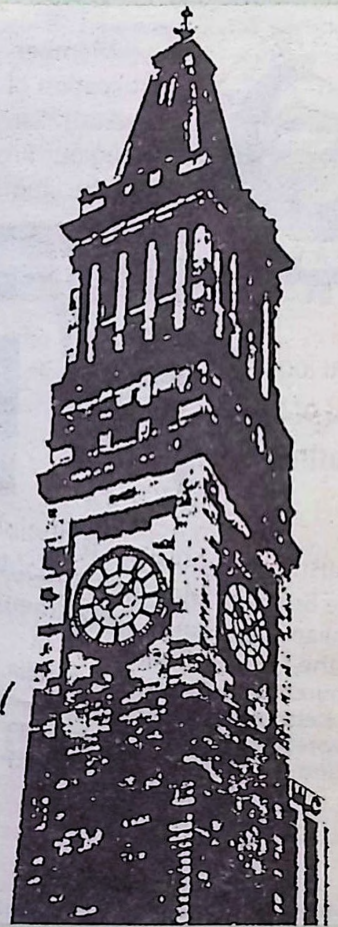
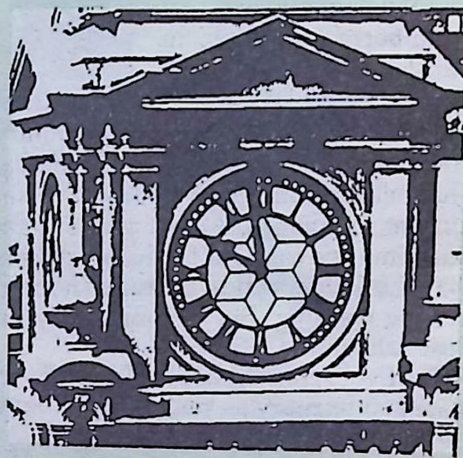
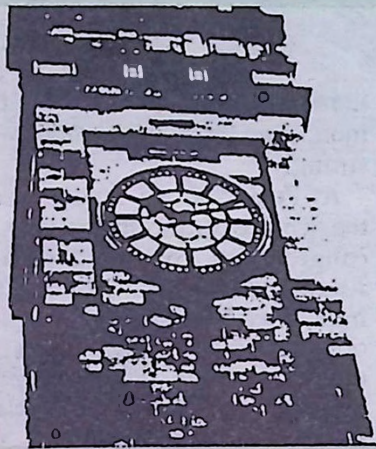


THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

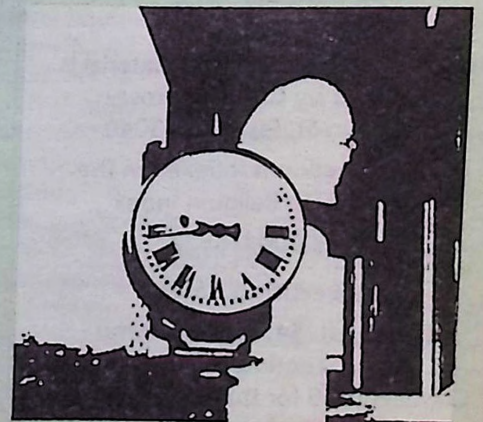
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Guest Editorial

Unity in Diversity

by Kevin Caulton

From just about everywhere here in Canberra you can see the flagpole on top of Parliament House. It dominates the city skyline. Actually, it's more the supports that dominate than the flagpole itself. I'm sure you're familiar with it, even if you haven't been to the ACT yet. From four different corners the supports rise to a central position where they hold the flagpole.

Canberra is unique in many ways. One of the most obvious aspects is the way the city draws people from around the whole country. This can be seen, for example, in football preferences. Both major codes have significant followings. At last year's grand final time one comic at Lyons proclaimed that the Raiders didn't have a hope of beating Geelong! But of course they did beat Balmain!

The Lyons church has people from every state and territory as well as a number of overseas countries. I would suggest that this would be true of each of our four ACT congregations. This, of course, has its good and bad aspects. On long weekends and holidays we have a mass exodus because nearly everybody comes from somewhere else. And, although decreasingly so, people tend to retire "back home".

But the value is the real "melting pot" of backgrounds and ideas.

Of course, these days Canberra is big enough for churches to develop around particular approaches. Perhaps this is fine. However my experience has been to value the diversity of backgrounds and attitudes in the Lyons congregation. It doesn't always provide for an easy time, but the outcome is often richer for the effort.

Most churches go through a similar process in their early years. With Canberra's large percentage of shifting population we are constantly facing the issue.

We have been proud of our heritage as one that values unity in diversity. We have often claimed that our simple structures and our local autonomy lend themselves to diverse expressions of the faith. And yet we still have our battles with intolerance. The very autonomy that we value has often bred an insularity. There have always been unspoken boundaries and traditions at both congregational and extra-congre-



gational levels. Sometimes they have not always been unspoken. While many of these boundaries and traditions have been positive, or at least unavoidable, I would suggest that many have limited our progress and been a destructive factor on community.

It seems to me that the nature of the Gospel is that we come together not because of our similarity but because of the one Spirit that unites us. We need to recognise God at work in

those with whom we have little in common, even those with whom we disagree strongly.

At Pentecost we experienced some of the richness of unity in diversity. The Lyons congregation combined with the local Anglican and Uniting churches for a morning service. We led the music, including an opening time of praise, which began with an orchestrated voice symphony. The Uniting Church led the "Proclamation of the Word" and communion was in the Anglican style. Everyone was confronted with something different from their own tradition. The whole became a beautiful and unified experience.

I have lived and ministered in four states and the Capital Territory. Each state, as each church, has had its uniqueness for a blend of historical, sociological and theological reasons. But in each situation I have found God at work in the people and the churches.

I thank God for the rich tapestry that is the church. That is, that which we know as Churches of Christ and the wider church with its much larger and more colourful tapestry. It is just as well that God is far greater than our small minds and limited experiences.

• Kevin Caulton graduated from the NSW Bible College in 1967. He has had ministries in Victoria (Stawell, East Geelong and Chadstone), Western Australia with the Youth and Christian Education Committee and South Australia (Brighton and Modbury) and is currently minister at Lyons in the ACT. He is currently a member of the ACT regional committee for the Inter-church Trade and Industry Mission. Kevin is married to Carol and they have a nine-year-old son, Nicholas, and seven-year-old daughters, Sarah and Victoria.

Edwardstown—Fast Track Church Planting 1940s Style



Past and present ministers and wives along with the State Minister at the Edwardstown jubilee celebration (left to right): Addie and Claude Cunningham, Ron Roberts, Dianne and Robert Ferguson

A local doctor's chance comment about the need of a Sunday School in the burgeoning suburb of Edwardstown West, SA, reached the ears of Forestville minister Theo Edwards.

That was all it took. He, along with a brother Fielder, immediately canvassed the area, found a sympathetic homeowner and opened a Sunday school in January 1940 with 16 children filling the two front rooms.

Within a month the first communion service was held and by July 63 students and teachers were meeting weekly

in a brand-new hall on their own block of land.

A church planted and housed inside of seven months—such was the zeal of the nearby Forestville church and the State Home Mission Board.

In fact Edwardstown continued the tradition by planting a daughter church of her own in the nearby suburb of Ascot Park. Ron Roberts, current SA State Minister, during his jubilee sermon to the church asked those who had come to know Christ through the ministry of Edwardstown to stand. It was thrilling to see the number in the Kingdom because of the

zeal of a local mother church who saw and seized the opportunity back there in 1940.

Ron cautioned those present not to simply celebrate the past, but to rejoice in the continuing

power of God's word to change lives. He urged them to keep getting the "seed" out there, to release it to do its work in growing the kingdom of God for the next 50 years.

Passover at Launceston

On 10 July 74 members of the Launceston, Tas, small groups program shared in a Jewish Passover celebration co-ordinated by Yvonne Harrison.

The cup of sanctification was celebrated with the washing of one another's hands, followed by the reading of the Passover story.

Special foods helped those present understand the events of the Passover: matzo bread symbolised God helping his people escape from Egypt; celery represented life and was dipped in salt water as a reminder of the tears of the Israelites while in slavery; a piece of matzo dipped in pickles symbolised the bitter life endured as slaves and the bitterness of life gripped by sin and death; the sweet harosis (a mixture of honey and peanut butter) was placed between two pieces of matzo depicting the mortar and bricks of the Israelite labour, the sweetness reminding them that even the bitterest of labour is sweetened by the promise of redemption; the egg symbolised new life and how the eldest sons of Israel rejoiced in being alive; the egg was dipped in salt water repre-

senting life won through the tears of death.

The cup of praise was partaken following the reading of Psalms 113-115 expressing praise to God for their release from captivity and exalting him because of his love and faithfulness.

Communion was shared to celebrate our redemption and the reading of Psalm 136 affirmed God's everlasting love.

The Passover Feast followed, with roast lamb reminding us of the lambs whose blood saved the first-born males from death as well as Jesus being the lamb of God who takes away our sin. Sweet biscuits symbolised the land flowing with milk and honey that the Israelites were led into.

The last cup celebrated the hope that we have in Christ's return and being with him forever.

A sense of awe and excitement overflowed those present as June Younger sang "The King Is Coming".

Following the Hallelujah Chorus those present sat in silence to reflect on their experience.

—Bronwyn Baker



The most recent member, Danielle Hook, baptised in June, presenting those present at the beginnings of the church with a memento (left to right): Danielle Hook, Mr and Mrs Edwards, Mrs Norris, Mrs Squire and Mrs Truman

Austral-Asian Young People Baptised



A large congregation of Asian residents in Canberra meet every Sunday morning at the Ainslie, ACT, church.

On 20 May 12 young people were baptised during the service.

Of the 12 nine came from Hong Kong, two from Malaysia and one from Taiwan, which is typical of the composition of the Austral-Asian Church whose members come from different parts of Asia.

Six of the 12 accepted Christ

after they had come to Australia.

In fact three of them have been Christians for less than a year.

It is remarkable to see God bringing them to Australia with the express purpose of leading them to him.

When you come across some Asians in the street or elsewhere pray that in this land of many opportunities God may speak to them either through you or other faithful Christians.

Youth Ministry on the Increase in Vic-Tas

During 1990 Victorian and Tasmanian churches have begun to realise something—youth ministry is important!

The last six months in particular have seen 10 churches appoint either full-time or part-time youth and associate ministers.

These churches, Knoxfield, York Street, Ballarat, Dawson Street, Ballarat, Wodonga, Ormond, Boronia, Doncaster, Cheltenham, Ringwood and Swan Hill, are all excited about their new appointments.

In Tasmania Hobart are soon to appoint their first youth minister and Launceston are seeking a part-time appointment. In addition, several other churches have students employed with youth ministry

responsibilities, taking the total number of churches actively employing youth ministry related staff to 22.

This is a very exciting development within the life of our churches.

Youth ministry is a vital area of ministry that seeks to both evangelise and equip young people for God's kingdom.

Many churches are now exploring further their future with respect to youth ministry and interested church members and churches can contact Andrew Ball (Youth Vision Director, Department of Mission, Education and Development) on (03) 662 2377 for further information regarding planning and staffing for youth ministry.

Week of Mutual Ministry in SA

Churches in South Australia recently received a rich and rewarding stimulation from the visit of a team from the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave. Led by the newest member of the faculty, Alan Niven, students Sean Bainbridge, Linda Pilton, Kathy Rochester and John and Chris Sharpe ministered amongst a variety of suburban and rural churches.

Alan Niven led a workshop for worship leaders, demonstrating an invitational link between pastoral care and what takes place on Sunday morn-

ings. Alan's contribution to the SA off-campus "Spirituality" short course was valuable.

Opportunities for those considering training for Christian leadership to seek information were present throughout the week, and especially through the Prospective Students' Seminar.

The team also received orientation to the work of the SA Conference and some specific and unique approaches to ministry as they met with a variety of church leaders and localities.

—Dennis Ryle

Couple Required at Kenmore

Opportunity knocks for a couple with general skills in maintaining buildings and cooking for college students. Painting, repairing and landscape maintaining are constant requirements on the seven-acre Kenmore Christian College, Qld, campus, with nine major buildings.

Students, faculty and volunteers provide the major maintenance work parties, but more regular and expert repairing and painting are needed.

Cooking responsibilities cover Monday tea to Friday tea, with students responsible for their own breakfasts and weekend meals. Students scrub all pots and pans and organise the dishwasher tasks. The cook has oversight of the kitchen and purchasing and preparing food.

In return for their service, a

couple will receive housing, meals, salary and holidays. Living and working at Kenmore is an opportunity for a special ministry.

For further enquiries, please contact Donald W. Spencer, Principal, Kenmore Christian College, PO Box 55, Kenmore 4069. Phone (07) 378 1988 or 378 3548 (evenings).

Kenmore Announces New Diploma

In conjunction with Scripture Union Qld, Kenmore Christian College will be offering a new Diploma in Ministry, with a major in youth ministries, commencing 1991. The first year of the course will be spent primarily engaged in the SU YMIS (Youth Ministries Internship Scheme) program, supplemented by one

biblical subject at Kenmore. The remaining three years will follow the normal core course required of all diploma students. However, the course has been designed so as to offer a wide range of elective subjects, which may be taken from any of the other course majors, e.g. cross-cultural ministries, evangelism, educational ministries

or pastoral ministry majors. The new course will greatly enhance the course offerings available at Kenmore, and will provide an opportunity for people to train for youth ministries at diploma level. For further inquiries contact the Principal, Kenmore Christian College, PO Box 55, Kenmore 4069. Phone (07) 378 1988.

Rodney Tippett New Kenmore Principal



Jenny and Rod Tippett

Professor Allan Wilson, President of Queensland Churches of Christ, has announced the appointment of Rodney W. Tippett as Principal of Kenmore Christian College.

Rod Tippett comes highly qualified for this leadership position. From 1967 to 1989 he served as a chaplain with the rank of major in the Australian Army. During his 23-year chaplaincy, Rod held key leadership and lectureship positions. In 1984 he was appointed to the Army's Character Training team to research and develop character guidance courses at the Royal Military College in Canberra. His final position, from which he retired on 30 November 1989, was as Chaplain at the Army Aviation Centre, Oakey. During his military service he qualified for the National Medal and Defence Force Services Medal of Australia.

Rod brings to the principalship a host of academic achievements and awards. He graduated from the College of the Bible (Glen Iris) in 1960 and accepted a full-time ministry at

the Whyalla, SA, church, helping lead the congregation in a new building program. In 1964 the Kadina, SA, church called him into a business and farming community. In 1967 he began a part-time chaplaincy ministry, while continuing as a pastor.

In 1978 he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Queensland, with majors in history, government and studies in religion. Continuing his academic pursuit, he began part-time studies with the University of New England, being awarded a Bachelor of Social Science in 1985.

Recently he completed a research thesis, titled "Australian Army Chaplains, 1942-1945: The Pacific Campaign". In December 1990 he will be awarded a Master of Arts (Hons) from the University of New South Wales at a ceremony of the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra.

Although committed to the men and women of the Australian Army and their families, Chaplain Tippett continued to

Recognition

A service of recognition was held at the Footscray, Vic, church honouring the almost 40 years of ministry of Maurice and Betty Keatch. Over 125 attended, with representatives or greetings from each of the churches in which Maurice and Betty served. Their first church was Merbein, Vic, and they also served at Warragul, Red Hill, Bayswater, Bendigo, and Footscray, all in Victoria, and Dareton, NSW. There were greetings from conference departments and Phyl Davis spoke on behalf of the Vic-Tas Conference. A surprise for Maurice and Betty was the at-

tendance of their eldest son Jim, from Adelaide, SA, and their daughter Liz (Mrs Geoff Payne) from Northside Community Church in Sydney, NSW. Trevor, their other son, and his children came from Phillip Island, Vic.

A presentation of flowers from the Footscray CWF and a gift from the Victorian CWF were made to Betty, who had served as President of Vic-Tas CWF.

A book was presented to Maurice as a memento of the day. Maurice and Betty will be living in units at the Modbury, SA, church.



Left to right: Trevor Keatch, Liz Payne, Jim Keatch, Betty Keatch, Maurice Keatch

have regular and close contact with the Churches of Christ near where he and Jenny were stationed. He has led youth groups, organised family retreats, preached and presided in churches across Australia.

In January 1989, Kenmore Christian College called Rod Tippett to become a lecturer and the supervisor of field education. His administrative and leadership skills have been of great benefit to the College. Principal Donald W. Spencer, whom he replaces, recommended that Rod be appointed Principal a year prior to the Spencer family's return to the United States. Donald Spencer will remain at the College lecturing in pastoral care and counselling. He intends to return to the United States to

complete his doctorate in psychology and continue his counselling ministry.

Kenmore is also happy to announce the return of Randall Edwards to the faculty, commencing in first semester 1991. After two years of theological study and ministry at the Sunnybank, Qld, church, Randall returns with his academic expertise to the KCC lecture rooms. He will lecture in Biblical and Theological subjects, as well as teach Biblical languages.

With these long-term faculty appointments of experienced pastoral leaders with high academic qualifications, Kenmore continues to strive for excellence in training leadership for Christ's church, as it has done throughout its 25-year history.

Penrith's Involvement with the Aboriginal Church in Tamworth

The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. (Matthew 9:37)

How many times have we heard this scripture quoted? How many times have we felt guilty because we have not had a passionate desire to go into the depths of Africa or New Guinea? After all we are willing to serve, but how?

Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest fields. (Matthew 9:38)

We, as members of the Missionary Committee at the Penrith, NSW, church asked. Now, see how God answered.

Step 1: A letter was sent to the Federal Aborigines Board as to where we, as a church, could be of practical use. The answer came back: Tamworth Aboriginal Church had a



Some of the work team with Ruth and John Saulo



Finishing touches to new office, once an unlined garage

manse that badly needs painting and repairing.

Step 2: OK Lord—that's feasible. Tamworth is only about 5-6 hours drive away. When to go? Answer—Easter, as it would give us extra days.

Step 3: How about money, Lord? After all, the church is always being asked to give to this or that. We cannot ask for something more! Answer—You have so much. Ask the church to give up something for one month and donate that money. Can't you live without lollies, magazines, take-away food etc. for only one month? "Yes," said the church family, and \$1,500 was given.

Step 4: Now the workers, Lord. We need painters, electricians, carpenters. Answer—Ask for volunteers! So we did and 31 responded—men, women and children. Among these were two painters, two carpenters, one electrician and one welder.

So the wheels were set in motion.

A surprise came about two weeks before we left, when John Saulo, the pastor of the Aboriginal Church, said that his most pressing need was an office and could we somehow convert part of the garage into

one? And...by the way, we could take the services Good Friday and Sunday morning!

Oh! No! Worry! But why?

After all the Lord had led thus far, so why not continue? The church family supported those going by donating food for morning/afternoon teas and dessert. Pascol Paints sold us paint at 50% off trade prices! Building materials were donated through the church. Letters had been written to the other churches at Tamworth. They were able to provide us with some equipment. The ladies at Tamworth East church came around on Easter Sunday afternoon and provided us with afternoon tea and fellowship.

At Tamworth, we camped in tents in the back yard of the church! We ate communal meals in their Sunday School hall and had great fun and fellowship. Our minister, Ash Brown, who is a painter also, took Good Friday and Sunday morning services, two of our group gave their testimonies and we "just happened" to have a singer with us, so she sang at both services. For the rest of the time, we worked hard making the most of the hours. At times it rained but the work seemed to go on. There were "busy

bees" everywhere, inside, outside and on top of the manse and inside and outside the garage. Sometimes repair work was being done at the church. By God's plan we had a builder, John Donnelly, with us. He organised us into work teams, so even though 31 converging on one small house may sound chaotic, there was "order" to it. So, in less than four (some inclement days) we saw what God can do:

- Use \$1,500 to do \$12,000 work of work!
- Use 31 mostly unskilled people to—
 - * paint a whole house inside and outside with several coats of paint
 - * do the same with the garage
 - * remodel part of a garage into an office
 - * dig trenches and connect electricity and phone to the garage
 - * repair broken and worn out items in the house
 - * repair the toilet cistern at the church
 - * do some electrical work in the Sunday School hall
 - * repair paling fence and to install a gate on the church property.

For us, our cup runs over! We have met and made new friends at Tamworth and strengthened our ties with each other at Penrith. We have become more actively interested in the work at Tamworth as we are being kept informed of the ongoing blessings of what was accomplished that one week-end at Easter.

If every church in Australia did something similar—wow! It is mind boggling as to what could be achieved.

—Pat Donnelly

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ACC Action on Evangelism

At the 35th general meeting of the Australian Council of Churches, delegates heard of two consultations on evangelism that have been held this year. Representatives of six denominations, including Churches of Christ, met in March and June "to share information about concerns and plans for evangelism".

In the report it was noted that the Christian church has the ability to heal the hurts of people in the general community. Examples were given of tension points in human lives and in community disasters, such as the Newcastle earthquake. It was further said that the church can help the community to celebrate and our worship can be part of this celebration.

Adelaide Youth Rally

On 1 July, 800 attended a youth rally in Adelaide conducted as a "fringe event". Organised by the Youth Advisory Committee, the meeting was addressed by Peter Brock, an Australian youth worker attached to the World Council of Churches in Geneva.

Christian Union Chairman in SA

Members of the SA Committee for Christian Unity met with Trevor Banks while he was in Adelaide for the ACC meeting.

Trevor told of the work of the international organisation (Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council) of which he is world president. The conversation then covered bilateral dialogues, the work of the SA Committee and the degree of enthusiasm in Churches of Christ for our founding plea of Christian unity.

Beyond Co-operation to Commitment

"Ecumenism is not just about the delicate art of ecclesiastical joinery. Properly understood, it is about transformation of the church of God, nothing less." These words of David Gill, delivered in the General

Secretary's Report helped to set the tone for the whole meeting.

The General Meeting is held every two years to enable the Executive and seven Commissions to report on activities. Worship and Bible study are always highlights of ecumenical gatherings. This meeting was privileged and stimulated by the presence of Rev Barbel Von Wartenberg-Potter and her husband Rev Dr Philip Potter, who led Bible studies on Romans 12 and 13.

Churches of Christ are represented on all the Commissions of the Council.

The Commission on World Christian Action (Rosslyn Reed, Alan Matheson) reported a 10% increase in giving to Christmas Bowl in 1989. This Commission also introduced delegates to a new initiative of assistance and support for the people of Indo-China.

The Aboriginal and Islander Commission (Sonny Graham) has a membership drawn entirely from the Aboriginal and Islander communities.

The Commission on the Status of Women (Eira Clapp) has been active in many areas including women in prison and bioethics.

The Churches Commission on International Affairs (Kevin Bray, Robyn Leach) have produced a book *Whither Australia?*, which addresses the changing policies of the Australian government in regard to defence and armaments.

The Commission on Mission (Kevin Crawford) described two consultations on evangelism held this year.

A Youth Task Group has been established. Based in Adelaide, its role is to collate information and distribute that information to establish ecumenical networks among young people.

The 7th World Council of Churches Assembly to be held in Canberra in February 1991 was featured.

—Trevor Banks
(Chairman, Department of
Christian Union)

Publications Meet Need

Recent publications from the Federal Board of Christian Education continue to show strong sales figures. Over 5,000 copies of three books published since 1987 have been recorded. The first edition of 2,000 copies of Brian White's *Your Baptism*, published in 1988, has sold out and is being reprinted. A minister recently wrote to the Board congratulating Brian on the book, commenting that it is the best thing he has seen on the subject.

The study, *Lord Make Me Whole* by Pat Greig and Brian White, is also about to be reprinted after selling 2,000 copies. These are high-volume sales in a short time, given the fairly small market within Churches of Christ. Brian's new study, *Getting Along*, is also selling well and notches up the 5,000 copies sold in recent times.

The Board is close to publication of a new study entitled *Entering God's Kingdom*, written by Alan Hirsch. This is a study of the experience of conversion and its continuing significance in ongoing discipleship.

The Federal Literature Department is the publishing partner with the Board in these ventures.

Other new titles expected to be available by October are *Effective Assimilation* by Ian Tipsett, and a Bible study *Being Sure*, on 1 John, by Cath Greatbatch.



Brian White

Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Bad Grammar or Bad Theology!

To the Editor,

I notice in articles ("AC" 9 and 17 June) the use of the singular verb with the plural "Churches of Christ". In one case, "Churches of Christ is worth promoting", and in the other, "Churches of Christ has one delegate".

I fancy that this usage is not a case of bad grammar, but an attempt to emphasise that we are a denomination and that "Churches of Christ" is our label.

Being a separate body of Christians certainly makes us a denomination within the definition of the term. But that does not alter the fact that we are Churches of Christ in the plural. When we refer to one of our churches it is a Church of Christ. More than one requires the plural verb.

What sort of ecumenical squeamishness makes us say "Churches of Christ is or has"? Do we say "Baptists is" or "Anglicans is" or "Presbyterians is"?

Could you tinker with your computer so that when any future scribe uses a singular verb with the term "Churches of Christ" it automatically corrects both grammar and theology?

—Gordon Stirling
(Berwick, Vic)

Youth Ministry Trap

To the Editor,

Whilst agreeing with Andrew Ball's article on Youth Vision ("AC" 7 July) I feel that I must write to warn our churches against falling into the same temptation which has resulted in so much of our youth ministry falling by the wayside in the past two generations. Andrew states that "our long-term future as a denomination is doubtful unless local churches develop a new vision for reaching young Australians..." The temptation is to see this as the only way to provide a future for our churches. This is a fallacy. The

long-term future of our churches depends on reaching and converting adults who are the church today so that the fruits of our youth ministry will find a viable and effective Christian community in which their relationship with Jesus will grow with them into Christian adulthood. Please let us not make the same mistake for a third generation.

—Greg Shaw
(Brooklyn Park, SA)

The Authority of Scripture

To the Editor,

While Gladys Butler has my sympathy to some extent, I must gently chide her for imputing to me ideas that I don't have ("AC" 21 July). I am no miserable misogynist as I trust my views expressed elsewhere in this issue make clear.

My concern remains with the authority of Scripture, and Gladys's letter only enhances that concern.

First, if I have to choose between the word of God and a more responsible role for women in the church, I feel bound, as all followers of Christ ought, to plump for the former. However, I am not aware of the need to make such a choice.

Next, the idea that Paul contradicts himself is less than convincing even apart from inspiration. Like the American Walt Yancey, whose book *Endangered Heritage* I recently read, I am convinced that there is no hope of attaining to unity in the church if we jettison the authority of the Bible. Even more than he, however, I believe that the church as a whole has failed to interpret Scripture properly. We would all do well to bend our efforts towards understanding it as we should and throw out all the "foreign matter" that has been picked up over the centuries and embodied in creeds and traditions to our universal detriment. The very fact that the Bible is inspired ought to give us confidence in this so-called charismatic age that God has still more to say to us. (See Dean Phelan's letter in the "AC" 21 June issue.)

Finally, I fail to see how rejection of Scripture is going to help women to give us the kind of authoritative leadership we so obviously need. As I understand the matter, to reject Scripture is to reject God the Holy Spirit. And where does that leave us?

—Ken Stothard
(Essendon, Vic)

P.S. Just in case I have left Gladys and other readers wondering, I happen to believe that 1 Timothy 2:14 has an importance that extends far beyond the question of authority and leadership in the church.

Geoff Ismail, a member of the Flinders Park, SA, church, has been appointed as marketing and public relations manager for radio Alta Mira, Adelaide's Christian FM radio station.

The centenary service for the Council for Christian Education in Schools is being held at the Cathedral Church of St Paul, Melbourne, Vic, on 30 September at 6 pm. There is a light tea following this service. CCES should be advised on (03) 654 2211 for catering purposes if you are intending to be present.

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Letters from Tertius

Talking to the Mountain

Our bedtime Bible reading was from Mark 11, all about moving mountains by faith.

I imagine Jesus didn't mean literal mountains, or the world atlases would have to be revised every day.

I think that he must have been talking about problems. The ones we have in our family are more like mountains than mole-hills.

I had always thought that Jesus meant praying to God to shift the mountain or problem and then leaving it to him. That was the faith bit. Well I tried that many times and sometimes the mountain moved and sometimes it didn't. When it didn't I thought that I didn't have enough faith. But you don't have to have a lot of faith. Jesus says a small amount of faith will do.

So I had another look at the passage today and I think I've found the clue.

It doesn't say that you have faith and then sit down while God shifts the problem, although I've heard preachers say that. "Hand the problem over to God," they say, "And he will take it away!"

Jesus said, "If you have faith you will speak to the mountain and it will remove." Apparently we have to talk to the mountain as our part of the problem solving, trusting God to do his part.

Well I've tried it and it works. My problem was with one of my clerks. We don't get on. So I started talking to the problem, getting it into perspective, cutting it down to size, looking at its structure and where it came from, and trusting God to do his bit...and lo and behold it's gone.

In my aggression towards my mountain I must have talked out loud. My wife thought I was being annoyed with her, so I had to let her into the secret. She thinks it's a good idea.

Hoping you are the same,
Tertius

15 Years of Service

On 30 June Cheryl Garlett completed her service after 15 years with the Federal Aborigines Board.

As a youngster Cheryl grew up in the Children's Home in Norseman. In 1975 she completed two years of Bible training at the Gnowangerup Bible Institute in WA before moving to Carnarvon, where, as "Aunt Cheryl", she cared for several children in the mission homes. When child-care activities ended Cheryl left Carnarvon for a brief period before returning in 1985 to work at the recently opened Aged Persons Hostel. She served there until her resignation.

Cheryl has a tremendous capacity for work, a deep love for her people and an ability to share Christ with them. I witnessed at first hand how many times Cheryl went well beyond the second mile in caring for the residents in the Olive Laird Hostel.



Cheryl Garlett

Cheryl was the most recent ACWF Living Link, succeeding another long-term missionary, Edna Lincoln. As such she attended World Convention in New Zealand and the Federal Conference in Canberra.

It is Cheryl's intention to have a holiday before seeking another avenue of service.

—A.W. Moyle

Kenmore Student President

Geoff Greenaway has been chosen to lead the Student Council of Kenmore Christian College. He takes over leadership from Cheryl Hoskins, who served during 1989-90.

Geoff came to KCC from the Margaret Street, Toowoomba, Qld, church, where he served in various leadership appoint-

ments. Before coming to College Geoff trained and was employed as an electrical fitter for a large agricultural company. In 1988 Geoff toured the Philippines and Hong Kong with Venture for Victory. On this basketball exchange he become more aware of the importance of Christ's presence

New Chaplain for SA Churches of Christ Retirement Services

At three brief ceremonies on 10, 11 and 13 July Trevor Lawrie was welcomed by residents, staff and the Retirement Services Board as he commenced his work in the SA Homes.

Kingsley Curtis (Administrator) welcomed residents, staff and visitors at each home, Graham Knight (Chairman of Board) welcomed Trevor on behalf of Retirement Services, and Rob Leane (Conference President) and Jim Keatch (Associate State Minister) spoke on behalf of the SA Conference.

Richard Lawton, Col Smith and Keith Skillicorn represented the part-time chaplains who serve staff, residents and their families.

Doug Fitzgerald (Parkrose Village), Elaine Attwood (Glenrose Court) and Harold Lawrie (Roselin Court) spoke on behalf of the residents.

Residents of the Marion units attended Parkrose and residents of Modbury units attended Roselin. Attendance at



Trevor Lawrie

each home was approximately 90 and all enjoyed both the welcome and the opportunity to chat over morning tea.

Trevor responded, showing his enthusiasm for his new work and the opportunity to work closely with our elderly citizens.

—Kingsley Curtis
(Administrator)

and the importance of Christ-centred leadership. Geoff enrolled in the Bachelor of Theology degree in the pastoral ministries major at Kenmore in 1989.

Geoff's wife, Sharon, works full time as a receptionist at Iona Retirement Village near the College. Sharon has enrolled for some courses of study. Sharon and Geoff have three children, David, Ben and Emily. The family is active at Geoff's student placement ministry at Annerley church.

The 1990-91 Student Council also includes Andrew Barnes, a second-year BTh student from the Annerley church, who also serves with the KCC Ambassadors, Tony Gibson, a third-year student serving as youth minister of the Springwood church and self-employed with his own part-time car detailing business, Bill

Moore, a first-year student serving with the Kedron church, and Craig Bossie, a first-year WA student serving as youth minister with the Redcliffe church.



Geoff Greenaway



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Papers

The End of Apartheid?

Apartheid in South Africa is not a controversy we can avoid because it seems far away. The new Zadok paper, *The End of Apartheid? A Reflection on the Cycle of Oppressor and Oppressed*, is one concerned Christian's attempt to understand apartheid and therefore to try to develop a Christian mind on the subject.

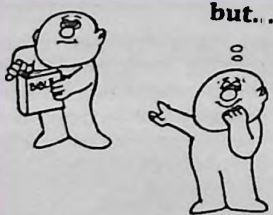
The change from being a group that suffers oppression to a group that oppresses others is, sadly, all too common. In all parts of the world, and in all periods of human history, this shift has taken place. In South Africa, what was once an oppressed group is now in a position of privilege and power. Many would argue that the shift from oppressed to oppressor has taken place. South Africa is far from being the only place where such a change is observable today. In discussing South Africa, however, we can gain an understanding of a failing common to much of humanity and present, perhaps, in all of us.

This paper looks at the oppressed/oppressor cycle in a Biblical perspective. Using South Africa as a major case study, the paper then outlines the history of apartheid. The principles and understanding that emerge apply not just in South Africa, but anywhere where power is unequally distributed between races or classes of people.

Written by John Harris, the Director of the Zadok Institute, *The End of Apartheid?*, Series 1 Paper S46, is available from the Zadok Institute for Christianity and Society, Blackall Street, Barton 2600 (phone (06)273 1634) for \$2 plus 80c postage.

Books

I'd Like to Believe
in Christianity...



Marian Hackett

I'd Like To Believe
in Christianity...
but...

by Marian Hackett (Vital
Publications) \$7

Marion Hackett has written an excellent book that handles many of the questions that people raise about the Christian faith. Many were raised by her children and other young people and this is her attempt to clearly state what she believes as a Christian. Areas such as the comparison of Christianity with other religions, the nature of God, the way that we can know that the Bible is God's

word, the difficulty of understanding the picture that the Old Testament paints of God, the whole question of suffering, the divinity of Jesus, the place of the Holy Spirit in God's plans and the question of life after death. These matters are all very well handled and Marian has written in a very open and informative manner. There are some excellent illustrations at the start of each chapter, which add to the text.

An excellent book to hand to those inquiring about the Christian faith or those who are raising basic questions about the faith. It would be very good for young enquirers and the language and style is very suitable.

Marion Hackett is involved with the Elizabeth, SA, church.

Available from the Federal Literature Department, c/o Mrs E. Rankine, 5 Atkins Ave, Glen Iris 3146, for \$7 plus \$1.50 postage.

—CRA

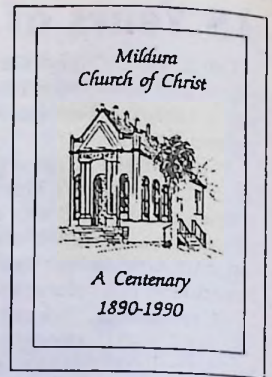
Mildura Church of Christ—A Centenary 1890-1990

by A. Munro and Laurie M. Stafford (Mildura Church of Christ) \$10

Very often when churches celebrate a significant milestone in their life today a history is written and produced. Over the Queen's Birthday weekend this year the Mildura, Vic, church celebrated its centenary and this booklet was produced for that time of celebration. The authors have by diligent reading of old minute books and reports in *The Australian Christian* and in local newspapers produced a summary of the important events in each era. In most cases there is a summary of each year in the decade. A short history and the purpose for being established of each of the church auxiliaries is also provided. Another chapter includes musings from some of the ministers involved with the church at Mildura. There are some very interesting historical photographs scattered throughout the text. One feature I have not seen in similar histories was a list of the marriages conducted in the church from its beginning.

Available from the Church Office, Mildura Church of Christ, PO Box 2797, Mildura 3502 for \$10.

—CRA



Answers to Life's Problems

by Billy Graham (Word Publishing) \$10.50

First published in 1960, this book was reprinted last year. The material was originally published in a newspaper column "My Answer", in which Billy Graham answered readers questions about all manner of questions relating to living as a Christian. There is a very wide variety of material covered in the answers. Each answer is quite short, mostly less than a page in length. The material has been collected into related sections: relationships, spiritual concerns, psychological problems, ethical issues and biblical questions.

—CRA



RNH



Some of the musicians getting ready to rehearse with director Allison Pitt and musical director Peter Joseph (left to right): Peter Joseph, Pam Joseph, Allison Pitt, Ashley Carr, Emelyn Lee, Mark Farmer.

Doncaster Production

If you were to stroll past the Doncaster, Vic, church any time over the next few weeks, you might be rather surprised at some of the sounds emerging from the buildings.

Hammering, sawing, or an electric drill, perhaps. The sounds of musical instruments trying desperately to harmonise with one another.

And definitely the stamping of feet and the breathless singing of people attempting to master the difficult task of projecting their voices while dancing!

Why all this activity?

Preparations are underway for the presentation of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. This musical production, written by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd-Webber, tells the story of the biblical character's life in a bright, lively and humorous way.

Staging this production has proved to be a challenge for the people at Doncaster. However, the 70 involved are enjoying themselves immensely, and will even miss the rehearsals when it's all over!

Performances will be held at the Doncaster church hall on 17 August (8 pm), 18 August (8 pm) and 19 August (3 pm and 7 pm). Tickets cost \$7 (adults) \$3 (primary/secondary students) and \$20 (families) and are available from Pam Fallon on (03) 722 1618.

Camp Seaview Progress



Ida and Basil Marden with Colin Orr

Camp Seaview, Bicheno, Tasmania, under the leadership of managers Basil and Ida Marden, has just recorded its best year yet. The year ended 30 June was marked by record bookings and income levels. Steady progress has been made with the construction of a new main facility that, when completed, will give the camp a new main hall, lounge, dining area, kitchen, office, reception area, recreation hall and additional sleeping units. The first stage of this project is expected to be completed by early 1991. Colin Orr, Tasmania's Conference Treasurer and long-standing Tasmanian representative of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development, has acted as director of the project. The 2.4 ha site was purchased from the Tasmanian Government for \$73,500, following a 30-year period of leasing. Ian Tippett, field director with DMED, conferred with the Camp Management Committee in Hobart on 28 July to approve plans for an appeal to raise funds to assist in debt reduc-

tion on the land purchase, which is being financed through the Properties Corporation. The appeal will be launched among Tasmanian churches during October this year. The Appeal Committee, under the leadership of Ian Cumine of the Howrah church, is enthusiastic in its planning for the appeal.

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Happenings

The Asia Pacific Regional Secretary of the United Bible Societies has appealed for world pressure to be put on the government of Iran following the closure of the Bible Society's office in Iran. The Iranian Bible Society has operated legally and openly for the 10 years since the revolution and the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, since the formation of an Office of Religious Minorities in the Ministry of Islamic Guidance, religious freedom and activities by religious minorities in Iran have been gradually restricted. The Bible Society in Australia appeals to all Christians to pray for a change in the headline policy of the Office of Religious Minorities in Iran, to write to their local member of parliament and to write a letter of protest to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, PO Box 3219, Manuka 2603.

The chaplain branch of the RAAF will celebrate on 31 August the 50th anniversary of its formation. The central activity will be a service of thanksgiving in the RAAF Chapel of the Holy Trinity at Point Cook. All present and former chaplains and their wives have been invited.

New Zealand gospel singer Jules Riding will be touring Australia during August for a series of concerts and seminars. Radio Alta Mira, Adelaide's Christian FM radio station, is hosting his Adelaide visit. A worship seminar is being held on 15 August at 7 pm at Way Hall, 10 Pitt St, Adelaide. Tickets

are \$10. Participants are asked to bring their Bibles and musical instruments. A family concert is being held on 16 August in Prince Alfred College Auditorium, Kent Town, commencing 7.30 pm. Tickets are \$10 with pensioner and children concessions for \$5. Details and bookings on (08) 362 6961 or write to Alta Mira Concert Tickets, PO Box 737, Norwood 5067.

Donald McGavran, 92, father of the church growth movement and founding dean of Fuller Theological Seminary's School of World Mission, died on 10 July.

Travellers returning from recent trips to Albania report that believers throughout the officially atheistic country are once again meeting for religious observances, following announced parliamentary reforms in May removing criminal penalties for religious expression.

Widespread demand for the reintroduction of religious education in Poland's schools has generated heated debate within intellectual and religious circles, and divided Poles on the appropriateness of institutionalising the church's role in the educational system.

One of only 3 official churches in China's southern city of Kunming was completely destroyed by fire earlier this year, but plans for rebuilding have come to a standstill despite the congregation's efforts to raise the needed funds.

Established in 1948 by Dr William Seath of the Chicago Christian Industrial League, Alcoholics Victorious is now a world-wide movement with chapters in most Australian states. Recognising that Alcoholics Anonymous was doing a splendid job and had much the church could emulate, Dr Seath nevertheless felt that something additional was needed. That something was a personal, vital relationship with Jesus Christ. Sponsored by the Council of the Victorian Temperance Alliance, the first Victorian chapter is commencing in the Dandenong Temperance Centre. The second chapter is being formed in the North Melbourne area. Other areas being considered for AV chapters are Ringwood, Diamond Valley and Geelong. Details from Co-ordinator, Graeme Rule, Victorian Temperance Alliance, 9 Mason St, Dandenong 3175. Phone (03) 794 9296.

The bad habits of nuns and priests on the road have earned them a reputation for being among the worst drivers in South Australia. In response to their poor driving record the Catholic Church Insurance Company has offered to help pay to send them back to driving school to combat the high rate of claims made for car accidents.

Employers are now realising that it is their responsibility to assist employees during times of crisis, whether work or family related. A seminar, "Crisis

Incident Response and Recovery Management", will examine how companies and specialist services can develop a strategy involving crisis counselling and stress debriefing when dealing with psychological trauma. The seminar and workshop will be held in Melbourne 20-23 August and Sydney 27-30 August. ITIM and the Centre for Crisis Psychology are presenting the seminar. Details from Sally Davis on (03) 571 3647.

A United Bible Societies delegation visited Bulgaria early in July and met with church leaders. The churches are prepared to work towards the establishment of a Bulgarian Bible Society. It was agreed to publish 300,000 Bibles before mid-1991 in Bulgaria on paper supplied by the UBS.

Under a new agreement between the Romanian Orthodox Church and the government of President Iliescu, religious education will be re-established in all schools throughout Romania from September.

Japan's ultrarightists have threatened Masaaki Nakajima, the head of Japan's largest Protestant denomination, the United Church of Christ, because his church has worked for a growing number of Third World minorities living in Japan.

Christian mission hospitals, which provide 25% of all hospital care in In-

dia, are "struggling for their very existence" according to MAP International President, Larry Dixon. Modern medical work demands expensive equipment and supplies and many hospitals have been forced to close down.

Leaders of Ethiopia's main churches and religious groups have united and are offering to mediate between the Ethiopian government and Eritrea and Tigray rebel movements. The religious leaders called upon the conflicting parties to stop fighting immediately in order to allow emergency assistance to get through to the victims of war and famine, estimated to be around 5 million.

Sir Geoffrey Foot, of the Launceston, Tas, church, is being honoured at a special council meeting of the City of Launceston later this year by being made an honorary Freeman of the City. There are only 6 other honorary freemen. He is being recognised for his distinguished service to the community.

The Graduates' Association of the Bible College of Victoria is holding a reunion conference for the 70th anniversary 26-30 September. The guest speaker is Rev Graeme Smith, pastor, Ashgrove, Qld, Baptist Church. The 70th anniversary dinner is on 29 September. For further information: Secretary, Graduates' Association, Bible College of Victoria, PO Box 380, Lilydale 3140.

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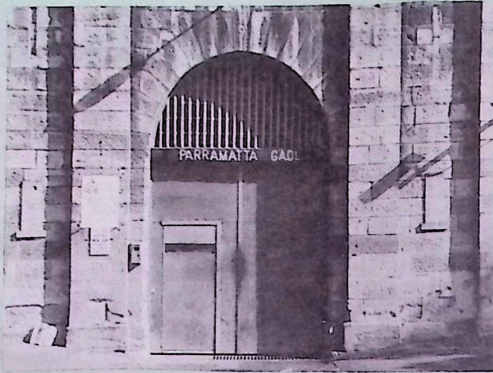
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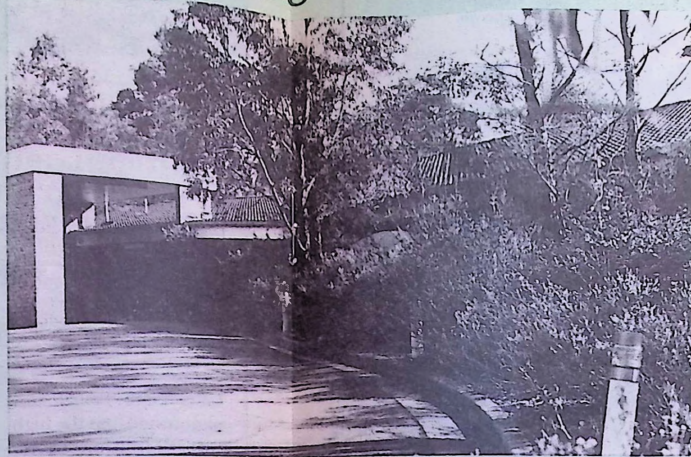
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ENGAGEMENTS

WEST—TWYMAN David and Barbara West of "Lilyville", Earlwood, announce with pleasure the engagement of their only daughter, Shelley Joy, to Philip Charles, son of John and Maureen Twyman, of Kent, England.

DEATHS

ANDERSON Roberta Violet (Bobbie). Died peacefully at home with her family 11 July 1990. Dearly loved wife of Robert John (Jack). Loved and loving mother and mother-in-law of Betty and Graeme Sonsie, Allan and Sue Anderson, Helen and Ian Fraser. Special Nana of John, David, Mark, Elizabeth, Stephen, Robert, Bruce, Karen and Michael. "Safe in the arms of Jesus."

REES Frederick. Suddenly, 22 July 1990, at Rosebud. Beloved husband of Gwen (dec.) and May. Loved father of Anthony, Deryck, Philip (dec.), Martin, Kathryn and David. Father-in-law of Anne, Margaret and Ross. Loved Pa of Stewart, Matthew, Dianne and Janette. Always remembered.

IN MEMORIAM

LAUNDER Graham. 6.8.57. Ever in our thoughts 'til the great reunion. All our love. Mum and Dad, Mal and Joy.

THANKS

ANDREWS We would like to say thank you to all our friends in our churches throughout Victoria for your loving prayers, care, concern and encouragement during Gordon's illness, and a very special thank you to all the CWF Hospital Visitation Team. Our prayers are now being answered in the prog-

ress that Gordon is making. Thank you for your Christian love.

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The Empty Pulpit

Thunderous voice proclaims,
But words hide meaning.
Clarification becomes mystification,
Vision pales in semantic fog.
Credibility absconds at every breath
When saying precedes seeing.

—Garry Harris

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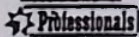
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Dean Sander

The Christian: Forgotten Player in the Middle East

by Wesley Pippert

The Christian is the forgotten player in the ancient enmity between the Jew and Muslim in the Middle East.

Who knows, for instance, that Christians head up the two most radical factions of the Palestine Liberation Organization? Further, who knows that Christians control more area in Jerusalem's walled Old City than either Jews or Muslims?

According to Victor Smadja, leader of the Messianic Jews in Israel, there are about 2,000 Jewish believers in Jesus Christ as the Messiah scattered throughout Israel in about 30 congregations. Numbers have grown slightly during the past five years.

Messianic Jews recently distributed 40,000 tracts on the streets of Tel Aviv and Haifa in three days and received 80 inquiries.

Smadja played down the importance of the recent Israeli High Court's ruling that a family of Messianic Jews could be denied automatic citizenship upon returning to Israel under the 1948 Law of Return. He said there are many believers among the Soviet Jews now returning to Israel, and that they get around the court ruling simply by making no reference to the Messiah on their application.

If this is true, it has not always been that way. Israeli law prohibits proselytising that gives anything of value, and tracts are interpreted as something of value. Messianic Jews' meeting places have been set afire, believers have been harassed during times of worship and they have been persecuted by other Jews, especially the ultraorthodox.

It is difficult to understand the paranoia that the ultraorthodox Jews feel toward the Messianic Jews. Many more Christians convert to Judaism in Israel each year than Jews convert to Christianity. Robert Lindsey, a long-time pastor in Jerusalem, estimates that only 40 to 50 Jews and a much

smaller number of Muslims declare belief in Jesus each year; the number of Christians who convert to Judaism is placed at 400 to 500.

But it is difficult to get a Messianic Jew to criticise their brother Jews or even to admit abuse. The Messianic Jews remain steadfastly loyal to the government of Israel, perhaps even more than many secular Jews who are quick to criticise it.

Of the more than 100,000 Christians in Israel, the overwhelming majority are Arabs sympathetic to the Palestinian cause. That comes as a surprise to many evangelicals. About one in every seven Palestinians in Israel is Christian. Most of these are Greek Orthodox, but there are many evangelical churches dotting the Arab communities in the Holy Land.

Like Messianic Jews in Israel, Christian Arabs are slow to criticise Muslim Arabs. Asked about this during a recent visit to the United States, Father Elias Chacour, the famed Melkite priest in Galilee, replied, "We live together with Muslims...we've never had any problems with Muslims."

In fact, however, most Arab villages are either Christian or Muslim, not mixed. An Arab's name clearly identifies him as a Christian or a Muslim. Rarely is there intermarriage, and rarely are there converts.

Christian missionaries in the 1800s helped spark Arab nationalism, and to this day Christian Palestinians have a disproportionate amount of influence in the Arab community.

Yassar Arafat, chairman of the PLO, is a Muslim. The heads of the PLO's more radical factions—Dr George Habash of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Nayef Hawatma of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine—are Christian. So are Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, Jonathan Kuttab, civil

Serving on Doulos



Andrew Bratt, a member of the Nambour, Qld, church, visited the ship run by Operation Mobilisation on its visit to Australia in July-August 1989 in Brisbane, and was challenged to respond to Matthew 28:18-20.

Working as a volunteer, his job description on *Doulos* has included everything from steering the ship to refitting carpets, chipping rust, preaching sermons and involvement in one-to-one evangelism.

A young man with a vision, Andrew, when he returns to Australia in January 1991 feels God is leading him towards mechanics training with possible service in Sudan, Africa.

Obviously much preparation is necessary. Before that time the ship will be visiting Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore and possibly China.

Please pray for these countries and God's use of *Doulos* there.

—Louise Richards

How To Pray for Zimbabwe

Ziruvi, Zvishavane and Zvegona are only three of the churches in Zimbabwe—there are 36 churches in the Zvishavane Conference. In August-September Barry Jenkins will visit these churches, seeking ways that Australian churches

can be in partnership with them. The smallest church has only 11 members, the largest 218. Fourteen churches have chapels where they worship, 14 meet in classrooms and seven meet under trees.

Barry will be in Africa for six weeks and the Overseas Mission Board is asking for 36 Australian churches to indicate their willingness to set aside one day for special prayer during this time. Contact Barry Jenkins at Ringwood Church of Christ, 13 Bedford Rd, Ringwood 3134, to register your church's involvement.

Each church will be asked to pray on one day between 16 August and 26 September. In response to the offer to pray, details will be sent of the churches and an itinerary of Barry's visit to Africa. At his own expense, Garry Hills, one of the ministers from the Margaret Street, Toowoomba, Qld, church, will accompany Barry on the trip.

rights lawyer in Arab East Jerusalem, and his brother, journalist Dauod Kuttab.

The question, of course, is whether the Christian faith makes any real difference in the Middle East. Do Messianic Jews and Palestinian Christians put their nationalism or their Christian faith first? This is a question that all Christians need to face directly and honestly.

• Wesley Pippert was United Press International (UPI) manager for Israel and chief Middle East correspondent in 1983-1986. He is also the author of *Land of Promise, Land of Strife* (Word Books).

Chiefs in Vanuatu Welcome Evangelist Bill Newman

The Bill Newman Crusade in Vanuatu is over—but the change it has made in many people's lives will be lasting. Lyall Muller has sent the following report of the crusade on West Ambae.

Bill Newman and his team were welcomed to Ambae Island by the local government members, who presented him with a lei. As they travelled along the road from the airstrip they were met by two chiefs in custom dress. The chiefs led the way to the football field and welcomed Bill Newman by showing him some of the traditional items of significance in the local custom, which they explained. One of the chiefs then gave Bill a mat that is traditionally only given to chiefs of the highest level. This was to show the people's respect.

In his speech, the chief, speaking in the local language, said, "In this rural area there is not a large population. We are surprised at the love of God which brings you from your comfortable home to visit us here so that you can share the Gospel with us. We are glad that you are prepared to come and identify with us in our



The chiefs leading the way to the football field

humble situation and give us the Word of Life." That same chief, Chief Jackson, was one of the 67 who responded to the call to commit themselves to Christ on the first evening of the crusade. He is the highest ranking chief in the area. Pray that his decision will be a firm one and that he will grow in the Lord.

The team, Bill Newman, David Eagling and Trevor

Ginn (soloist), were given coconuts to drink as a sign that they were welcomed in peace.

The team were then welcomed by the church leaders. It was a moving time as Pastor Remy Sese made the speech and a number of very old people who had been involved in spreading the Gospel were up on the platform to shake hands with Bill. It was in all the most spectacular and touching

event I have witnessed in Vanuatu and perhaps in all my life. A lot of the things that the chief had talked about were not common knowledge—the sort of custom things which are about to be lost.

The first night of the crusade 1,250 attended. The population of West Ambae is about 4,000. During the following day there were some studies led by Bill and myself. There was a larger crowd at the Saturday evening meeting and more than 100 went forward for counselling. The counsellors had been prepared over a period of time before the crusade and had their final meeting on the Thursday evening. Among those who made decisions that evening were some of the young men who have been away from the Lord, and our own two children went forward. They had both indicated they wanted to the night before. It was very hard for Karen to go out in front of so many but, after some hesitation, and with deep conviction, she did. Rob then came with tears streaming down his face. I was up on the platform that night. We are very happy.

Sunday there was a combined communion service at 9.30 am. There were a few from all the different denominations in the Nduindui chapel. Bill gave a tremendous challenge



Presentations to Bill Newman, Trevor Ginn and David Eagling

Housing, Investment and Christianity

by Bruce Verity

Australia is a country that prides itself on high levels of home ownership. But recently high interest rates, escalating housing costs and obsession with financial "security" and investment have led to widening economic division—something of a new phenomenon for this country. Those who have more are getting (much) more; those who have little are being squeezed. Symptoms of these trends are falling home ownership rates on the one hand and excessive accumulation of wealth on the other.

While the economic forces behind such trends are complex, it is apparent that one of the major causes of the high cost of residential properties is investment.

Investors in residential property create an artificial demand for housing and maintain prices at levels above that which would exist if only owner-occupiers were buying. This excludes increasing numbers of people from the Australian tradition of home ownership. But of more concern to me from a moral perspective is the proc-

ess by which investors make a profit: they pay a deposit on a property in which they have no intention of living, take out a mortgage for the remainder of the cost and let out the property to tenants who kindly help to pay off the mortgage for them.

When the investor sells the property he or she walks away with a handsome dividend, both from the increase in value of the property and the decreased mortgage.

But what are the effects of this process on the tenants? They have been struggling to pay their rent, thereby helping the investors make a profit they don't need, while also trying to save for a home of their own. They have no part in the profit. I find it difficult to justify morally a situation where those paying the money do not share in the rewards. This is especially so when those payments condemn them to a lifetime of paying rent and deny them the same satisfaction of home ownership that the investors enjoy.

I find it disturbing to hear financial commentators, real estate agents and others with vested interests lure potential investors to put their money into property and get tenants to service the mortgage for them. This encourages a callous disregard for the welfare of others and reinforces the dominant ethos in modern society of always putting yourself first. Surely housing is primarily to live in, not to make money on.

I recognise that there may be a variety of reasons for owning more than one residential property. I acknowledge also that there is a certain demand for short-term rental accommodation, but how often are investors motivated by such altruistic considerations?

Where do we, as Christians, fit into this picture? It certainly makes good financial sense to invest in property, but aren't we called to show the world a

different set of priorities? To show sacrificial love to our neighbours? To raise up, not suppress, the disadvantaged? To have higher motives and visions than personal profit? The world can so easily deceive us into conformity with it that we can use hardship to others without being aware of it.

As Christians we are all continually challenged to act responsibly and carefully with our possessions, especially where we have an abundance and where our use of them affects others.

The church has been quiet on this issue but I feel it is an area in which we could have a large impact. It would be healthy for our churches to debate the issue widely and explore ways that we can use our God-given resources constructively to do good rather than just going along with the rest of society. Some possibilities are:

- We could mediate between low-income earners and any who wish to offer their property to them at nominal rent; this would give the less well-off a respite from financial burdens and a chance to save for their own home.

- We could establish a fund to which we could contribute our excess money to be used as deposits to enable people who could not otherwise do so to purchase homes and pay off their own mortgages.

- We could share with those outside the church our concern for the less well-off.

- We could point out to investment advisers the wider implications of their advice.

I'm sure that with a broad input to the discussion we could devise more effective approaches. There will be problems to be faced of course, but there are certainly rewards in the satisfaction of positively helping others and in striving to do the will of God in this day. And isn't that what we should be on about?

After all, the last will be first.

A Nostalgic Hour in the Past

With the increasing interest in antiquity today, churches could capitalise on the spirit of "nostalgia" to ensure that people will come to church

The idea would be to give people the feeling that by coming to church, they are having a worthwhile visit in the past, much the same as they feel when fossicking for priceless treasures in an antique shop or visiting a colonial township.

Services could be publicised as "A Nostalgic Hour in the Past"!

Society hasn't been slow in capitalising on the "nostalgic emotion"—should the church be any less so?

How then do we create the nostalgic atmosphere?

One of the basic essentials is the use of very old-style seating—wooden pews. Part of the nostalgic effect is to gain a numb posterior in less than half an hour.

Lighting is terribly important. Well-lit churches do not create the nostalgic effect. Fluorescent lighting is out of the question. A good test is how hard you have to peer at a hymnbook while singing hymns.

A dingy building is marvellous.

Unnecessary noise, particularly from children, will kill the nostalgic effect.

A traditional worship format is most conducive to the nostalgic feeling. Should anyone insist on changing this by inserting contemporary songs, singing groups, drama or anything unpredictable, it will create a certain degree of alarm in those who have come to enjoy a nostalgic hour in the past.

Of course, in considering the idea of a nostalgic hour in the past for your church, you will need to introduce it carefully, because people don't like change!

—Stephen Curkpatrick

to the church and the presence of the Lord was very real. In the afternoon there was an open-air service run by the Churches of Christ group who had come from Longana for the crusade. Samuel Bule was the speaker.

The Sunday night meeting was the biggest—about 1,800 were there. Counsellors were very busy as nearly 200 went forward that evening. It was very exciting to see so many wanting to get their lives straight with the Lord.

Bill's messages were simple, powerful and effective. His soloist (country-style) was very popular. His yodelling had smiles on every face. There is no doubt that the thorough preparation beforehand and the many prayers throughout the crusade contributed to its success.

New Churches

by Ian Cartmel

Starting a new congregation presents a great opportunity for increased evangelism and spiritual growth. Evangelism is complete when people hear the word of God, respond and commit themselves to discipleship and involvement in the church.

New congregations make it easier for people to become involved in the church. Some appeal because they are geographically convenient, some have a strong ethnic attraction. Some have a style that is different from other local churches and appeal to people not previously attracted to the church. Each congregation, new or old, has its own character and personality. These are reflected in the atmosphere or worship, the type of music, the thrust of the preaching, the sort of people who are attracted and the attitude of the congregation to others. Each has its own appeal and will find a responsive group in the community.

In commencing a church at Mornington we aimed to interest people not actively involved in other local congregations. A question often asked was, "Why start a new church when there were already several strong churches in the area?" My answer was that although there were many good churches in the town already, at a conservative estimate at least two-thirds of the population of 30,000 were not attending any of them. Therefore there were 20,000 still needing a church. There was in fact a need for several new churches. This is probably so in most areas.

It is often easier and more effective to commence something new than to revamp the old. A new church can respond more quickly to changing community situations. It is unfettered by old programs, rules, buildings and entrenched leadership. People with a vision for evangelising and serving the community can be freed to respond to the needs of those

around, while older-established churches still have a valid ministry nurturing those whose needs they meet.

Being involved in a new congregation brings out the best in many people and helps in their spiritual growth. There is an enthusiasm and sense of purpose that is not stifled, as there is an opportunity and a need for everyone to get involved. Individual growth occurs as people take on new responsibilities and learn new skills. Newer churches harness the abilities of their members more effectively than established congregations.

A new church needs a clear sense of purpose. For this reason it needs leaders with a vision for outreach and ministry. Some churches commence in reaction to established churches;

because of hurts and dissatisfaction experienced elsewhere. It's far better to start with the positive purpose of meeting a need in the community that no-one else is meeting. People are far more important than buildings in the early stages of a congregation's life, it needs leaders who can inspire and encourage the congregation to mission and help meet the pastoral needs that arise. The experience of those with background and training in the church is valuable as important decisions are taken about the future.

At Mornington I have been fortunate in being able to work full-time with the new congregation. I have been able to visit prospective members and people who are ill or have difficulties. I have been able to involve myself in the community and find areas where our church can be of service and where opportunities for minis-

try exist. I have also had resources to help set a course for the future and make important decisions about church leadership, programs and style of worship. In all that we have done at Mornington in the past 18 months there has been an element of risk, without the normal securities of tradition and property to back us up, but the opportunities are unlimited.

I hope other congregational leaders will take very seriously the possibilities offered by new church development.

• Ian Cartmel is the minister of the new congregation meeting at Mornington, Vic.

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

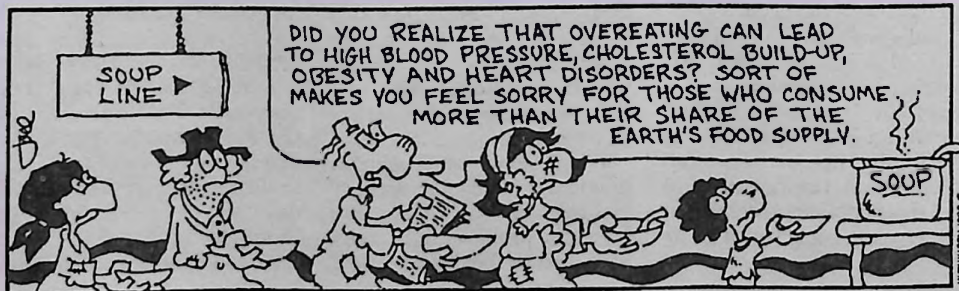
Maribyrnong River Baptism



The East Keilor, Vic, church witnessed the baptism of another of its young people when Andrew Leach was baptised in the waters of the Maribyrnong River at Brimbank Park, Keilor, on 17 June. In a moving service on the banks of the river on a cold Melbourne winter's day Andrew was baptised by Ron Schepis as family and friends looked on. Andrew's grandfather, F.B. (Bruce) Alcorn, read of Jesus' baptism from Matthew 3 and Nina McCreddens sang and provided music for the service.

After the service the church family and friends shared in a barbecue lunch in the park.

Pontius' Puddle



• Ephesians 6:15

Sandals of Peace

by Greg Murphy

I am no mechanic, yet I feel quite peaceful about driving my motor vehicle despite my diagnostic ignorance and corrective incompetence should it fail me. Why? Because like millions of other overworked owners I pay for a 24-hour emergency breakdown service. My peace comes not from a guarantee that motoring life will be free of problems, but from an assurance that I have at my disposal the resources to cope with whatever crisis might be lurking behind the next gear change or engine revolution.

I believe that when the Bible talks about peace the picture is more of God resourcing us through every trouble than steering our lives clear of them. If I could push the illustration a bit further, there is no guarantee even then of on-the-spot restoration. In his infinite wisdom God may choose to take us through a costly and arduous process of reconstruction. Our faith is in God's response and involves trust that his diagnosis and course of action is sufficient for our apparent need.

Paul warns the Ephesians that sandals of peace are necessary equipment for the Christian in our spiritual battle. How do we go about strapping them on? In Philippians 4:4-9 Paul exhorts Christians to pursue the peace of God which passes understanding by turning anxiety into prayer and meditation. Is it possible that true peace only comes through resorting to faith when the chips are down and discovering that it really works? If so, what are the ways in which this is likely to confront today's Australian Christians?

The saying "early to bed and early to rise makes Johnny healthy, wealthy, and wise" perhaps betrays the areas of chief concern for many people today. In a country with our resources and opportunities, good health, financial security

and intellectual competence are commonly assumed to be "normal" and "natural". Though Christians know that such things are not necessary, recent values surveys would indicate that they are still expected and cherished.

I would challenge the notion that it is normal to be healthy in any country, whether one is a Christian or not. In fact, the scripture says that death is everyone's lot (Hebrews 9:27) and death normally comes by way of illness. Yet when it comes to sickness, it has been my experience that faith is more often associated with the concept of healing than the concept of trusting God to work good through the situation at hand.

I can remember as a child fronting up to the corner shop with my penny and asking, "How many lollies can I buy?" This is a good picture of a common approach to financial management today. Instead of a shopkeeper it's often a bank or credit manager, and instead of lollies it's often a big house or a new car or something else of luxurious proportion. In so doing many people live on the brink of financial disaster and insure themselves against it. Such a strategy makes it difficult to put God first and trust him for our needs.

Intellectual competence, which predominantly marks the more wealthy occupations, is a common parameter for working out a societal pecking order. If we are concerned how highly we rate in people's eyes Paul gives us good advice. He urges us to assume that every one else is above us in order of importance and act graciously towards them accordingly (Philippians 2:3-4). The Christian who expects physiological, financial and intellectual difficulties and trusts God for the resources to overcome them is well equipped to talk about the God of the Bible.

Peacebuilding with the People of Cambodia

The Australian Council of Churches fact-finding mission to Cambodia, consisting of Archbishop Keith Rayner (Anglican Archbishop of Adelaide), Janet Wood (representing the Uniting Church in Australia) and Prakai Nontawasee (Vice-Moderator of the Church of Christ in Thailand) returned to Australia in late June.

At the end of the Vietnam War, Cambodia was controlled by the infamous Pol Pot regime, who brutally tortured and killed more than a million people. As hundreds of thousands more fled as refugees, Cambodia was left bereft of its human resources. Pol Pot destroyed waterways, communication systems, schools and hospitals. Cambodia is still in the grip of civil war.

The people might have a chance to rebuild if they were not kept in isolation by Western countries. Cambodian people are among the poorest in the world. Those able to work earn \$4 a month. A little extra comes from families who have resettled outside Cambodia.

Cambodia is now a country of 8 million. 140 doctors serve the entire country's health needs. Medical supplies are in short supply and people die from preventable diseases. In rural areas, where most people live, there are no schools. There is a shortage of food. It is not surprising that a Cambodian's average life expectancy is only 48 years.

In 1979 the ACC raised \$2.5 million for Cambodia from special appeals. Those funds had an obvious immediate use for food, medicine and shelter. Ongoing development programs in rice production, irrigation and health care continue.

The programs in operation are empowering Cambodians towards self-reliance. They want, more than anything, to live in peace and dignity. Cambodia needs our prayers and active support.

What Can We Do?

The ACC invites the people of Australia to make a two-year commitment to be peace-builders with the people of Cambodia. Part of a broader program called "Peacebuilding with the People of Indo-China", the first step is a special focus on Cambodia.

Who Are Peacebuilders?

- Peacebuilders are willing to share in another's pain and hopes.
- Peacebuilders search for creative ways of healing relationships at a personal and global level.
- Peacebuilders never worry about spreading their love too thinly. They know there is enough to share.
- Peacebuilders recognise similarities before they notice differences between people.
- Peacebuilders are willing to look at their conditioned and established beliefs about different cultures.

As Peacebuilders You Will Be Asked to—

- Open your hearts to include Cambodians in your public and private prayers and in the reading of the Bible. Bible study material will be available as a resource.
- Learn willingly about the people of Cambodia. This will require your commitment and may require a change of attitude.
- Lobby on their behalf and press the Australian Government to use its influence for a durable peace and to restore official assistance.
- Commit yourself to a monthly financial contribution of at least \$10. These funds will support programs to rebuild the country and will encourage self-reliance.
- Provide the ACC with names and addresses of people who could secure special mailings and other resources about peacebuilding in Cambodia.

—Prakai Nontawasee

A Church ABC

Aldgate Valley is a pleasant semi-urban area in the hills 25 km from Adelaide, SA. Its popularity is causing property values to rise. The Church of Christ, whose little stone chapel is the same

the manse, who lived all over Australia before going to the College of the Bible in 1980. He spent three years at Gisborne, Vic, before coming to Aldgate Valley in 1987. He is married to Robyn.

At Mt Barker exciting things are happening. At the end of last year there were only a dozen members and it looked as though the church was finished. However, in a "do or die" effort it was decided to

week new families are joining; one week the numbers doubled. The future for Mt Barker now looks exciting.

The churches at Aldgate Valley and Mt Barker are examining what their mission is. They

Focus on Aldgate Valley

age, 102 years, as the church, is located in the valley well off the main road, hence the description: "The church that's hard to find but worth the effort."

Also worth the effort was the decision six years ago to plant a church at Mt Barker. Between them the two churches have almost 120 active members attending the three services: 9.30 am at Mt Barker, then a 25 km drive by the minister to Aldgate Valley by 11 am, and there is also a 5.30 pm service at Aldgate (7 pm in the summer).

The minister at the two churches until to the end of the year, when he moves to Magill, is John Gilmore. John is a son of

In 1990 Aldgate Valley and Mt Barker will become separate churches. At Mt Barker George Matheson and Roger Norris-Green will share a part-time ministry, and Dennis Ryall from Modbury will commence a ministry at Aldgate Valley in 1992.

Aldgate Valley runs a traditional church program: there are Girls' and Boys' Brigades, a small youth work, a retired persons group that has an outing every other month, a gardening group that attends to the church's grounds, a very enthusiastic Bible study group using the Kerygma resources, a ladies study group and a choir.

relaunch the church. A move was made to a new location, a primary school, and every cent available (\$1,500 was budgeted for advertising for example) was spent on publicity and contacting people. This has paid off. Since Easter the congregation has increased threefold. Contact has been made with in excess of 50 first-timers. Using a style of worship neither traditional nor charismatic they have attracted people who had not found acceptance anywhere else. The advertising has offered a one-hour service, a ten-minute sermon, puppets, old- and new-style hymns and that children welcome, to appeal to people in the area. Every

are looking squarely at their particular weaknesses and attempting to turn them into strengths. Mt Barker's was its small size; Aldgate Valley's is its location.

Now that Aldgate Valley's vision of a church at Mt Barker is becoming a reality, it is now looking for a new vision. It has the fortunate combination of setting and ethos to find a new purpose. Its members are happy and welcoming, and they have seen a number of adults (especially men) make first-time commitments in the past few years. With a new ministry and purpose they are well equipped to face the task ahead.

Field Trip by Wollongong Students to Glen Waverley

They arrived in Glen Waverley, Vic, on a cold, wet night; full of enthusiasm and excitement. On 14 July 17 students from the Institute for Contemporary Church Leadership in

Wollongong, NSW, were quickly ushered into a bright, warm room and introduced to the hosts from the Glen Waverley church in whose homes they would be accommodated

for a week. The students were accompanied by their Academic Dean, Carol Preston, and a leader from the Wollongong congregation, Keith Robinson.

On this annual field trip the students shared in the worship services on Sunday, then spent several days of study under the leadership of Ron Elbourne (senior minister). Other input was provided by Lindsay Croxford (pastoral minister), Doug Fitzpatrick (youth minister) and Dianne Whiteside (deacon in church growth). Visits were made to CCTC, Mulgrave, and Nunawading church for an insightful session with Ted Keating (senior minister). The sun did shine for most of the visit, and the warmth of love and acceptance was evident in the cementing of the relationship between the Institute and the Glen Waverley congregation. Both groups

look forward to further field trips as students at the Institute equip themselves for growth ministries in the Body of Christ.

—R.B. Elbourne



Ron Elbourne lecturing to the Wollongong students

North Queensland Convention

The North Queensland Convention was held at Townsville, 9-11 June. The speaker was Rowland Croucher from World Vision and his theme verse was Romans 5:17. The 60th anniversary was celebrated with a special cake and the musical "Majesty" on the Saturday evening. Support was given from sister churches in the north of Queensland and from other visitors.

Promises Promises

by Pat Wheeler

50 years ago I started to smoke cigarettes because at that time it was the accepted and sophisticated thing for females to do, enhancing one's social status at parties. (These days I the expression is, "She's really with it.")

Medical research had not begun as to the health hazards involved, no warning was necessary on the packet, and it was definitely a much cheaper commodity than today.

I looked forward to relaxing with a "cuppa" and the accompanying cigarette. Gradually life became a little more hectic, the time factor seemed to become a case of not enough hours in the day, unforeseen problems cropped up, among them the death of my husband and the responsibility of raising three young daughters on my own. Smoking became more urgent; even surpassing the necessity for food. As long as the girls were fed it didn't matter to me—a cup of coffee and a smoke was a great time-saving way to start the day off. One could always grab a bun or a biscuit with that 10 am cuppa and smoke—no time for

lunch—the job must be done, so it's quicker to have a cuppa and smoke and still carry on working.

Towards the end of those 50 years I was averaging 40–50 cigarettes a day, even though by then I knew only too well what the health hazards were, how much money I was wasting and how unpleasant my smoke-tainted house and person must be to non-smokers.

On 24 December last year, the day of my baptism, I made a promise to God that put an end to my smoking habit.

It was this promise that enabled me to give up smoking after 50 years. No gimmicks, no excuses not to, just a straightforward promise to God. So easy yet so difficult to do.

When I decided to commit my life to God and finalise it with baptism, it was a means of being "born again". To me that meant I had to "die" from the old life and become a new-born baby, unadulterated by worldly habits and sin. I knew I would not carry this smoke-ridden body with me any longer and the only way to get rid of it was not to promise myself but to promise God.

Believe me, it is not easy, but it is also not easy ignoring Satan. He is a master of his trade in tempting the Christian: "Go on, one won't hurt you." "If God loves you, he'll understand how much you need a smoke and let you 'off the hook'." And so on.

Whenever I was on the verge of giving in to Satan's temptations, and believe me, it was often, my new-found faith and trust in God reared its head reminding me of my promise, and as each day goes by it is apparent that God's love for me is stronger than Satan's tricks to get me to break my promise.

It is in praise to God through the wondrous sacrifice of our blessed saviour, Jesus Christ, that I can proudly say I have not had one cigarette since I made my commitment of 24 December 1989. I have proved to myself that you don't need gimmicks but that if you really do believe as a Christian in the power of the Holy Spirit and knowing that God is always there to help through his son, our saviour Jesus Christ, a promise to God is all that is necessary to win the fight.



Pat Wheeler

A warning! Don't confuse a promise with bargaining—some people pray, saying, "Dear God help me through this ordeal and I promise never to sin again." If they do not get the help the way they want it, then they don't give a hoot about God and continue breaking the rules as before.

Just a single promise to God without any strings attached is all that it takes.

• Pat Wheeler is a member of the Mildura, Vic, church.

Growing Spiritually

Pushed or Pulled?

by Julie Adams

Mother pigeon decides one day that it is time for her baby to leave the nest and learn to fly. Of course, being a typical child, he complained and objected. But mother was determined and said so, and if he didn't go willingly she would tie a rope around his leg and pull him out. So he replied, "OK, OK, I will, I will. I couldn't bear to go through life pigeon-toed!"

Were you pushed or pulled or did you choose? Why are we

members of Churches of Christ?

I had the privilege of being born into a fine Christian home, with wonderful, strong Christian parents who taught and practised Christianity in every area of life. Along with Christian principles we learnt about Churches of Christ: we believe in the priesthood of all believers, where the Bible speaks we speak, believers' baptism, in essentials unity, non-essentials liberty, all things love.

My heart aches at the number I hear of who don't care for that any more. (If they ever really knew, that is!) Not because I was pushed or frightened of going through life being pigeon-toed. I chose because I believe we are right. Well, when we practise Christianity as the New Testament teaches we are.

I make no apologies for the stand I take, the fact is the world is not yet won for Christ and as I see it the New Testament church had better results than

we seem to have today. So, will you, with me "not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what the will of God is that which is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2)? May it be that we are so renewed that we again become the Bride of Christ that God intended us to be.

Happy flying!

• Julie Adams is chairperson of the SA Conference's Women's Ministry Committee and is a member at the Grote St, Adelaide, church.

Student Profile

John Schulze is a third-year student at CCTC. He and his wife, Raelene, have three children, Brendan and Adrianne, both in Adelaide, and Leah who is in Melbourne. His is a story of courageous endurance. He testifies to the wondrous provision of God to meet physical, spiritual and material needs as he responds to the call of God upon his life

It was when we were about to leave Darwin, where we had lived for seven years, that I felt my call to ministry in 1987. I began part-time studies at the Bible College of SA. During that year we were fortunate enough to purchase a house on a small property in the town of my upbringing, Waikerie, in the Riverland. I was employed as a night porter and was able to commute to Adelaide each week for the subject I was then studying—a round trip of 360 km.

To my way of thinking, this was "heaven on earth", a quiet, picturesque place to live in, surroundings I loved, the Murray, a good job, friends and a great little local church; and still being able to "plod along" with a bit of study. But God reminded me in no uncertain terms that he had called me to his ministry.

In January 1988, while at work, I was struck down by crippling Ross River virus. I was hospitalised, immobilised and in incredible pain. Further complications were to set in through the illness and all seemed lost as house payments etc. had to be found, and Social Security doesn't provide much of a living!

However I was given a "crash course" on God's providence and on how he shows his love through others.

In a year, a quarter of which I spent in bed, months on a walking stick and the whole time in pain, I was able to not only continue my study, but actually take on more subjects and pass. Still having to commute to Adelaide for two or three days, I was loaded on to a bus by Raelene, my wife, and unloaded at the other end by friends at whose place I was able to stay and who drove me to and from college. This process was to be the pattern for 1989 as well.

During this time we really



"We encountered the humbling experience of Christian love as dear friends cared for us"

encountered the humbling experience of Christian love as dear friends cared for us. One such friend regularly chopped our wood and mowed our lawns etc.—all just a small part of his ministry of service to others. And miraculously, we were able to scrape through financially, due mainly to food being provided to us.

In the meantime the thought of going to Melbourne to finish off my studies had been put into our minds, but I must admit that I originally wanted to remain where we were—after all, I could still get my Bachelor of Theology degree

and minister to a church. (In other words, "have my cake and eat it too!")

However, God had other ideas, and in late September 1989 we knew that we would be living in the Richmond manse, ministering at that church and I would be studying at the Churches of Christ Theological College in 1990. God quickly took care of the problems of selling our house—at a time when other houses just weren't selling—and in January 1990 we made our move, bringing our youngest daughter, Leah, with us.

Life at inner-city Richmond

is a far cry from that in the SA Riverland, but we are enjoying it.

The ministry situation at Richmond is both challenging and rewarding as we experience the warm friendship of a small but caring group who is anxious for the fellowship to grow. Studying at the new college has been an enjoyable experience. Fortunately, I am now able to drive short distances, which enables me to drive myself to college.

As I look back on the past three years, I realise just how much I have for which to thank the Lord. Sure, I still suffer at times from the frustrating illness, but in spite of it, God has seen me through. He has taught me to live with it, and when I do "collapse in a heap" he picks me up again. Without his help, I would not have been able to come this far in my studies—and now there are only 15 months to graduation.

But the greatest blessing of all so far is the way in which God is not only calling and using me; he is concurrently doing the same with Raelene as she is involving herself at the Richmond church and instigating so many avenues for outreach—not bad for someone who said to me at the time of my calling, "Don't expect me to be one of those minister's wives who has to be involved in everything!" I thank the Lord for my whole life—he has given me experience in so many aspects of life and with such a variety of people and situations—and I have grown from the "highs and lows" of that experience.

But I particularly thank him for memorable events of learning and maturing over the past three years. They have drawn Raelene and me closer as we experience the excitement of his call and look with confidence to the future that is in store as we serve him!

Discipleship

•Ella Jankowski, Cheryl Hedy, Burwood, Vic •Hannah Flight, Jan & Melissa Flint, Naomi, Kate & Amy LeRaye, Hawthorn, SA •Carlie Merat, Sue Roberts, Albury, NSW •Graham Harvey, Bundaberg, Qld •Jacqui Steele, Shaun Benham, Nunawading, Vic •Emma Finlayson, Grant Cameron, Bowral, NSW •David McGregor, La Trobe Terr, Geelong, Vic •Nathan Wardle, Manifold Heights, Vic •Kristy Lam, Thornleigh, Vic •Joyce Paterson, Lynne O'Malley, Heather O'Malley, Queenstown, Qld •Jeanette Cronan, Mark McGibbon, Mark Wheeler, Glen Waverley, Vic

Marriages

•Christine Madders to Ross Mills, Albury, NSW •Cheryl Oliver to Wayne Schultz, Nunawading, Vic •Joy Blackmore to Harvey Gude, Hartwell, Vic

Deaths

•Mrs Reita Parker, Hawthorn, SA •Charlotte Spiers, Frank Mellington, Val Pratt, George Sheumack, Albury, NSW •Stephen Allen Bradshaw, Bundaberg, Qld •Leslie Aaron Gordon Hall, Maitland, NSW •Lindsay MacDonald, Hartwell, Vic

Changes

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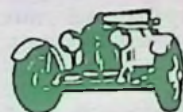
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Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Barbour, Hilda Ann
(15.7.90) Born Hilda Roberts in Chilton in 1889, Hilda first knew Churches of Christ in Bet Bet, then Maryborough, where she was baptised by Will Combridge. In 1930 Hilda married Robert Barbour, a TPI soldier, whom she nursed for the rest of his life. Their two children were led by Hilda into the way of truth. She helped make possible her sister Rita's work in Good Companions. At the thanksgiving service at South Yarra Arthur Haskell was soloist and Ern Sherman paid tribute to Hilda's hospitality and years with CWF and Community Care. A.B. Withers told of the Maryborough years.

—A.B. Withers

Hall, Leslie Aaron Gordon
(15.7.90) Born into Jewish family in 1902. Mother was daughter of Rabbi Levi of Great Synagogue, Sydney. At age 13 began work at Nettleton's Furniture. Became expert craftsman upholsterer. Made soft furnishings for 1954 royal visit. Converted Undercliffe Baptist Church. Later associated with Mosman and Epping Churches of Christ. Married Alma May Taylor 1928. Merle, Valma, Patricia, Max and Ray offspring. Strong supporter David House Fellowship. Died eight

weeks after wife. Buried from Eastwood Baptist College chapel. Service taken by R.N. Hawkins sharing with Rev. J. Giles and Max Hall.

—R.N. Hawkins

Pratt, Valma
(1.6.90) Born in 1928, her parents nurtured the fledgling church of Albury, which opened in 1927. Val grew up in the Albury church. A devout Christian and not having any children of her own she became a dedicated teacher teaching the children of others. Val is remembered for her caring, generosity, faithfulness, loyalty and concern for her friends and congregation. Her faith was expressed by her actions. A teacher, Sunday School teacher, deaconess, fundraiser, great supporter of ministers and their families and a faithful behind-the-scenes worker, her presence is now missed but still appreciated by the many encouraged by her walk.

NSW

ALBURY (Alex Wilson, Allan Blyth) Church camp held at Cheshunt April ... Old-time dinner-dance in May great success ... After visit from Keith Farmer a focus on home cell groups within church. Four groups now operating ... 39 district youth leaders at training weekend led by

Church News

Youth Ministries ... Highly successful God's Squad visit to high schools. 36 decisions (14 first commitments). Looking forward to Gordon Moyes teaching weekend 20-22 July.

BATHURST (David Gurney) The pastor has wanted to encourage the young people in the church to be more active in the services. Recently 10 young people played their musical instruments during an evening service ... On a cold Sunday afternoon in July, Cheryl, Leanne, Kirsten & Nichole were baptised ... Church attendance is increasing with up to 102 on a morning service.

MITTLAND (R.N. Hawkins) Community Care dinner at our Nursing Home. C. Wilson, J. Murphy, R. Hawkins, K. Johnston speakers. G. Johnston was MC. Representatives from Hunter Valley churches ... Greg Hawkins guest preacher 22 July ... Missionary Convention with A. Webb 27-29 July.

BOWRAL (Garry Towle) Church consolidated Garry Towle's recent ministry by two-year extension from March 1991 ... Valuable support from College students Wolfgang Kozman & Harry Koster ... Well-attended ladies' dinner addressed by Dr Carol Preston from Wollongong ... Ken Bond from Campbelltown addressed men at dinner 21 July ... Church giving prayer & organisational support to combined churches Rally in Bowral 21 September.

THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley) Guest speaker on 15 July was Dr Arthur Rupprecht, Chairman of Foreign Language Dept of Wheaton College, Chicago, USA, at the am service ... Special feature of the pm service was the baptism of Kristy Lam by Franklyn Elliott. Kristy with her mother going to Indonesia for about 12 months, joining her father who is already there.

Qld

BUNDABERG (Alan Leane) Average am attendance increased to 129, pm 82, communicants 112 ... Philip & Meredith & three children transferred from Bunbury, WA ... Two primary decisions ... 34 attend Vacation Bible School with Sheryl Hoffman, DCDE, & helpers ... Elders update by-laws ... Betty McCreeden going world tour ... Generous gift received previous member now residing NSW ... Youth conducted gospel service. P. Ballard speaker ... Dorrie Lassig has major surgery ... Lora Gollschewsky & Kate Silcox enter Grace Have Nursing Home.

GATTON Attendances at morning services & level of giving on increase ... Sunday evening "celebrations" times of encouraging fellowship, worship & prayer ... Small daytime groups functioning for study & prayer. One lady brought to see need for baptism ... After-school Kids Club making new contacts as well as reaching out to younger local children ... Four local Churches of Christ co-operating in combined worship & youth activities encouraging smaller groups.

MARYBOROUGH (David Woodward) David Woodward caring, challenging ministry ... Girls' Brigade mothers' tea, family service ... "Neighbours' Night", Bishop Dudley Food guest speaker ... CWF trip, pottery, antique mornings ... Boys' Brigade family service ... Lamington drive ... CYF Dream-world trip, indoor bowls "Fair Haven" guests ... 50 participating Fulfil Your Life studies ... Ros, Frank Beale serving Papua New Guinea ... Althea & David Brooks at Gideons Convention USA.

MAROOCHYDORE (Geoff Risson) Since the John Bond Crusade some 10 young people have been baptised, in which we rejoice ... At Half Yearly Convention recently, our minister led the workshops on Lifestyle Evangelism on that occasion ... A visit by the acclaimed gospel singing group "Endless Praise" heightened our morning service recently ... The church is preparing for its family camp at Camp Cal very soon.

SA

HAWTHORN (Ron Hewitt) Six baptisms including three sisters plus three transfers. Very encouraging meetings ... David & Joy Althorpe (Nollamara) to commence ministry in February 1991 ... Ron Hewitt appointed Executive Director DCD NSW commencing January 1991 ... Winter services 5 pm soup'n'sandwiches once a month ... Attendances showing pleasing improvement ... Max Meyers, International Director MAF, guest speaker ... Kids Klub & Girls' Brigade held successful church parades.

MURRAY BRIDGE (Bill Bowden) Appointed three elders ... One decision, two commitments ... Invited new ministry Jan 1991 ... Geoff Maxwell appointed Pres Longriders Motorcycle Club ... Aileen Draney, Dorothy Holstein visited ... Young mothers prepare "activities clipboards" for all children attending services ... "Food for Thought" theme for friendship dinner ... Monthly meetings held

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Church News

"Murraylands" & "Lerwin" homes ... Tuesday lunch hour prayer time continues ... Visits from "New Connexions" & local Uniting Church musical group.
QUEENSTOWN (Colin Hocking) Monthly church luncheons BYO proving worthwhile rich fellowship ... Much sickness being experienced ... Colin & wife Lylia presenting Christ's love, care & encouragement the old-fashioned way—the NT way ... Prayer & Bible study group every second Tuesday well attended ... CWF very much alive ... Sunday witness to three immersions—a grandmother, mother and daughter. Church praising God ... Harold & Irene Logan celebrated 60th wedding anniversary with church 15 July.

Vic

BURWOOD (Peter Wing Tang) Board retreat held with Rev. Gilbert Cann giving important insights into areas of church leadership ... Emergency fund offering taken monthly contributing towards relief of people throughout Burwood & Mt Waverley ... Many working bees have now resulted in completion of landscaping of church grounds ... Church delighted that Prayer Sanctuary being used by many organisations ... Five welcomed into membership at impressive baptismal service.
NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn) Third Sunday at 5 pm addressed by Pastor Sofi Locotol of Tongan Wesleyan

Methodist Church, who use chapel Sunday afternoons. Items given by Tongans ... Church rejoices with Colin & Heather Carbis in birth of son David ... Ann Graham overseas (Ireland) & Ivy Bangsund (Queensland) on holidays ... Overseas Mission Board on display for offering.
RED CLIFFS (G.R. Sharrad) Worship seminar with Ian Tippett held 13-14 July, was speaker on 15 July ... CWF annual meetings. CWAFF Pres Mrs Sharrad, VP Mrs Connell, Sec. Mrs Sprigg, Treas. Mrs Chislett; CWF Sec. Mrs G. French, Treas. Mrs V. Milne. At bi-monthly meetings, held in homes, hostess is President ... "Kid's Club" going well. Attendances usually between 35-40.

NUNAWADING (E. Keating, D. Hamilton, J. Wright, L. Smith, A. Spoelder) Guest speakers pm services June Doster, Dr Tabbeemee ... Hall renovations under consideration ... Series "Christianity Explained" by Dean Hamilton ... Kids & Co attracting large numbers ... Recent years \$14,265 to Force Ten projects ... "Skyways & Byways" presented by Betty & Russell Clinton ... Recent functions—coffee mornings for Welcomers, CWAFF, Playgroup parents ... Guest dinners for International Needs, senior citizens, Prime of Life ... Foody & pie luncheon.

ASHBURTON (K. Barton) First Sunday Week of Prayer for Christian Unity members joined ecumenical service at local Baptist Church with theme "One in the

Spirit" ... CWF 50th anniversary celebrated with a luncheon for past & present members & friends. Foundation members Enid Fisher & Gwen McCann participated. Gladys Mackenzie's address at thanksgiving service titled "A Touch of Gold" ... Keith & Wendy Ridge attended Companionship Centre 10th birthday.

THE PATCH (Mike Folland) Church extension nearing completion ... Church families have helped with emergency accommodation for youth referred by local shire ... Youth group growing weekly. Adventure camp conducted by Ruth & Mike Folland & Paul Fry in school holidays ... Board retreat planned for August to pray & plan for future work & growth ... CWF program included audio-visual on Aboriginal work ... Kallista market stall raised \$200.

LA TROBE TERR, GEELONG (Dr C.J. Mackenzie) Over 100 at family service witnessed David McGregor's baptism conducted by L. Barker, who explained meaning of baptism to young children grouped around baptism ... 13 ladies & two gentlemen enjoyed outing to St Alban's homestead ... Recent visitors appreciated warmth of new surroundings & after-church cuppa ... Young people conducted am service on 22 July ... Choir sang at pm service at Norlane.

HARTWELL (G. Rogerson) Family worship. Large congregation shared. Special features included puppet show, children's items &

four instruments led singing ... 30 church leaders from five regional churches attended seminar led by Rowland Croucher ... 5 pm services during winter months ... Music workshop led by Peter Wakeley attracted good group of interested people. Discussion on importance of music in worship, leadership, change ... Seven study groups meeting regularly.

MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (Max Ball) Recommendation from board that Max Ball's term be extended to Feb. 1993 accepted at congregational meeting, also report on future directions ... Dedication service David Cooling ... Baptism of Nathan Wardle by father Clinton ... Enjoyable fellowship July family dinner, after-services cuppas am & pm ... CWF enjoy meeting in homes for winter ... Winter evening services 6.30 ... Membership welcome to Wes & Linda Cusworth.

Tas

LAUNCESTON (Rod Foster) Notification received that Danielle Larsen has successfully passed her Girls' Brigade Queen's Award ... Greg Elsdon speaker at am services on 15 July ... National Bible Sunday commemorated at 7 pm service when Rod Foster spoke on "The Bible—God's Own Word" ... Church unanimously endorsed board's recommendation to appoint Darryl Tobler as part-time youth minister for an initial five-year term.

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8-14 October 1990

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Women and Leadership

The Bible study and prayer group at the Essendon, Vic, church, under the leadership of Ken Stothard, conducted an inquiry into the role of women in the church. Essendon currently has two elders, one of whom is a woman, and eight board members, three of whom are female. The group came to the following basic conclusions:

1 Corinthians 14:34-35

- There is a textual problem (see B.M. Metzger, *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament*, page 565). This should arouse our suspicions.

- As the passage stands, the comment on women is an intrusion. Paul is in the middle of a discussion of spiritual gifts and order.

- Women are not required to be silent in 1 Corinthians 11:5, 13 (compare here verse 26 etc., in which "sisters" would be included, judging by Philippians 4:1-3).

- Paul doesn't appeal to law in this manner (see 9:9-, 14:21) nor does he prescribe Christian conduct in this way.

- The appeal to law militates against Paul's teaching on the leading and freedom of the Spirit and suggests theological inconsistency.

- OT law doesn't say women are not permitted to speak. It is a Jewish law.

- Paul's attitude to women in 1 Corinthians 11 is favourable, certainly not hostile (compare Galatians 3:28, Romans 16:1-, Philippians 4:1-3 etc.). Here the language is veherent.

- Why should it be shameful for a woman to speak?

- Having dealt at length with women in chapter 11, why should Paul interrupt himself and drag them in here?

The group concluded that verses 34-35 are the interpolation of a Judaiser. Their teaching is manifestly too suspect to weigh heavily with us.

Deaconesses

The argument for deaconesses is strong (1 Timothy 3 and Romans 16:1-).

1 Timothy 2

- Note that Paul is concerned for social stability not revolution (verses 1-7) and recall his handling of the question of slavery, the basis of which he undermined by his teaching about brotherhood in Christ.

- With this in view we should note that the words "I do not permit..." contrast sharply with OT law. ("You shall not...". Incidentally, the fact that he doesn't appeal to law here deepens our suspicions regarding 1 Corinthians 14:34-5.) The words suggest for us appropriateness, normality, guiding principle, expediency, not infrangible law that operates in all circumstances.

- Verse 15a manifestly did not apply in all cases then; it certainly does not today.

- Genesis 2 and 3 did not prevent exceptions (admittedly) in the OT, e.g. Miriam, Huldah, Deborah. They can hardly be expected to exclude charismatic, i.e. gifted, called, tested, women in the age of the Spirit.

Warning: In view of the general teaching of Scriptures that indicates that men's creational role properly involves leadership despite their lamentable failure in the churches in general, we should beware of being carried away by the excesses of the feminist movement. Discretion and discernment are paramount in considering both men and women for positions of responsibility (see 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1).

Bibliography

Leon Morris, *1 Corinthians* (1958); Gordon D. Fee, *1 Corinthians* (1987); D.A. Carson, *Showing the Spirit* (1988); D. Guthrie, *The Pastoral Epistles* (1957); J.B. Hurley, *Man and Woman in Biblical Perspective* (1981) and B.M. Metzger, *A Textual Commentary on the Greek NT* (1971).

The Last Word

The man who refuses forgiveness to his brothers cuts himself off from the forgiveness of others.

—David Augsburg

An "old-time" evangelist, voice trembling with emotion, was warning the congregation about the rapidly approaching Day of Judgement. "There will be weeping," the evangelist shouted. "There will be wailing, there will be gnashing of teeth."

There was a moment of silence as those gathered in the tent absorbed what the preacher had said. Then from the back of the crowd an old person stood up and shouted. "Preacher, I ain't got no teeth." "Ah," said the minister, "teeth will be provided."

★★★★★

I noticed you put \$50 in the collection. What have you got on your conscience?

★★★★★

Child: Of course I know the facts of life. Eat your vegetables and wash your hands.

★★★★★

Child to parent, examining report card: "I am not an under-achiever. My teacher is an over-expecter!"

★★★★★

A traveller was forced to remain in a small country town because a landslide, caused by constant, heavy rain, had blocked the road. It was still pouring as the traveller entered a cafe for a meal.

"It looks like the Flood" the traveller said. "The what?"

"The Flood. You've heard about the Flood, and the Ark landing on Mount Ararat, surely." The cafe proprietor answered sadly, "I haven't seen a paper for three days."

★★★★★

After making a maiden speech, the young MP asked other members what they thought of it. "It was a real Rolls Royce speech," said the old-timer. "You were well oiled, almost inaudible and went for a very long time."



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