mind.

One was to make the important point Scripture sometimes provides "thin" support for our varying claims.

What was Phoebe's role as a "deacon" or "deaconess" in Cenchræ (Romans 1:1)? Diakonos here is masculine

though it has a feminine form. Were it better translated as "servant" or "minister"?

Some argue that "Junia" in Romans 16:7 was a woman. She and Andronicus are apostoloi, "apostles". Only in 2 Corinthians 8:23 and Philippians 2:25 is it commonly translated as "messenger". Paul does not distinguish between small and large "d's" (deacons) and official and unofficial apostles.

The other was to show that there is no necessary contradiction between Galatians 3:28 and 1 Timothy 2:11-15. The key verse in Timothy is 12. It says that women should not teach. In worship? in Sunday school? On the "mission field" in In-

## Letters from Tertius

### A Deputation to the Minister

To the Editor,

I had never been on a deputation of any kind before and wished afterwards that I hadn't been on this one. But at the time it seemed to be the thing to do.

For a long time at our church the Sunday night services have been "jazzed up" with a band and new songs and choruses. Attendances have increased and new people have been attracted, and we are all delighted, even those who stay home and watch telly on Sunday nights.

But on some Sunday mornings recently we have had the band and the new songs and choruses and a new format. Some of our people were so upset about this change that they organised a deputation to the minister. I joined it because I felt that on Sunday mornings we should have more dignified and worshipful hymns and stick to the order of service as laid out in the Bible. (I imagine there must be one!)

The minister received us graciously and asked us what hymns we felt were worthy of Sunday morning worship.

Arthur suggested Charles Wesley's hymns as a suitable standard. Our minister said that they were mostly made up to pub tunes of the day to attract the working class.

I said, "What about Isaac Watt's hymns?" Our minister said that they were rejected by the church in those days as being too frivolous and Watts was persecuted for writing them.

Some of the deputation were all for Sankey and Alexander hymns. Our minister reminded us that their song books were published for use in evangelistic missions and never to be used in church services, because in those days hymns with choruses in them were considered to be too much like secular songs, and certainly not appropriate for worship.

In the end the deputation agreed that we just didn't like change, as previous generations didn't.

So now we have a mix of the new and the old and try to please everyone.

—Tertius

## Federal Conference

### Approaching 625 Registrations So Far

There is a great response to registrations for Federal Conference '90. 619 adults plus 42 children are registered already. It is going to be one of the greatest Federal Conferences of all times.

As people feel the winter cold, think of warm October days in Brisbane sunshine and blue skies.

You could be enjoying the warmth of Christian fellowship, the stimulation of a great seminar—workshop program, the inspiration of great worship occasions at Federal Conference '90 in Brisbane 8-14 October.

Get your registration form from your church notice board and register today.

### A Change of Plan

Bill Nottingham has written to the Federal Conference Arrangements Committee indicating that because of some other engagements he will not now be able to be present at Federal Conference in Brisbane. Bill was planning to be present and to lead a workshop on the church in Russia and Eastern Europe.

He has recommended to us that Dr Dan C. Hoffmann, who is the Executive Secretary for Africa in the Division of Overseas Ministries for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) USA, come in his place and to present a workshop on the church in Africa. This will replace the workshop that Bill Nottingham was to have brought.

dia? Nor should she have authority over a man. Paul does better than that in Galatians 3:28, where in Christ there is oneness between male and female and in 1 Corinthians 11:11-12, where there is unqualified mutuality.

—Ronald Graham  
(Johnston, Iowa, USA)

Bill Nottingham writes of Dr Hoffmann that he would be able to give a very fine presentation on the church and God's mission in Africa. He has information about those countries in which the Disciples have been engaged in the Church of Christ in Zaire, the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, the Evangelical Church in Lesotho and the National Council of Churches in Swaziland. He is also well aware of the Mindolo Ecumenical Centre in Kitwe, Zambia and the All Africa Conference of Churches.

Another reason to register for Federal Conference '90, 8-14 October 1990. Get a form from your church notice board and register today.

### Queensland Tour

Following the Federal Conference in Brisbane there will be a great bus tour up the Queensland coast with cruises in the Whitsunday and Hinchinbrook Passages. Visit Cairns, take the great Kuranda train trip, travel across the Atherton tablelands, go to historic Charters Towers and the Stockmans Hall of Fame.

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Full details are available with every Federal Conference registration.

## World News

### Unreached Peoples

Along the banks of the Sogeram River in Papua New Guinea live people in tiny hamlets with unpronounceable names like Muyungungu and Kaiamanggu. Many hours walk from the Sogeram are many more tiny hamlets with equally unpronounceable names.

They are "unreached peoples"—people who have no viable church among them and cannot be reached except by cross-cultural evangelism. Because of their isolation, they have few government services, and little commercial enterprise. To paddle by canoe to Chungribu would take them several days. To travel to Madang by canoe, then on foot, then by car, takes a similar number of days.

Churches of Christ have a commitment to these unreached and almost unreachable people. And God's Spirit is moving among them and giving them a tremendous hunger to hear the Word of God. It started at Angguna, a mere two and a half hours by boat from Chungribu. Pastors moved there and began walking to the surrounding villages, sharing the Good News of salvation. Word spread from hamlet to hamlet. Soon requests were coming in from far and near (mainly far!) for someone to come and explain more about the way of faith in Christ.

A church began at Angguna when 120 were baptised, some from villages quite distant. Pastors were sent to places still deeper into the bush. Some have endured hardship, threats and even beating. Their wives

have endured loneliness and sickness and the Gospel has gone out.

"These words have power, they are what we need. Come and teach us," has been the cry from these remote hamlets.

The church is growing. It is beginning to learn how to serve God. People are learning to read so they can read the Bible, and still the cry comes from more and more isolated places, "Come and help us."

I worshipped in one of these little churches last Sunday. They sang with enthusiasm. They prayed with fervour. A young lad, one of the few readers, led the worship. Communion was shared with water and banana. As I preached they listened hungrily and many of them beamed at me as I shared the message of "union with Christ" from Colossians.

God's loved people in one of the forgotten places of the world. Are Churches of Christ in PNG still reaching unreached peoples? They surely are. And the missionaries are bare footed, brown skinned and highly committed.

—Fay Christensen

### Deputation

Graeme and Marion Batley, currently missionaries in Papua New Guinea, will be returning home on furlough and will be available for deputation visits in Victoria 12 August to 12 September. Churches and groups who wish to have them attend should contact Dorothy Geyer on (03) 853 8558.

### Les Lawlor says...

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## Books

### The Green Cleaner



Barbara Lord with her best-seller

Australian Conservation Foundation staff member, Barbara Lord, can only be described as a rip-roaring success. Her book *The Green Cleaner—How To Clean Nearly Everything* sold its first 15,000 copies in the fortnight before Christmas. To date, distribution stands at 60,000 with yet another reprint about to roll off the press. Barbara is an active member of the Doncaster, Vic, church.

The book has been on WA best-sellers list twice and made the Top 10 list in Victoria in February. Barbara has become an overnight celebrity, and is constantly being sought for interviews for radio, television and newspapers. She wrote *The Green Cleaner* following hundreds of requests from listeners to her ABC radio segment on 3LO.

*The Green Cleaner* is available from ACF's Melbourne Office (Conservation Books, 340 Gore Street, Fitzroy 3065) for \$7.95 (plus \$1.50 post and packing).

### The Making of a Leader

by Frank Damazio (Trilogy Productions—distributed by Word) \$33.90

This book of 332 pages is a very detailed analysis of leadership issues in the scriptures. The material is presented in simple language, reflects a wide knowledge of the text and biblical languages, and seeks to apply the truths to leadership today. Leaders will be able to use the material as a help to their own growth, a teaching aid and a source of inspiration for contemporary church leadership. The treatment of biblical characters and themes is detailed and insightful. The background and context of the discussions is always the Bible as against the modern social sciences, although these are certainly not rejected by Damazio. Rather he is pleading for the supremacy of the scriptures in the fashioning and training of those who would be leaders.

This is a book about leadership formation. Peter Wagner, in his foreword, commends the book as an important document in the philosophy of church leadership. He expresses the hope that it will be read not only in charismatic churches, but carefully noted by the future leadership in mainline and evangelical traditions. Had Alexander Campbell been living in our time he might well have written a book like this on leadership. —Don Smith

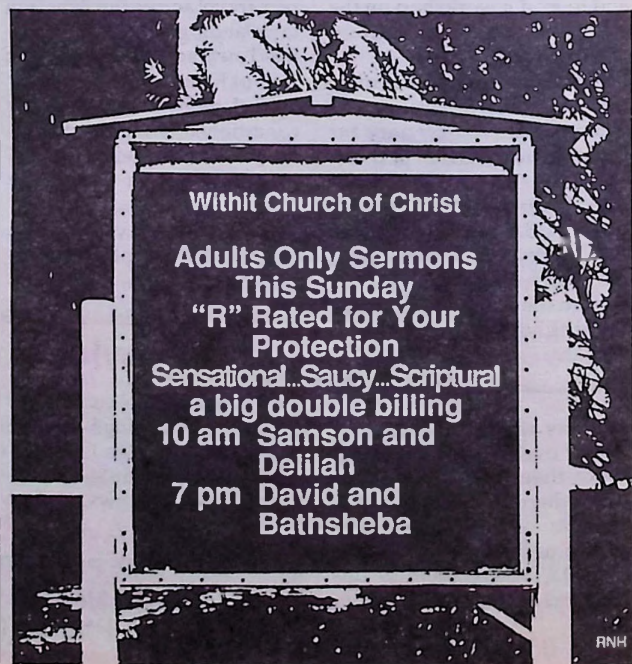
### Freedom and Authority

by David Cook (Scripture Union) \$15

In this little book David Cook explores the different dimensions of the related but conflicting concepts of freedom and authority. He aptly notes that our age particularly reflects major tensions between these two topics. He notes the crisis of authority that has been, and is, taking place in family, education, law and order, society and the church. He then goes on to describe the philosophical discussions as they relate to and affect our current crisis in authority. He concludes that there is no such thing as pure freedom as all so-called freedoms are qualified in some way by the freedoms of other individuals and of society. Authority always therefore curtails freedom and indeed it must because total freedom breaks down into anarchy.

Having mapped the philosophical debate on the issues, Cook turns to the Scriptures. The whole issue of God's authority is broached; he has authority because he is Creator, provider and sustainer of all things therefore his word has authority derivative from God's own authority. The Bible teaches human freedom but this is freedom within strict limits and therefore to discover true human freedom today we need to seek it within the guidelines as set by the Creator. This is found in a return to biblical authority.

Cook's conclusions are not surprising; they reflect the established evangelical viewpoint on this serious topic. Nonetheless, he has restated and clarified the issues in a thoroughly readable (he avoids the use of theological/philosophical jargon) and interesting style. In an age characterised by rebellion and an undermining of traditional authority structures, the sincere Christian needs to think about the issues as they relate to these all too real phenomena. This book will help us in this task. —Alan Hirsch



## June Doster in Vic-Tas

June Doster, Associate Regional Minister, Disciples of Christ in Georgia, USA, visited Vic-Tas in May-June, sponsored jointly by the Department of Mission, Education and Development and the Christian Women's Fellowship.

June met with CWF leaders in retreat at Monbulk, providing ideas and program direc-



June Doster at Glen Waverley, Vic

tions for the revitalisation of women's fellowship and ministry with women. The 50 participants were challenged to new efforts and new directions using ideas developed by June in the United States.

### Tasmania Grow

100 representing all our Tasmanian churches (14.5% of

Tasmanian churches' total membership) met with June in an evangelism conference at Ross on 2 June. June shared insights on leading churches in evangelism, implementing programs and discovering priorities in evangelism. She provided many practical ideas for local church evangelism.

Churches met in groups to discuss the implications for their local congregations. It was encouraging that all Tasmanian churches were represented. The participation by people during the day demonstrated a new awareness of the importance of evangelism and a desire to become more involved in evangelism. Program organiser, John Morrow, Howrah, said he believed people saw the need to "become more intentional in evangelism" in the future.

June Doster preached in Launceston and Hobart on 3 June and met with state Christian Women's Fellowship leaders prior to some sightseeing and informal discussions with ministers and other lay leaders.

Returning to Victoria, June met with ministers of larger churches and a number of women ministers.

### Victoria Grow

The Queen's Birthday weekend saw 150 participants involved in the Victoria Grow Evangelism Conference. Held at Glen Waverley, June Doster was again the keynote speaker



June Doster at CWF Camp

with special emphasis on effective evangelism ideas, motivation, tools and programs. She led a special series of electives for ministry with women in the local church.

singles and ethnic people.

Electives were conducted by local church ministers and leaders. Alan Hirsch looked at evangelism in the subculture with Peter Melrose sharing his



Peter Melrose with Alan Hirsch

Keynote addresses on evangelism priorities for the future were also delivered by Jay Bacik, Alan Niven and Brian White, with presentations by Jeff Deuble, Lou Clun, Anne Spoelder and Chek Chia on special opportunities in evangelism with baby boomers,

personal experience and faith.



Jay Bacik

### Grow Partners

Churches in both states are being invited to participate as Grow Partners to facilitate the implementation of new evangelism programs in their church. Churches have begun enquiring about possible partnerships and implementation of a variety of evangelism programs.



June Doster in evangelism conference at Ross, Tas

# Happenings

Two Chinese government departments in Canton have recommended the "immediate execution" of controversial house church leader Lin Xiangao (Samuel Lam). Of the 3 government departments involved in prosecuting cases involving capital punishment in China, sources say 2 have proceeded with recommendations for Lin's execution. The 3 departments include the Public Security Bureau, which carries out arrests; the Bureau of Investigation, responsible for prosecutions; and the Supreme Court, which handles sentencing.

Tensions between Egypt's Christian Copts and fundamentalist Muslims have reached a new high following the violent assassination of a Coptic priest and 4 others on 11 May, moments after services had concluded in Alexandria's St Mary's Church.

In surprising and sweeping moves toward "democratisation" Albania's parliament passed laws to give all Albanian citizens freedom to travel out of the country, and to permit freedom of religious practice. Religious practice has been outlawed for 23 years in Albania, which many consider to be the most closed and strictest Communist nation in the world.

The Mormon Church has changed some of its sacred rituals, eliminating aspects of secret ceremonies that had been deemed offensive to women and to other faiths.

The captain of the Brazilian side at the soccer World Cup, Jorginho, along with his team mates Bismarck and Silas, have each had 75,000 autograph cards printed, on which they share their personal experiences with Jesus Christ. Seven of the Brazilian players in Italy are born-again Christians.

Keston College reports that 2 recent opinion sur-

veys show that religious organisations enjoy more trust from the Soviet public than any other institution. Since March 1989 the levels of trust for religious organisations and the Communist Party have been reversed, with churches moving from the least trusted organisations to the most trusted and the Communist Party showing a corresponding loss of trust.

In the USSR according to the Council of Religious Affairs groups of believers have submitted claims for the return of a total of 18,000 places of worship. Most of the buildings are in use as stores, sports halls or museums and 5,000 are in an advanced state of disrepair.

On 11 June Nepal's King Birendra, on the advice of Prime Minister Bhattarai, granted amnesty to all Christian prisoners and has given instructions for the dismissal of all cases against persons awaiting trial for religious activities.

To raise funds for Melbourne Youth for Christ a benefit concert is being staged at Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University, on 21 July. Doug MacFarlane and "Joint Heirs" will be guest artists. Tickets are available for \$10. Details from (03) 887 9199.

A group of university students were among over 200 who became Christians during a missionary journey through the remote Eastern part of the Soviet Union by a heavy metal rock band. End of concert appeals were made by David Pierce, leader and singer with "No Longer Music".

Trinity Cathedral in Sacramento, California, has found that the way to attract potential members is through their stomachs. The Episcopal (Anglican) church has a committee that bakes apple pies and delivers them to Sunday visitors the following Mon-

day evening. The deliverers answer any questions the visitor has about the church. In the first year 70 of the 125 who received a pie joined the church—far higher than the usual 10-15%. One woman who joined after receiving a pie said her family joined because the church "was the most welcoming and non-pompous around".

HCJB World Radio has announced plans to set up 8 Christian radio stations in Romania. They will work closely with the Romanian Missionary Society, the Romanian Baptist Church and other evangelical churches in Romania.

"Move Out '90", a program to deepen the awareness and commitment to the challenge of mission by youth is being held 31 August-2 September at Richmond Secondary College. Organised by the Evangelical Alliance, Victoria, the guest speaker will be Dr Doug McConnell, General Director of the Asia Pacific Christian Mission. Cost will be \$15. Details and brochures from Rob Cole on (03) 890 2338.

A service to mark the beginning of Missing Persons Week is being held at the Collins St, Melbourne, Vic, Baptist Church at 10.30 am on 29 July.

Freedom in Christ reports that last year there were about 49,000 door-knocking Jehovah's Witnesses in Australia—one for every 329 Australians. Of these more than 5,000 were full-time. They baptised more than 3,000 people and increased 5%. The average time each Witness spent door-knocking was about 3 hours per week, in addition to their 5 weekly meetings.

About 1 in 100 Americans is a hard-core cocaine addict, according to a report released in May. In New York state half a million are addicts and in Washington DC 3 out of every 100 are hooked. One in every 5 arrested

for a crime is addicted to cocaine.

The Leprosy Mission and the Ministry of Public Health of the People's Republic of China signed an agreement on 10 May. The agreement commits both bodies to a co-operative project located in the mid-south and south-west regions of China, and along the coast. There are an estimated 36,000 leprosy sufferers in the project area, of whom 20,572 are known to have some disability.

TEAR Australia is airlifting food into Eritrea's beleaguered capital, Asmara. In May 90 tonnes of food was airlifted to the Eritrean Kale Heywet Church enabling them to feed 10,000 people who, cut off by the civil war, are now desperately short of food. Another airlift is planned for early July.

For the past 30 years it has not been possible to hold Kirchentagen, the church festivals that attract tens of thousands of participants for both parts of Germany. But now, with the Berlin Wall down and German unification looming, officials have set a united German Kirchentag for 1993. The next Kirchentag, in 1991, is to be a West German event, but with as much East German collaboration and involvement as possible.

A US jury has awarded a woman more than \$246,000 in a "clergy malpractice" suit. She said she suffered major psychological damage when a Lutheran pastor forced her into a sexual relationship during counselling when she was 15.

A Lutheran pastor in the Baden regional church in West Germany lost his job because his wife is a Jew. The church body requires that the spouse of a pastor be a Christian.

During the last 5 years an average of 2,700 people every day were forced to abandon their homes and

become refugees. There are more than 15 million refugees around the world today.

Japan suffered 43 disasters from 1960-81 with an average of 63 deaths. Bangladesh, in contrast, faced 63 catastrophes during the same period with an average death toll of over 10,000.

Bishop K.H. Ting, the long-standing leader of China's official church has been stripped of his senior political post in a move that is said to be directly linked to his outspoken support for the pro-democracy movement in the spring of 1989, according to sources within the official Three-Self Patriotic Movement.

A Christian relief agency working among Afghan refugees in the Pakistani border city of Peshawar suffered devastating losses following an attack by thousands of angry refugees allegedly stirred into action by the inflammatory speeches of Muslim mullahs.

Approximately 60% of today's Christians live in the southern and eastern regions of the world. In contrast, only 30% of missiology departments reside there.

The Anglican Communion is to have a full-time representative at the United Nations in New York, and the man who has been appointed is His Excellency the Most Rev. Sir Paul Reeves, currently the Governor-General of New Zealand.

Transworld Radio's first studio in the Soviet Union has been dedicated. The studio is located in the bell tower of the Leningrad Baptist Church. Members of the church will be running the studio for TWR, which will be used for music recording, interviews, testimonies and discussions to be used in programs produced in the West.

1990

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# The President in the Pacific

## Vanuatu Visit

The Boeing 727 of Air Vanuatu swept in from the Pacific Ocean over the rugged terrain of Efate Island.

Jeff May and I stepped into the warm humid tropical air of Vanuatu. Thus I began a new experience in my life as I, for the first time, visited these South Sea islands.

The flight to Santo in the 12-seater was interesting. We were met at Santo by Roger Bawden, who took us both back to the Churches of Christ Centre.

To go to the market to buy fruit and vegetables we rose before 6 am the next day. There were bananas, taro, yams, dark green oranges, mandarins, limes and large sweet pomelos, on mats or in palm leaf baskets on the floor.

At Pentecost I was met by Silas Buli, the Principal of Ranwadi High School. We travelled past villages, fording small streams in the four-wheel drive and stopped to visit "old John", who had been an old friend of Harold Finger. He said that he would write a letter and on my way back the next day I could collect it and take it to Harold on my return to Australia.

Silas' father, Zaccaeus Buli, was introduced and accompanied us to the school, which sits high above the ocean with a million-dollar view.

That evening there was a service in the school chapel. I preached the sermon in English and most of the singing was in English, but the service was conducted in Bislama.

Early next morning we set out for Banmatmat. We drove

down the coast back past villages and called on "old Joel". We picked up the letter from "old John" and continued to the village of Ranputor, where we were met with an aluminium dingy and outboard by Ian Bule, a lecturer at Banmatmat Bible College. A trip across the quiet waters and around a rocky headland brought us through the narrow opening in the reef to the beach at Banmatmat.

Following an inspection of the college lecture rooms and the library I had lunch with Samuel Vusi, the principal, and Ian. There followed a service in the chapel, with its open window looking out on the beach and the ocean. I spoke to the students and their families. I felt a sense of the deep commitment in the faces of these students, these disciples of Jesus. Ian and I spent the rest of the afternoon walking on the beach discussing theology.

We were up early the next morning and made our way in the darkness through the reef and on around the headland and northwards up the coast of Pentecost to the village of Wali. We were to meet the "Hula", a copra boat. Soon we were aboard and the goods were picked up from the beach in the tender and loaded. Already the boat had a load of 110 tons of copra piled on the deck. It was raining and the crew pulled a tarpaulin across the back section leaving about a metre where a person could lie down out of the rain.

We headed north, calling at two other places on Pentecost Island, crossing the strait between Pentecost and Maewo



Off to conference Vanuatu style

Islands and calling at Nasawa and Beterara before crossing to Ambae Island to Lolowai. We arrived at Lombaha at about 8 pm. So I came to the Conference of the Churches of Christ in Vanuatu and met up again with Jeff May and Roger and Jill Bawden and their son Kent. Lyle and Jillian Muller and their family joined us the next day.

I loved the singing. The people were alive as they sang and expressed the actions of their songs. The preaching was forthright and strong, appealing for commitment to world mission for Jesus Christ. The discussions were thoughtful, wrestling with the issues they confronted, finding compromises, asserting principles. The leadership of John Liu was statesmanlike, patient, yet ensuring that the business was done expeditiously. It was a good conference. I felt inspired.

On the fourth day I went off in a four-wheel drive to Longana in East Ambae, where early the next morning I was to leave for Santo and Vila with Van Air. I spent the night in the village guest room at the community hall, which had recently been built with assistance from both the Australian and New Zealand governments. In the evening there was a service in the village church. I again was the preacher.

The flight Santo to Port Vila was uneventful except for the fact that I was the only passenger beside a load of fish.

A short taxi ride brought me from the airport to the town of Port Vila. It has a beautiful harbour with a resort island a few hundred metres from the dockside. I went to a motel, where I was to spend the night before catching my flight the next day back to Australia. I wandered around the streets of the town finding the Church of Christ and was fortunate enough to have someone show me through the building.

As the Boeing 727 winged its way eastward across the Pacific I thought of the beautiful, warm, softly spoken, brown brothers and sisters in Christ that I had met so briefly, yet felt about so very positively. On Vanuatu there is a strong church. It had been good to meet them and to be encouraged by their faith. I thought of the years of overseas missionary work they have been engaged in in PNG and of the intention to take the Good News of Jesus to New Caledonia.

Australian Churches of Christ have been involved with these people for 85 years. We are partners with them in the great world mission of Jesus Christ.

—Donald Stewart



The chapel at Ranwadi High School

## Youth Vision—A New Ministry for a New Decade

Throughout the history of Churches of Christ in Australia we have worked hard and developed new and innovative ideas in ministering to our young people.

Programs and ideas have served us well. During the decades many young people have responded to the gospel in a variety of settings and

In Victoria we have a new vision. A Youth Vision. Our vision starts with encouraging churches to ask the most basic of all questions: "What does God want us to do here with young people?"

Often this results in churches starting again, retiring existing leaders and setting new goals. For others, it is an opportunity

and develop resources for churches.

Executive members serve for a three-year term only and are selected according to their personal gifts and leadership abilities. In addition, each management role has a job description that sets the standards for leadership.

Youth Vision has the clear

biblical goals for the Youth Vision ministry are:

- To prepare God's people for works of service.
- To establish unity within the body of Christ under the lordship of Christ.
- To attain maturity in Christ.

So far only a handful of churches have been targeted to develop a partnership with the

executive in building their local youth ministry. Churches are selected on their openness and willingness to accept the challenge of vision, make difficult changes to worship, leadership, traditions and attitudes and genuinely reach youth!

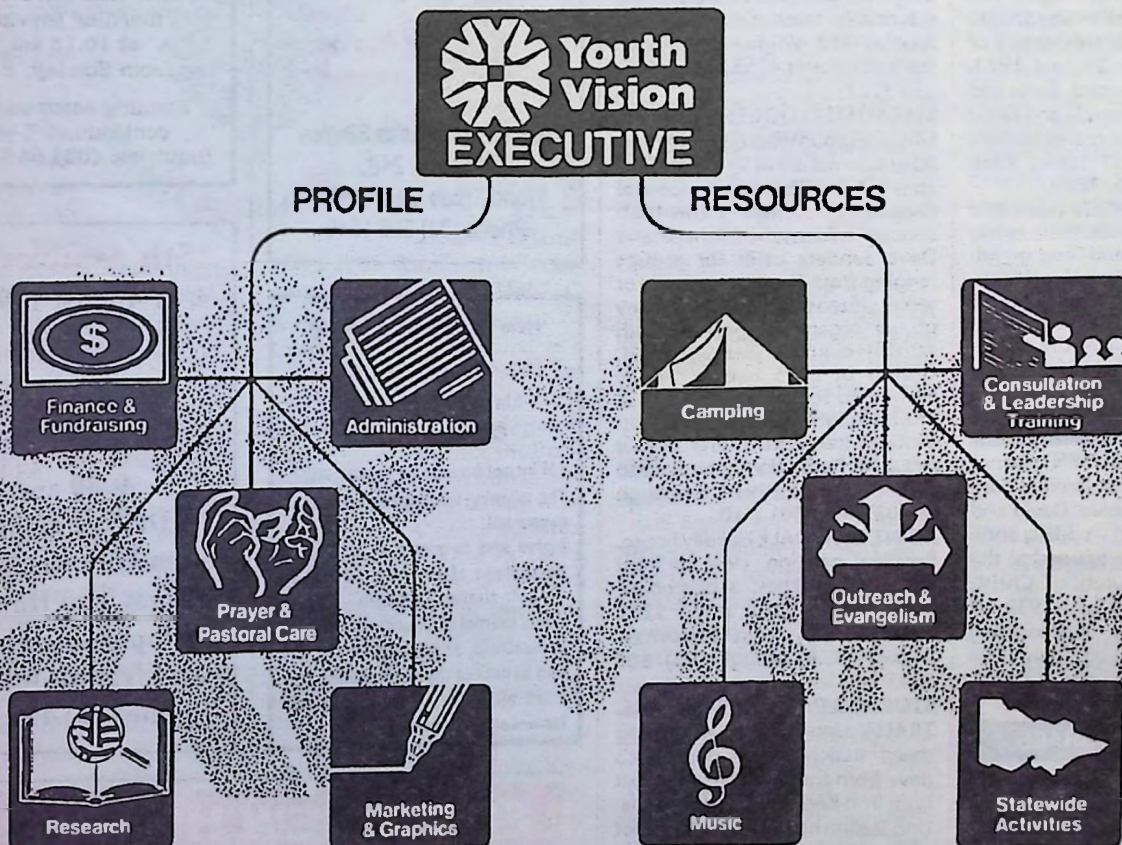
In each instance discussions start with the ministry team and eldership in the church.

Only then is the spiritual leadership challenged to assume responsibility and accountability for the local ministry and the local vision for young people as it develops.

Churches must have a vision. A youth vision is a wonderful opportunity to draw upon the energy and enthusiasm of young people and to use that energy for the furthering of God's kingdom.

Youth Vision intends to challenge assumptions, to change churches, to hold onto scriptural truths and to produce fruit for the kingdom.

—Andrew Ball



through a variety of media. Those who were once young are now the pillars and leaders of our churches.

The 1990s present many new problems within Australian culture. Unfortunately what worked in the past will clearly not work in the 90s. Many churches are symptomatic of this trend. They have few or no young people in membership coupled with ageing congregations. Our long-term future as a denomination is doubtful unless local churches develop a new vision for reaching young Australians within the context of today's culture.

to affirm what is happening in youth ministry and develop their ministry further. The outcome is always growth because church leaders seek the Lord and develop ministries designed to bring growth through outreach and evangelism.

What was the state youth ministry committee has been replaced with a new executive which operates according to both scriptural and management principles. The Youth Vision executive is committed to serving our churches. The executive managers work in areas established to raise both the profile of youth ministry

goal of equipping local churches to develop a vision for effective youth ministry to young people.

This is a long-term ongoing objective designed to produce long-term ministries within local churches.

The Youth Vision strategy is heavily dependent upon biblical foundations as a basis for ministry.

The Apostle Paul when writing to the church at Ephesus gives three clear goals to the body of Christ. These outcomes are paramount to the work of Youth Vision.

From Ephesians 4:13 the

## Classifieds

### BIRTHS

**CLUN (MEE)** Louis and Cathy are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, a beautiful daughter, Rachel Mary (7 lb 5½ oz) on 6 June.

### GOLDEN WEDDINGS

**KRONE—CLARK** Jack and Helen announce with gratitude the 50th anniversary of their marriage at Church of Christ Brighton on 6 July 1940, by Mr A.B. Withers.

**PITT—GAVIN** The family of Keith and Edith Pitt (of Warragul, Vic) announce with praise and thanks to God the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage on 29 June 1940. With love from Richard, Keith and Frances, Robert, Rhonda and Kevin (Luttrel), and eleven grandchildren. Present address: 51 Scenic Road West, Warragul, Vic 3820.

**SMITH—HINRICHSSEN** Frank and Mona, together with their family Noeland Jan, Kaye and Greg, grandchildren Stephen, Rachel and Scott, praise God with gratitude for 50 years marriage. Solemnised by Allen Brooke, East Ipswich Church of Christ, 20 July 1940. Still fellowship with Mt Walker church.

### DIAMOND WEDDINGS

**KRUGER—HINRICHSSEN** Garnet and Alwyn and their families congratulate their parents, David and Lucy, on their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married at the East Ipswich Church of Christ, Queensland, on 9 July 1930 by Pastor Lars Larsen. Thanksgiving service will be held on 7 July 1990 at the Grote St Church of Christ, Adelaide. "Thanks be to God."

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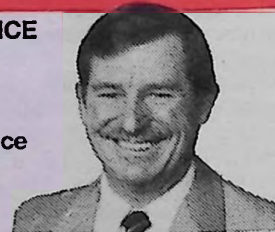
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## Peace Major Issue at CCA

Peace came out as the major issue at the ninth Christian Conference of Asia Assembly in Manila (4-13 June). So it should have been, as the theme was "Christ Our Peace: Building a Just Society". From my view new questions were being asked about the nature of peace, the church, God's people and creation.

Senator Jovito R. Salonga was the first-ever lay person to deliver the opening sermon at a general assembly of the CCA. Senator Solonga is the third-highest ranking state official in the Philippines. His father was a Church of Christ minister. He is now involved in the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. Senator Salonga defined peace as "a period of cheating between two periods of fighting". He also commented: "Freedom and democracy are contagious, but along with freedom and democracy the majority of the Asian countries could not do away with problems of poverty and hunger, unemployment, insurgency and corruption."

For me the great highlight of the assembly was the Festival of Faith on the Sunday (10 June). Centrally placed was a bamboo cross, which at the beginning was draped with eight ribbons signifying eight great

causes of dehumanisation of human beings. Symbolically they were torn away and a Filipino dance group danced round the upright, weaving coloured ribbons to form a

woven pattern. The pattern depicted beauty, harmony and peace; all centralised by the Lord of the cross.

During the business sessions the Council of Churches in Aotearoa, New Zealand,

and the Te Runanga Whakawhanaunga I Nga Hahi O Aotearoa (Maori Council of Churches) were accepted as a joint member of the CCA. Other churches accepted as new members were the Independent Church of Burma, the Presbyterian Church in Burma, the Mara Evangelical Church in Burma, the Gereja Kristen Protestant Angkola in Indonesia and the Isua Kristan Kohran Church of India.

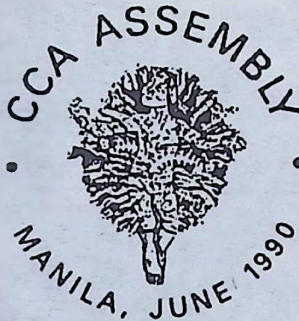
This brings the total membership of CCA to 98 member churches and 14 member councils.

The new General Secretary of the CCA is Bishop John Victor Samuel of Pakistan, who has been elected for a five-year term. Bishop Samuel is the Bishop of the Multan Diocese in the Church of Pakistan. He belonged to the Methodist Church of Pakistan before union.

We have experienced a moving exposure to the people and problems of Asia. It is a great challenge—and must also be a challenge to us in the comparatively "peaceful" way that we Christians in Australia live.

—Alan Page

[Alan and Iris Page represented Australian Churches of Christ at the Christian Conference of Asia Assembly.]



• Malachi 2:10-16

## Family Life

by Chris Ambrose

In this passage Malachi raises the whole issue of the people's unfaithfulness to God by calling them to task in two specific areas. The first is the worship of false gods and the second is marriage vows.

Malachi has castigated the religious leadership for its failings. The effects of these failings are seen in a moral decline in Israel in the marriage life of the people. Malachi is concerned with two inter-related malpractices: mixed marriages (verses 10-12) and divorce (verses 13-16).

Malachi raises the question of mixed marriages by first looking at the questions of the unity of Israel. Malachi charges those who have married foreign women with disloyalty to God and to their fellow Israelites. It is interesting that the special children of God had once again started to marry foreign women not very long after their return from exile. One of the main reasons given throughout the Old Testament for God sending them into exile was their disobedience and one of the main illustrations of this disobedience was the marriage of people from other races, who then polluted the true worship of God by the introduction of foreign cultic practices into the worship of Israel.

What about the church today? 2 Corinthians 6:14 warns of the problems associated with marrying outside the faith. There is not always an easy answer to this whole question. What happens, for instance, then when one partner in a marriage is converted to the faith?

When Malachi deals with the question of divorce he presents what has been described as the highest form of doctrine on marriage. He points out that marriage in its nature is a covenant relationship sanctioned by God, intended to provide for companionship and for the

provision of offspring. The only other biblical injunction of this extent against divorce is from Jesus in Mark 10:11. It does seem that Jesus allows for divorce on the grounds of unfaithfulness of one of the marriage partners in Matthew 5:32.

The Malachi passage is one that is very strong on the sanctity of marriage and on faithfulness, especially faithfulness within the faith. The Christian church needs once again to strongly emphasise the importance of faithfulness in marriage.

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## What Is "Kidsmin"?

"Kidsmin" is a new attempt by the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development at improving the support and resourcing of a variety of ministries with children.

The word is a contemporary abbreviation of Kid's Ministry (Vic)—Ministry with Children Committee, which is responsible for ministry with children of primary school age.

It clusters together leaders from a number of existing committees—Explorers for boys, Good Companions for girls, Sunday schools and co-ed kid's clubs.

Each will continue to encourage and support their own section, but will co-operate where appropriate to provide leader manuals, children's resources, leader training events, a coalition news and ideas bulletin, combined camping programs and field events appropriate for all.

Dot Brooker remains Chief Good Companion and Russell Croxford continues as Chief Explorer. David Brooker, minister of the Surrey Hills church, is the chairman of the new committee and Andrea Salmon the deputy.

A special launch of the new committee and its resources will be held at 7.30 pm at the Nunawading, Vic, church on 1 August, to which all those involved in any form of ministry with children are invited. Ros Martin from Scripture Union will be the guest speaker.



David Brooker

## Student Profile

*The Christian side felt an absolute joy and privilege. The Richard side felt a concern for a lack of educational skills*

# Richard Howarth

I'm not sure when the Lord began steering us in the direction of Bible college. But I do remember, a short time after becoming a Christian, telling the Lord that I wanted to serve him in whatever way possible.

My decision to go to college was a time of mixed feelings. The Christian side felt an absolute joy and privilege to be led by the Lord in this direction. The Richard side felt a concern for a lack of educational skills. How would I cope with the academic nature of the study? Would I be able to write an assignment? There was also the concern for my family. (I have a wonderful wife and five children.) How would the change of life style affect them? Where would the money come from to feed them and pay college fees and and rent? Praise the Lord, the Christian side won!

My wife and I have been Christians for nearly five years now. Neither of us had a Christian upbringing but one day, through the Lord's grace, just outside a small NSW town, Hillston, my son and I were picked up by Wayne Scott, the pastor of the local Baptist church. This was the beginning of the biggest and most wonderful event in my life. Through the love and patience of Wayne and his wife, Pam, a couple who not only preached the word of God, but lived it, the glory of Jesus was revealed to us.

Twelve months after meeting Wayne and Pam my wife and I became children of God. That was an experience I will never forget. It hasn't always been a bed of roses, and the difficult time in our walk was a period of a few months when we got away from fellowship and the Lord. We were turning back to the old way of life. We look at it now as being the death throes of a dying man.



Richard Howarth

But the Lord is full of grace and mercy. After much running from the Christian life, in 1987, under great conviction and in search of fellowship, we came to the Marrickville, NSW, Church of Christ. The minister at the time was Peter Clegg, a full-time college student. They had been praying for a family to come into their fellowship.

Through his discipleship the Lord introduced some wonderful truths into my life. Peter also introduced me to the college way of life and I began to see the exciting ways in which God can use people, if we allow him to. My wife and I began to realise in many different

ways (through prayer, his word and other Christians) that there was a good possibility that college was where he wanted us to be. We knew that there was a choice of options in the length of the courses we could do. Because of our need to minister God's word correctly we chose the four-year diploma course of the Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College. Our application was accepted in 1989. Just before we began college God revealed to us through a close friend that he would fulfil his promises in our lives. All I can say to this is that at the end of the first semester he hasn't let us down once.

## Stress and Church Growth

by Ken Clinton

**D**ean Phelan, in a recent survey of 131 ministers of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania, reports that 20% of the ministers indicated significantly high stress scores. He observes however that, as a whole, ministers are not more stressed than the population at large.

### The Hidden Link between Adrenalin and Stress

Word Books have recently published a book by Dr Archibald D. Hart, *The Hidden Link between Adrenalin and Stress*. In it Hart claims to describe an "exciting new breakthrough that helps you overcome stress damage". It can help you "sleep better, be more creative, avoid headaches and heart diseases, become more spiritually aware and lead to a more balanced life".

No one can live without experiencing some degree of stress. Crossing a street or even experiencing joy are enough to activate the body's stress mechanism.

### What Is Stress?

Stress is a multifaceted response that includes changes in perception, emotions, behaviour and physical functioning. Some describe it as "tension" others as "anxiety". Nevertheless we all need a certain amount of stress to keep us alive. Our twentieth-century life style drives us to succeed and pursue our goals, leaving little time for relaxation.

The strong emphasis on church growth has made "growth" the catchword for many in the church and the criterion of success. So often seminars seem to imply that the big churches are doing the right things and the small churches are not. We long for the greener fields where God seems to be blessing and ask ourselves what is wrong with us.

We can be deceived by the lie of the enemy who says, "You

must grow," when the truth of the Gospel is, "You will grow." "While there is life there is growth!" Some living things grow large in size while the growth of others is relatively small. But it is still growth. The Parable of the Sower is evidence of that fact.

Roy Hicks Jr, in an article in *Ministries Today* (May-June 1989), suggests that there are two patterns of growth:

- Creation growth is where we have seasons of growth within the church that are a matter of God's activity, of his speaking the word and not of our involvement. These miraculous times are not tied to our plans and skills.

- The second kind of creation growth is the result of the spoken word, which results in the appearance of the plant. In the fruit of the plant is a seed; in the seed is the next plant. This is the plan of God for your life and the life of your congregation.

There is a great liberation for us when we let the Holy Spirit show us that our future growth is contained within the people God has already given us, even if some of their behaviour at present is unbiblical and unspiritual.

Jesus was born in something as small as a manger and Philip was led into a desert place to meet the Ethiopian official who led him to Christ.

David Watson wrote in his book *You Are My God*, "I am convinced that God's purpose is to renew the dry bones of existing Christian traditions and we should not try to bypass them in favour of something more immediately exciting. It saddens me when I see Christians leave their denomination to join a new independent church."

A businessman has said, "Growth for growth's sake is the logic of cancer. Cancer grows without purpose, without focus; eventually it consumes." It is cancerous when we pursue growth simply to

prove our worth to God. William Carey used to say, "Pray as though everything depended on God and work as though everything depended on you." This advice can easily lead us to excessive stress and some ministers are experiencing this state. There is obviously a balance for the person of faith between God's action and our obedience.

When we are alive in God, empowered by the Holy Spirit:

- We will grow because in his time he will speak the word that miraculously brings forth new life.

- We will grow because he has placed within us the seed of his life, which will bring forth fruit as we allow our lives to be planted and nourished by him.

The promise of Jesus is: "I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide." (John 15:16)

As we constantly renew our minds and spend time in God's presence we will find the grace and capacity to sustain our joy and experience fulfilment. At the same time, to apply some of the practical suggestions of Dr Archibald D. Hart could help our health and peace of mind.

In his last chapter he writes, "In the final analysis, good stress management is as much a matter of faith as it is of self-discipline and gaining mastery over our bodies." A life entrusted to God and lived in faith and dependence on him can free us from restlessness, compulsiveness and especially our drivenness and sense of time urgency.

• Ken Clinton is currently Minister to Ministers in Victoria.

Edited by Brian White, Federal Board of Christian Education.

## Curkpatrick

### A Lesson from Balding Relatives

**I**n an age in which we now comprehend so much, and have so much knowledge at our fingertips, people are apt to feel small and insignificant in a universe of multiple galaxies where the nearest is thousands of light years away. Critics of Christianity take great delight in pointing this out. "How can your God possibly love you," they taunt, "when you are nothing more than a mere speck of dust in a vast cosmos?" But there are in the universe minute wonders that reveal an extraordinary attention to detail.

I remember in Papua New Guinea seeing what are reputed to be the most beautiful butterflies in the world. Sometimes we saw village children catch them, tie a piece of cotton to them and run along with their butterfly on a string. When the butterfly grew tired, they let it go. We were fascinated by the vivid velvety colours and intricate patterns of their delicate fairy wings. It seems that everywhere God has left evidence that he cares for the tiniest details in a vast universe.

God does care intimately about each one of us.

Perhaps with a touch of humour, for he too would have had balding friends and relatives, Jesus put it most poetically when he said: "Even the hairs on your head are numbered."

—Stephen Curkpatrick



It'll be a great day when our schools and churches have all the money they need and the military has to hold a cake stall to buy a missile.

## A Church ABC

**W**agga Wagga, population 50,000 and the largest inland city in NSW, is ideally located midway between Sydney and Melbourne on the Murrumbidgee River. As well as being a rural centre, Wagga has manufacturing and educational institutions, including the Charles Sturt University. It has defence installations—the RAAF at Forest Hill and the Army training camp at Kapooka. This can mean a large mobile population, but there are an increasing number of permanent residents.

The Church of Christ began in Wagga Wagga in 1885, and their first permanent home was in Tompson Street (now a Greek Orthodox church). Successive missions with the likes of Haggard, Harwood, Hinrichsen and Lloyd Jones built up the membership and in 1963 the church relocated to its present site further out from the town centre. Even with several extensions, with Wagga's growing population it may not be large enough for the future, so the church is looking for a larger

site, perhaps in a newer housing area.

There are about 130 members. An average of 110 of them attend the morning worship service at 9.45 am, and the 7 pm gospel service attracts 80.

The minister currently is

in Queensland. He was minister at Bowral, NSW, for 5 years.

As well as the usual board, the administration of the Wagga Wagga church includes a number of departments, with an elder or the minister in charge of each one. The depart-

The church is an active one. It has four home fellowship groups, involving 35 to 40. A ladies fellowship group was commenced this year and has been very successful. The men also meet together, but not as regularly.

# Focus on Wagga Wagga

On the fifth Sunday of the month the church

has a special family service with a fellowship lunch afterwards.

Children are involved in the first part of the morning service before going to Sunday School.

There is an annual new members dinner.

On the first weekend of August the church is sponsoring a "Discovering Discipleship" seminar with Gavin Williams from Campaigners for Christ. This will involve other churches.

Some of the members at Wagga Wagga, especially defence personnel, may only be temporary, but the church sees this positively, as an opportunity to train and equip those involved in the church for a short while for future service elsewhere.

David Jones. Bob and Rhonda Whan were ministering until last year when Bob took up a position of acting principal at the Momonup Bible College in Papua New Guinea for 1990. At present the church is in the process of considering its future ministry needs with the possibility of a dual ministry from 1991 onwards. This could enable more evangelistic outreach to the area. David Jones, who is the son of Dr Lloyd Jones, worked for the Commonwealth Bank for many years. He had done some part-time studies and also took a year's leave from the bank to study at Ozark Bible College in Missouri, USA. After a period in the short-term money market he finally finished his studies at Kenmore Christian College

ments, for mission and evangelism, pastoral care, music and worship, assets and management and youth and education, meet regularly for planning and review.

The church operates a faith missionary promise offering, which is used to support four missionary families and four individuals who are in missionary service or in training.

Youth work is extensive. There are three groups, catering for 90 young people. The church did employ a youth worker, Mal Reid, who this year is studying at the Institute for Contemporary Church Leadership in Wollongong. The youth have Friday and Saturday night fellowships and 25 or more attend a Tuesday night Bible study.

### • Growing Spiritually

## "Help—I've Cut My Finger!"

by Judy Gordon

**R**ecently I had a serious problem. I cut my finger with the Wiltshire knife! The cut was deep, and I was in big trouble. I was alone. I needed help, but I couldn't get help because I had to use my good hand to apply pressure to the bleeding finger. Both hands were needed to hold the finger and stop the bleeding. Without a hand being free, I couldn't phone for help or even open the locked front door. I was stuck! Finally, by manipulating the front door handle, and at the same time still applying pressure to the injured finger, I was able to get out and go to my next-door neighbours.

They were very glad to help and ran around organising bandages and other things that they thought would be necessary to "save the day". Finally the drama was over and we all sat down and had a cup of tea together.

Something special had happened to our friendship. Because I had needed help and had gone to them, they felt useful and as a result we grew closer in our friendship. They had felt good to be in the position to help and I was glad that they had been available to meet my need.

Jesus knew that everyone has times of need. Not always are

we conscious of need but Jesus knows that help, and most importantly, his help, is essential to us. As the time approached for Jesus to leave the disciples, he told them that they would not be left without the Helper, the Comforter. Today we have the same help source that was given to the Disciples. The Holy Spirit is always available to be our own Comforter and Helper.

When I cut my finger I became aware of my own isolation and aloneness. I immediately knew that I needed help. What a blessing it is for us as Christians to be aware of our own spiritual vulnerability, and to see that we always have the presence of the Lord waiting for us to involve him. He longs to comfort and help us! How sad it is for him when we take so long to go to him and tell

him of our need. His aching heart loves us and sees the need that we have of him, and yet he waits until we are ready to ask and to receive his blessings.

The drama of the hurting finger strengthened the relationship that I had with my neighbours. It is an example of the strengthening and deepening friendship that we have with the Lord as we turn to him with greater frequency, recognising need quicker and enjoying his comfort and help more often.

Praise God for times of need. They are opportunities to draw on all the resources of the Lord and to grow in our understanding and relationship with him.

• Judy Gordon is a field director of the Department of Church Development and Education in NSW

## Discipleship

•George Baltzer, Grahame Harvey, Phillip Ballard, Meredith Ballard, Bob Bignell, Robyn Bignell, Bundaberg, Qld •Amy Cornish, Scarborough, WA •Jean McInally, Tweed Heads, NSW •Adam Riessen, Happy Valley, SA •John Boekel, Manifold Heights, Vic •Sarah Purtill, Andrew Friebe, Castlemaine, Vic •Marsha Seivert, Judy Goodwin, Launceston, Tas

## Marriages

•Meredith Evans to Richard McClelland, Horsham, Vic •Bronwyn Moffat to James Cantrill, Epping, NSW •Lyndal Green to Peter Bams, Launceston, Tas

## Deaths

•Miss Bon Newnham, Carnegie, Vic •Mrs Olive Renton, Preston, Vic •Eddie Jenkins, Peel St, Balla-

rat, Vic •Mrs Alma Ross, Mrs Margaret Batty, Manifold Heights, Vic •Kevin Daniell, Cec Turney, Castlemaine, Vic •Faith Rose Bailey (baby of Jenny & Richard), Kalgoorlie, WA

## Changes

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### International Dinner

(dishes from six countries)

Guest Artists  
at

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cnr North Road and  
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Saturday, 28 July  
7 pm sharp  
Adults \$10  
Children (u. 14) \$4  
RSVP 20 July  
V.L. Cann (03) 578 1236  
An outreach program of  
the Ormond church  
All welcome

## Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

**Newnham, Beryl Mavis (Bon)** (25.4.90) After almost a lifetime of poor health, Bon died at Caulfield Hospital, aged 75. Despite physical difficulties, Bon was always busy helping others less fortunate than herself, and never sought praise. Although reared in a Christian home Bon "drifted" until, at a Chinese Mission service at Fitzroy, she "surrendered all" to the Lord. She prayed about her problems and discovered that "God had his own way of doing things!" and his way was always best. Her funeral, at the Carnegie, Vic, church, paid tribute to "Little Bon's" caring nature, her busy helpful hands and to her faith in God.

—Norma Hall

**Rltchie, Denzil Charles** (20.5.90) Born in Penguin, Tas, 9.9.1904, Denzil grew up in Adelaide. Influenced by Bart Manning when a young man he made his decision at Mile End. Preaching becoming his desire and he entered the College of the Bible in 1928. A serious accident caused extended time in studies. Nevertheless he was able to minister at Peel St, Ballarat, Port Pirie, York St, Ballarat, Footscray and Brooklyn Park. Medical advice to quit ministry in 1965 was a bitter disappointment. In Denzil we had a man who knew there was a time to laugh and a time to cry and the wisdom to act accordingly, a sincere and happy disciple of Christ. In 1937 he married Dora Stewart of Ivanhoe and they thanked God for more than 52 years shared together. —WNB

## SA

**CROYDON (Phillip Stevens)** Past members invited to 80th birthday service & luncheon 29 July. RSVP to Joan Bartlett (08) 353 1681.

**HENLEY BEACH (Brian Hill)** Senior Youth led evening service. Very good presentation & thought provoking ... Girls' Brigade visited Women's Fellowship leading musical program & cooking supper ... Catherine Brookes awarded Pioneer Pin ... Women's Fellowship had Mother's Day luncheon. 47 ladies attended ... Table tennis round-robin night enjoyed by many ... Trash & treasure auction raised \$250 for missions ... Two Bible study groups going well, good attendance.

**HAPPY VALLEY (Russell Allison)** 80 gathered at the Patrick's home to celebrate Norma Robinson's 60th birthday ... Earle Martin appointed as Russell's associate in ministry. He is utilising his "people skills" in his visitation ... Interdenominational Pentecost service held. More than 250 present. Kevin Harvey guest speaker. Rock Ministries presented puppet show. Linda Fletcher soloist ... Russell conducted sixth anniversary service at Reynella Retirement Village.

**DULWICH-ROSE PARK (Rob Williams, Roger Brown)** Judy Williams, wife of student minister Peter Wilson, is new parish member by transfer from Gympie Baptist ... Mrs Huey of Rockhampton, sister of Elsie MacIntosh, was visitor ... Fellowship group met at home of Colin & Wendy Wormald ... Kathy Rochester, from Mulgrave, visitor at Sunday worship, told of her journey through theological training.

**VICTOR HARBOR (R. Patterson)** CWF annual dinner raised \$600+ for Living Link project ... Ron Roberts spoke at anniversary service ... Sunday School picnic well attended ... Welcomed into membership by transfer Kay Strudwick & Fay Nicholas ... Family camp with Goolwa church held at Pt Sturt great success ... Sunday School held walkathon for Bible Society Bibles for India project ... Evening services during winter to be at 5 pm.

**GOOLWA (Graeme Rltchie)** Family service held as outreach to parents of Sunday Youth children ... CWF held family tea to raise funds for SDC project—CCTC ... Bike for Bibles cyclathon held on local oval—good response ... Goolwa churches combined service held on Pentecost Sunday ... Girls and Boys Clubs held Friday night concert.

## Vic

**OAKLEIGH (L.S. Dewberry)** Minister on holidays. Visiting speakers were Dr Gordon Clarke & Viney Longthorpe ... Church sympathises with May Williams on death of her husband ... Grace Kent celebrated her 80th birthday ... Tom Weir spoke at CWF on community service & to CWF on disciple Thomas ... Successful Harvest Festival held. Produce given to Homes & CCTC ... Ken Masterton attended Church Growth Seminar.

**SPRINGVALE (Peter Lyne)** Playgroup involves 45 families, some mums attending new Bible study group ... Bill & Clarice McKinnon, foundation members, received telegram from Queen for 60th wedding anniversary ... Members helped with College tree planting ... Engagements of Darren Baensch

## Church News

& Leanne Homicki, Deborah Luffram & Darren Clarke, Colin Ede & Cecilia Whalan ... Combined service held with new Rowville church for their first baptism ... Julie Vaughan confessed Christ, 10 rededications.

**PRESTON (T. Armstrong)** Church saddened at the death of Mrs Olive Renton ... Norma Ayers & Betty Quaife home after two-month trip overseas ... 13 ladies entertained folk at Fred Combridge House ... Regional officer with State Emergency Service, Barry Dean, spoke at CWF ... Open Door had an enjoyable day touring Williamstown & visiting the yacht club there.

**PEEL ST, BALLARAT (Vince Gibbs)** After much prayer & planning, three years later new complex opened 24 June, made possible by bequest of Grace Whytcross of \$55,000, late church member. Gertrude Walters, friend of Grace, unveiled foundation stone. memorial window to late Walter & May Hearn unveiled. Brian White, Conference President, spoke at thanksgiving service ... Friday night fun fare monthly primary school age commenced. 32 in attendance.

**MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (Max Ball)** Large gathering attended thanksgiving funeral service for Mrs Alma Ross, foundation member & 40 years Sunday School teacher ... Mother's day service conducted by ladies. Speaker Mrs Verna Breguet ... 17 June family am service with Sunday School ... Noughts & Crosses puppet ministry team visiting other churches ... Baptismal service John Boekel ... Ron Ellis four sermons on "Law of God" ... Noel Mitaxa on Christians in Sport.

**GARDINER (Paul Creasey)** Newly formed discussion group had visiting speaker Robyn Kristensen from Berlin "Breaking of Berlin Wall",

secondly "Is the Church Relevant Today" ... Bible study continuing series on Romans ... Singing group contributes regularly to worship ... Walking group exploring beauty of district ... Visiting speaker Dr David Batstone, USA ... Monthly evening service commenced ... Minister sat CCTC exams, spoke for Amnesty International in Brisbane.

**GLEN WAVERLEY (Ron Elbourne, Lindsay Croxford, Doug Fitzpatrick)** Special fellowship meals held after "Live at Five" services e.g. "SBS" (soup bread slice) & "Piano room with Scott White" ... Regarding building program the church responding with thanksgiving to God as we aim to be debt free in 1993 ... Youth minister, Doug Fitzpatrick, accepted a call to minister at Upper Blue Mountains from early 1991 ... Large attendance at recent Newcomers Dinner.

**CASTLEMAINE (P. Haylock)** Recent guest speakers Kensington Christian Network, Mobile Mission Maintenance, World Wide Evangelism for Christ, Covenant Players ... Youth group planning missionary awareness tour during Sept/Oct school holidays ... CWF benefited from recent pantomime ... Musical talent being utilised in evening services.

**LATROBETERR, GEELONG (Dr C.J. Mackenzie)** Four ladies attended Halls Gap camp ... Retired men provided entertaining afternoon for CWF ... Love offering given to Paul Bauer, student at Theological College ... R. Drayton recuperating after serious operation ... Mrs Denmead in hospital ... Family tea services well attended ... Morning tea following services ... Several children & adults participated in 40 Hour Famine ... Minister giving series on spiritual gifts, choir following theme.

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Dean Sander

# Church News

## ACT

**LYONS** (Kevin Caulton) Lyons members joined with local Anglican & Uniting congregations in combined Pentecost celebration at the Church of the Good Shepherd ... Lyons Luminarias service on Pentecost Sunday evening was inspiring & meditative. The service began outside building with roof top candles alight ... On 17 June Lyons drama group gave a polished performance of the medieval morality play "Everyman" directed by Carol Caulton & Ted Harrison.

## Qld

**BUNDABERG** (A.G. Leane) "Get to Know You" social for new members & contacts ... 21 TWAM members in Sunshine Sports in Brisbane ... Sheryl Hoffmann to lead Vacation Bible School June. Pamphlets distributed ... 11 folk welcomed into fellowship ... Young people marched Anzac Day & later picnic Moore Park seaside resort ... Members win prizes in arts & crafts at local Agricultural Show ... ICA debt reduced to \$10,818.

## Tas

**CAVESIDE** (John & Colleen Harrison) Caveside host for Deloraine & District combined churches fifth Sunday evening service on 29 April. Rev. J. Cudmore, Uniting Church, guest speaker ... Special Mother's Day service held ... Sunday School

family service well attended with Bill Howard speaking & children taking part ... Another successful mountain walk completed 11 June ... Six from church attended Tasmania Grow seminar led by June Doster ... Liz Tribolet received Bachelor of Agricultural Science degree.

**LAUNCESTON** (Rod Foster) Two decisions on 17 June, four welcomed into membership & one baptism at 7 pm ... Young people arranged evening service on 24 June when Keith & Ruth Stevens (Sydney) spoke of their experiences in Pakistan. Keith also spoke at both morning services ... Average number of communicants for June 177.

## NSW

**TWEED HEADS** (Richard Oakes, Guy Cooper) Richard & Guy attended Ministers' Refresher at Stanwell Tops after NSW Conference ... "You Can Make a Difference" film series of Tony Campolo screened each Sunday evening in May ... Guy working with young people in two high schools & a member of Student Welfare Committee at Tweed River High ... Encouraging response to youth teas & service ... Jean McInally baptised & received into fellowship.

**EPPING** (S. Curkpatrick, D. Moyses) Musical/drama "The Story Telling Man" performed by young people & David Elsmore. Directed by Lois Elsmore. Was great success & outreach opportunity with many

new people attending. Requests from other churches to have musical performed ... Stephen Curkpatrick completed Pastoral Care Review course with 25 participants. **SEVEN HILLS** (T.J. Beaman) Men's breakfast held on 19 May. Laz Zampetidis, a prison officer from Parklea Prison, was guest speaker ... Film *The Genesis Solution* was shown on evening 27 May ... Church went by bus to hear John Smith (the friend of outlaw bikers) speak at Leigh Memorial Uniting Church at Parramatta on 3 June ... Kevin Crawford, Conference Secretary, spoke 10 June.

**THORNLEIGH** (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley) Over Queen's Birthday weekend 44 young people attended DCD State Youth Games at Wollongong. Thornleigh came fourth of 16 churches. Carolyn Flett reached squash final, Robin Lynn won ladies 20 km bike race & girls won tip football ... Crazy whist night 23 June raised funds for Nyngan Flood Relief Fund ... Max & Bev Winch leave 28 June for two months visit to Irian Jaya.

## WA

**SCARBOROUGH** (Nigel Merrick) Jumble sale raised \$1,800 to establish "Time Out" outreach program ... Enjoyed time of fellowship with Bob Fergie ... Murray Carter elected to local government ... Guest speakers include Charles Price of Capernwray, Edwin Hayden from USA & John Hutchinson of Sports

Ambassadors for Christ ... Church building fund received special blessing of \$5,000 from estate of our sister, the late Dawn Buckenara. **MANDURAH** (Bill & Gay Addison) Great rejoicing 3 June first meeting in recreation room. Combined effort, with Lord's provision, turned 30' x 20' shed into lined, carpeted building with glass doors, windows, stage & heating. 60 met followed by fellowship lunch. Steve How, secretary, dedicated building. Welcomed visitors including Des Croot who spoke for Home Missions ... Mark, Sue & family welcomed. Seven adults, eight children in regular fellowship since May. **KALGOORLIE** (Gene Howell, Larry Gibb) Home groups learning about Holy Spirit ... 42 attended Wimber Conference in Perth ... Gene & Pam Howell leaving for Perth. Gene appointed to Jesus People ... Larry Gibb attended State Conference ... 33 attended ladies camp. Theme "Spiritual Warfare" led by Mrs Geneveve Milne, a missionary in Brazil. Time of fellowship, worship, laughter, blessing ... Ian Walson & Sue Joyce engaged.

**WEMBLEY** (John Timms) Trial period 6 months two Sunday am services ... State Youth Games held Bunbury Foundation Day long weekend ... Community Contact Week with Open Air Campaigners Robert Adams & John Vasita. OAC, interdenominational organisation, works alongside local church in reaching community with gospel. Prayer needed for those contacted.

## 43rd FEDERAL CONFERENCE

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

8-14 October 1990

THEME: "NOW IS THE TIME TO SERVE THE LORD"



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## Comment

# The Balance of Care and Evangelism

by John Smith

**W**hile nature and her creator God seem to love balance, the highest known order of creation, humanity, it seems, ignores this fundamental necessity—to its own peril. The green movement has underscored the fact that when the delicate balance of nature is disturbed or destroyed, the long-term consequences are disastrous. As in the natural realm, so it is in the spiritual, theological and practical field of Christian living. When I was young, Christians spoke of saving souls, and often ignored the holistic example of Jesus and the teaching of the early church regarding the balance of faith and works. The powerful warnings of James and the First Epistle of John fell on deaf ears. A pietistic Gospel seemed ignorant of Paul's statement that we are "created unto good works which God hath foreordained that we should walk in them".

The Evangelists were the heroes of the Gospel and the social workers, psychologists and philanthropists were "doing a good job" but were seen as an appendage rather than a demonstration or declaration of the Gospel. The call of the church was seen as the profession of preaching against personal sin, warning of divine judgement and saving souls.

But the pendulum swings historically. The neglected becomes the obsession, the past traditions become suspect and even derided. Today the social workers, the psychological counsellors and the radical theologians are the darlings of radical evangelicals. To find a radical or balanced evangelist is a more difficult task. Bringing one's neighbours to faith in Jesus the Saviour is an uncertain mandate to the more radical arm of evangelical churches.

The alternative communities seem rarely

to hold evangelical crusades or personal evangelism programs. Homes for the homeless, friendship for the lonely, care for the sick, advocacy for the oppressed or disenfranchised are "in". Proclaiming personal repentance and declaring eternal salvation through a new birth and forgiveness are more suspect. Contemplative life has become an earnest search for the beleaguered evangelical, whose activism in proclamation has outstripped inner serenity and communal fellowship.

But we must never forget that Jesus' socially redeeming work did not obscure the proclamation of the Gospel of the Kingdom. It was Jesus, not American evangelists, who first coined the phrase "new birth". The great commission was a commission to "preach the Gospel to every creature", and the first great Kingdom sermon preached by Peter, freshly anointed by the Spirit of power, was a model of evangelistic proclamation. It is the task of every Christian to be a friend of sinners, a lover of humanity, a healer of the sick, an advocate of the poor, an example of Kingdom living and a maker of peace.

But let us never forget Paul's balance: "Bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness with contentment is great gain." Equally, we must remember Jesus' words: "Mankind shall not live by bread alone"—even the bread of justice and a dignified healthy life style. The soul must still be saved. Evangelism is still a proclamation mandate. Each member must be about leading all humanity to Jesus in faith, repentance and love for God.

• John Smith, of God's Squad fame, is with Care and Communication Concern, St Martin's Community Church, Collingwood, Vic.

## The Last Word

Goodness consists not in the outward things we do, but in the inward thing we are.

—Edwin Hubbell Chaplin

A well-earned vacation is soon well-spent.

★★★★★

The passengers on an ocean cruise liner were being entertained by a conjuror. Everyone was enjoying the show—everybody, that is, except a parrot in a cage hanging nearby. Each trick the conjuror did was greeted with a shout of "Faker!" or "It's up the sleeve!" from the parrot.

And then, right in the middle of the show, a tremendous explosion destroyed the ship. The parrot, slightly scorched, fluttered down on the very piece of flotsam occupied by the solitary magician. For two days the parrot sat and stared at the conjuror, and then it finally said: "You win! What did you do with the ship?"

★★★★★

The explorer had just about cleaned out the outfitter's shop with preparations for an expedition across Africa. Then the explorer turned to the salesperson and said, "Could you throw in a pack of cards in case I get lost?"

The salesperson looked surprised. "A pack of cards? How will that help you?"

"Well," said the explorer, "whenever I get lost I sit down and start a game of patience. Someone always turns up and says 'Put the black jack on the red queen,' and I ask for directions."

★★★★★

They were building an enormous hotel in Brisbane, and were having great difficulty with the cranes. They tried British cranes, they tried Australian cranes, they tried American cranes, but they were no use. And then someone said a similar building had been erected in Madrid, so they ordered two Spanish cranes. They arrived by air, but they couldn't get them unloaded because cranes from Spain stick firmly in the plane.

★★★★★

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Murph, I think we should have a little talk about context.