

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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Small Church

**Harcourt Building
Centenary**

—page 11

Large Church

**Wollongong
Pledges \$1.7m**

—page 9

Medium Church

Focus on Belmont

—page 17

Vietnamese Church

**Nathan Nhan
ordained at
Richmond →**

—story page 3



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Guest Editorial

*"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand,
that he may lift you up in due time." (1 Peter 5:6)*

Reach Out and Touch the Lord

by Noelene Roose

As we look at the theme for my year as NSW CWF President we see that the implications of the words "reach out" are tremendous when we consider the need we have as Christian women to see our fellowships grow and flourish rather than die because of lack of interest.

Our movement is Christ centred, but does that mean church centred? As a Christ-motivated group of women we should be reaching out to all who have needs. Let's stop and think—who are in need in our communities? There are the poor, the lonely, the aged and the young. There are the drug addicts, those

suffering from AIDS, the alcoholics and the prostitutes. What about the single parents?

"But," you might say, "how can we, as Christians, reach out to these people?" In the same way as Jesus would, with love and compassion! It seems to me—and I will be glad to be proved wrong—that if we do not do something soon, our CWFs will be a lost cause. We need new blood, some new ideas and methods and a new level of tolerance. We cannot change the Gospel message that is ours to give out, but we can change our presentation and our reception of those who might come from outside the church "fold".

To meet together monthly to worship God, sing his praises and have teaching and fellowship is great—but let's not keep it exclusive! Let us go out into the community among the people, as Jesus did in his ministry. We need to remember that we represent him in the world today and what we do, or don't do, is how the "world" sees Jesus today.

It is one thing to say all this, but it is another thing entirely to put these thoughts into action. We live in radical times and that fact alone calls for radical action. So then, we must move out of our "comfort zone" into the world, remembering that the Bible says that "we are in the world, but not of it".

To be a woman is a great honour that



God has bestowed upon us. To be a Christian woman is something that we decided to be and, because of that decision, God expects us to act in the full tradition of Christianity. Notice the word "expects". Are we living up to that expectation if we are just an exclusive group within the church? Are we following the traditions that Christ set before us? These are questions we must answer individually as well as collectively.

How we meet the challenge to reach out will vary in different areas, but the methods and means must be as Christ would do it and as the Bible teaches us in all contingencies of life. We can take encouragement from the words of Jesus: "I will never leave you or forsake you," and again: "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." Does the "they" mean us as the CWF or does it mean those we have already mentioned in the opening paragraphs? There is no doubt to me that it means both! No matter what we attempt, in his name, or where we attempt it, we have the power of God's Holy Spirit to lead us and go before us into the unknown.

Out there are people who are crying out for love, compassion, friendship. We can be exclusive and die. We can be daring and bring life to CWF!

• Noelene Roose was taken to Sunday School at Enmore Tabernacle when she was two years old and it was there that she came to know and love her Lord. Married to Hugh, she has two sons and three grandchildren. In the early 1970s Noelene worked for the Youth Department in "The Bookroom" at City Temple. For a number of years she was involved in Aborigines Committee work and in 1974 she and her husband commenced service with the FAB, serving at Norseman, Esperance and Carnarvon. Since returning home in late 1985, she has supported Hugh in ministries at Belrose and currently at Mt Druit.

**"If we do not do
something soon,
our CWFs will be
a lost cause"**

Cartoonist Draws Laughs with a Divine Message

In Maitland, NSW, the Hawkins family played host to a Queensland cartoonist who created Australia's third-biggest selling cartoon strip—"Pearly Gates". Ian Jones was invited to speak to church groups in the Maitland area on the weekend of 22-25 June and he was certainly kept busy.

Ian, of Kingaroy, Qld, addressed a dinner of the Maitland church on the Friday night held at Green Hills Nursing Home.

On Saturday he attended a breakfast and spoke to members of Youth For Christ at Maitland High School and on Sunday addressed a family service at the Maitland church. On the Monday evening he spoke to the Rotary Club.

Ian is one of only five full-time Australian strip cartoonists. He describes Pearly Gates, created in the early 1980s, as a humorous strip with a positive Christian message.

"The strip is the good news part of a newspaper," he said. "Pearly Gates is two-thirds entertainment. The rest is a message, which is delivered in a fun way."

The main characters include St Peter, Walter, Angie and Johnny. Ian draws his inspiration from everyday events and from the Bible.

"A cartoonist has to have his eyes, ears and mind wide open. My strip comes from outside influences and just about anything that tickles my fancy."

Ian said Pearly Gates sometimes gives the church a "boot in the pants".

"Sometimes the church falls behind. But the strip is not sinister or immoral about it," he said.

Pearly Gates appears in Sydney's *Daily Telegraph* newspaper and is published in other newspapers around Australia. It has also appeared in New Zealand and Norwegian publications.

Ian is married to Robyn and they have six children ranging in age from 12 years to 18 months. The whole family is involved with the running of Pearly Gates promotions, which include the marketing of T-shirts, books, cards, mugs, bookmarks and magnets, as well as the production of *Pearls*, a Pearly Gates newsletter.

Maitland minister, Ray Hawkins, said Ian delivered a strong message to members of the church at the weekend.

"Many people were impressed with Ian's message and they have offered their support for his work," he said.

—Rebecca Berry
(Maitland Mercury)

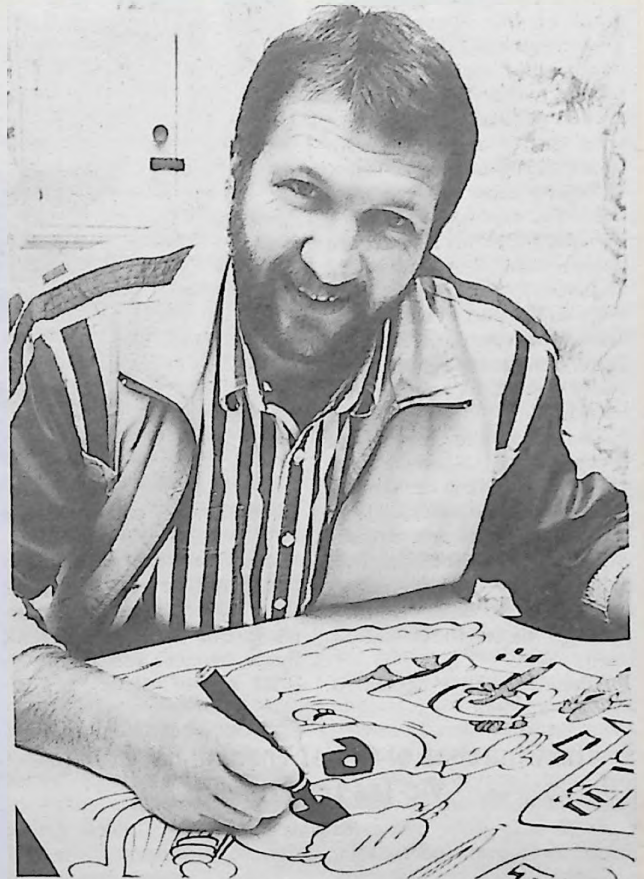


Photo by Kathy Bowen courtesy of the Maitland Mercury

Cartoonist Ian Jones at work

Ordination for Richmond Vietnamese Church Minister

Nathan Nhan, minister to the Vietnamese Church of Christ, Richmond, Vic, was ordained to ministry in the Australian Churches of Christ at a special service held at Richmond on 14 July. The act of ordination was led by Neil Galbraith on behalf of Federal Conference. Those laying hands upon Nathan in setting him apart for ministry were Neil Galbraith, Brian White, Conference President in Victoria-Tasmania, Max Carter, the President-Elect of Victoria-Tasmania, Nguyen Huu Tin, minister of the Kew Baptist Vietnamese congregation, and Ong Dinh Minh Hoang, a deacon of the Viet-

namese church. A wall hanging was prepared by members of the Vietnamese church and is a customary decoration used for weddings and other special ceremonies. Translated into English it said "ordination service".

There was a large audience, including Conference representatives, Churches of Christ Theological College staff, wider church representatives from the Vietnamese community, Richmond church and the Vietnamese congregation.

The service was conducted in both Vietnamese and English and led by Pham Huynh Hung, the secretary of the

church, who interpreted in either English or Vietnamese according to which language was being used at the time.

The service was followed by a buffet dinner prepared by the Vietnamese congregation.

Nathan arrived in Australia some 10 years ago after surviving a dangerous boat voyage as a refugee from Vietnam.

He studied for a time at the University of Sydney and completed a theological course with the Bible College of Victoria in 1988.

Since then he has done further studies at the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave, as prerequisite for

ordination, and is currently working at MA studies in missiology.

He is married to Esther. They have a daughter, Amy. Esther is employed full-time with the Taxation Office to support Nathan in his ministry, for which to date there is only part-time financial support available from the church and the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development. The church recently commenced a mission outreach to Chinese students which has seen rising attendances at special services and a number of students baptised. Nathan leads this service in Mandarin.

Recognition

On 2 June 120 shared in a meal at the Margaret St, Toowoomba, Qld, church to honour the work of Aileen Draney, who recently retired after 30 years of selfless service with the Overseas Mission Board in Papua New Guinea.

Among those present were the Federal Conference President, Dr Don Stewart, the Queensland Conference President, Professor Alan Wilson, the past PNG Conference Chairperson, Rosalie Rofe, interstate visitors and many past fellow workers and friends.

Chaired by the Queensland Overseas Mission Board Chairman, Horace Christensen, the evening was a tribute to the great accomplishments and growth of the church in PNG and to Aileen's involvement from its inception in 1959 through to its independent status today.

Aileen endeared herself to



Aileen Draney cutting a cake in the shape of PNG

many. Over the 30 years Aileen has shared the work with more than 100 expatriate missionaries in our area alone. Frank Beale, pioneer missionary to PNG, said of Aileen, "If a job

had to be done Aileen would just get in and do it." Other past missionaries, Ralph Bennett, Murray Fenner, Rod Feldhahn and Ted Gray recalled memorable incidents and highly commended Aileen for her uncomplaining faithful work and total dedication to the church and its people in PNG.

Aileen's thoughts were always for others. Donations sent to her to provide some basic necessities such as flyscreens would often be diverted to another need.

It was recalled that a young David Lowe, present 30 years ago when Aileen departed to PNG for the first time, promised to send her a gun for protection, but this gesture never materialised. David, in making this admission, added that her "sword of the Spirit" was a much more effective weapon anyway.

One PNG church leader commented in a taped greeting that Aileen was still living in PNG and would continue to do so for many years to come.

The evening's program was further enhanced by a slide presentation from the past to the present and the inspiring musical presentation from the "Joytones".

A presentation of taped greetings, letters and a photographic record of the occasion

Conference Secretary/
Conference Secretary

It has been announced that Ian Allsop is to become the new Vic-Tas Conference Secretary on a part-time basis (three days a week) beginning in February 1991. He will also at the same time take up the position of Federal Conference Secretary, also on a part-time basis (two days a week).

Ian is currently a lecturer at the Churches of Christ Theological College at Mulgrave. He has previously held the position of Federal Conference Secretary (1982-88) and has had ministries in Western Australia and Victoria. He was Director of the Federal Board of Christian Education from 1975 to 1983.

Both executives made the joint appointment after discussions and a search for a suitable candidate for the position.

Clive Ward will retire from the position of Vic-Tas Conference Secretary prior to Ian taking on the position. Clive will be the Federal Conference President after the 43rd Federal Conference to be held in Brisbane during October. Joan Pye will retire as Federal Conference Secretary after Conference.



Ian Allsop

was made to Aileen by Horace Christensen at the conclusion of the evening.

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Building Effective Churches



Kennon and Julie Callahan

"This was certainly not just another exercise in church growth, this was getting back to the basics of what the local church is all about." So an older minister described the program of Dr Kennon Callahan to South Australia.

Another minister said, "Effectiveness has nothing to do with size. For the first time, I feel freed from having to be a big church, something that is quite impossible where my congregation is located."

They learned that effectiveness starts with having specific missional objectives.

It is built upon with:

- Pastoral/lay visitation.
- Corporate dynamic worship.
- Significant relational groups.
- Strong leadership resources.
- Solid participatory decision making.

These "relational characteristics", as they are called, are the baseline for building effective congregations and out of these will grow the functional characteristics that have so often been addressed as the starting point.

Not so. Things like programs, activities, visibility, accessibility, parking and finance are all important, but not the starting point.

Kennon Callahan and his wife Julie are a team and were in SA for most of July, in a program sponsored by Churches of Christ and the Uniting Church. Into this month were packed meetings and seminars.

Dr Callahan has a wealth of experience as a pastor, from the rural Turin Circuit to minister of one of the largest Methodist Churches in the USA (Dallas), a writer, a scholar, theological college lecturer and one of the leading consultants in church planning in the USA.

60 congregational groupings of ministers, elders and key people worked around tables at the Veneto Centre for five days, shepherded through the *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church*.

90 ministers spent five days at the Blackwood church working on the implications of effective leadership. One-day programs for key people were held on "Financing the Church's Mission", "Working with Seniors", "Developing Lay Leadership" and "Adequate Denominational Structures for Effective Mission".

Finally, a full day was held at the spacious Grange Family Centre, when church boards and elders came together for the program "Building Effective Congregations".

Somebody said, "The ball is

at our feet now. This is something that cannot be refuted simply because we are small or old. It is workable and makes commonsense."

There is already a significant group of churches and ministers who are moving in this direction. It could well be that future ministry requirements for many churches in SA will be based on a willingness to embrace the concepts.

Dr Callahan "struck home" with his challenging lines: "The day of the professional minister is over and the day of the missionary pastor has come. The day of the churches culture is over and the day of the mission field has come. The day of the local church is over and the day of the mission outpost has come."

His emphasis on focusing on "the middle third" has implications for the most effective use of resources in the local church and the conference offices. The emphasis on "community and compassion" as the central motivational forces brought a positive response. Dr Callahan's delightful throw-away lines about "excellent mistakes and objectives not worth doing", and his "four best worst questions" brought smiles and impact.

For our SA churches there was a positive response to his probing "invitational questions": Where are we headed? What kind of future are we building? What are our strengths, gifts and competencies? What is God calling us to in mission?

Kennon Callahan will be back in South Australia next year. This will be a chance to build on the good work of 1990 and involve even more congregations at depth in the program.

—Keith Horne

Dr Callahan's books *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church*, *Effective Church Leadership* and the *Planning Workbook* are available from the SA Conference Office and are published by Harper and Row. For further information contact the office on (08) 239 0233.

Launceston Uses Its Talents

To help reduce its debts the Launceston, Tas, church last year launched a talent endeavour program. Each church member was encouraged to apply for \$10 and use their talent to multiply that amount. A committee assisted individuals, families and groups by organising two mini fairs and a harvest thanksgiving service, selling chocolate bars, compiling a devotional booklet written by one of the members and holding a great "non-event" on 33 July (receiving some hilarious responses, accompanied with contributions).

Slide evenings, dinner parties, a musical evening, a quiz night, chocolate making, home-made cooking and produce, handcrafts, a peddlers parade, car washes, wood cutting and delivery, reconditioned hand-mowers, oil paintings and a winter Christmas dinner (even Santa appeared with a small gift for everyone) were just some of the ideas members came up with. One teenager cleaned out his room and made over \$60.

Despite inclement weather, 255 packed the church on 5 August for the church's 106th anniversary and brought their talent offerings to be placed in a model of the church. At the conclusion of the service, the amount of the offering was announced—\$15,537, with another \$776 handed in at the evening service.

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Big Changes at York Street, Ballarat



The new chapel adjoining the old buildings

Nothing changes at York Street, Ballarat, Vic, church—in the 1890s the members decided to buy the hall they were renting for £100 when they had 15/11½ in the bank. Then, in the 1930s they built a new church in the middle of the Depression. In the 1980s the church members voted to embark on a major rebuilding program when they were only just meeting their budget. Time had shown that more space was needed to accommodate the increasing attendance and provide for future growth. After much prayer and plan-

ning it was realised that a new chapel, linked to existing buildings that would need renovation, was required.

They knew three things:

- They could not afford the \$560,000 cost of the project and had no inclination to pay high interest rates.

- They had all the expertise and enough dedication in a core group of members and friends to carry out the work voluntarily.

- They had enough faith in God to know that if this was the way to go then it would just happen.

Three years later sees the completion of a new kindergarten and the official opening of a new 350+-seat chapel and church complex on 1 July. Brian Parsons, board chairman, conducted the opening ceremony and Bob Ross, the oldest board member, together with four children, cut the ribbon and opened the doors.

The local television and press attended and gave a good coverage.

Phyl Davis, past Vic-Tas Conference President, attended and brought a greeting from Conference and Andrew Ball led the gospel celebration service held that evening.

The project has included new offices, toilets and two large meeting rooms and relocation of the preschool, as well as the chapel and foyer. The work has taken place in stages. Stage 4 will convert the old chapel built in 1932 into a youth hall, renovated kitchen facilities, creche and link to the foyer.

Apart from the massive amount of voluntary labour by members and friends (ages ranged from four to 80+) many of the materials and equipment just "turned up". People found previously unknown skills, a bond was formed with those who helped and, best of all, it gave the church boundless opportunities to witness to people in the community. Gifts and interest-free loans (including a \$30,000 government grant for the preschool) totalled \$285,739. All current accounts have been paid without one cent being paid in interest.

—Heather Gordon and Bob Feary

Glory of Easter Tour

Christian Projects, in conjunction with Robert Schuller Ministries, is presenting an 18-day tour to the "Glory of Easter" in March 1991. Tour leaders are Ron and Maureen Kennedy. Ron is the minister at the Beverly Hills, NSW, church.

The Glory of Easter is a passion pageant, performed at the Crystal Cathedral in California. Through a blend of music, song, flying angels, live animals and state-of-the-art special effects, the Easter story unfolds.

Over 100 volunteer actors are supported by professionals, with recorded orchestration by the London Symphony providing the musical backdrop. The

cathedral's pipe organ joins in to fill the all-glass structure with glorious sound. A combination of life-like recreations of earthquakes and storms, flying angels soaring overhead and live animals parading down the aisles make the "Glory of Easter" a most exciting interpretation of the week that changed the course of history.

Over 250,000 travel from all over the world each Easter to witness this passion presentation.

The tour will leave on 18 March, stopping over at Hawaii, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

For further information, ring Christian Projects on (008) 24 2904, or Ron on (02) 580 8165.

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In the Sea at Mornington

The beauty of God's creation was very evident when over 50 from the Mornington, Vic, fellowship saw the white-clad trio enter the restless white-capped water. They walked confidently, joyously and expectantly. There was hardly a dry eye among those who stood on the shore. The baptism of Helen Rogers and her eldest son, Paul, took place in the ocean at Mornington beach after a service of prayer and praise on the shore. As Ian Cartmel led the

service and performed the baptisms the chill wind was forgotten, and the warmly clad gathering were inspired.

Of great encouragement to Helen and Paul was the presence of so many, ranging in age from eight months to over 80, sharing in the verse of scripture that is so special to all at Mornington: "And so I am sure that God who began this work in you will carry it on until it is finished on the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 3:6)



At Mills Beach, Mornington (left to right): Paul Rogers, Michael Rogers, Helen Rogers, Ian Cartmel

In Nigerian Dress



Peter Schulz, Yinka and Yemi Ajari and Kerry Schulz in the Nigerian costumes they wore at Yuki and Yemi's wedding in Vanuatu. Peter and Kerri were neighbours of Peter and Kerri's when they were serving as missionaries in Vanuatu. Yinka and Yemi were serving as a medical team in Vanuatu. Peter served as best man and Kerry as matron of honour at their wedding. The two couples shared something of the excitement of this wedding at a recent service at the Centenary, Qld, church

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Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Food For Thought

To the Editor,

The 21 July issue of *The Australian Christian* gives us much food for thought.

Firstly we have Dean Phelan's letter raising again the question about our identity as a people known as Churches of Christ. Then we have two stimulating statements—Alan Page's report on the Christian Conference of Asia Assembly in the Philippines and Leroy Garret's article about the need for his branch of the church to be part of the World Council of Churches. Thank you for publishing them.

It is well for us to consider our reason for being a separate people in the church universal. If we take the trouble to read something of our personal history we can be reminded that our denomination came into being because two men, father and son Campbell, were deeply concerned at the divisions within Christ's church and felt impelled to do something about it; above all to be obedient to the desire and prayer of Jesus for the unity of those who would believe because of the witness of his disciples.

The Campbells and others of like mind were thrust out of their church and began a new movement, a reformation they called it, at Brush Run in West Virginia. They saw, as the means of bringing about the unity of the church, the restoration of New Testament Christianity. The concept of being a Restoration Movement has a

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certain lack of humility about it and I believe that part of our problem of identity is bound up with that factor. This particular concept has given rise to division within our churches in the country of their origin and it is not without its implication for our churches in this land.

Jesus calls us to a radical obedience to him in all things—not least, to an expression of the unity of his church to the end that the world might believe in him. For most of my Christian life I have been involved in the ecumenical movement and have found in Christians of other communions a common purpose and joy in Christ Jesus. This is where we belong as a people, sharing our faith, our vision and our joy in seeking to be obedient to him who has called us into his glorious kingdom.

—Ken Dawson
(Brooklyn Park, SA)

Churches of Christ and Ecumenism

To the Editor,

As we near the 43rd Federal Conference someone asked me, "Have you a statement for today on what Churches of Christ are doing in the area of Christian unity?" I offered to look through my papers. Amongst much material I found 20 pamphlets, and began with "A New Look" by J. Eric Gough of WA. "Just the thing, right for today; spot on," I thought. Its date? Oh, 14 June 1955 (Pamphlet Club No. 14). It gives very clear statements for the "then" and, sadly, I believe for many of our people, for the "now".

In the light of our 1989 survey I think that his conclusions still point the way we should follow to advance our people's understanding of ecumenism.

Here is a summary of Eric Gough's conclusions: Each year a course of sermons on aspects of Christian unity; study programs on our movement, other communions and the ecumenical movement; camps at the youth, preacher and congregational levels; a more kindly, sympathetic attitude towards

other communions and their representatives; exchange of pulpits; support of the World Council of Churches—"not, mark you, because it is the last word in ecumenical advances, but because it is the expression of that movement in this day".

He ended with an appeal for a new approach to Christian unity, which stops pointing the finger at other communions but turns to the setting of our own house in order. Perhaps this is still applicable for the coming Federal Conference of Churches of Christ.

—David Allison
(Secretary Department of Christian Union)

Thanks

To the Editor,

We would like to express our thanks to the minister, elders, board and members of the Footscray Church of Christ for their thoughtfulness in arranging for us a service of recognition to mark our retirement

from ministry. Their offer was much appreciated by both of us. We thank also the churches at Warragul, Red Hill, Bayswater, Bendigo and Dareton for supporting the recognition and for the generosity of their comments regarding the ministry we shared with them.

Through this letter we would like to thank all of those who shared in the service, and the opportunity to recall with them the times we spent together in Christ.

The occasion will remain long in our memory, as will the affection expressed by all who were there.

Above all we offer our thanks to God who called us to ministry in his name. By his grace and through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that ministry has been offered and received.

In our retirement in Adelaide we still look forward to further ministry in his name.

—Betty and Maurice
Keatch

Letters from Tertius

Horizons

To the Editor,

After 30 years we had a club reunion at my old church to honour our leader of those days, Bill Braddock, on his 80th birthday. I recalled his saying to us often, "Life depends on where your horizons are." And sure enough he said it in his speech at the party.

I never really grasped what he meant by it, but I thought he was saying, "Have a shot at things you think are beyond you."

A few days later I flew to Darwin on business. Our jet was 36,000 ft up. The captain was drawing our attention to features hundreds of kilometres away. Yet standing at the beach where we holiday, ships disappear across the horizon just 20 km out.

Suddenly I knew what Bill was on about. There is no limit to our horizons if we can get up high enough.

And I remembered the times when I was absorbed by personal and family problems when it seemed that the world was crowding in on us and coming to an end. If I could have got up a few feet I would have seen the distant horizon and got it all into perspective.

I seem to recall a text somewhere that says that those who walk with the Lord will rise up on eagle's wings. Maybe that's the answer. If I keep remembering that God is with me I'll get high enough to push my horizons away out beyond my ego-centre, and get a better view.

The trouble is I don't have a very good memory, especially when the clouds are rolling in.

Yours forgetfully,
Tertius

New Age Thinking?

To the Editor,
I read the book review of *The Road Less Travelled* by M. Scott Peck ("AC" 23 June). The reviewer was very impressed and prompted me to ask for the book at Keswick-SU bookshop in the city. However, I was told that they don't carry it because the author was not a Christian when he wrote it and he brings Jesus down to the level of Buddha. This surprised me somewhat but my concern increased greatly when, at a seminar on the New Age and Christianity, a quote from this book was used as an example of New Age thinking. The quote was: "To put it plainly, our unconscious is God. It is for the individual to become totally, wholly God."

If these examples are an accurate representation of the book, then it worries me that it was promoted in *The Australian Christian*.

—Glenys Stevens
(Prahran, Vic)

Centenary Book

To the Editor,
In preparation of the centenary of the Prospect, SA, church in 1993, we are producing a book covering the history of the church. To make this possible we are seeking help from former members around Australia.

We would appreciate hearing from any ex-members who have photographs suitable for reproduction. We are interested in Sunday School anniversaries and picnics, tent missions and boys' and girls' clubs.

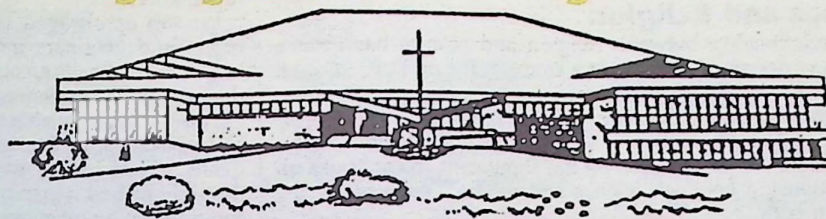
We will return the photos and every care will be taken until returned if required.

Articles and photos can be sent to either of these addresses: W.G. Llewellyn, 251 Prospect Rd, Blair Athol 5084, or A. Roberts, c/o Prospect Church of Christ, 69 Prospect Rd, Prospect 5082.

—W.G. Llewellyn
(Prospect, SA)

Subscribe to "The Australian Christian"

Wollongong Members Pledge \$1.7m



Wollongong's planned new \$3m church

Wollongong, NSW, church members have just finished a stewardship campaign led by Cargill Associates and have pledged \$1.7 million over and above their weekly offering during the next three years. This means that with proceeds from the sale of the old building the new building will be constructed debt free.

The new building, on eight acres of land, has just commenced. Valued at \$3 million it includes a 1,200-seat auditorium has extensive views of the mountains and parking for 245 cars.

Dr Robert Schuller will preach at the opening in October 1991. Johnny Cash, the country music star who is a dedicated Christian, will be guest performer.

The church has now reached an active membership of 800 and has over 100 baptisms each year. A wide range of programs are offered by the church, which has a staff of 12, led by senior minister Barry McMurtrie.

Wollongong church has a vision of giving to others. It supports a work to alleviate poverty in Thailand by helping with projects in three villages and fully supports 25 orphans. It also has a commitment to planting new churches; it hopes to plant 30 in a decade.

The Institute for Contemporary Church Leadership is a theological college that is part of the Wollongong church. The institute is for self-starters with a vision for growth. The church is to finance the establishment of 10 of the new churches that will be planted in this decade. The first new church commenced last year with Institute graduate Brian Bruce as minister. The Narellan, NSW, church

averages 85 at worship. The Institute has Ben Merold, an outstanding American Church of Christ minister, as leading speaker at a Christian Leaders Conference, 16-18 October. Ben is minister of a 3,000-member church in California. His topic is "Preaching Your Church to Growth".

Currently the Wollongong church meets in an 650-seat warehouse, which through

voluntary work has been turned into a comfortable worship centre.

Services on Sunday are 9.45 am and 7 pm, 11 Investigator Drive, Unanderra (phone (042) 71 7555).

Other Churches of Christ congregations in Wollongong are at Dapto, Lake Illawarra, and Stanwell Tops and there is a communion service at Thirroul.

Do you sense the call of God to some form of ministry?
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Do you wish to be more effective in your service for God?

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Paper

Science and Religion

The relationship between religion and science has been a prominent debate for well over a century. It continues to be an area of challenge and controversy.

The reading guide, *Science and Religion*, is an important new addition to Zadok's series of reading guides on important issues. It gives detailed information on the significant recent books on the relationship between science and religion, particularly the Christian faith.

There is also an introductory essay by the authors, Colin Gauld and Barry Newman, that explores the different points of view which can be held on the relationship between faith and science. The authors are well-known science educators, and this is an important contribution to a complex field.

Science and Religion, Zadok reading guide R25, is available from the Zadok Institute for Christianity and Society, Blackall Street, Barton, ACT 2600 (phone (06) 273 1634), for \$2 plus 80c postage.

Books

Back toward the Future

Hints for Interpreting Biblical Prophecy

by Walter C. Kaiser Jr (Baker Book House) \$19.50.

The blurb on the back cover states "Biblical Prophecy comprises one of the most rewarding topics of Bible study. Difficulty of subject matter and unfamiliarity with the literary forms, however, deter many students." The author, an Old Testament scholar, has in this book presented an introductory guide to the issues and methods of interpreting prophetic literature.

Dividing his examination into three parts, Walter Kaiser first looks at the difference between conditional and unconditional prophecies, just what apocalyptic symbols mean and how to understand future events in expressions from the past. Part 2 provides specific steps for interpreting prophetic passages while Part 3 looks at the question of double meanings in passages and argues for a single intention in the original author's mind when they were written.

This is an area of study that is fraught with difficulties. While I enjoyed reading this book and working through the author's arguments I had some reservations about his approach. However, it is still a good introduction to this area of study.

—CRA

The Language of Love

by Gary Smalley and John Trent (Albatross Books) \$12.95

"There's more to communicating than words." Try developing word pictures, they are a powerful form of communication.

The authors of this book have sought to recapture the age-old use of word pictures, the extended metaphor or figurative language, call it what you may, to enable better and more effective communication.

The book features some of the world's great people who used word pictures—Aristotle, Benjamin Franklin and Winston Churchill. It highlights the impact that Harriet Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* had on slavery in the US Deep South, and relates Walt Disney's *Bambi* to an overnight decline in the deer-hunting business. The Bible's use of word pictures is mentioned, detailing the

Walter C. Kaiser, Jr

Back Toward the Future

Hints for Interpreting Biblical Prophecy



account of Nathan's illustrated story that caused King David's repentance.

We are encouraged to use sources from nature, everyday objects and imaginary and past experiences for our word pictures in order to reach the emotions as well as the intellect, and so cause the person to experience what we are wanting to communicate.

This is a book suitable for parents, marriage partners, teachers and preachers, in fact anyone wanting to communicate effectively. I found it an easy book to read, it held my interest throughout, and it inspired me to make more use of this form of communication whenever I can.

—Joan White

Muslims and Christians on the Emmaus Road

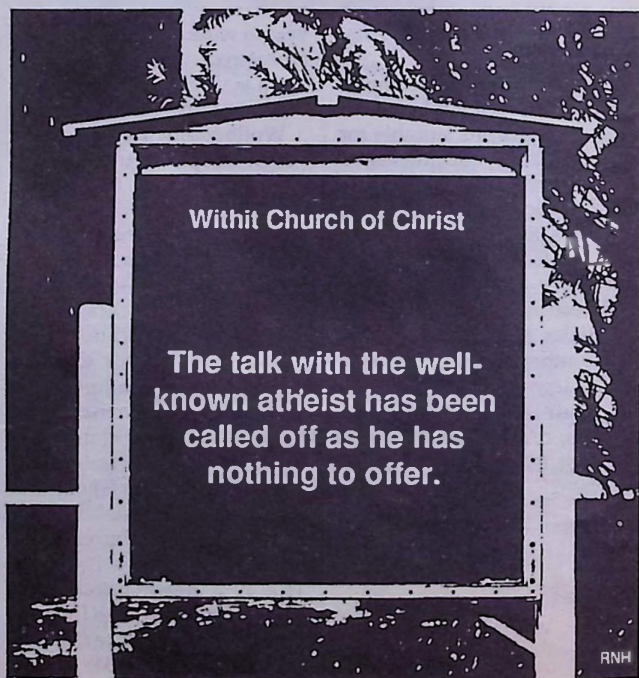
edited by J. Dudley Woodberry (MARC-USA)

In 1987 the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization organised a conference to consider the critical issues in Christian witness among Muslims. This book is a collection of some of the studies and reflections that resulted from that conference. The participants were all people involved in Christian mission from all areas of the Islamic world. For anyone involved or interested in mission to Islamic people this is a must. All the critical questions and discussions are considered. There are some very interesting reflections on future areas of mission to Muslims. The area of witness is acknowledged as one of the most difficult for Christians and it is apparent that much thought is needed in mission in this area. The only lack in the book was some discussion on the mission of the Christian church to Muslims living in Western societies such as Australia.

One striking point that I picked up from this book is the difference between the folk Islam of much of the Islamic world and that of the scholars. This is an area that is not very well understood in Western society.

This book is probably difficult to obtain in Australia, however MARC (Missions Advanced Research & Communications Centre) is a division of World Vision International and their Australian office in Melbourne could probably have copies.

—CRA



Long-term loyalty the keynote in the survival/revival of a small country church

Harcourt Building 100 Years Old

From a 16-page letter on church matters from George Symes to Henry Leversha dated 25 November 1889 comes the following information:

- The church was being built by Symes Bros and Cartledge.
- It would be opened in about two months time.
- The cost would be £325.
- The remaining debt would be £150.

Not much has changed in 100 years except the cost levels, you may say, but in those days inflation would not take care of the debt, and so the struggle commenced.

Harcourt, Vic, was an area of subsistence farming; living off the land was the norm, with little in the way of cash flow, from either excess crops or work in the granite or slate quarries. The gold rush had subsided.

The church commenced in 1873 and used a private home and the Rechabite Hall. In 1890, with the church building complete there were 95 members and an active Sunday School. Prospects were bright and ministry was shared with Castlemaine. Early ministers at the turn of the century were A.W. Connor and later William McCance. But during and following the Depression numbers fell away, and the Harcourt church was sustained in ministry mainly by college students and sometimes by preaching laymen. Among the students was H.J. Patterson, who married the church organist Jessie Pritchard in 1922. After World War II co-operation with the Castlemaine

church recommenced and continued till the 1960s, when student ministers were reintroduced and continued through the 1970s. More latterly the church has been helped by preaching supply from Bendigo and some other sources. But it has always been a struggle.

Nevertheless real effort was made in a number of ways. Following the postwar baby boom, teenagers from local families in the early 1960s needed activity and Christian education.

Despite the small number of members the church set about building a substantial church hall. Subsistence living had made them versatile. They felled local timber, laid the foundations and bricks and by personal sweat and steady application the hall was completed and opened in 1962. Since then a mobile society and lack of local employment made growth difficult. Young people and families were being lost, but the roots of the pioneers run deep and remnants have remained loyal to the body of Christ, and his church has survived.

As a recent retiree to the area and a product of the Patterson-Pritchard union nearly 70 years ago, I pay tribute to the tenacity and commitment of these long-standing pioneer families. Some of them, the Rices and Symes (Pellas), are still witnessing in the area. They have been the essential thread.

In 1990 there is a new spirit, a new purpose, in this small

rural church of 30 members. Dr Rob Corrie has been conducting a preaching/visiting/tentmaker ministry with us, while in full-time secular employment.

This year he has been joined in ministry by Phil Arnold, the three-day-a-week chaplain in the Castlemaine secondary schools.

We are probably the smallest church in Australia with a team ministry. We run two youth groups for primary and secondary school children,

which includes Harcourt Uniting Church and non-church families. Sunday School is conducted by the Uniting Church and includes our families. This co-operation in a small rural township is a viable use of resources and a witnessing ecumenical practice. One hundred years on, we are in good heart.

There will be a celebration luncheon after our 10.45 am service on 21 October. Arthur Symes will be the speaker.

—Eric Patterson

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Seventh Race for Bibles

The seventh Race for Bibles fun run was held at Penrith, NSW, on 28 July. Organised by the Bible Society in Australia (NSW) through the Youthforce department, the event attracted 228 competitors, who could choose whether to run, ride or row.

Although the event, held every year, targets a particular country needing literacy help, this year the event took on a new significance, as 1990 is the International Year of Literacy. The target this year was \$30,000, which the participants raised through sponsorships.

The courses meant that runners and rowers covered 10 km, while the cyclists followed a 25 km course.

The overall winner this year was Dick Reddel, of Belfield, who also took out first place in the rowing section, in his scull. He covered his 10 km course on

the Nepean River in 34 minutes.

Runner Paul Francker, of Canley Heights, ran his 10 km in 36 minutes 28 seconds. Cyclist Paul Stein, from Camden, arrived close behind, covering the 25 km route in 39 minutes 34 seconds. In the women's divisions cyclist Lynda Cameron of Baulkham Hills took out the honours, with nine-year-old Karen Neville of Narellan winning the running section.

However the overall winners will be those thousands of kilometres away who will learn to read and write in Cameroon, Africa, thanks to the event.

The new Parish of Beaumaris-Black Rock

PART-TIME PASTORAL ASSISTANT

The position is open to an ordained or lay person in the Uniting Church. The parish is looking for a person with skills and experience in leading worship and preaching, in pastoral care, and the running of small groups. The appointed person will be a member of a ministry team.

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The position is open to an ordained or lay person with training and experience in this sphere of specialist ministry. The appointed person will be a member of a ministry team.

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Successful youth ministry isn't built on programs

Youth Programming

by Lynda Smith

Without clear concepts and goals for youth ministry all you do is "experiment after experiment" with programming. Usually the result, after a brief surge of enthusiasm, is deeper discouragement and disinterest, followed by another desperate attempt to find something "new", "different" and "successful".

Successful youth ministry isn't built on programs. Successful youth ministry requires involvement of young people in ministry themselves.

Through our churches we must provide a situation for maximum growth of each young person, so that the spiritual gifts God has given them may surface and be recognised and developed.

Among the young people of the church, the core group (the youth who are already responsive to the Lord and can be led in discipleship) are the most important. They are the most effective way to reach other young people—the fringe and unchurched youth. Through the impact of the core group's enthusiasm other young people will be led into the church by their peers. These contact youth should be attracted to the church by other young people who are enthusiastic about Jesus and being a Christian rather than dragged in by a multitude

of bigger and better programs.

We must develop within our core young people a sense of responsibility and love for other young people. Our focus should be the encouragement of the core group to love others, while helping them to see that as Christians we should be deeply concerned with others coming to know Jesus as well as being concerned with those who make up Christ's body, the church.

The core young people should be encouraged to share with each other and the leadership team all they know of the needs and concerns of one another. As needs are shared the leaders develop an accurate impression of the needs of the larger group and should then seek to meet these needs in a variety of ways and through a variety of program structures. This enables the program to accurately reflect the needs of the group.

Obviously for all this to happen the youth minister needs to be central to the ministry's development and sets the direction of the group, providing the example for both the

leadership team and the young people.

The time of the youth minister or main youth leaders should be invested in others, in motivating and encouraging discipleship, primarily in the leadership team and the core young people.

The leadership team must be examples, sharing themselves with young people and being involved with them. The youth minister will need to spend time with the leadership team, helping them to think in terms of persons, not programs. The responsibility for developing the program structures (through which the needs of the group and individuals are to be met) is then set by the team in conjunction with the youth minister.

Remember: People not programs

•Lynda Smith is the youth minister at the Nunawading, Vic, church.

Edited by Andrew Goll, Field Director of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development and the Federal Board of Christian Education

Eavesdropping on the Gospel

When the herdsmen and shepherds of ancient Palestine sat around their campfires on the dark, cold desert nights, no doubt some told and retold the great stories of their faith and history, stories that were imprinted on their memories, and though told and retold verbatim, became no less enthralling to the listener with each new telling.

Like devout Hebrew herdsmen and shepherds listening to their story, what compels us in the life of the church to listen to the message of Good News again and again—a message we have heard many times before? What compels us to listen to something we know so well we know when it is not being told as it should be? We see this with children and tribesmen—the same story, told and retold, imprinted indelibly on the memory, repeated verbatim, so that any deviation from the story is immediately detected by the listeners.

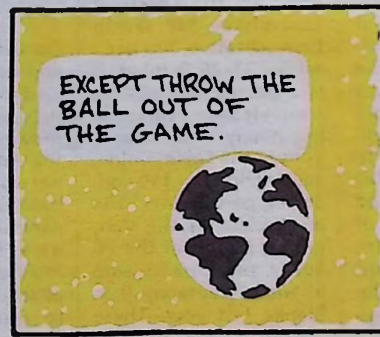
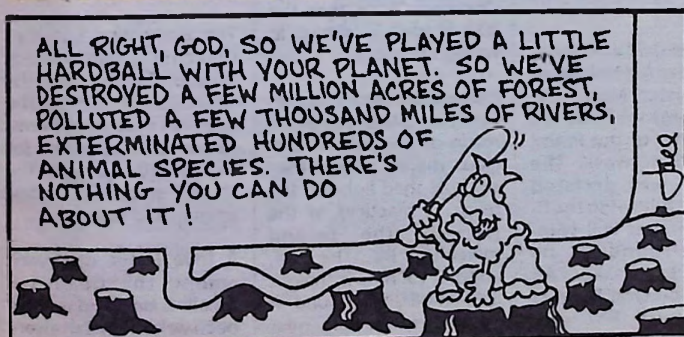
We know the Gospel stories intimately, and the characters of that drama well, so why do we yearn to hear it again and again?

We like to "eavesdrop on the gospel", even if it is not being told to us. We like to listen as it is being told for the benefit of others, those who haven't heard

it, because as we listen again and again, the story changes us, ever so slightly, and as we revive those moments when we heard it for the first time, our resolution to live by that story becomes, ever so slightly, stronger.

—Stephen Curkpatrick

Pontius' Puddle



Happenings

A Roman Catholic priest was robbed at knifepoint at his Sydney church just after christening 2 babies on 15 July. Police said Father Steve Monaghan was talking to a parishioner at St Kevin's church in Eastwood when a man wearing a balaclava burst in, threatened Fr Monaghan with a hunting knife and forced him to hand over a bag containing \$2,000 collected from 5 services that day.

An evangelistic calendar, distributed free to East Germans, has led to a flood of inquiries for more information. The reply coupon on the reverse of the calendar has prompted more than 5,000 answers.

Despite being founded by a woman—Ellen White—the 55th world convention of the Seventh Day Adventist Church voted to continue the church's practice of not ordaining women.

The Council of Christians and Jews and the Australian Institute of Jewish Affairs are jointly sponsoring a symposium on "Jewish-Christian Relations in Recent Decades" on 3 September at the Toorak Uniting Church hall in Melbourne, Vic, at 8 pm. The cost of the evening will be \$5. For further information contact the Council of Christians and Jews on (03) 817 3848.

The next Queensland CWF Rally is being held at the Boondall church on 28 August at 10.30 am with Nola Woodward, Beryl Wiltshire and Aileen Draney as speakers.

The Australian Council for Overseas Aid has welcomed the decision by the United States to withdraw recognition of the Khmer Rouge-dominated coalition in Cambodia and to seek a vacant seat for Cambodia at the United Nations. "This change of heart by the United States is most welcome and comes at a time when Pol Pot and his Khmer Rouge

are again threatening the people of Cambodia with a rerun of the Killing Fields," said Russell Rolason, Executive Director of ACFOA. Support from Senator Evans for the ejection of the Khmer Rouge from the UN seat is also welcome.

Archaeologists are investigating an ancient burial ground in Somerset that may rewrite church history in the UK. The evidence is for a 4th century Christian presence, which is two centuries earlier than previous findings.

The Salvation Army has revised its policy on abortion. The new statement now accepts abortion on "certain limited grounds". While strongly affirming the Army's belief in the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception, the statement accepts that abortion may be justified if the pregnancy poses a serious physical threat to the mother, in the case of rape and incest, and extreme foetal abnormality.

Gospel singer Amy Grant's managers have filed suit against Marvel Comics for allegedly using her likeness on the cover of the comic book *Dr Strange*. The lawsuit claims the unidentified illustration on the cover of the 15 March edition of the comic, which features vampires, sorcerers, and other occult themes, is identical to the photo of Grant on the album sleeve of her 1986 release *Amy Grant—The Collection*.

The Moscow Congress on Evangelization, sponsored by the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, has been set for 22–26 October. It is expected 850 pastors and lay leaders, representing nearly every church body in the Soviet Union, will be joined by 150 non-Soviet participants. The inspiration for the Congress came from the 70 Soviet participants who attended Lausanne II in Manila last year. These

leaders returned to their country inspired to use their new freedom to increase evangelistic activity.

The number of people who still have not got a Bible in the Soviet Union is great. Christians in the city of Fergana, Uzbek Republic, have set up "mobile lending libraries". They simply fill the boots of a number of cars with Christian literature and drive to a town or village. Those who gather are given Scriptures and evangelistic literature on loan.

The spiritual revival in Russia has spread to the gypsies, of whom there are more than 100,000. Many have become Christians and are spreading the Gospel among their own kin. Baptisms of hundreds of new converts are often performed. Gypsies are now subjected to a religious as well as racial discrimination in some areas of the Soviet Union.

Dr Haddon Robinson, one of the world's leading lecturers in preaching, will be conducting a Preaching Workshop in the Ashgrove Baptist Church, Brisbane 14–18 January 1991. Dr Robinson was for 19 years Professor of Preaching at Dallas Theological Seminary and has been President of Denver Seminary for the past 11 years. The Continuing Education Committee of the Baptist Union of Queensland is sponsoring the event and the seminar is open to all. Further details from Rev. Alan Gordon, 3 Dorachus Drive, Browns Plains 4118. Cost is \$90, \$130 (couple) or \$50 (student).

Controversial faith healer and former Assemblies of God minister, Morris Cerullo, seems set to be the new owner of the Praise the Lord network. The network was declared bankrupt following the financial and sexual scandals surrounding its founder Jim Bakker. An attempt by Oral Roberts to purchase PTL was

blocked after HBO, owners of the satellite used for transmission, expressed doubt over his ability to raise the monthly payments. Cerullo is paying \$7 million for the network and a further \$45 million for PTL's other assets.

The Bible College of South Australia has appointed Rev. Ray Laird to the position of Principal commencing January 1991. Ray is currently Principal of the Tahlee Bible College, a position he has held since 1980. He is currently a Baptist minister and has had extensive ministry in Youth For Christ, the Salvation Army and Brethren circles.

The 1990s will witness explosive population increases with 3 people being born each second, about 250,000 a day and 90–100 million being added to the earth's population every year, tripling the current more than 5.3 billion people, a report just published by the United Nations Population Fund has predicted.

The ruling military junta of war-torn Sudan, facing an ever-drowning economy, has ordered the firing of 500,000 civil servants within a month. The shedding of jobs will save some \$US130 million.

A month after the fundamentalists' stunning victory in local elections, Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front has started imposing regulations on such unseemly behaviour as the wearing of shorts by women, mixed bathing and mixed schooling. Observers note that the ban is clearly aimed at foreign tourists.

Harvard archaeologists recently unearthed a small calf made of a variety of precious metals which, they say, will shed light on the religious practices of the Jews of the second millennium BC. The calf, about 115 mm in height and length, was found in an ancient temple near

Ashkelon, Israel, a well-known port site of Canaanite ruins.

The Early Planning for Retirement Association is planning a two-evening seminar for those contemplating retirement. It will be held on 27 and 28 August at the AMP Theatre, cnr William and Burke Sts, Melbourne, Vic. Each evening starts at 7 pm. The cost of \$10 covers a book and supper. Contact (03) 663 3221 to book or to find out about similar seminars, which are held in various suburban locations in Melbourne.

"God and Australia", a seminar on ethics and social issues, will be held on 25 August at the Surrey Hills, Vic, Presbyterian Church Hall. Speakers will include Prof. Allan Harman on Biblical law and government legislation, Rev. Fed Nile on the Christian and politics, Dr Nicholas Tonti-Filippino on medical ethics and Prof. Douglas Milne on the Bible on conception, birth and death. Inquiries to (03) 580 0530.

A seminar will be held on Thursday, 6 September, at 7.30 pm on "The Rights of the Child", at the Wattle Park Chapel, 234 Elgar Road, Box Hill South, Vic. Speakers include Brian Burdekin, Federal Human Rights Commissioner, Al Watson, Call to Australia, Babette Francis, Endeavour Forum, and J.K. Bowen, Australian Family Association. For further information contact Mrs Prue Oldham (03) 583 6835 or Mrs Jill Paquin (03) 807 7392.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania general assembly has endorsed the ordination of women. The question of women's ordination has dragged on for the past 20 years since the church graduated its first woman in theology.

A love letter discovered among the Dead Sea Scrolls is believed to have been written by Sampson.

Belmont is a suburb of Geelong, which is 75 km from Melbourne in Victoria. Part of the South Barwon City it is a dormitory suburb that straddles the Colac Road.

The Belmont Church of Christ was commenced in 1940 by the La Trobe Terrace church in Geelong. At first they met in the Shire Hall, but moved to the present site when they acquired their first chapel, a building from Meredith. In 1960 Dean Hamilton became the first full-time minister and in 1964 the present building was erected. A hall was added in 1979.

The minister at Belmont is Bob Clymer, who has served our churches for a long time. He spent nine years at Roma, Qld, then spent the next 30 years in South Australia. There he was chairman of the Department of Christian Education and the Social Service Department, chaplain at the Mallee Training Centre and part-time in industrial mission. He was

Conference President in 1980. Bob came to Belmont in 1987, and he and his wife Shirley have two daughters, Lynne, who lives in SA, and Merryl, who lives in Melbourne.

The membership at Belmont is 110 and services are held at 10.30 am and 7 pm.

project. In 1990 they hope to raise \$1,000 for homeless youth work in the Geelong area and \$1,000 for school toilets in Vanuatu. They are also involved in a caravan outreach to youth that congregates in the Geelong Mall.

Three years ago Belmont

Cliff Warmbrunn is chairman of the Federal Board of Christian Education, and Trevor Banks is chairman of the Department of Christian Union and Ecumenical Affairs, as well as being moderator of the Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council.

1990 is Belmont's Year of Jubilee. (An advertisement of the church's 50th anniversary celebrations appears elsewhere in this issue of *The Australian*

Focus on Belmont

There are three youth clubs, two study groups, two CWF groups, a prayer group, a Sunday School, a walking group and a mid-week tea group that invites visiting speakers in the winter months.

Once again Belmont is upgrading its buildings. This time they intend to build a common entrance to the hall and the chapel, widening the foyer and turning the inside completely around, as well as upgrading the toilet block.

The Belmont church each year has a special outreach

developed a five-year program for their future:

- to build a broad base of activity to work from,
- to constantly review worship with a view to making it inclusive for all ages.

Now they are concentrating in building a missional field after having had a study day with Ian Tippett of the Department of Mission, Education and Development looking at Kenyon Cailahan's book, *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church*.

Belmont is very much involved in Conference affairs.

Christian.)

The church will not only be reviewing the past five decades, but also has invited guest speakers that will challenge the church's thinking about the future. The speaker at the anniversary will be Dr David Millikan, the director of religious broadcasts with the ABC. He will speak on the church in a changing community, realising the vision and the church's role in community building. So Belmont has spent this year looking at the past and thinking about the future.

God's Word

• *Malachi 2:17-3:6*

The Day of Judgement

God finally seems to grow weary of the constant carping of his critics in Israel. The people had a twofold reproach against God. The first is that God approves of evil and the second is the question: "Where is the God of justice?"

These are not uncommon cries today. We continually ask the question why does God allow those who appear to be evil doers to prosper. We continually wonder why God does not step into history and set things right with the world. Sometimes the church or, more particularly, a segment of it does attempt to right wrongs by particularly heavy-handed actions. Invariably these attempts fail and we end up with

a situation that is worse than when the action was started.

God responds through Malachi by stating that he will be sending a day of judgement. A messenger will be sent to prepare the way. It is not clear just who the messenger is and many have speculated on who it was Malachi meant. Looking back today we can see it as a reference to John the Baptist.

The messenger, who apparently the people were looking forward to being sent, was however coming to announce the day of God's judgement on his people. In many of the latter prophetic books the coming day of the Lord is anticipated and, in them, like Malachi, this day will not be the joyful occasion that Israel imagines will

end in their triumph. It will be a day when all are tested, and imperfections will be clearly seen and have to be purified.

In 3:2 Malachi asks the question: Who will be able to stand when the Lord comes in judgement? Malachi then paints a vivid word picture to the people of his time how they will be tested just as the silversmith purifies precious metals.

Interestingly the first to be purified will be the Levites, the priests. Again there is the warning to those in leadership in the church that much will be expected of them. Too often those who are outspoken about moral areas in the world fall into similar errors in their own life. Examples of this have happened in Australia recently.

The purpose of the refining is so that the offerings and worship of the people will once again be acceptable to the Lord. He is always concerned that our motives are true when we come to worship him. Too often in our services we do not acknowledge that we need to repurify ourselves before giving our praise and offerings to God.

In 3:5 Malachi lists some of those who will be judged rather than purified in the refining process. It is interesting that, apart from the sorcerers, the others judged by God are responsible for social evils. They have done evil and not allowed God's justice. The sins listed in verse 5 are all of a serious nature and in many cases in Israelite law were punishable by death. As Malachi notes they are all sins of people who do not fear God.

—CRA

Classifieds

APPROACHING MARRIAGES

PITT-CROSS The marriage of Raleen Andrea, eldest daughter of Kelth and Frances Pitt (Parkdale), to Graeme John Cross, eldest son of Robert and Diane Cross (Wattle Glen), will take place in the Parkdale Church of Christ on Saturday, 25 August 1990, at 3 pm.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

GOSS-EAST Jean and Arthur announce with pleasure their 50th anniversary. Married at Ascot Vale Church of Christ 31 August 1940. Will be at home to friends and relatives from 1 pm on 31 August at 8 Eltham St, Flemington.

MATTHEWS Jack and Florence (Fluff) marriage solemnised at St Bede's Church of England, Semaphore, on 29 August 1940 by Rev. Frank Hewitson. Members of Maylands, SA, Church of Christ, friends and family are all invited at an Open House celebration at Brian Matthews (son), 77 Harrow Rd, St Peters, phone (08) 362 5511, on Sunday, 26 August, from 2 pm.

DEATHS

TORNEY Veronica (Vera) on 12 August. Dearly loved wife of the late Walter Joseph. Loved mother of Kevin, Trevor (dec.) and Ian (dec.). Fond mother-in-law of Margaret and Lexie. Loved Nana of Stephen, Gillian (Mrs Wilson), Rohan, Mandy (Mrs Normoyle), Jacque (Mrs Adeney) and Tammy. Great-Nana of Ben. "The Lord is my shepherd."

KNIGHT George Frederick, Gawler, 6 August 1990. Beloved husband of Ruth (formerly Tilley) and step-father of James and William Tilley. "It is well with my soul."

IN MEMORIAM

PARKER Gordon, 26 August 1983. I'll always think of you and the way you cared: I thank you for the happy years of marriage we shared. Some day we will meet again, but until we do, I'll cherish the 36 years shared with you. Gwendolyne.

TO LET

HOUSEBOAT "White Heron" 10-berth. Moored at Blanchetown, SA. Phone (08) 365 1153 or (085) 40 5100 or write PO Box 65, St Agnes 5097.

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HOLIDAYS

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Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Acott, Florence
With the death of Florence Acott, the Maylands, SA, church has lost a bright, loving, encouraging, positive member. She was born 79 years ago at Two Wells, grew up in Ardrossan, and lived most of her adult life in the Maylands area. She had three children, 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Her interests were family, school mothers' club, gardening, music and bowls. She came to faith at 48 and was a loved part of the Maylands church.

—Richard Lawton

Mackay, Scott James
The Governor of South Australia, Sir Donald Dunstan, attended the funeral service at Marion, SA, church on 30 July of Scott Mackay, 23, son of the Governor's Private Secretary, Donald Mackay. Many tributes were paid to the example of Christian faith set by Scott in a long battle against cancer. His death brought expressions of sympathy to his parents Don and Jocelyn, his wife Janine and his parents-in-law Trevor and Thelma Fechner. In his earlier student days Scott was dux of Seaton High School, followed by an economics course and, before illness struck him down, he was working in the accounting department of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The service was conducted by Marion's ministry team led by Graham Agnew.

—JL

Rees, Fred
(22.7.90) Fred was born in Aberdare, Wales, 1916. The Rees family were sponsored by the Kaniva, Vic, church and came to Australia in 1957. Fred entered COB in 1959. During his student years he served the Coburg church. Other ministries were in Western Australia and

New Zealand. Upon his retirement Fred and his wife Gwen lived at Rosebud and came into membership with the Tootgarook church. Gwen died and later Fred married May Reed. Fred will be remembered for his preaching and singing ability. Having attended morning worship Fred died suddenly and unexpectedly. We commend his and May's families to God's loving care.

—Mal Giezendanner

Saxby, Colin A.
(18.7.90) Colin A. Saxby, 81 years, died peacefully after a prolonged illness. It was one year after the death of his wife, Vera. Gracious, sensitive, compassionate, with a marvellous sense of the metaphysical elements of the Christian faith, Colin's fine academic record in science and engineering and his technical skills involved him in the Snowy Mountains project. But his first love was Christ, whom he served faithfully at the Lane Cove church and more recently at Northside. Colin was a State Conference President, a member of the Overseas Mission Committee and had a long involvement with the Order of St Luke and Camp Farthest Out. We loved him.

—Jay R. Bacik

Whitbread, Dora
Mary Dora Whitbread was a lovely, gentle person, who lived most of her life in the eastern part of Adelaide. Before marriage she was a ticketwriter. After marriage she was a milkie, who both milked and delivered. She had two sons, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She lost her husband after a long illness, and also one of her sons. She lived a simple life: she owned a refrigerator only in the last three years of her life. She had been a regular worshipper at the Maylands, SA, church.

—Richard Lawton

Belmont Church of Christ

celebrates its

50th Anniversary

on Sunday, 17 November 1990

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"Creating the Vision"

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Fellowship Luncheon

Enquiries:

Shirley Clymer (052) 43 6219



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Tears of Compassion in PNG

She sat quietly crying as the discussion continued about the medical work. She and her husband are located on a relatively isolated mission station in Papua New Guinea without an airstrip. The government has said that only designated medical officers can dispense medicines. But nationals who live in the villages often get sick and come to the missionary for help. She knows that she can help someone with malaria etc. with the medicine she has in the house for the use of the family. What should she do?

This and other dilemmas were discussed at the annual meeting of the missionaries in Papua New Guinea held in Madang 22 June-1 July. I was privileged to be able to attend and to bring daily Bible studies.

I was very impressed with the way our missionaries have so become a part of the culture to which they are ministering that they did their work in a Melanesian style by quietly talking through the issues until all who had something to say had been able to express themselves and be heard. I imagine that the decisions made from such a context would be strongly owned and carried by the people because they felt they had had an important part in their framing.

From Madang it was on to the Men's Bible School at Momonup with Bob and Rhonda Whan. As we got out of the MAF plane we were greeted by some of the students

presenting a dramatic depiction of the coming of the white missionary to PNG. I had my sunglasses removed and was buffeted (rather gently) as the students made the point of the national's original response to some white missionaries. It became immediately obvious how pleased the students, their families and the local college people were to see Bob and Rhonda back. I taught two one-and-a-quarter-hour periods per day for the three days there and was impressed by the keenness of the students and their wives to learn the scriptures.

On my way from Momonup to Chungribu I was set down at the village of Bunam for two hours while the plane made two other stops for which they would have been overloaded if I stayed on board. There are no white missionaries at present in this village. I was a little apprehensive at first but was soon befriended by a national who spoke some English and described himself as an honorary missionary. He is a church advisor.

At Chungribu I rejoined Fred Bignill and Ken Elsmore, who had gone to PNG to see our mission work and to give some help with the building of a new house on the mission station. The builder was Manus, a national. Hosea Bule, from Vanuatu, asked me to speak at an area leaders meeting the following morning. I was really surprised and a little alarmed when he said I could speak for one or two hours. With interpretation by Frank



Manus (extreme left) and his helpers, including Fred Bignill and Ken Elsmore

Beale, we went for 70 minutes.

It was a great privilege to share with Frank and his wife Ros during my four-day visit to Chungribu. I felt I was able to be present at a very significant time as many of the church leaders from the area came and asked this pioneer missionary who has a great understanding and knowledge of the culture about aspects of the recent revival.

Frank was able to encourage them that he thought what they had experienced was of God. I believe this could be very important for the possible ongoing revival. (While at Momonup the students reported that one team that had recently been out in the villages on outreach had encountered what could be the begin-

ning of revival in a very large village of over 1,000 inhabitants situated not far from the Bible School.)

Then it was down the Ramu River on the "Misket" (Pidgin English for Miss Catts) to Bunapas, where we were hosted for one and a half days by the Flood family, who are preparing to return to Australia for further missionary training at Kenmore College.

During a five-hour stopover in Port Moresby on our way back to Australia we became entangled in a protest outside Parliament House following the withdrawal of a no-confidence motion in the government. Fortunately no tear gas was used by police on the crowd.

At this time, sitting comfortably in my office at Carlingford, I cannot help but feel a great deal of admiration for and indebtedness to the missionaries who have over a 32-year period communicated the good news and begun a church that now has more than 6,000 members in about 70 churches. I believe God has many more great things to do in Papua New Guinea as the indigenous church in partnership with the missionaries is open to the Spirit of God.

—Keith Farmer

Sunshine—Growth and Vision

Melbourne's Western Suburbs received a major thrust with Ian Corlett's ministry, commenced in 1989 under Department auspices. New vision and growth mark church life. A significant ministry to the Western Suburbs community is being offered. Your support is welcomed.

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God at Work

by Trudy Armstrong



Kim Roberts and Trudy Armstrong

"Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so..."

I will never forget this song being sung at my baptism when I was eight years old. The Lord has recently been reminding me of my love for him when I was younger. I remember a time when I was 10 years old crying because I couldn't express my love for God enough. College has been a time of God calling me back to that complete devotion to him, when I trusted him completely and really wanted to tell everyone I met about my wonderful Father.

As long as I can remember I wanted to be a missionary or something for Jesus. But it wasn't until 1984 at an Easter camp in Queensland that I knew that God had placed his call on me to serve him in some type of full-time capacity. I was in my first year of primary school teacher training at the time and after seeking wise counsel determined to finish my course and perhaps teach for a couple of years. I did that in a little school in Nanango, Qld, until the end of 1988.

During that time I had become increasingly restless. I loved teaching but I felt re-

stricted because I wanted to tell people about Jesus not just teach. I knew it was time to head off to college to train. So in 1989 despite my fear that God wouldn't provide my finances, and the fear of the unknown I began at the Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College at Carlingford.

The first thing I discovered at college was how much I didn't know and how much the Lord had to teach me. So began a very challenging and sometimes painful time. I really believe college is like a furnace where God allows you to go through some concentrated fire to ensure that we are relying on him and not on ourselves. Through college God allows you to see a glimpse of his greatness and your own weaknesses! This is so important, for when we finish and go out to minister to others, we need to rely on him so that he can use us more effectively to reach our desperate land. Oh how Australia needs to hear about Jesus!

College has been a time of God putting his finger on areas in my life and asking me, "Trudy, do you really trust me?...Trudy, do you really love me?...Do you know my

"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"

—Happenings, "AC", 4 August 1990

Donald McGavran

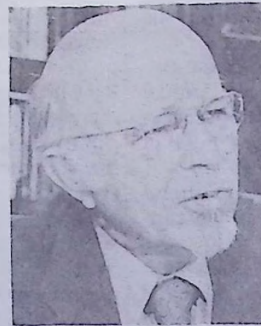
by Don Smith

As a rather raw young man on my first venture away from Australia in the mid 1960s I met Donald McGavran just six days after landing in the United States. While visiting Northwest Christian College in Eugene, Oregon, someone suggested I meet a new researcher. I did so and wrote in my diary at the end of the day a note to record lunch with him and an interview.

My diary goes on to say, "...a really fine man of great vision and scholarship. He made many suggestions about our work." Dr McGavran meant nothing to me, other than being an ex-missionary committed to research and world mission

strategy. His quest was simply put. How do people become Christians? He invited me to join him and his wife for dinner that evening. I enjoyed the

hospitality, further conversation and the viewing of slides of work in New Guinea, which related to his theories on mission strategy. The conversations, the challenges and the ideas remain clear in my memory. You immediately felt you



were in the presence of a great leader. And so he has proved to be. One of his offers of assistance was to help us find an Italian-speaking pastor-evangelist from South America to enable us to establish outreach to a growing Italian popula-

love?...Do you really want to follow me?" I answered, "Lord! You know I do!" but he showed me that I didn't enough and so began the learning. I'm really excited about what the Lord is going to continue to teach me as I open myself to him.

I've missed my family from Queensland, yet their prayers have constantly been with me, something I've very much appreciated and relied upon. In their absence my fellow students have been my family for the last two years. I will be very sad to leave them at the end of this year. Please continue to pray for them and encourage them whenever you can. The Lord is doing amazing things in their journey with him. I'm also looking forward to seeing what direction God takes the

college in as they are waiting on him.

Part of my journey at college has led me to a wonderful man named Kim Roberts and in October this year we are to be married. Kim is in his final year and is also excited about where God will lead us together for him. We pray that God will continue to change us and draw us close to him.

"How then can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?" (Rom 10:14-15)

"For the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." (Matthew 9:38)

Kensington Christian Network in Action

by Bronwyn Hickman

tion in Melbourne. I thought about it for a long time afterwards, but it all seemed too complex given the difficulties of the period we were then entering. My own commitment to ethnic work flows directly from the stimulus of that time. It is a lesson about what can't be achieved in one decade is done in another.

It is interesting to note that Dr McGavran must have then been 66 years of age but there he was still striving to launch the cause to which he had given so much of his life. Within just a year or so afterwards Fuller Seminary was to invite him to join the faculty to become the founding dean of the School of World Mission. In turn, his work was to help give Fuller international significance. And so, in his 68th year or thereabouts, he set out to give leadership that has impacted theory in missiology and shaped whole new strategies in global church growth. People like Peter Wagner, Win Arn and the like took up the themes and gave them a popular face.

Donald McGavran began his missionary service with our Disciples work in India in 1923 after graduating from Yale Divinity School. It was in India that his church growth ideas were first formed as he reflected upon the shape of mission strategy there. Returning to the United States he had various roles as a consultant looking at Disciples mission and other mission work. Gradually the ideas formed and first appeared in print in *The Bridges of God*, published in 1955. The distinguished church historian K.S. Latourette wrote warmly of McGavran's work in the introduction to this book. Latourette described the book as boldly setting forth the issues and making positive and sweeping proposals for change in the policies and programs of mission. He described McGavran as no armchair strategist, but one who served in India for nearly a third of a century.

Our next Australian contact came in 1974 when Kevin Crawford from NSW met him on the way to attend the Lau-

He was in trouble at school, with the police and with the pushers as well. "John" and his mate had been playing about with drugs, and his mate had disappeared with the money they owed for them. "John" would talk to no-one, not his teachers, not his family, not the police. But when the guy in the tatty sweater, with the ear rings in his left ear, arrived, "John" agreed to talk to him. They talked a long time, sitting together in an empty classroom. The man in the sweater put his arm around "John" and said, "God loves you, and I love you too!" and "John", who at 15 had never known a father, broke down and wept. There was real repentance, and a real resolution...in the year since it happened, "John" has had nothing to do with drugs.

This is the Kensington Christian Network in action...the network that runs on a shoestring out of an old rented

house in Kensington, Vic. This is the newest Church of Christ to be affiliated with Conference in Victoria, but don't go looking for a neat building and a minister in a business suit. It's not that kind of church.

Mike Esbensen and Kim Thoday minister with the Kensington Christian Network (KCN). Julie Mitchell has been part of it for five years. Now she, too, is formally a member of the ministry team. She knows about the problems of Kensington. She lives on the 12th floor of a block of high-rise flats with her two children (aged six and three), and feels that the most important thing she can do for many of her neighbours is "to be there for them". It isn't easy. Being there for the woman next door resulted in a drunken husband beating on her door at three in the morning demanding to know if his wife was there (she wasn't), and then smashing holes in the door with a screwdriver. "But that is a bit

unusual," Julie is quick to add. "It isn't always that bad." But she has a security door now.

What can the KCN do for people like Julie's neighbours, like John? Kim, Mike and Julie aim high; they talk about breaking the cycle of poverty, the cycle reinforced by low self-esteem, no sense of identity, limited education and lack of social skills. But the most immediate need is often for food, or furniture, or accommodation for a battered wife or a teenager escaping from an alcoholic father. Isn't there government aid available for these situations? "Depends," says Mike with a wry grin. "If there's been a flood, or a bush fire, the fund is empty." Ordinary, everyday poverty comes well behind the larger, news-making disasters, and often there isn't enough for both. So what does KCN do? "It's not easy," Mike says. "But sometimes all they need is a bit of cash—enough to pay the light

sanne Conference on World Evangelization. McGavran suggested we make contact with a Dr Win Arn, with the thought he could be useful to us. When Kevin returned to Australia the Conference of Home Mission Representatives readily agreed to invite Dr Arn to conduct seminars in each of our state capitals in 1975 and 1976. The two visits were to have a lasting impact upon our churches.

At a personal level I was interested and pleased to note that in the intervening years McGavran's theories have been well adapted to the issues facing the Western church. Now his thinking and influence have spread worldwide. His work has inevitably had its critics, but the central thrust of his thinking has been well sustained.

I met Dr McGavran again in

1983 at Fuller. By then he must have been some 85 years old. He seemed as alert as ever, rejoicing in debate on his work and seeing a global response to all his years of pilgrimage. He heard almost daily from counterparts and researchers worldwide. I found it an amazing experience. His conversation was not merely anecdotal, but reflected vigorous thinking on how things fared in world mission and what the strategies and issues were from continent to continent, country to country, island to island. He eagerly enquired of our Australian work with our common Churches of Christ heritage a strong base for interest. As I left I wondered what it might have been like for a traveller meeting up with the apostle Paul and facing all his questions and comment about the young church. Since 1983 an occa-

sional letter to Dr McGavran always brought back a warm, supportive note. The multiplication of churches and reaching all people groups continued to be his great passion. And now he has joined the great cloud of witnesses. Of our own Disciples-Churches of Christ folk who have reached a world stage this century, Donald McGavran's contribution to the cause of world mission and evangelism must stand unrivalled. Actually I believe his work is in the forefront of anything done in missiology during this century within the church universal. Thanks be to God for a great life which has served so well the progress of the Gospel.

• Don Smith is Executive Director of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development.



Kim Thoday and Mike Esbensen

bill, so it won't be cut off, that sort of thing. KCN received about \$4,000 in voluntary giving from the local people last year, and about a third of that went out in cash loans. All but a few of the people we helped are paying it back." (Some take the money and run and are never seen again.)

There isn't much cash to give away. At KCN they find that many people believe the church just wants money out of them, so there is no taking up of offerings. What money they have comes from voluntary gifts and from people paying back their loans. It means there isn't much. But the church has a human face; whereas other Christian churches in the area have big buildings (built years ago when there were big congregations of Anglicans, Methodists and Catholics in the crowded North Melbourne suburb), they are struggling to find ministers, their congregations have dwindled and their ministry is more limited than it once was.

There are government services available. Kim and Mike have contacts with social workers, medical services, legal aid, and so on, and often refer people on to them for further help.

Kensington is a good place to think about social justice. There are blocks of low-cost

housing eight stories high with no lifts! When the Ministry of Housing received complaints, they concluded that the buildings had never been designed to have lifts in them, and nothing could be done. This is how we provide for the needy on low incomes—they get a flat on the eighth floor, and carry up the shopping, the baby's pram, the baby, everything—every day! No wonder the feeling is that government moves to combat poverty are not enough.

Kim spends quite a bit of time at the school. It's an alternative school, the Kensington Community High School, and accepts kids who have been expelled from other schools, so they sometimes travel quite a distance to go to it. Kim goes there every Wednesday afternoon; he walks around the school yard during lunch time, and when the kids are playing, and talks to them, and always sits in the same spot so that they know he'll be there if they want to come and talk. Sometimes he goes to school council meetings. Sometimes they call him in, as they did with John.

He's involved with the sports program, working alongside teachers for such activities as kayaking. He talks to parents too, and hopes to see this put on a more formal basis, with an arranged visit to the parents of

any new student in the school.

Salaries for Kim and Mike come from donations from members of other Victorian churches and, thanks to a recent article in *The Australian Christian* (28 April), there is now a small amount to support Julie's ministry too. Kim also drives the community bus, his wife Heather works part-time in parent liaison at one of the local primary schools and Mike has a part-time cleaning job.

But there's a difference between living on a low income and living in poverty, Julie points out. Poverty is about more than money; it is about status in the community, and influence—whether anyone takes any notice of you or not and a sense of identity, of self-worth—whether you see yourself as a person of value. It is when all these things are missing, and money too, and when people feel powerless to change their own lives that there is real poverty—and it is these things the team at KCN are trying to tackle.

What sort of things do they do? Tonight they are picking up a few others and going to see a play at the community centre; it is a production by the local theatre company about pollution by dangerous chemicals, an emotional issue in this part of Melbourne lately, after a fire and a bad spill which led to the evacuation of 1,100 people from their houses in April. Tomorrow they'll help someone move house, humping furniture in and out of lifts from the tenth to the first floor. There's a follow-up visit to someone who's not well, and a tenants' meeting, when they'll talk to representatives of the Ministry of Housing about problems in the high-rise flats. There are messages on the answering machine to be dealt with (often there is no-one at home to take calls) and paper work to do. And there are studies. Julie is doing a course in pastoral care and counselling at the Churches of Christ Theological College; Mike is learning Vietnamese at Footscray Institute. It's a difficult language, but he finds the

effort is worth it. He gets encouragement for his tentative efforts with the language—60% of the tenants in the high-rise flats are Vietnamese, and Mike could be the only Australian who has ever spoken to them in their own language. They appreciate it.

You learn hard lessons in a place like Kensington. There was a case a while back when a drug addict was ringing up after midnight, yelling that he needed money to pay for a place to sleep for the night. A few weeks earlier he had done the same thing, also in the middle of the night, and their efforts to do something for him had been wasted. On drugs, people will lie and cheat and promise the earth; we have to keep that in mind. There are those who do the rounds of every social worker, every charity, every minister in the area, getting whatever they can from each one. And there are the sadder ones, like "Jean", who cannot seem to move forward. "Jean" tells the same heartbreaking story over and over again; she relives her daughter's death, the police photographs, the Drug Squad inquiries, the misery and pain of it all. She has told it to the doctor, the social worker, the counsellor; now she tells it to Julie. Julie steers her mind from it by asking her about what she has seen on television; if she cannot wipe out the past for her, at least she can get her thinking of something else.

It is a long, slow process—the process of reversing the cycle, of changing people's lives.

But there are positive signs that it is worthwhile. People have traditionally found grace, forgiveness and love in a church. If we can be there, as a church, taking these to those in need, then this, surely, is what the church should be doing.

Kim Thoday, Mike Esbensen and Julie Mitchell may be contacted at the Kensington Christian Network at 2 Bangalore Street, Kensington 3031 (phone (03) 376 0306). Gifts towards ministry support can be sent to them there.

Discipleship

•Pauline McIntosh, Warren Ellery, Ballina, NSW •Julie Cutts, Kylie Myers, Sonya Scown, Bryan Ridge, Hampstead Gardens, SA •Janet Johanson, Trish Hodges, Robert Megehan, Joe Casha, Rose Lea, West Preston, Vic •Dale & Corrie Peddie, Manina Anderson, Brenda Long, Annerley, Qld •Michelle Watson, Epping, NSW •Mary Hackett, Northcote, Vic •Ben Properjohn, Wembley, WA •Heather Scanlon, Elizabeth Tuckerman, Kylie Murphy, Leigh Murphy, Edgar Swift, Bendigo, Vic •Sharon Brodie, Launceston, Tas

Marriages

•Pauline McIntosh to Warren Ellery, Ballina, NSW •Lena Ting to Niven Tan, Sandra Chivell to Richard Gregor, Cowandilla, SA

Deaths

•Mavis Follett, Hampstead Gardens, SA •George Kidman, Chelse, Vic •Bob Williams, Annerley, Qld •Les Hall, Epping, NSW •Ruby Emmett, Northcote, Vic •Bill Nicholson, Ainslie, ACT •Mrs E. "Min" Banks, Wembley, WA •Peg Collum, Albion, Qld •Mrs Eileen Dunn, Frankston, Vic

Changes

Perry, Arthur and Jean: 1/9 Elm Court, Ernest, Qld 4212.
Chamberlain, Rex and Elaine: Lot 39, 36 Lord Howe Avenue, Hillcrest, SA 5086. Phone (08) 369 0086.
Springvale: Office—New phone number (03) 558 5295.
Minister—Peter Lyne (03) 558 5296.

Keatch, Maurice and Betty: 7/ 953 North East Road, Modbury, SA 5092. Phone (08) 265 4706.

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Contact Don Smith

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Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department Program Administration Manager

The Social Service Department invites applications for the new position of Programs Administration Manager. This is a full-time position for a systems manager. The successful applicant will be required to provide systems management for the range of the Department's Capital Development projects and operational programs both in terms of State Office financial management and administration of the programs. The Programs Administration Manager will need to develop working relationships with State Office Personnel, Social Service Department Administrators and with the Departments and Churches of Conference. The Programs Administration Manager is responsible to the Executive Director of the Department.

Commencement Date: 4 February 1991

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Terms, conditions and job description are available on request. Salary is based upon the salary of a Director of Nursing for a 36-65 bed Nursing Home in Queensland. Applications will be treated confidentially and should be made on the form provided and supported by the names, addresses and phone numbers of at least two referees.

Applications close 21 September 1990 and should be addressed to

The Executive Director
Churches of Christ in Queensland
Social Service Department
PO Box 508
Kenmore, Qld 4069
Phone: (07) 378 0802 Facsimile: (07) 878 1268

Church News

Vic

GREENSBOROUGH (George Warren) VCR & TV donated. Used for Wycliffe series "Towards Believing" at evening tea services ... Information day on worship for readers & helpers held ... Annual meeting & elections completed ... Display organised by John Horner for Bible Sunday ... George Warren visited Western Districts for Advisory Dept ... Scotts holidaying in Europe; Dickens farewelled to Clifton Springs ... Ross Bishop fundraising by seedling sales ... Elders & deacons dedicated.

PRESTON (T. Armstrong) Recent half day of prayer was a meaningful experience ... Sunday night Bible studies well attended ... Planning day held to look towards the future ... Over 50 ladies attended the Australian Church Women's Fellowship day held at our church. Isabel Stirling is President of the Preston unit ... Linda Morgan home again after recuperating, with family in Newcastle, from a broken wrist. **WEST PRESTON** (Chris Field) Tuesday ladies ran art & craft day & garage sale raising \$3,000 towards cost new "Gem" organ ... Five baptisms during 1990 ... Sorry Helen & John Guerin & Oliver family moving from district ... Co-ed club

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primary age children going well ... CWF camp at Safety Beach ... Guest speaker CWF from Church AIDS Pastoral Care & Education informative ... Fellowship luncheons helping to get to know new people. **CHELSEA** (I. Whitelock) Saddened by death of George Kidman ... Hospitality month involved members visiting one another ... Slides shown of minister's 11 years as missionary in D'Entre Castreaux Islands ... CWF hosts to Chelsea churches for World Fellowship Day. Speaker Phyl Davis ... Forward Move Program to be "brainstormed" at conclusion morning service ... Fishing fellowship held outing at Paterson Lakes ... Boys Explorers maintaining weekly program ... Sunday evening "Praise & Celebration" commenced. **MONTROSE** (Neil Galbraith, John Sharpe) 14 attended CCTC Pastoral Care course & 20 spent day learning & planning our pastoral care work ... New activities: "Leisure & Pleasure (drop-in)", "Creative Living" (craft), Mothers & Young Ones, & Senior "Goodies" working well ... Successful CWF nights on domestic & family violence & Montrose Christian Support Network ... Youth band playing regularly ... Trivia night raised \$130 for Montrose C of C Korean Church ... 60 camped at Badgers Creek.

WANGARATTA (Carl Clayden) Minister concluded excellent series of sermons on relationships, focusing on youth ... Singles Club celebrates first birthday with dinner & country & western entertainer ... CWF special effort, making knee rugs for Hospital Committee, to be distributed to Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre & to hold video afternoon to raise funds for DEBRA ... Wendy & Peter Breen recent guests ... Youth group involved in Bikes for Bibles.

NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn) First baptism for a number of years has caused much rejoicing in the church, when Mary Hackett, a young woman, was baptised ... Church grounds have been renewed & brought favourable comment from passers by & members ... Tapes now available of minister's messages.

STRATHMORE (James Pearce) Friendship Day surprise lunch for Ron Jacobs' 83rd birthday ... Safe return from overseas for Liz & Doug Booth & Mrs Turner ... Bible Sunday various Bibles on display. Short talk by the bringer ... Working now for the Bethlehem Market ... Sandra Gibson from Glen Waverley church conducted the musical service recently. Plenty of very bright

singing by all.

BENDIGO (John Sweetman) Church launched "Project 91" in preparation for church's 125th anniversary 1991 ... Mal Anderson, Aborigines Mission, presented audio-visual "Beyond 2000" ... Recent speakers have been Gideons, Pat Ahern (New Tribes Mission), C. Houston, R. Broad, Neville Thomas (Wycliffe Bible Translators), Noel Hawke (MAF) ... Gold Miners Gang held term parade ... Minister participated in GROW Seminar & also preached at three services at Frankston.

FRANKSTON (Allan Avery, Pam Bowers, Harold Bischoff) Stewardship program held. Rev. Dr Gordon Powell speaker on Loyalty Sunday ... Andrew Ball conducted youth survey to ascertain needs of young people ... Dot Rumble home after heart attack ... Allan Avery has had hip replacement. Harold Bischoff in charge of pastoral work. Pam Bowers on holidays ... CCTC promise of \$7,000 completed. Final cheque to Graham Chapman ... Fred Combridge also had hip replacement.

Qld

ANNERLEY (Russell Ritchie) Enjoyable over 40s camp held at Mapleton ... Twice yearly board planning days proving effective ... Women's weekly Bible study & prayer period very helpful under leadership of Eunice Martin ... Attendance at weekly prayer meetings up to 60 ... Russell Ritchie had hospitalisation for special treatment for MS ... Church appreciates work of students Geoff Greenaway & Trish Brunet.

CENTENARY (Reg Charles) Combined churches (Anglican, Uniting, Lutheran, RC & SA) worshipped together at Centenary ... Luk family welcomed in ... Minister & Charles Kimber attended seminar with Uniting Church by world-famous Kennon Callahan, author of *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church*. Exhilarating ... Special circumstances caused whole church to rejoice in birth of Lauren Courtney to Ken & Lorraine Ray ... Singing group from Withcott church much appreciated. **ALBION** (Peter Overton) Peter Overton is carrying out chaplain's duties on a part-time basis ... John Oaksford (Inverell) addressed a combined service with Clayfield Uniting Church ... Part of the proceeds of a CWF stall (\$817) went to the Living Link (Jill Bawden) ... Present Bible studies are based on the WCC book *Come Holy Spirit Renew the Whole Creation*.

WYNNUM (Charles Cole) Video

& Bible study series "Focus on the Family" ... Guest speakers Jim Deutschmann (DCDE), Bob Aldred (Ann St), C. Ward—presentation on Noah's Ark study ... Week of Evangelism with nine students from KCC ... Lisa Birrell in Belgium five weeks with Operation Mobilization ... Kids After-School Club commenced ... Right hand of fellowship extended to several ... Bible study series on worship ... Video & Bible study series "Building the Family of God".

NSW

EPPING (S. Curkpatrick, D. Moyes) Successful Holiday Bible Club with 80 attending ... Musical drama "The Story Telling Man" performed by young people at Castle Hill church ... Anniversary weekend activities attended well with high morale & optimism for the future in the church ... Both am & pm worship has developed lively contemporary flavour appreciated by whole church ... July-August special focus on small growth groups.

TWEED HEADS (Richard Oakes, Guy Cooper) Trivia night arranged by GNO raised \$750 for work with young & an orphan in Korea ... Over 350 at Christian rock concert in Civic Centre ... Karen Beckett, award-winning singer, guest soloist ... Peter & Shelley Townsend, missionaries-elect for Africa, shared ... Dedication service for Matthew Oakes ... Prayer Triplets & groups using videos "Good News Is for Sharing" for "New Hope 90" with John Bond.

Tas

NUBEENA (Gordon Henderson) 40 Hour Famine appeal raised \$700 ... Minister & wife attended induction of Graeme Hush at Collins St ... Team of five visited on 10 June from CCTC ... Prakash Samuel, an Indian pastor, gave testimony & spoke ... Rosalie Rofe visited & told of the work of our missionaries ... Church fair being organised for 6 October & congregation working for it.

LAUNCESTON (Rod Foster) Church anniversary & Temple Day held on 5 August, with Rev. Murray Ramage guest speaker at 10 am service & Mayor Graeme Beams at 7 pm. A baptismal service was held following which there was a commitment & one reconsecration ... 13 members leave this week for extended mainland holidays ... Darryl Tobler has accepted the church's call to ministry for five-year term.

Church News

WA

BRUCE ROCK (Don Sonsee) Welcomed Don & Jill Sonsee & family home from three weeks in SA ... Barrie & Vera Butler toured north of WA & SA ... Welcome Mavis Cosh

... David & Thelma Pyne's visit appreciated. David is WA Conference President ... John Bond held seminar "Equipping Christians to Evangelise" ... Film series James Dobson's "Turn Your Heart Towards Home" screened April. Purchased previous series "Focus on the Family" for local use & outreach.

FREMANTLE (D. Good) Guest speakers during minister's vacations included David Pyne (Conf. Pres.) ... Featured at pm services the work of Bible Society, Christian Welfare Centre & The Jesus People, also music & drama presentations ... Lesley Hogben (Women's Auxiliary President) visited CWF when its "first call" of Talent Money, \$387, made ... This church's history being collated for centenary in 1992.

CARNARVON (Don Bone) Church participated in Carnarvon's Tropical Festival by entering a float in the parade & a tea tent on Festival grounds ... Gilchrist family held a party at the Olive Laird Memorial Hostel to celebrate Nanna Dolly Bidgemia's 120th birthday. Merv Vawser is researching several sources of information to ascertain her exact birth date ... Mrs Criss Jones was speaker at CWF quiz night.

WEMBLEY (John Timms) Don Cameron secretary WEC Perth ... Michael Hey state rep. "Operation Mobilisation" ... Alan Morris speaker while John Timms revisited India ... Prayer Triplet groups in progress ... Dedication baby Sophie, daughter Jenny & John Jackson ... Youth ministry team shared at CWF.

SA

DULWICH/ROSE PARK (Rob Williams, Roger Brown) Mrs Muriel Garrow, whose husband was until recently a Churches of Christ minister in the UK, was visitor 15 July. She is secretary for mission education in United Reformed Church there & was attending Ecumenical School of Evangelism in Adelaide organised by World Council of Churches. She addressed church on her work.

HAMPSTEAD GARDENS (Keith Ridge) Worship leaders workshop conducted by Alan Niven (CCTC) ... "Winter Series at Five" again popular. Guests include Modbury Choral group & Dorothy Holstein ... Recent baptisms & commitments have injected a new wave of enthu-

siasm into the church ... Rev. Geoff Pearson from Liverpool, UK, in Adelaide for WCC School of Evangelism, recent speaker at morning services ... Robert Leane, Conference President, guest at anniversary service.

COWANDILLA (R.S.A. McLean) Prayer retreat held at Gawler. Dorothy Holstein & Neville Muir guest speakers ... Visiting speakers Sean Bainbridge, CCTC, & two Chinese pastors from Hong Kong & Malaysia brought blessing ... Gabbie family shared & enriched worship experience for three Sun-

days ... Successful combined gospel service with Henley Beach & Flinders Park. Ron Hewitt speaker, guest soloist Joanne Lawrie & male choir.

NARACOORTE (Grant Simpson) A prayer chain has been recently established ... Church has adopted Muller family from Vanuatu ... Recent services have featured John & Chris Sharp (CCTC), Jeff May (OMB) & Wendy Brook (WEC) ... Films "A Man Called Norman" & "The Shepherd" well attended ... ROCK ended Term 2 with a hot dog sizzle with many parents &

children staying. \$55 raised for Mullers.

PROSPECT (Stephen Schmaal) 5 August annual general meeting after shared lunch. Chaired by Miss F. McRae ... 19 August Quest speaker Glen Thornley, Radio Alta Mira, on future plans ... Harvest Thanksgiving held. Decided to change from traditional time & spread time of giving. Winter more suitable for the needy ... Evening service combined with Enfield Heights congregation at Prospect ... CWF invited Kate Roberts, Aborigines Mission, to speak.

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Sacrifice

by Kaye Caporn

Whenever the doubts creep in and I begin to wonder if the Son of God is real and whether he really lived and died for me, I flash myself a mental picture. I see myself a criminal, far more picturesquely wicked than I am, not merely an everyday sinner: you know, white lies, mean thoughts and hasty tongue.

I see myself, shame-faced before the judge and jury. I hear the guilty verdict and the sentence of life without parole, perhaps with the added burden of hard labour. I imagine my desperation, my fear and my total lack of control to change my life.

Suddenly, a stranger steps forward. "Your Honour," he says to the judge, "I love this woman and I'm willing to accept her punishment."

To my amazement, the judge agrees and the stranger is led to his imprisonment. Even more amazing is discovering I'm free. Free to live life as I wish while the stranger takes the punishment I deserve.

But a strange thing happens. I find I am not as free as I thought, because I live with the knowledge that someone else is suffering because of me. I feel drawn towards the stranger and discover I love him because he sacrificed himself for me. He has given me freedom.

And so my mental picture draws me close once more to Jesus, who really did sacrifice himself for my sins. It's not just an earthly punishment he took in my place. He has taken the eternal penalty all sinners face and given us the freedom of salvation, for life now and with God the Father for eternity.

Without him, I'd be paying for my sin for evermore. It is no wonder I love him and am drawn closer by his sacrifice. I find I'm secure in his circle of love and am refreshed in my desire to spend time with him.

• *Kaye Caporn is a member of the Alexander Heights, WA, church, and is currently studying journalism at Deakin University.*

A Prayer for Road Care

Loving Lord,
We pray for all using our roads:
Curb the impatience
That leads to risk taking
By those who are intolerant of fellow drivers;
Give common sense to friends of those
Whose ability to drive becomes impaired by alcohol,
That their concern
May translate into responsible action
For the sake of their friends
And other road users.

—Anon

The Last Word

Prayer is the means by which our desires can be redirected and aligned with the will of God. As we expectantly pray for light concerning the will of God on any matter, if our desires are not in line with his will, he will make it clear.

—J. Oswald Sanders

There was once a minister who so thoroughly bored the members of the congregation that a resignation was demanded.

"Give me one more chance," the minister pleaded.

The congregation turned out in force the next Sunday and heard, to their surprise and delight, the most inspired sermon heard for years.

After the service, everyone shook the minister's hand warmly. A prominent member of the church said, "You must stay, with an increase in stipend, of course."

The minister accepted. Then the member said, "That was the greatest sermon I have ever heard. But tell me one thing. As you began to speak you raised two fingers of your left hand, and when you finished you raised two fingers of your right hand. What was the significance of that?"

"Those," answered the minister, "were the quotation marks."

★★★★★

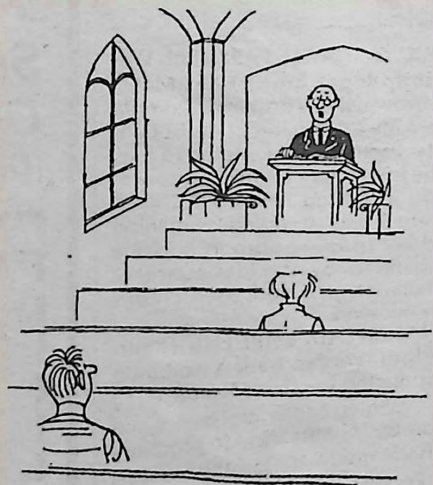
They gave the worker an empty pay packet by mistake. "It had to happen," the employee said. "I knew eventually my deductions would overtake my salary."

★★★★★

Most of the footprints left in the sands of time have been made by work boots.

★★★★★

Some mountain climbers, after scaling a peak, asked their guide what to do if they were to fall. The guide thought for a moment, then replied, "Just look to the left. The scenery is beautiful in that direction."



My sermon this morning is:
"Where have I failed?"



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