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Johnsons to Albany

Frank and Rose Johnson have arrived in Albany, WA, to commence a work among the almost 400 Aborigines in the town. This comes as the culmination of God's leading to Frank and Rose, the interest and encouragement of the Albany church, and the Federal Aborigines Board's desire to place key workers in new and strategic areas. Albany is one such key centre.

(See page 4)

24 March 1990

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Address for All Correspondence
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PO Box 101

North Essendon 3041

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After Hours (03) 337 8349

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Guest Editorial

Activating the Passive Church

by Ken Clinton

Lyle E. Schaller, one of the foremost authorities on church growth and planning, in his book, *Activating The Passive Church—Diagnosis and Treatment* (Abingdon Press), diagnoses the causes of church passivity and formulates a method of combating the problem. He lists the three most effective cures for passivity but admits that they cannot be programmed easily.

1. A personal religious experience for each member. An event that happens within the life of the individual, he says, "that cannot be programmed on a congregation-wide basis".

2. The unexpected and sometimes unsought intervention of the Holy Spirit. He says, "That, too, cannot be planned and scheduled by sinful human beings."

3. A flood of new members into the passive church. Long-time members do not automatically view newcomers as assets and not as liabilities because new members tend to be different from long-time members in many respects.

Lyle E. Schaller recognised the key role in the renewal of the church is the Holy Spirit and that it is not produced by good planning or energetic action alone.

Rev. Dr Gordon Dicker, Principal of the Uniting Church Theological Hall in Sydney, emphasised this same truth in the course of a speech at the Assembly of the Uniting Church of Australia in Melbourne in 1988. He said, "What we are concerned about is nothing less than the total renewal of the church and that is not simply in our hands. We cannot produce it at will, either by good planning or energetic action. The renewal of the church is the work of the Holy Spirit and shares in the mystery of the Spirit. That does not mean, however, that we should fold our arms and wait passively for the Spirit to move. There are things that we can and should do. At the very least we can and should pray for renewal. More than that, we should examine ourselves to see whether there are things about us, individually and as a church, which stand in the way of renewal. When we have identified them we can and should remove these obstacles."

Let me make some suggestions:

• In the first place we need to take seriously the fact that we are engaged in a spiritual warfare and the enemy, Satan, has declared total war against God and his creation. C.S. Lewis wisely warns, "There are two equally opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to

believe, and feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them." (*Screwtape Letters*). The warfare is not against flesh and blood but the focus of the battle is flesh and blood and the minds of humanity (Ephesians 6:10-18).

• In the second place we need to recover confidence in the cross. There all the forces of evil had concentrated their assault on the Son of God and were broken by his obedient and sacrificial death. Sin, death, wrath and law are conquered. We are called to share in his victory (Romans 5:17-21).

• In the third place we need to take seriously the "Word of God" (1 Thessalonians 1:6, 2:13) and not surrender to the spirit of this age. Some modern theologians reflect in their writings a tendency to ethical compromise, which not only tolerates but sometimes even advocates the practice of fornication, homosexuality, euthanasia and abortion.

• In the fourth place we need to recover confidence in the clarity, inspiration and reliability of God's message of salvation with warm-hearted conviction.

• In the fifth place we need to recover confidence in the Spirit and recognise our need to "keep on being filled with the Spirit" and enter into all the resources the Spirit desires to endow upon his church.

God expects Christians to overcome the enemy (Revelation 2 and 3). If we are to match up to the Lord's expectations for his people we must avoid defeatism, activism and quietism. We must keep on putting off the old nature and putting on the new. We must mortify/crucify the flesh and its passions. We must watch and pray and so have a mind set for the dimension of the Spirit (the things pertaining to the Spirit—Romans 7:21-8:11).

Repentance, faith, baptism and the Spirit are continuing experiences in the life of victory for the Christian (Romans 8:37-39).

Principalities and powers have also invaded the very structures of society. Jesus came not merely to save individuals and put them in a right relationship with God, but to found a kingdom that was the embodiment and pledge of the Kingdom of God on earth.

• Ken Clinton has had full-time ministries at Castlemaine-Harcourt and Hampton, and many part-time preaching ministries. He is the minister to ministers in Victoria two days a week, at Red Hill till the end of March and at Fountain Gate Christian Church beginning in April. Married to Norma for 38 years he has five children and 11 grandchildren.

☆☆☆☆☆☆
**12,000 Enjoy
 Berwick's
 Carols at
 Fountain
 Gate**

12,000 enjoyed singing old favourite Christmas carols and lighting candles at the 14th Annual Carols by Twilight presented by the Berwick, Vic, church. Malcolm Gray, compere, and John Marshall, music director, led the varied program. The Maroondah Singers made their first appearance. The Dandenong City Band provided the musical backing.

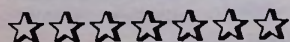
Father Christmas (Lindsay Tyson) spoke briefly on the true meaning of Christmas and was introduced in song by Andrea Proposch. "Perfect Vision" with lead singer Paul Sheahan entertained with several lively numbers.

The live re-enactment of the Christmas story was again presented.

George Mallaby as the "Lost Shepherd" featured in two drama segments and invited the children to come and view the baby Jesus with him. The response was phenomenal with children queuing up for 15 minutes to see the baby (Morgan Gales).

Peter Holt, minister, brought a Christmas greeting and an invitation to attend Christmas Day services.

The organiser, Cr Rob Wilson, raised over \$8,000 in sponsorship from 23 local business who received advertising in a four-page centre spread in two local newspapers. Programs and candles were given out free and no admission was charged. Rob Wilson said, "The 1989 carols were probably the most enjoyable program in its history with the children having the opportunity of seeing Father Christmas and the baby Jesus. The weather was also on our side. No-one wanted to go home afterwards."



Wednesdays at Blackwood Are Way Out!



Young people at the church on Wednesday evenings

Wednesdays in the Blackwood, SA, church are really wild! The reason is that the whole day is given to sharing with the community the church's facilities, people and resources.

At 9.30 am the fun starts with the Shoppers' Creche, where a two-hour break is provided for the mothers of the community to do their shopping "child free". Operating on a donation-only basis, good use is being made of our strategic position among the shops to encourage mothers to use this service. Many mothers have said, "It's just great!" to this opportunity provided, and we are most aware of the opportunities. We have to provide Christian material, invitations to worship and other data helpful in the rearing of a family.

Lunchtime arrives, and the mothers and children have gone. It is now time to prepare halls and other rooms for the next influx, the older group that

make up the Friendship Centre. This group play bowls and pool, do ceramics and take part in many other crafts. Soon the centre is abuzz with friendly chatter over the tea-cups as older folk of the community enjoy a sociable time together, always pausing to listen to the "thought for the day", a Christian message given each week.

Four o'clock and the oldies depart, but cooking smells begin to drift through the complex. It is approaching tea-time for young people of the area—many of whom are in the "at risk" group in the community. This weekly meal has proved to be greatly appreciated by those who come, and it is always shared by one of the ministers and other concerned and interested church members, young and older. After tea, darts, pool and other games take us well into the evening. (A typical meal could consist of crumbed chops, sausages, vegies or salad, apple pie and

ice-cream, with cordial, coffee and tea.) Occasionally the young people go sailing at nearby Brighton beach with minister Rob Combridge and other boating bods. It's good to see the kids getting their thrills in this healthy, challenging way!

At about 10 pm the young people go home, and the building is locked for the night. It has been open for over 12 hours, and most of its rooms and halls have been used by members of the Blackwood community. Food has been served, countless cups of tea and coffee consumed, dishes washed and wiped and put away. A row of damp tea-towels signal the end of the day.

They signal more than that, I feel, as I look musingly around the complex. Hard put to find the words, I end up with the phrase "consecrated usefulness".

I'm glad and proud that our buildings are used in this way, and for this purpose on Wednesdays! The Brigades and sporting groups and growth groups and Sunday school etc. are playing their part and providing wonderful opportunities for growth and development, but as for Wednesdays, they're just wild!

—Helen Oatley

P.S. Financially Wednesdays are successful too, in that one group supports another. The Shoppers' Centre donations help pay for food for the youth tea, while the Friendship Centre often makes money available to the work with young people.

Index

The index of the 1989 issues of *The Australian Christian* is being sent to all those readers who have ordered copies in the past. If you would like a copy of the 1989 index (no charge) contact *The Australian Christian* office, PO Box 101, Essendon North 3041. Phone (03) 379 1219.

• **John Caporn**

Turning Point



Kaye and John Caporn

Photo courtesy of the Wanneroo Times

4 February marked a turning point in the history of the Alexander Heights, WA, church.

John Caporn was inducted as the first full-time minister of the young church at a special ceremony at Alinjarra Primary School. More than 100 attended including John Bolton, WA Conference President, and Graham Carslake, Warwick minister, who spoke on the origin of the church.

Board member Bill Taylor read a list of other churches offering prayers and monetary support.

This ceremony was a major step for the small group, who began meeting for worship in September 1988. They were supported and encouraged by the Warwick church and Rob Frazer from the Balga church ministered part-time during 1988-89.

From its small start the congregation grew and began reaching out to meet community needs in Alexander Heights, Ballajura and sur-

rounding areas.

The church meets for worship at 9 am every Sunday at Alinjarra Primary School.

In addition there is a Kids Club, a youth group, craft group and basketball club as well as small group Bible study.

Pastor Caporn, his wife Kaye and children Jadie, Stephen and Matthew, are from Victoria. Before coming to WA John Caporn ministered to the Swan Hill and Ivanhoe churches.

He said he had been inspired by the faith and vision and sheer enthusiasm of the people of Alexander Heights.

• **Rose and Frank Johnson**

New Venture in Albany

(From page 1)

Frank and Rose Johnson have now arrived in Albany, WA, to commence a work amongst the almost 400 Aborigines in the town.

Rose is returning to her country; Frank to the general area in which he ministered some years ago. Links into the community have already been formed over several years. The Johnsons are well known throughout the area and there

is much anticipation as the new ministry gets under way.

The Johnsons had served for nine years at Tamworth pastoring an established church. In Albany they will be involved in commencing a church. The Federal Aborigines Board seeks your prayerful support as Frank and Rose commence in Albany. It is anticipated that they will become involved in surrounding towns in the future.

• **Charles Birch and Baba Amte share prize**

1990 Templeton Prize

An eminent Australian biologist-geneticist and an Indian Hindu lawyer who has devoted his life to helping lepers share the 1990 Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion.

The £330,000 prize will be awarded to Professor L. Charles Birch of Sydney, NSW, who throughout much of his career has been engaged in new and adventurous reflection on questions of science and faith, and Baba Amte, a Hindu lawyer, the originator and developer of modern-day communities for lepers and harijans (the untouchables) in India.

Professor Birch, who is the son of a Methodist minister, was born in Melbourne has been a research fellow at the University of Chicago, Oxford University in England, Columbia University, New York, and the University of Minnesota and Visiting Professor of Genetics at the University of Cali-

fornia, Berkeley.

Since 1960 until his recent retirement he was Challis Professor of Biology at the University of Sydney.

Birch's research subject is population biology, especially principles concerned with distribution, abundance and evolution.

Baba Amte, who was awarded a United Nations Human Rights Award last year, attended a Christian College in Nagpur, where the seeds of the Christian value of care and service were first sown.

Rebelling against the "fast-lane life style" of his family, he sought out the poor, listening with mounting outrage of the stories of their plight, their destitution and the scorn of which they were often the object.

Today his 450 acre leper complex near Nagpur accommodates 1,400 lepers. It has a cottage hospital, an outpatient clinic, a library, co-operative shops, a bank, workshops, a post office, a primary school for children of leprosy patients, a residential school for blind children with 72 pupils, a rehabilitation centre for 240 physically handicapped and a technical college for 7,500 students.

His two sons, who are medical doctors, are co-workers with their father.

DON'T MISS THIS!

K.C.C. SILVER JUBILEE

CELEBRATION BANQUET

Saturday, 6th October, 1990
at 6 p.m.

Guest Speaker: **GORDON MOYES**
Meet K.C.C. past & present students

Kum Ba Yah—The Dream Continues



In April 1978 *The Australian Christian* contained an article by the editor, G.R. Stirling, entitled "Kum Ba Yah: A Dream Come True". This article referred to Merle Peacock's 1972 dream of developing a live-in Christian conference and holiday centre in Western Australia.

Meanwhile the WA Youth and Christian Education Committee was dreaming about the future use of the old weatherboard and asbestos Watermans Bay J. Rhodes Camp Site at the corner of Cliff and Lennard Streets in the suburb of Marmion. The "dreams" and the "dreamers" came together. In what was seen to be a part of God's plans and purposes for

Oops!

The Editor's hearing must be starting to deteriorate!

In gaining the information for the article on the "new building" at Glen Waverly ("AC" 3 March) he thought that the figure quoted for the costs of the new building was \$5.5 million. In reality it was \$500,000.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this error.

Churches of Christ in WA in the 70s and 80s, Merle Peacock, supported by her immediate family, accepted the responsibility of developing Kum Ba Yah on the half acre Lennard Street site. A legally drawn up deed and lease was signed by Merle Peacock as lessee and three representatives of Conference Executive as lessor.

From September 1977 to February 1990 many thousands of people from all Australian states and many other nations have visited the centre and stayed for varying periods of time from 30 minutes to 6 months! To research and describe the value of Kum Ba Yah to these thousands of visitors would take years but judging by the two albums of "thank you" notes received, its development was not a waste of time, effort or money.

In 1985, due to ill health, Merle was forced to take a break from managing Kum Ba Yah and Doug Neame was manager for eight months. Again in 1989 Merle was grateful to Catriona and Derek Ferrie and Fay and Don Jackson for being prepared to live in a unit on the site and manage the centre. However, in January 1989 Merle indicated that she wished

the lease to be terminated and Churches of Christ in WA to resume its responsibility as owner of the land.

Over 12 months of discussion and negotiation followed until on 17 February 1990 the matter was resolved and a very generous cash offer from Mr and Mrs Ken Wright of the Mount Pleasant Baptist church was unanimously accepted by the Churches of Christ Council.

The Wrights requested that they be allowed to retain the registered business name of Kum Ba Yah and intend the usage of the centre to continue as at present after 31 March 1990. Managers will be living on site and may be contacted by phoning (09) 447 1500 or writing to 12-14 Lennard Street, Marmion 6020.

In 1978 G.R. Stirling did a little "dreaming" of his own and will be interested to note that in 1989 Churches of Christ Aboriginal pastors and their wives used Kum Ba Yah for a national three-day seminar. Proceeds from the sale of Kum Ba Yah will be put towards the cost of developing a new Churches of Christ camping and holiday facility at Parkerville in the Darling Ranges east of Perth.

New Move to Cut Porn

X-rated videos continue to embarrass governments in Canberra.

12 months ago, when the ACT Legislative Assembly finally began to function, the Federal Labor government breathed a sigh of relief that it could pass on the political hot potato of Canberra's \$20-million-per-year video-porn industry to the new local government.

All states have banned the X-rated videos but the Federal government has refused to follow suit and still allows their import and distribution throughout Australia.

In December, the ACT's Labor government lost a no-confidence motion over its proposal to raise revenue from a tax on the X-rated videos

The new Liberal-Rally Alliance coalition government was reluctant to touch the hot potato. When Denis Stevenson tried to introduce a private member's bill to ban video-porn in Canberra entirely, it stalled vigorously, even, he said, cancelling sitting days to prevent him. However his bill finally made it to debate on 14 February.

Denis Stevenson, a former policeman, believes X-rated videos show "mechanical sex" and encourage violent crime.

"Statistics the world over show that with increased pornography you get an increase in rape, violence and sexual molestation of children and women. These videos depict women as sex objects for use by men," he said.

The bill is still under discussion by the ACT Legislative Assembly. Flaws were found in the bill presented by Denis Stevenson. A further bill has been introduced that would still allow the video-porn industry to operate in Canberra but that would confine it to Fyshwick, away from any residential areas.

At the moment it appears that this approach may have the numbers in the Assembly.

Windows for Sale

Three stained glass windows are for sale.

The windows were originally designed for a church in England.

Signed by the artist, they were constructed to replace windows damaged by bombs during World War II.

There are three windows available. Two windows, "The Last Supper" and "The Crucifixion", are nine feet high by four feet wide. The other window, "The Resurrection", which depicts Christ surrounded by various tradesmen, is about eight foot high by eight foot wide.

The price quoted was around \$14,000 for all three windows. Inquiries should be directed to B. Cook, 46 The Grove, Fairfield 2165.

ACWF News

ACWF is a part of the 43rd Federal Conference being held in Brisbane 8-14 October. 11 October is Australian Christian Women's Fellowship's special day during Federal Conference.

The day will begin at 9 am in the Brisbane City Hall. Because Queensland Conference is being held in conjunction with Federal Conference, the first segment on Ladies' Day will be conducted by the QCWF and led by Barbara Bennett (Qld State President). Following morning tea a joint devotional service will be presented by the QCWF and ACWF. The after-

noon session will be conducted by the ACWF under the leadership of Federal President Pamela Paddick.

Further details will be available shortly through churches, however information can be obtained from Ann Parker, 51 Binnalong St, Rochedale 4123. Phone (07) 341 4894.

"Towards 2000"

The Vic-Tas Aborigines Department advises that the audiovisual "Towards 2000" has been updated. Churches wishing to view it should contact the Secretary on (03) 773 2728 or write to 35 Arnold Dve, Chelsea 3196.

CFW Day for Presidents and Secretaries

A CWF Day for presidents and secretaries was held on 21 February at the Churches of Christ Centre, 52 La Trobe St, Melbourne, Vic.

About 40 ladies representing 20 churches enjoyed a day of fellowship and sharing of ideas. The program included worship, a workshop on leadership in local groups, a role play and a discussion on success.

There was time made available to share program ideas, exchange relevant material and to generally encourage one another in the work of Christian Women's Fellowship.

CFW continues to be blessed with new enthusiastic and assertive members anxious to learn and share.

—Dorothy Quantrelle
(President)

SA Women

Conference May 1989 was significant for SA Churches of Christ women. A motion was passed designed to allow change to widen the effectiveness of statewide women's activities and enable us to move with the times. This change enabled the Women's Ministry Committee to become a more integral part of State Board and, like other State Board committees that change personnel in the new year, for the first time

the new committee was dedicated at the first meeting of the year.

Barbara Robb of Hampstead Gardens church, chairperson since May 1989, opened the first "Thursday Focus" of the year by sharing some feelings and insights she gained during her time of office. Basing her presentations on the theme "Be Still and Know That I Am God", she found the prayerful reflections and preparations personally a blessing in her ongoing pilgrimage. This message came through clearly to we who enjoyed her gentle and gracious leadership.

Trevor Lawrie, SA Conference President, dedicated the new Committee for 1990. The new Chairperson Julie Adams presented Barbara Robb with a copy of the Scriptures then introduced her theme, "Be Transformed by the Renewing of Your Mind".

—Judy Brown

Needy Hospital

Fairfield Hospital in Melbourne, Vic, has served the community in a unique capacity, since the great epidemics of the early 1900s through to the tragic affects of modern day diseases such as AIDS.

During this time, patients, relatives and staff have been fortunate to have the support of representatives from all major religions, but unlike many other hospitals, patients, relatives, friends and staff have had no place in which to wor-

ship or for individual solace or reflection.

A Prayer and Meditation Centre on campus is urgently needed to provide psychological and spiritual support, or an area in which grief and stress management in conjunction with medical care can be provided.

The hospital during 1990 is embarking on a major fundraising program for \$250,000 to build such a facility and asks the community to join in this project.

New Church

The new Rowville Church in Melbourne's outer eastern suburbs was launched on 25 February with the first service held in the Fields Pre-School Centre. 32 church members attended. An enthusiastic spirit prevails among the leaders and those committed to the project. Subsequent services have seen first-time visitors present on all occasions. Group meetings and outreach activities have commenced. Central to the activities is a weekly meeting for prayer.

Tom Ede is the minister, having transferred from the Springvale church after a long ministry. He is assisted by John Sutton, a final-year student from the Churches of Christ Theological College at Mulgrave. The project is being assisted by the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development as a part of the CROP initiative.



At Rowville's first service (left to right): Stuart Petersen, Julie and Tom Ede, John Sutton and Robert Lalrd. Robert is also a member of the Department of Mission, Education and Development and Stuart is a former manager at Camp Aclacia, Halls Gap

Have you thought of helping
"The Australian Christian"
In its ministry among
Churches of Christ?

Why not include us in your will?

The following wording could be used in your will:

I give and bequeath \$ (or a percentage of the total estate) to "The Australian Christian", the national journal of Churches of Christ in Australia, absolutely for the use and benefit of the organisation free from all debts, funeral and testamentary expenses.



Charles Hansen turns the sod

Turning the Sod

On 4 February the Dandelong, Vic, church celebrated another milestone in its 97-year

history when the congregation assembled on their new block of land to "Turn the Sod". After meeting for worship the congregation proceeded to the new

block where a short ceremony was held. The honour was bestowed upon **Charlie Hansen**, who at 90 years of age is one of the longest-serving members of the congregation.

After meeting for 31 years in the previous chapel the congregation decided to sell the building and move out of the city centre. The building and land situated on the corner of Mason and Walker Streets was sold in mid-1988 to a local land developer for \$1.6 million and a two and a half acre block of land in David St was purchased for \$500,000.

Since July 1989 the congregation has been meeting for worship in the Cleeland High School assembly hall. Work has begun on the new church complex. The estimated cost of the new building is \$800,000 plus furnishings. The congregation is looking forward to being involved in the community the years ahead.

Women at Risk

A new and exciting project is now operating! The project is in response to the need for safe and secure housing for young women. Are you aware that

three-quarters of young homeless women have been sexually assaulted since leaving home? This and other disturbing information is available in a study "Homeless Youth as Victims of Violence" released last December. This study calls for an urgent increase in safe housing for young women.

The Vic-Tas Department of Community Care has responded by making available a residence in Northcote to be used for long-term accommodation for young women at risk.

Casarella House is a two-bedroom, single-fronted terrace house that has been fitted out to feel like a home. The residents add the personal touches to make it feel more like their home! As Casarella House provides long-term accommodation, the young women stay until they feel they are ready to move elsewhere. It really is a great project and more information is available by contacting Joy Butler, Department of Community Care, 52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne 3000. Phone (03) 662 1411.

President

Victoria is to host the 44th Federal Conference, which will be held in October 1983. (The 43rd Federal Conference is being held in Brisbane 8-14 October 1990.)

The Vic-Tas Conference Executive has recommended to the Federal Conference Executive that **Clive Ward**, currently Vic-Tas Conference Secretary, be appointed Federal Conference President.

Needs Don't Diminish

The young church at Kensington seeks to affiliate with Conference this year. Leader, **Kim Thoday**, finds that needs don't diminish. Your gifts and prayers are needed now to help sustain this inner-city mission thrust.

Department of Mission, Education and Development
52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne 3000



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Clive Ward

Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Theocracy Versus Democracy

To the Editor,

Bill Woff ("AC" 17 February) claims that Laodicea means people rule, when in fact the city was named after its founder's wife, Laodice. Can Bill please tell us what NT Greek scholars support his claim?

Democracy does not come from "laos" (the people of God) but from "demos" (the assembled people). "Ecclesia" (church) and "adelphos" (brotherhood) are also from Greek writings on democracy, as are the themes of liberty, freedom and equality so evident in the NT.

Bill and others have tried to suggest that theocracy (rule of God) and democracy (rule of the people) are opposites, when throughout the Bible they are married together in the covenants.

The synagogues in Jesus' day were run by the people, not priests, and were the model followed by the early Christians, not the Temple hierarchy, hence the emphasis on the priesthood of all believers. These are democratic concepts deliberately chosen by the early church.

In the Eastern world, democracy is an older practice than monarchy.

Alexander Campbell's "Declaration and Address" is based on the writings of John Locke, the father of English democracy.

Instead of denying our democratic roots we should beshout it from the roof tops.

—Bruce McIntosh
(Boronia, Vic)

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

WA Archives

To the Editor,

In case you did not see the notice on Page 7 of the 17 February issue of *The Australian Christian*, ex WA ministers/members are reminded that as a centenary project historical

documents, photographs and tapes are being collected for storage in the State Batty Library.

The convener of the Archives Committee can be sent material at either 142-146 Beaufort St, Perth 6000, or 9B Mary St, Waterman 6020, or she can be contacted by phone on (09) 246 2110.

—Merle Peacock

About Death and Life

To the Editor,

As we approach Easter, we find ourselves drawn towards considering issues of death and life.

Christ's death on the cross and his glorious resurrection is the central aspect around which our Christian faith revolves. Christ died on the cross for each one of us and through his death and resurrection, sealed a covenant to guarantee his love and guidance for us eternally.

On our part he asks that we be the instrument through which he can share some of his love and care for others.

At Melbourne City mission, we seek to fulfil that covenant in a special way. Our programs reach out to people in the blackest periods of their lives.

Among those we serve are people with painful and terminal cancer preparing for death, homeless adolescents seeking a new foothold in the world and young children whose families have failed to provide the environment which they need to flourish.

To each we bring, in real and practical terms, the experience of healing and the offer of new life.

Our mission is not one of words but of deeds. We invite readers to share that mission with us. Our work can be supported in many ways, through prayer, voluntary assistance and donations. Elsewhere is a special plea for help.

—Don Saltmarsh
(Executive Director,
Melbourne City mission)

Rowville Project

To the Editor,

I am surprised to read about the "Rowville Project" ("AC" 2

December). The appointment of a minister takes the "project" into a new phase beyond talk.

Our Council of Elders wrote to Stuart Peterson (Secretary/Co-ordinator) last June "with a firm conviction that we should engage in conversations to explore the opportunities and possibilities which lay before us together under God".

There has been no conversations or reply to our overture and now we read of the ministry appointment, which signals a "doing our own thing" effort.

Has the DMED no ecumenical vision? I await in prayerful hope of some imaginative co-operative sharing "that they all may be one that the world may believe".

—Mark Dunn
(Chairman-Council of
Elders,
Rowville
Uniting Church)

Response from Rowville Church

To the Editor,

In reply to Mark Dunn's letter regarding the "Rowville

Project", I have the greatest pleasure in announcing that Rowville is no longer a "project" but a reality, as we held our first service on 25 February. It was attended by some 32 people and we rejoice in this positive start to this new work.

Rowville, being one of the fastest growing areas in Australia, gives all denominations a marvellous opportunity to witness and serve the Lord.

We at Rowville welcome any chance to engage in meaningful conversations for shared opportunities with any Christian group within the Rowville area.

Mark's letter of June last year regarding possible discussions with the Uniting Church, as discussed with him, was premature at that time, as Rowville Church of Christ at that stage was still a dream.

Now that the Rowville church is a reality, we ask for his support and prayers as together we move forward to serve God within our shared community.

—Stuart Peterson
(Rowville, Vic)

Letters from Tertius

Burdens

To the Editor,

It was a lively song service. We were singing the chorus "I'm so happy and here's the reason why, Jesus took my burdens all away".

I happened to look across the aisle at Joan. She was singing her head off. Suddenly I stopped singing. Why? Because it dawned on me that Jesus hadn't taken Joan's burdens all away. Yet she was singing as though she had.

You see, Joan has MS. She's a widow and manages on her own, with some help. Her grown family are more of a worry to her than a help. Yet she never misses a service and is always comforting the miserable and consoling the sorrowful.

I wondered what was going on in Joan's mind while she was singing. I know her well enough to be frank with her, and after church I said, "Joan, you were singing about Jesus taking your burdens away, and he hasn't."

"Yes he has," she countered. "My burden was resenting MS and crying, 'Why me?' all the time. Well Jesus took away my burden of resentment and being sorry for myself. Now, with his help, I can handle my MS without it being a burden."

It gave me a new slant on burden bearing. The burdens Jesus takes away must be the home-made variety. The seat he helps us to carry as though they aren't burdens at all. Makes you think doesn't it?

—Tertius

Letters to the Editor

Youth Camps

To the Editor,

There are doubtless other "first-campers" who can support me that the first Youth Camp of four Victorian churches was held in the summer of 1927-28.

It was organised and led by L.C. McCallum, then part-time organiser of the Youth Department, and was held in the Ballarat Showgrounds.

The assisting team included A.G. Saunders, C.C. Dawson, Miss Betty Woolridge (later Mrs Dawson), Miss Linda Foreman (on furlough from India) and May Metzenthin as cook.

Florrie Kennedy and I attended from Kaniva and our enthusiasm inspired Kaniva YPSCE to envisage a country camp. Confidently we began investigations and arranged for the Dimboola Showgrounds as a site and then approached our Youth & Home Mission Department organiser W. Gale. He readily agreed to assist and brought a team—H.G. Patterson, George Hughes, Miss Edna Vawser of India and Miss Ethel Martin from Melbourne.

The Kaniva church provided all the man/woman power for setting up, cooking and cleaning up and the Department was able to receive all the proceeds. This pattern continued with ensuing camps. The Dimboola camp gravitated to the Grampians and eventually we have the present beautiful site.

We all give, as we have been given and we all reap.

—Lillian G. Main
(Kaniva, Vic)

Nature of Scripture

To the Editor,

Harold Hayward writes ("AC" 16 December) that there is no inconsistency between

Galatians 3:28 and 1 Timothy 2:11-15 if we distinguish between "role" and "status". In the Kingdom of God, he asserts, role distinctions must be respected, whereas "in the divine society no such distinctions are made".

Does he mean that the church is the Kingdom of God and that women's role in the church therefore does not include being a pastor or an elder?

The Galatians passage—no distinction—clearly has the church in view. But the Timothy passage—a sharp distinction between men and women—just as clearly has the church in mind.

In 1 Corinthians 11:5, 13, Paul has no problem with the fact of women praying and prophesying in church. Is that not a question of role?

In Philippians 4:2-3, Euodia and Syntyche have shared to the full with men like Paul and Clement in the struggle to spread the gospel. Is that not a question of role?

In Romans 16:1-7 Phoebe is a minister of the church at Cenchreae, Prisca is Paul's "fellow worker in Christ Jesus," and Junia is "eminent among the apostles". Is Paul not giving thanks here for women's significant ("official"?) role in the church?

—Ronald Graham
(Johnston, Iowa, USA)

Forthright Presentation

To the Editor,

Sincere thanks for printing Brian White's "Ministers' Workshop" on "Handling Our Temptations" ("AC" 3 March) and congratulations and thanks to him for a forthright presentation.

Not being an occupant of a manse I tend to see things from the congregation's view, and it's high time something was presented to make both pastor and people acknowledge a particularly sensitive area. I only wish I could feel confident of it being widely read, marked, learned and inwardly digested.

Anyway, thanks!

—Rita Pheeby
(Heath Hill, Vic)

Calendar

National

May

24-3 June Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
28-30 Annual Conference Federal Board of Christian Education

New South Wales

April

6 CWF Rally at Burwood 10.30 am
6 CFA Annual Meeting
12-16 Easter Camp at Stanwell Tops

May

9-12 105th Annual Conference
14-17 Ministers' Refresher—Stanwell Tops
26 Celebration Rally

June

1 CWF—Burwood 10.30 am
8-11 State Youth Games—Wollongong

Queensland

April

13 Easter Camp at Shannon Park
16 Easter Monday Concert Mount Walker
25 ANZAC Trail Ride Rosevale
27-29 Overseas Missions/Aborigines & Islanders Boards Camp
29-30 QCWF Darling Downs Camp

May

13 Mount Walker Mother's Day Tea and Program
22 QCWF Rally (Golden Age Retirement Village, Southport)

June

8-11 Sonshine Games
9-11 Northern Convention (Townsville)
11 Rosewood Queen's Birthday Concert

South Australia

April

5 CWF Thursday Focus at Grote St
12-16 Easter Camp (14-17 Years)
Easter Camp (18+ Years)

May

1-6 State Conference
6 Youth and Education Offering
7-9 Magarey Lectures
26 State Board

June

2-3 South East District Conference
7 CWF Thursday Focus at Grote St
19 Minister's Association
22-24 Fireworks 11 (Youth Ministry Committee)
28 Women's Retreat Day
28-1 July July Kid's Camp

Victoria

April

7 Children's Field Day
12-16 Easter Camps
22 Christian Women's Fellowship Sunday

May

3-6 Annual Conference
7-9 Ministers' Seminar
12 21st Anniversary Celebration Adventure Committee
18-20 Trail Bike Riding Camp
CWF Halls Gap Camp
20 Annual Offering, Properties Corporation
26 Music Workshop

June

3 Annual Offering CCTC
9-11 Statewide Evangelism Conference and Warmbrunn Lectureship (Glen Waverley)
15-16 Youth Ministry Leadership Seminar (Albury)

Western Australia

3-8 April

State Conference

4 June

State Games

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Films

I'm the King of the Castle

This is a thoughtful, dark, sombre movie. A 10-year-old boy, Thomas, lives in a castle in an isolated area of Bretagne, France, with his father. His mother has just died and his father decides to employ a governess for the holidays, who has a son, Charles, the same age as Thomas. The film is the story of the clash between the two boys and their manoeuvrings to establish domination. The movie is in French but the subtitles are good and not intrusive. However the dialogue is very sparse and even with poor school-boy French I understood a good deal without the subtitles' assistance. Some critics have likened it to *Lord of the Flies* in dealing with the subject matter of juvenile hatred. One scene is quite shocking and was designed by the boys as a play that was to shock and create results. It is not a film to attend to be entertained. But with its cinematography and theme music that help set the mood beautifully, it is a haunting, brooding film that deals with an important subject. Interestingly this film, shot in French, is based on a story written by Susan Hill in English.

Currently screening at the Kino Cinema in Melbourne and due to commence a season soon at the Dendy Theatre in Sydney this film will probably screen at "art house" theatres in capital cities around Australia.

—CRA

Papers

Historical Society Digest

The Digest of Australian Churches of Christ Historical Society is published on a regular basis by the Historical Society. The two most recent issues contain very interesting articles of interest to our readers.

In issue no. 102 there is an article on A.B. Maston and the Austral Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd written by Arthur Haskell. In the 4 February 1989 issue of *The Australian Christian* Arthur wrote an article on Austral, a company which was very influential in the life of our churches. This new article is an expansion and continuation of that first article.

Issue no. 103 comprises a very informative article by Dr William Tabbernee, which traces the history of the involvement of women in the pastoral ministry of Churches of Christ in Australia. Given the debate in the community over the ordination of women to the ministry it is interesting to see the involvement of women in ministry in various states and over a period of time in our churches.

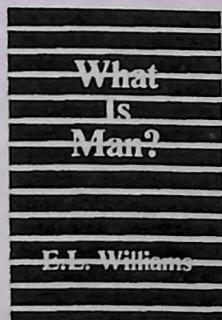
Both digests are available at a cost of \$1 each (the price includes postage) from the Historical Society Secretary, F. Morris, 27 Albert St, East Malvern 3145. An annual subscription to the *Historical Society Digest* only costs \$3.

Books

What Is Man?

by E.L. Williams (Vital Publications)

Written by Principal-Emeritus E.L. Williams, this 16-page booklet is an examination of the basic question "Who are we?" It looks at the meaning of humanity and the search that humanity undertakes to give itself meaning. As Principal-Emeritus E.L. Williams states in his preface this has been written to



stimulate young people who are intelligently and honestly seeking guidance in this area of thought.

This booklet is available from the Federal Literature Department Secretary, Mrs E.M. Rankine, 5 Atkins Ave, Glen Iris 3146.

Bring Forth Justice

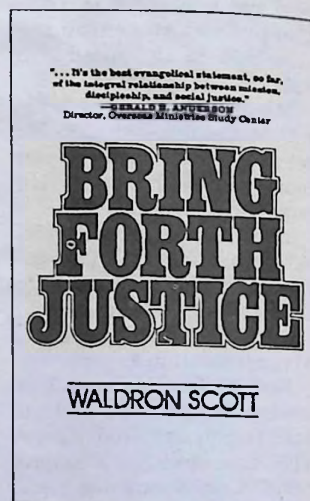
A Contemporary Perspective on Mission

by Waldron Scott (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company and Marshall, Morgan and Scott)

This book was first published in 1980 and it took me some time to acquire. Though difficult to purchase the effort in trying to obtain it is well worth the effort for anyone with an interest in the areas of mission, disciplining and social justice. Waldron Scott was the General Secretary of the World Evangelical Fellowship when he wrote this book, which Orlando Costas describes as "a passionate, biblical, holistic, six-continent interpretation of the Christian mission in the context of an oppressed world. Scott calls Christians in general and evangelicals in particular to a faithful and obedient response to the God who demands justice, who justifies women and men by faith in his Son and who sends them forth in the power of his Spirit to work for justice in all the nations. This book is indispensable reading for mission oriented Christians everywhere."

Within evangelical circles this book is a leading textbook of a new approach to mission that looks at mission and discipleship in a new light. It is not an easy book and takes very considered reading and response but is thought provoking and one that I would heartily recommend.

—CRA



Looking at Old Christians

There was a reason for looking through the old "Christians" from the year 1888 on. I had the job of recording on computer disk the source of any information I thought might be relevant in writing a history of Churches of Christ Overseas Mission work since its beginning in 1891. These sources were to be available to the writers of various articles in the Overseas Mission Centenary Book, to be issued at Federal Conference 1990.

I found it very interesting—looking through the old issues of *The Australian Christian* and its predecessors (including *The Australian Christian Standard* and *The Australasian Christian Standard*). One thing came through to me quite strongly as I traced the beginnings of our overseas mission work—how wonderfully God can use a single person with dedication and enthusiasm to promote the start of a new work.

G.L. Wharton had been a missionary in India for the American Disciples for some years. In 1889 he visited the capital cities of Australia, urging that Australians also take part in evangelising the great country of India with its millions of lost souls. His enthusiasm was infectious and money was given to help the work in

India and missionary committees were formed in a few states. But nothing else happened for a while. Mr Wharton wrote to *The Australian Christian Standard* while on his way back to India, urging the churches to send a man to help. He wrote again when back in India pleading for workers, and then he said, "If there is no suitable man, perhaps a single woman will come to Harda (where Mr Wharton was stationed)". Eventually Mary Thompson offered for service and became the first missionary sent out by the Foreign Mission Society on behalf of all Australians. Missionary articles began to appear in the magazine and gradually the work grew. Soon it gave practically its whole issue every July to overseas mission articles and photographs—with special front and back covers, later in colour.

My impression on scanning through the old Christians from 1888 onwards is that the sole inspiration to the Brotherhood for missionary work came from G.L. Wharton. If he had not persevered in encouraging Australians to take up the work we might now be celebrating our golden jubilee instead of the centenary.

I found other interesting reading in the old Christians. There was the beginning of the College of the Bible, both periods of world war, State and Federal Conferences and other important events. There were times of financial crisis then too, and touching stories of sacrificial giving. Vanuatu had hurricanes and earthquakes and India had periodical droughts then as now. Missionaries pioneered new areas, agonised over the sick, the illiterate, the pagan and the sorry state of Indian women, especially widows. Some missionaries had babies, some had ill health (through which some had to return to Australia) and some carried on for years.

It is an interesting exercise—and I am still looking through old Christians!

—Douglas Hughes

Hungary's New Laws

Hungary's National Assembly radically altered the legal basis for church-state relations and religious practice in January by passing a long-awaited law on religion. This provides more extensive legal guarantees for the free practice of religion and against state interference in church affairs than have ever existed in Hungary.

The preamble states that the churches and religious communities have an important cultural, educational, social and patriotic function in Hungarian society. A section on "The Right of Freedom of Religion and Conscience" stipulates:

1. The mass media may be used to promote religious views in accordance with legal regulations.
2. No-one may be disadvantaged because of his or her faith.
3. No-one may be prevented from practising his or her faith unless the practice interferes with the fulfilment of civil obligations.
4. Parents have the right to make provision for the religious education of their children.
5. Religion may be practised individually or collectively in public institutions, such as retirement homes, orphanages, hospitals and prisons.
6. Soldiers may practice their

faith as individuals on military premises and may do so collectively off military premises.

A section on "The Registration of the Churches" ends the practice of granting legal recognition by means of government decree. A fellowship with at least 100 members may obtain legal status by submitting its name, statutes and a list of responsible officers to a court of law. Registration may be denied only if the activities of the fellowship are deemed to be contrary to statute law.

A section on "Church-State Relations" stipulates:

1. The state may not use force to bring about changes in the laws and regulations of the churches.
2. The churches have identical legal rights and obligations.
3. The state may not create an organ to "direct" or "supervise" the churches.
4. Churchmen may be brought to trial in the event of a violation of the law.

The law was adopted by a vote of 304 for, one against and 11 abstentions. The Assembly also passed a resolution calling on the Council of Ministers to re-examine the restrictive church-state agreements imposed on the major churches during the Stalinist era.

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Discipleship or Death?

by Stephen Curkpatrick, Epping, NSW

In an issue of *The Australian Christian* during 1989, there was a note in the death column which read, "In our last issue of 'AC' we were advised to place the name of Christina Tay from Epping, NSW, in the death column. We wish to report that Christina Tay is very much alive and apologise for any inconvenience this wrong report may have caused."

Christina was baptised in an evening service at Epping. Her name should have gone under the Discipleship column for baptisms, however, there is a certain truth in her

name accidentally going under the death notices.

In baptism we believe we symbolically die with Christ, are buried and raised again. As Jesus Christ was buried in a grave, we are symbolically buried with him in water. As he was raised to new life, we are raised to new life with him. Perhaps, having our name published in the death column instead of the discipleship column when baptised would be a vivid reminder that we have indeed died to the past and are raised to an entirely new life in Jesus Christ!

Happenings

The Christian Lawyers Society, an interdenominational group of Christians from all branches of the law, is willing to help Christians who may require mediation of disputes. Contact the Secretary, Mrs Joy Bennett, on (03) 608 7444.

More than 2,500 vacant positions are available for Australians in Christian cross-cultural mission, according to the Australian Evangelical Alliance Missions Commission. It has a list of them available.

The Islamic government of Saudi Arabia is torturing religious and political opponents, according to Amnesty International. No Christian churches or missionaries are allowed in the country and any references to Christianity in any public media is suppressed, including imported films, from which any reference to Christianity or Christmas is removed.

The National Committee on Violence, established after the Hoddle Street killings, has said violence costs Australia \$600 million a year and is closely linked to alcohol, the distribution of firearms and socioeconomic factors. In its final report the committee called for uniform national gun laws, a ban on electronic advertising of alcohol, and tough measures against violence in sport.

The World Home Bible League offices in Manila in the Philippines have been temporarily closed due to harassment and death threats by Communist "New People's Army" opponents. Some satellite offices of the Bible League have remained open, enabling the ministries to continue.

FEBC's (Far East Broadcasting Company) studio and offices in Beirut, Lebanon, were destroyed on 4 February during the recent fighting, but all local staff escaped without injury. The studio, in the

north of the city, was burnt out during shelling between rival factions.

A new school in London will specialise in training Iranian Christians to evangelise Iranians around the world. The Iranian Bible Training Centre, which opened in February, has 8 students in its first class. 4 other students are awaiting visas to enter Britain. The school offers a 2-year Bible program that specialises on evangelism skills tailored to the needs and culture of Iranians.

Two Sydney cyclists from the Gyemea, NSW, Baptist Church are to cycle 1,400 km across southern India 6-21 March. The purpose of the bike trek through villages and poverty areas of the region is to gather information in video format that will bring home to Christian communities in Australia the stark reality of illiteracy amongst India's 760 million people. "Target India" is an initiative of the Bible Society in Australia and is linked with the Australian Government's International Literacy Year 1990 program.

In a recent Gallup Poll nearly 67% of Americans named Jesus as the person they would most like to spend a day with. Beaten into second and third place by a wide margin were Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, with Leonardo da Vinci and Cleopatra well down the list. Jesus was also the top choice (37%) of those who said they were not Christians.

Brisbane's Family Radio has again been refused the opportunity to apply for a broadcasting licence. The Australian Broadcasting Tribunal decided that the special interest licence being offered in Brisbane should be for Aboriginal broadcasts. Family Radio has been trying for 15 years to gain a licence.

Housewives would earn \$418 each week if they were employed in the workforce

to do household duties. Unpaid household work during 1986-87 could have been worth more than \$162 billion according to an Australian Statistics Bureau survey. They survey found wives did an average 95 hours of unpaid work each fortnight.

For the first time the Soviet Union has published official figures about the churches and religious communities. More than one in three citizens are religious adherents, according to a poll conducted in connection with the parliamentary debate about a new law on religious freedom. 90 million confess allegiance to a church or religious community.

Minority Protestant and evangelical churches across Central and Eastern Europe are expressing growing disquiet over the role of "majority churches"—Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox—in the new post-communist era. There are growing fears that in some countries such churches will seek state "establishment", restrict religious freedom for evangelical sects and do everything possible to erase the constitutional equality established by the communist governments.

West Germany is preparing for a complete ban on embryo experimentation. Almost complete unanimity is expected on a bill currently proceeding through the West German parliament to outlaw research on human embryos. Germany follows the general European trend against human embryo research. Norway has banned the practice, Denmark has placed a moratorium on it and Italy does not allow it. A bill in France has so split scientific and ethical bodies that the entire bill may be thrown out.

Karen Lebacqz, professor of Christian Ethics at the Pacific School of Religion, and a minister of the United

Church of Christ, says a 4-year study for which she was a researcher has found that one parish minister in 10 reports having had an affair with a member of his or her congregation. Lebacqz said many of the ministers said the intimacy of counselling situations led to the sexual relationships. Lebacqz said some temptations for sexual involvement could be lessened by counselling during the day, in an office. She added that more short-term counselling and sessions involving more than one member of the family could also help.

William Farmer is a biblical scholar and a United Methodist minister in Dallas, Texas. Earlier this year he joined a Roman Catholic parish. But he plans to retain his United Methodist ministerial status, noting that he learned from the late Albert Outler that "Roman Catholic and Methodist theology has progressed to being much closer than most people realise."

In a 228 to 106 vote the UK House of Commons endorsed a measure approved by the General Synod of the Church of England to allow the ordination of people who are divorced and remarried, or whose spouse is divorced. Last July the house defeated the change prompting a minor church-state crisis.

According to the *Washington Post*, US Christian broadcasters such as Robert Schuller and Pat Robertson, with their US market stagnant or shrinking, are turning their attention to the Soviet Union now that changes there have made it possible for religious programs to appear on Soviet TV.

The President of the Yugoslav government Commission for Relations with Religious Communities said at a news conference that planned constitutional amendments will abolish the current practice that prevents religious believers

from having access to any posts of responsibility in the economy and society in general. However, believers would still not be able to teach in primary schools.

A noted Islamic apologist, the chief scribe for Nigeria's top Islamic scholar, has become a Christian after reading the Bible. The apologist often debated Christianity in public but one well-known pastor refused to debate him until he read the whole Bible. He accepted the challenge and, as he read it, came to realise that Christ was God and that Muhammad was not God's prophet.

The East Berlin Christian Democratic newspaper *Neue Zeit* reports that 20,000 Russian language Bibles have been found in a cellar of the building that used to be the headquarters of the Stasi (the East German secret police). They were confiscated between 1953 and 1989. The Bibles are being forwarded to the USSR, where they will be put in the hands of the Orthodox and the Methodist churches.

On 5 March Keston College knew of 67 religious prisoners of conscience held in Soviet Union labour camps and "open prisons". Of those 67 prisoners, 32 are known to be in detention while 35 are unconfirmed. The remaining religious prisoners are: 13 Christians (8 confirmed)—mostly conscientious objectors to military service; 23 Jehovah's Witnesses (17 confirmed)—mostly conscientious objectors; 27 Muslims (3 confirmed)—mostly sentenced for illegal printing and distribution of the Koran and 4 Yogis (all confirmed).

The Bangladesh Government has banned the importing or possession of a Bengali version of the New Testament, known as the *Injil Sharif*. This has caused widespread concern amongst Christians and missionaries alike.

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CCTC Off-Campus Study



1989 off-campus students at 1990 preessionals (left to right) Nigel Pegram, WA, Kathy Rochester, Tas, and Earle Martin, SA

In 1989 the Churches of Christ Theological College (CCTC) established Off-Campus Study Programs in Perth, Adelaide and Hobart. These programs enable people living in Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania to undertake studies for accreditation towards its diplomas, associate diplomas and certificates. 12 people availed themselves of this opportunity in the first year.

The Off-Campus Study Program is an exciting initiative that enables increasing numbers of suitably qualified and committed people to embark on ministerial training on either a full-time or part-time basis.

The Off-Campus Study Programs ensure that people who are testing whether or not God is calling them to full-time ministry are not disadvantaged because they happen to reside in states other than Victoria.

The College's Certificate in Christian Studies may be completed through Off-Campus study alone. People wishing to gain a qualification leading to specialist or pastoral ministry within Churches of Christ, however, need to complete their studies at Mulgrave. In ministerial training, there is much that is "caught" rather than "taught". One needs "to soak up" the Churches of Christ atmosphere and ethos through interaction with all members of the college community—

students as well as faculty. Consequently, while people can now commence their ministerial studies off campus, a significant amount of time will still need to be spent at Mulgrave.

Role of Director

It is important to recognise that the Directors of the Off-Campus Study Programs are all full-time ministers who, by the grace of their respective boards have agreed to accept additional responsibilities to assist those interested in theological and ministerial training. Their support must be limited in nature but will include as far as time permits:

- Keeping a pastoral eye on students enrolled in courses at local theological colleges.
- Liaising with theological colleges so that they can offer first-hand advice to students in relation to unit selection to provide the best balance and accord with CCTC course requirements.
- Co-ordinating field education and/or student church placements for Churches of Christ students.
- Helping to solve structural or administrative problems that may arise.
- Arranging some off-campus teaching courses.
- Supervising some reading courses organised by CCTC.
- Creating a sense of cohesion and partnership with CCTC.

MCD Degrees

Students can choose their subjects so that they are fulfilling the requirements for both the CCTC Diploma of Ministry and the BTheol (or BD) degree of the Melbourne College of Divinity. A maximum of eight subjects, i.e. 16 semester units may be credited towards the MCD BTheol degree because of passes in equivalent subjects at degree level at another tertiary institution, e.g. PCD or ACD.

Study Options

The CCTC Handbook outlines the graduation requirements for the various diplomas, associate diplomas and certificates offered by the college. Students gain credits for studies undertaken through the Off-Campus Study Program and may gain additional credits for other study at various tertiary institutions.

Students may undertake:

- Subjects offered by theological colleges or institutions other than CCTC.
- Subjects offered externally by CCTC and examined by the Melbourne College of Divinity.
- Non-degree subjects offered externally and examined by CCTC.
- Non-degree subjects offered by Off-Campus Study Centres approved by CCTC.

Application Procedures

Prospective external students of the CCTC are advised to have a personal discussion with their state Off-Campus Study Program Director, before proceeding with an application.

The Off-Campus Study Program Directors to contact for an interview are:

P.J. Bradley in WA, phone (090) 332 6005 (office) or (09) 457 0348 (home)

K.R. Bowes in SA, phone (08) 296 748 (office) or (08) 298 4557 (home)

J. Weston in Tas, phone (002) 34 3919 (office) or (002) 34 1911 (home)

Further information may also be obtained by contacting the College's Registrar, Graeme Wigney.

KCC Convocation in the Open Air

They say that leadership must take risks! With the summer thunderstorm season well and truly upon us, it was a risky decision to break with tradition and hold the Kenmore Christian College Convocation in the open air, on the property, on 16 February. God was good to us.

The Convocation called the incoming students from the body of the congregation and invited them to identify themselves with the continuing student body. The new students were introduced by student president, Cheryl Hoskins, and ushered to their new places by John Adermann.

Highlight of the evening programme was the presentation of Bachelor of Theology hoods to those who have recently achieved this qualification. Stephen Smith and John Houston both recently passed their final examinations, and were awarded their testamurs and hoods at Convocation. Greg Murphy, who achieved his degree in 1988, was also presented with his academic colours at the same time.

There were lighter moments also during the evening. The assembly paused to wish Nell



Lionel Berthelson

From Retreat to Advance at NSW Theological College



Meal time together

A good weekend of learning and growing, fellowship and fun was enjoyed by students, faculty and staff at the recent retreat to mark the beginning of the year for the Churches of Christ in New South Wales Theological College at Carlingford.

Set in the bush setting of the Lane Cove Park, at the Uniting

Church's Naamaroo Campsite, the retreat provided an opportunity for new students as well as continuing students and faculty to meet, on a relaxed basis, for the first time.

Dr Keith Farmer, the Principal, took three sessions on the theme "Christ In You", based on the last three chapters of the book of Ephesians.

Also enjoyed were some great times of praise and inspiration as throughout the weekend there were specific times of worship together. Couple these times, with plenty of opportunities of informal "getting to know you" occasions, and the weekend retreat proved to be a very effective means of getting the year under way.

By the end of the weekend, the 13 new, full time students must have felt thoroughly initiated as the retreat followed their orientation week with all of its introductions and adjustments.

Lectures have now begun in earnest.

Machin a happy birthday, on the achievement of her 80th year. Nell has served on the KCC board since its inception in 1965, and has only missed two board meetings (prevented only by illness and bad weather), during that period of time.

The speaker for the evening was Dr Lionel Berthelson, one of Kenmore's first graduates, and now a lecturer at Carlingford. He challenged the assembly with the subject, "Ministry, Vacation or Vocation!"

An informal supper followed.



Left to right: Greg Murphy, Stephen Smith, John Houston

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Classifieds

BIRTHS

PAGE (SMITH) To Alan and Sue, 8 March, a lovely daughter, Aimee, Iris and Alan's seventh grandchild. We are all indeed blessed.

TIPPETT (BAYARD) To Carol and Ian, a son, James Edward, born 16 February at Waverley Private Hospital. Grandson for June and Ted Bayard and Gwen and Ran Tippett.

SILVER WEDDINGS

CROCKETT (HATTAM) Duncan and Samlyn are pleased to announce the 25th anniversary of their marriage conducted by A.B. Clark on 27 March 1965 at Malvern-Caulfield Church of Christ.

DIAMOND WEDDINGS

GREEN—SPERLING Percy and Estelle were married on 29 March 1930 in the Graceville Methodist Chapel by the late Rev. Greenwood. Congratulations and love from your three families Ross and Myrtle Green, Lola and Colin Lebeter and Bettye and Kevin Dunn, nine grandchildren, seven of whom are married, and six little great granddaughters. God bless you all. A lunch was held for church friends, also all families and their friends, in the Centenary Church of Christ, on 25.3.1990.

DEATHS

CLUTTERBUCK Alec Clemson on 26.2.1990 at Caritas Christi Hospice. Beloved husband of Joyce. Dearly loved father and father-in-law of Rod and Carol, Neil and Sue, Alison and Bob. Loving Pa of Karen, Sean, Julie, Rick, Tony and Tracey. **GAIRNS** Phyllis Jean, passed away (suddenly) 18 February 1990. Loving and loved wife of Alan (dec.). Dearly loved and precious mother of Marilyn, Berenice and David. Respected mother-in-law of Richard and Roslyn. Beloved sister-in-law of Len and Joy. Much loved Nanna of Mark, Ashley and Hamish. Our wonderful and caring mother. In God's hands she rests. Till we meet again. So sadly missed.

THOMAS Holly. Passed away at Bendigo Base Hospital on 24 February 1990. Loved and loving wife of Rowland (Rowl). Loved mother and mother-in-law of Malcolm, Beverley, Darryl (dec.), Neville and Gwen. Wonderful Nan to her grandchildren Bronwyn, Paul, David and Rachel.

IN MEMORIAM

CHALK, Doreen June, 29.3.87. Close to our hearts you will always stay, Loved and remembered every day. In God's care. Treasured always by husband Graham, daugh-

ters Bev, Jenny and Denise, sons-in-law and grandchildren.

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Korean Pastor Arrives



Won Joon Park has recently arrived in Melbourne from Korea to commence a new church amongst Korean migrants. He is seen here (left) being welcomed to Melbourne by Nathan Nhan the minister of the Richmond Vietnamese church. Won Joon completed a Diploma in Ministry at the Bible College of Victoria in 1989 and returned to Korea in mid-1989. He holds a BTh degree from Korea and prior to returning to Australia was ordained to minister by our Korean

Churches of Christ.

The new venture is being sponsored by the Montrose church. Meetings are to be held at Montrose. The next few weeks are busy being full of preparation prior to the launching of the project. Won Joon and Neil Galbraith (the minister of the Montrose church) conferred with Department of Mission, Education and Development members at the Department's March meeting. This new church planting is part of the CROP initiative.

Missionary Concern



Val Stevens

Val Stevens of the Albert Park, SA, church has embarked on a three-year Diploma of Ministry course at the Burleigh Theological College in Adelaide.

Val felt she wanted to be better equipped to serve Jesus

Christ, and the mission field is her first love. Five years ago, at her first CWF meeting, Val was challenged to write to a missionary, which she did. A few months later, she and her husband Wilfred were baptised into membership at Albert Park under the leadership of Eric Hollard. Val has since been active in the local CWF and a weekly Bible study has been held in the Stevens home for the past four years.

Val and Wilfred became so interested in missions that they both became members of the State Overseas Missions Committee. In no time, Val became the Secretary.

As time went by she decided to write to all missionaries in the Missionary News—now this has extended to others serving in the Leprosy Mission, Missionary Aviation Fellow-

Swan Hill's Second Minister

The Swan Hill, Vic, church made a significant and historical move with the induction of Associate Minister, Stephen Willis, on 15 February. It is the first time this growing church has been served by two full-time ministers. Stephen joins Lindsay Mayes, who is in his eighth year of ministry.

The induction service was conducted in an overflowing chapel and among those who attended were the local MLA and representatives from the city and shire councils. Clergy from most of the other Christian denominations in the city also attended.

Elder John Forrest led the inspirational service and Brian White (Dept. MED) came from Melbourne with his wife Joan to present the induction ad-

dress and give the charge to both minister and congregation.

Stephen comes to Swan Hill with a background in teaching and youth work. His wife, Yolande, also in the teaching profession, has served as a physical education teacher with developmentally delayed children. Stephen graduated from Carlingford in 1989.

With this addition to its ministry team the church at Swan Hill looks forward to continued growth, as they work together to build God's kingdom and make the name of Jesus known in the community. The early months will be a time of learning and stretching as the ministry team and congregation adjust to the new situation. —Ern Rogers



Photo courtesy of the Swan Hill Guardian

Left to right: Lindsay Mayes, Brian White, Yolande and Stephen Willis

ship etc., a total of 33! Wanting to see the fields in PNG she spent two months visiting and staying with our missionaries there in 1988 and desiring to share her answered letters with others, she has for the last four years given a five-minute spot once a month at the morning service and last year commenced a monthly prayer group.

Over the last few years, at Val's encouragement, Albert Park has hosted a night for all interested persons to meet all the missionaries home on furlough and doing deputation work in SA.

It came as no surprise that she wanted to go further in her

personal life and become more equipped to serve.

At the college commencement service recently, 18 members of the church supported Val and husband Wilfred by their attendance. It is going to be a long hard road for Val, who is starting at the tender age of 50!

Those who know her trust she will not lose her zest for living, her sense of humour and downright determination to get a job done.

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The Key Cutter's Problem

by Bruce Anderson

In the office of the Mt Gambier Church of Christ there is a key screwed to the wall. It is screwed there so that it can't be taken and used! What's the point of having a key and not using it? Well, that key is not to be used as just one of many other keys to the church door. It is the original key and is kept as the "master" from which all copies are to be made.

Inevitably when keys are copied there is a slight difference between the original and the copy. How many times have you had a key cut and taken it home and found that it catches or doesn't work at all? Copies of copies are even more likely to give problems. Copies of copies of copies eventually fail to work.

In Christian belief and practice also we run astray if we copy copies rather than copying Christ. Christians are to model their lives on Christ—to learn from his life and teaching. Unfortunately many see the model for Christianity as Christians, not Christ. As generation after generation of Christians copy Christians the models becomes distorted. They not only differ more and more from the "Master" but also from one another. Eventually the model fails to work at all.

Consequently there are many today who have rejected the

model because it doesn't work any more. But that is because they are seeing the model as being Christians not Christ himself. Many have decided church life is not for them. However, most of them are not rejecting Christ. They see the faults in the copies and yet retain a reverence for Christ himself.

Wouldn't you love to be part of a group of people who were really seeking to help each other be copies of the Master—Christians not Christian-ians or churchians.

Churches of Christ have always called for unity on the basis of a return to New Testament beliefs and practices. We must learn again to pattern our lives on Christ and the scriptures.

• Bruce Anderson is minister at the Maryborough, Vic, church.

An office for the 7th Assembly of the World Council of Churches has been opened in Canberra on 11 February. The office is located at Pilgrim House, 69 Northbourne Ave, Canberra, and the office manager is Ranjini Reberra. Organisers expect 6,200 to be involved in the Assembly (February 1991 in Canberra), including 1,000 official delegates, 1,000 advisers, speakers, stewards and

WCC staff, 1,200 accredited visitors, 1,000 members of the media and 2,000 volunteers.

A group of business people, lawyers and other interested people is seeking to raise a fighting fund to back people willing to take on the liquor industry in court on the effects of alcohol on their life. Currently two Aborigines are involved in such a court case in Bathurst, NSW. The group is looking for a title, the current suggestion is "The Wowsers", and are running a competition that closes on 13 April. Details on the group from Stan Gilmour on (03) 836 3466 or Graeme Rule at the Temperance Alliance on (03) 794 9296.

Jim Deutschmann has accepted a five-year term as the Executive Director of the Department of Church Development and Education with the Churches of Christ in Queensland.

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In this, his second article on the place of Churches of Christ in Australia, Steve Downie asks...

Who Are We?

The search for an identity in Australian Churches of Christ has its parallels with Australia's own sense of identity and place in the world. At times Churches of Christ and Australia can make an important contribution that far outstretches their place in the scheme of things; at other times both are ignored.

An emerging identity is taking place in Australia but observers are not sure where it is leading us. The mixed bag of ockerism, sophistication, tradition, informality, multiculturalism, ties with the monarchy, the sleeping giant of republicanism, Aboriginal culture, yuppism and everything that is "true blue" includes opposites that are supposed to fuse into a clear nationalism.

The kind of Australia Paul Hogan has promoted is only accessible to a privileged few, and the overseas image of some Australians, thumbing their noses at authority and morality, is too ugly for the rest to contemplate.

Freedom, we say, is what Australia is all about, and a national threat would bring people out in their droves to die for their country. It is worth pondering what aspect of Churches of Christ would survive if threatened with extinction.

State differences in road rules and in education are a frustration for a national Australian policy and direction. Similarly, Churches of Christ could ask if it possible for a church movement that has deeply ingrained in its psyche a local autonomy, a state independence and an Australian conference with no authority over the churches to ever expect to have a prominent national identity. A choice of theological colleges in Churches of Christ might allow for personal views and interpretations, but it is not conducive to a national identity.

You could argue that the Pentecostal movement shows that autonomy and growth do go together and thrive in our cultural mix, but a closer scrutiny shows that it is at the expense of multiple splits and haemorrhaging. In our move-

and fish and chips, but to search for the prophetic role of Churches of Christ in Australia.

We can join with other churches in the true spirit of ecumenism in times of crisis and social concerns, but our



ment also we have examples of churches with above-average growth who can find it irresistible to become a mini-denomination.

So, what is the contemporary state of identity in Churches of Christ in Australia?

Some Churches of Christ are charismatic, some traditional, some informal, some support the role of women in ministry and others take a stand against their all-inclusive ministry and there are a multitude of ways elders and deacons are voted into office and empowered to operate. It is a mixed bag. There can be strengths in diversity, but it is a nightmare for a community image. We can argue that autonomy is the unique strength of Churches of Christ but it can also be its unique weakness, for when it comes to decision making it is not possible to go forward with an agreed position or to market the product.

It is not so much to be a part of Australian culture as are Vegemite, Holdens, meat pies

ability to speak as a church in the prophetic tradition to a nation that is spiritually bankrupt is choked by our diversity.

What is basic to Churches of Christ? We have a strong sense of mutual ministry, we celebrate the Living Lord in our midst week by week in communion, we believe in baptism by immersion as witness to our discipleship, we uphold the witness of scripture to guide us and search us and we have congregational accountability and autonomy. This is who we are and could logically lead us to the fundamental role of Churches of Christ in the next decade and beyond. It could be to give witness to the other churches for an ecumenical conversion or it could be that we shed all that and give all our energies to our ministry to the Australian community. We believe we exist to give witness to Biblical truth and that we have not compromised that witness in the interest of the soft road to ecumenism. I'm not so sure we have put the same effort into discovering the

will of God for what Churches of Christ should mean to the Australian community. I do not think we have the theological option to excuse ourselves from ecumenical encounter and unity, but when we explore the landscape, we may have to ask how long can we go on funding a "no-man's land"?

The Churches of Christ movement is not going to break up—we are far too institutionalised for that to happen now—but we are going to find it increasingly difficult to make the hard decisions. We will probably just concentrate on keeping our membership intact and peaceful.

The Australian community has a cruel habit of discarding unacceptable radicals and ignoring whimps. The Australian community is not even listening when we discuss the relevance of Federal Conference.

This not a recipe for depression, but a call to take the next step in our faithfulness to the will of God for Churches of Christ. It is not even an implied criticism of anyone in Churches of Christ, least of all our leadership, who would be more creative and authoritative if we let them.

Australia Grow, the report of the National Evangelism Consultative group who met at Stanwell Tops in 1988, has given our churches a chance to take a major step forward in implementing a national role in evangelism.

Translating that into the membership of our churches will be one hard part and whether its possible for our movement to empower our leadership to carry out the ideals is another.

That which is so precious to Churches of Christ may be the weight that lowers us into the waters of irrelevancy.

• Steve Downie is the minister at the Mayfield, NSW, church.

A Church ABC

Orange is situated in the Central Tablelands of NSW, 60 km west of Bathurst and 270 km west of Sydney. It is a very pretty area known for its production of wool and prime lambs and for its fruit—peaches, apples and the like (but not oranges!). "The Apple City" has a population of 33,000 with another couple of thousand in the surrounding area. It can get fairly cool in winter.

Orange is at present renovating its facilities. Last June a Christian school that had been using the church returned to its own premises, and the opportunity was taken to make improvements to the building. Walls have been knocked down, the chapel is now larger and will be able to accommodate 180 comfortably, new offices have been provided and changes made to every part of the premises except the kitchen.

The outside is being painted and the yards altered

The Orange church has a membership of 51. There are two services each Sunday. Over 90 attend the 9.30 am service. The evening service is held at 7 pm in summer but in winter at

5 pm. He is a person-oriented minister.

The life of the Orange church includes a small group program—three or four small groups that meet each week—a youth group for all high school ages and a Sunday

school. He has much to offer by sticking to the truth of the gospel and in the freedom and vitality of its worship. There are many who have become disillusioned by formal and strict manifestations of religion. (Max Watson himself came from a strict Anglican background.) The Church of Christ has a lot to offer the man (and woman) in the street, who is basically religious but who needs to find expression for this religion. The

Church of Christ can cater for these people, Christian and non-Christian alike.

The people of the Orange Church of Christ are a friendly group of people who are prepared to go out of their way to care for others and are genuine in their love. To cater for the needs of their community they are extending their chapel—but even before this project is finished they are thinking how to make it even bigger!

Focus on Orange

5 pm. Last winter an average of 30 braved the cold to attend these evening services.

The minister is Max Watson. He and his wife Christine have three miraculous daughters aged 4, 3 and 1, and are expecting another child in May. Max graduated from Carlingford in 1988, and began at Orange last year.

Max had student ministries at Pendle Hill (his home church), Marrickville and Pad-

school.

A fortnight ago the Church of Christ was very much involved in a week of mission in Orange with John Smith and the God Squad. (Max Watson was chairman of the organising committee.) This was a great time and the response from both young and old throughout the town was described as fantastic.

The church at Orange believes that the Church of Christ

Where Have All the Grads Gone?

When you stop to think of it, there's quite a turnover of people through the college system! Kenmore Christian College, for example, has had over 300 graduates with certificates and diplomas during its 25-year history. One cannot help but ask, Where are they now?

Of the original group of students who enrolled in Kenmore in 1965, some are still actively serving Christ in various capacities.

Lionel Berthelson graduated from Kenmore in 1968, and later received his BA and BD from the University of Queensland. He has since gained his DMin from Fuller Theological Seminary (USA). Lionel has had ministries at Hawthorne/Murrarie, Qld, and Fairfield and Beverley Hills, NSW. He served as part-time lecturer at Kenmore Christian College, 1967-71, and presently lectures in Church Growth and Biblical Studies at the Churches of Christ in NSW Theological

College, Carlingford, Sydney.

Walter Chapman undertook further studies at university on completion of his college course, and is currently the minister of the Park Hills Christian church, El Paso, Texas, USA.

Muriel Holt completed her two-year certificate in 1967, and has served faithfully in our Aboriginal work at Norseman, Eidsvold and Esperance. She is currently working at Carnarvon, WA.

Philip Jauncey graduated with the Ministerial Diploma in 1968, and has since gained a BA, BD, and DEd (with a major in psychology). He is currently assistant minister at the Albion church, where his father, Dr James Jauncey, ministered upon his arrival in Queensland in 1964.

Adrian Risson has ministered faithfully and effectively at Mackay and Gympie, Qld, and is currently minister of the Redcliffe church.

Don Stewart graduated from Kenmore with the Ministerial

Diploma in 1968, and has since gained a BA (Qld), BD (MCD) and DMin (Fuller Theological Seminary, USA). He is also a fellow of the Australian Institute of Management. He has ministered at Traralgon, Vic, and Collins St, Hobart, Tas. He is currently Director of the Social Service Department of Churches of Christ in Queensland and Federal Conference President.

Louis van Laar graduated with the Ministerial Diploma in 1968, and subsequently obtained his BTh (MCD) and Graduate Diploma in Community Development (Philip In-

stitute of Technology, Melb.). He has had ministries at Hervey Bay, Qld, and Shepparton, Montrose and Greensborough, Vic. He currently serves as Director for Field Development with the Department of Community Care, and also acts as Convener of the Social Questions Committee of the Vic-Tas Conference.

We rejoice that these continue to actively serve God, in and through his church, after 25 years! KCC will celebrate its 25th anniversary in a variety of ways, but there is no greater cause for joy than its graduates.

View from the Hill

Trembling at the edge of darkness,
I peered into that terrible abyss;
And saw an empty void within the human soul.

Behind me, three scarecrows on a hill,
Danced in the afternoon breeze;
As carpenters packed their tools, the fishermen took flight.

—Garry Harris

Graham Hack

The decision to enter college was not an easy one. The idea had haunted me for a number of years mainly due to the fact that as I was a member of the Kenmore Church of Christ I knew most of the students and lecturers of the college at Kenmore. It seemed that everyone thought I should come to college except me! It even got to the point that the students were asking me when I was coming rather than would I consider it. After much contemplation and working through the issue, I decided that God did want me in college. I

did not know to what area he was leading, and I still do not know especially where he wants me. Some areas, such as mission work, seem to have been closed, and at this time pastoral ministry seems more likely. However, I have also had a lot of experience in youth work. I believe God will show me what he wants in due course.

The move to college, as far as distance was concerned, was only a small step—a matter of metres in fact—but really it was a gigantic leap of faith for me. I had to leave the security of the public service, which meant

that I had money and enough free time to engage in a number of sporting and social activities. I was now being asked to give this away for four hard years of study. As a part of the entry requirements for college, I had to attend evening classes in matriculation English. I had already failed it in high school as well as three times at night school! Now I had once more to endure what I hated. However, I passed my senior English that year, which gave me a sense of confidence that I was in the right place.

Since I commenced college in 1985 I have had many joys (getting married to Kerrell, the birth of my son Daniel) and many sorrows (major back

surgery and bouts of ill-health, which meant the extension of my college course to six years). I have, however, continued on at college strong in the knowledge that this is where I am supposed to be. I believe that God has a specific purpose for my life and that he will reveal his plan to me as time goes on. If I had known how hard college was going to be, I would never have gone, but I am glad for the experience because my faith has grown strong. I also see the great need to tell others about Christ, and college had given me insight and many tools to do the job. My hope is that many will come to know Christ as Lord through my ministry.

God's Word

• *Malachi 1:1-5*

God's Love for Israel

by Chris Ambrose

The first verse of Malachi is an introduction. As I noted in my introductory comments ("AC" 3 February) this verse can be read either as a comment that Malachi is the writer of the oracle, or that it is the word of an unknown "messenger" from God. (The word "malachi" can be translated as "my messenger".) The Hebrew word translated "oracle" can also be translated "a burden" and is used in Zechariah 9:1 and 12:1 as a title. The word is used 26 times in the Old Testament with threatening implications.

Verses 1:2-5 are the crux of the message that Malachi had from God to tell his people. The primary statement comes in verse 2, from God; "I have loved you." There is a special word used that is translated "love"—that which describes a parent's tender expression of lifetime love for an erring child. This type of love is best seen in the New Testament in the Parable

of the Lost Son. We can see God's love not only for his special people, Israel, but also for all of humanity. He shows it to us today when we fail to live up to his standards.

This statement of God's relationship to the covenant people is greeted by scepticism. The people want to know how they can be sure of God's love—a common response by Israel throughout its history. Time and again the Jews forgot about God's special care for them and lapsed into the attitudes and behaviour of the nations around them. As a result they were no longer a distinctive people, God's special nation. They were the same as the other people around them. (The same with Christians today—apart from attending church services many of us are no different from the rest of our society.)

God's response to the Jews is to say that their history shows them the proof of his love. This illustration is difficult for us to

understand without a wide knowledge of Jewish history. We also have difficulty coping with statements such as that in verse 3: "...but Esau I have hated". We should understand the word "hated" as used here is not as we understand the word. Most commentators make the point that the concept that Malachi is trying to point out to the Jews was that God had showed a preference to Jacob rather than Esau, who culturally should have been the main inheritor. Esau and his descendants were "less loved" than Jacob and his descendants. The reference is to a ranking, a setting of priorities for higher purposes. The "love-hate" pairing can also be seen in the case of Rachel and Leah in Genesis 29:30-33 and in the case of the two wives who were not equally loved in Deuteronomy 21:15-17. There are new Testament parallels in Matthew 6:24 and Luke 16:13.

What about Edom? Edom was the nation of the descendants of Esau. Because of the conflict that had happened between the brothers and subsequent events the Edomites exploited every opportunity to inflict defeat on Israel, e.g. at the time of the first invasion by the Babylonians. From that time there was conflict between the two national groups. Intriguingly we do not know when

Edom was destroyed. It may have been destroyed when Nebuchadnezzar levelled Judah in 587 or, more likely, when Nabatean Arabs ransacked Edom sometime between 550 and 400 BC. However no matter when all this occurred Malachi pointed the Jews to the fact that God had allowed the Edomites to be destroyed and that they never recovered from that destruction. The lesson that the Jews were being given by God was that if they looked at their close neighbours, who God would never allow to recover, they would see the love that God had for them. Having learnt that lesson they should have then praised God.

God, through Malachi was calling the people to a new conviction of their place in his special view of the world.

Peter Verhoeff, in *The New International Commentary on the Old Testament*, says: "In sum, the Lord's love for his covenant people has been called in question by Israel, has been proved by God in the respective histories and destinies of Israel and Edom, and had to be acknowledged by Israel. God has demonstrated to us his unquestionable love in the 'history' of his Son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ (John 3:16), and our duty and privilege would be to acknowledge and proclaim this Good News."

The Cultic Connection

Adrian van Leen continues his examination of our movement's link with spiritualism

Spirits That Peep and Mutter

In spite of Alexander Campbell's published views on spiritualism, with which most Christians, including members of the Disciples of Christ congregations, could agree, over the years a number of dissenters have left the Disciples' ranks to become spiritualists.

One of the earliest such dissenters was Jesse B. Ferguson, who led a Disciples' congregation in Nashville, Tennessee, in the 1850s.

He, and his views, were described as "an affluent speaker, a man of magnetic personality, and [he] acquired a very great influence. He took up the text about Christ preaching to spirits in prison, and upon that text he built an inverted pyramid about a post-mortem gospel and 'seems to cherish the hope that he himself might hereafter in those shadowy realms be chosen as an apostle of this post-mortem gospel'."

In 1853 Campbell wrote on Ferguson's views: "At one time he calls his views of the spirits in prison an opinion; but at another time it expands into faith...It is a manifest departure of the faith, not of the saints only of olden times, but from the faith of Protestant Christendom."

A year later Campbell defended his expose of Ferguson's views on the basis that Ferguson had not been fair, open, and honest in promoting his spiritualist and universalist viewpoints.

Campbell wrote: "We have nothing personal with anyone who changes his creed or his position. Politically and religiously he has the right to become a Quaker, a Universalist, a Papist, or anything he pleases. But we question both the honour and morality of anyone who disguises his intentions or his views, in equivocal terms or deeds, in order to occupy a false position, and to retain the confidence of those who have

no fellowship with his doctrine or his spirit."

Campbell preached in Nashville late in 1854. A Methodist journal recorded his visit, his public address, and his stated intention of speaking publicly on spiritualism at J.B. Ferguson's church. He also planned to personally confront J.B. Ferguson about the issue.

"The discourse we regarded as able and appropriate, and in the main one which most Christians would receive as sound in its theology...He [Campbell] announced before he concluded that he would deliver during the week, in the church on Cherry Street (the one occupied by Mr J.B. Ferguson), a series of lectures on 'Neology and Spiritualism'. In making this announcement he struck the 'Spirit Rappers' some heavy blows. Success to him in opposing this miserable humbug, which, Mr Campbell justly remarked, comes from infidelity, or is evidence of infidelity in the heart of him who is under its influence."

However, Campbell did not get to debate the issue with Jesse B. Ferguson, because the latter claimed to have received specific and direct orders banning personal contact with Campbell by, the then, late dead Dr William E. Channing, formerly of Boston.

When Alexander Campbell was refuting spiritualism in Nashville, in 1854, Levi H. Dowling was only ten years old. Levi's father, of Scottish-Welsh descent, was a pioneer Disciples preacher. At the age of 16, young Levi began to preach (presumably amongst the Disciples).

According to his personal scribe, Levi served as an Army Chaplain during the US Civil War, and, in 1866-67 was a student at Northwestern Christian University in Indianapolis, Indiana. He then, it is claimed, published a wide variety of Sunday school materials.

However, what Levi Dowling is best known for is his book, *The Aquarian Gospel of Jesus the Christ* (first copyrighted in 1907).

This spiritualistic book denies the uniqueness and divinity of Jesus Christ, and teaches that we can all become Christs. It teaches about the so-called "Hidden Years" of Jesus—but is based on supposed information recorded in the spirit realm. It is in conflict with what the Bible teaches in most of its basic assumptions and claims, and has, in the past, been widely used by many spiritualists as a "scripture" equal to the Bible. It has gained new popularity in recent years with many New Agers.

Another well-known spiritualist connected to the Disciples of Christ was the late Arthur Ford. Ford was born to a Baptist mother and an Episcopalian father in Florida in 1896. He died in 1971.

Due to his mother's influence Ford grew up in the Baptist Church and contemplated the Baptist ministry. However, as a teenager, he dabbled with Unitarianism, and as a result was thrown out of the Baptist Church.

Ford then went to the Disciples of Christ, and was eventually ordained by them in 1922.

By that time he had already spoken to a number of people about his psychic-spiritualistic experiences and visions.

During the 1920s, while still an minister with the Disciples of Christ, Ford began to meet with leading spiritualists and other psychics. He later helped to found the Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship.

Though he ceased to officially function as a Disciples of Christ minister in 1927, he was constantly described as a leading psychic and Disciples of Christ minister up to the time of his death.

Ford gained international prominence when he became involved with Episcopalian

Bishop James A. Pike in "contacting" Pike's deceased son, Jim.

As a college student, young Jim Pike was having emotional and motivational problems. With his parents' approval, Jim had his psychiatrist use LSD (which was not a completely illegal drug at the time) as part of the therapy. He then experimented with other drugs, and eventually, in February 1966, committed suicide.

The distraught Bishop Pike then experienced some strange things happening around him for about three weeks after his son's death. The theologically liberal bishop went to a fellow Episcopalian (Anglican) clergyman, who advised him to go to spiritualist medium, Mrs Ena Twigg. Through her Pike believed he communicated with his dead son, Jim, and also the German theologian, Paul Tillich.

Some time before Pike resigned as Episcopalian Bishop of California in late 1966 he had met Arthur Ford following a church service. Pike met Ford again in Toronto in 1967 in a televised "seance", with Ford claiming messages from Pike's son, Jim (and others). Pike acknowledged these messages to be authentic spirit communications because of the inner knowledge in their content.

However, in a photo caption in the Disciples' national magazine, *The Christian*, of May 1973, the journalist who arranged the televised program with Ford and Pike, and also the chairman of the Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship, acknowledged that Ford had cheated Pike. They revealed that Ford had done deep background research into Pike and his friends, enabling him to manufacture his supposed message with inner knowledge from Pike's dead son and deceased friends.

Ford was a fraud, though his friends still regard him as a great psychic. ➤

Work Experience in India

by Cheryl Hemer

Cheryl Hemer and Josephine Harris are final-year medical students in Adelaide, SA. As a part of their courses they have an elective period, the aim of which is to provide experience in situations other than in the big teaching hospitals in Adelaide. From late November to early February this year Cheryl and Jo were in India where they spent six weeks working at Ashwood Memorial Hospital in Daund.



Jo Harris, Cheryl Hemer and Dr Arun Kolhatkar of Ashwood Memorial Hospital, India

While we cannot totally dismiss the possibility of genuine contact from the spirit-world, the Bible forbids such contacts for good reason, including the possibility, or probability, of being deceived by messages from lying spirits.

Even though many people may have experiences they can't explain, or think they see or hearsomething from beyond the normal world, hard evidence to support the popular claims of people such as Bishop James Pike is not really available. There is, unfortunately for the "believers", an overwhelming evidence of fraud, triviality, gullibility and a blind "wanting to believe", regardless of the facts.

After a century and a half of modern spiritualism, we have had no new message or revelations of significance for the betterment of humanity. Mostly, individuals and small groups have had their ears tickled with the trivia they wanted to hear (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

Alexander Campbell's closing comments in his 1852 lecture on the subject are still a fitting conclusion:

"And here we shall only add, that, in the midst of all the knocking, rapping spirits of earth, there is a Spirit standing at the door of every heart, knocking for admission, promising to all who open to its call a banquet richer far than earth has ever seen or mortals ever known.

"But that Spirit speaks in a style of lofty argument, of moral dignity and Divine grandeur, worthy of a Christian's heaven; of such a being as God, and of such a being as man, viewed in all the sublime and awful outlines of his mortal nature, his lofty port and heavenward aspirations, and not in the grimace and silly buffoonery of those spirits that peep and mutter tales unworthy of man, and still more unworthy of woman. From such demons, such silly demons, whether of imagination, fraud or fiction, let every man and woman of self-respect, of good sense and of sound discretion, turn away with scorn and contempt."

I had a fantastic time and learnt a lot, both medically and personally. At the hospital we were able to see and do many interesting things we'd never see or do in Australian hospitals. Diseases such as malaria, TB, typhoid, leprosy and those caused by vitamin deficiencies were common—I've only ever read about them in textbooks here! Probably the most valuable part of it, medically, was the opportunity to practice our clinical skills. Because many medical investigations were either simply not available easily, or could not be afforded by the patient's family, we learnt to rely on our own judgement, and to make decisions based on the effects of the illness in that person rather than on a string of tests. We especially appreciated the opportunity to do practical things—like delivering babies, sewing up wounds and even minor surgery such as tubectomies. We also assisted at many larger operations. In big hospitals in Adelaide time is too limited to allow students to participate actively in surgery. However, at Daund the doctors were always infinitely patient with us and encouraged us to do things ourselves and learn by doing them.

The doctors and their families were very helpful and accepting. We lived in the nurse's quarters at the hospital and were impressed by the atmosphere of a loving, caring com-

munity evident among the staff. The hospital is a Christian oasis in the midst of a predominantly Hindu community and has a very real ministry there just by its presence. I learnt a lot about living out your faith even when it's not accepted by those around you. Also, it was a challenge just to live in another culture and to see how God works in so many different ways in different situations.

I was appalled by the poverty at first, especially when we first arrived in Bombay—I felt sickened by the sights and the smells and just wanted to turn around and come home again. The beggars, and little children especially, just wrenched at my heart. But once we arrived at the hospital and settled in to the Indian way of life, I began to really see these people as God's children, and my pity for them turned to admiration: they are poor in terms of possessions, but rich

in their culture and their love for each other and their way of life. They are far more satisfied and live more joyfully than many Australians!

Yet that doesn't excuse the poverty. There's a terrible injustice in it all somewhere, that we should have so much and them so little. This is especially evident to me now I've come home and settled back into my middle-class Australian life style and remember what I've left behind in India. It's certainly been a challenge to me and changed my outlook on the world.

After three months in India I came away with more questions than answers and I don't know that they're questions that can be answered. But I pray that the experiences have made me a little more open to seeing the world's need and a little more prepared to share some of its pain and to let that affect my life to some extent.

Pontius' Puddle



Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Smith, Thora

(11.1.90) Thora gave a lifetime of service to the Mile End, SA, church. Coming from an ancestry of strong Christian faith she had that quality of loyalty that marks dedicated Christians. She was baptised when 10 and played a significant role in all areas of the church. She and her younger sister, Rona, became known as the Smith singing twins. They were members of Churches of Christ choirs and CE choirs. Thora took an active role in Sunday School, sporting activities of the church, women's work and as a member of the Officer's Board. She passed away in her 71st year. —BVC

Thomas, Holley Matilda

(24.2.90) During the 1925 Hinrichsen mission at Swan Hill Holley Thomas decided for Christ. She was to go on to spend her lifetime in enthusiastic and dedicated Christian service. Holley was involved in many areas of service at a number of churches. Most recently Holley had been a deaconess at the Bendigo church. While there Holley, together with her husband Rowland, regularly invited many people home for Sunday lunch, which was always appreciated. Her funeral service was a time of thanksgiving as, together with her husband Rowland and sons Malcolm and Neville, many came together for the service conducted by Harold Bischoff.

Church News

NSW

TWEED HEADS (Richard Oakes, Guy Cooper) Christmas festivities concluded with sausage sizzle & carols on church lawns. Excellent response from church & contacts ... Baptist folk joined with us for Christmas morning service, Richard speaking ... New year a year of "Prayer & Growth", encouraging beginnings in all groups ... New Link missionaries, Lyall & Gillian Muller & family returned to Vanuatu ... Three accepted the Lord recently & three others received into fellowship.

MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins) 10th anniversary. G. Coleman, chaplain to NSW motor racing, speaker 18 Feb. Singers Kerry Crowther, Debbie Grant, Linda Barrett, Gaylene Hawkins ... Teachers dedication service conducted for junior church 18 Feb ... Dr K Johnston shared with Wed group trip to Korea with SIM to work with Korean nationals in missionary training ... Commissioning service K & J Pond as they work at Tahlee Bible College.

LISMORE (Ian Phillips) Two new youth groups started ... Two Bible study groups & a prayer group also commenced for 1990 ... Family service to be held at 9.15 on second Sunday each month with cuppa afterwards ... Special Sunday night with Peter Wood from "Rainbow" well attended ... Barry Brooks appointed as Special Religious Education Teacher at Lismore High School.

SOUTH TAMWORTH All auxiliaries have resumed & 1990 programs are underway ... The church is thankful to our Lord for the willingness of Bill Russell & Brian Riley to serve him & the fellowship as elders ... We also give thanks for John Howes & Barry Young for their help in bringing God's message each week. This is very temporary & we still seek a man to minister with us.

LIVERPOOL (Peter Raymond) Great induction service 25 Feb. Keith Farmer spoke on commitment ... 10 members John Wimber Conference ... Four additional elders called at AGM ... Last July church decided on special China giving. \$860 promised. At end of 1989 over \$1,100 given. At the same time normal offerings had increased ... Church gave about 25% of offerings to missions ... Eldership now planning aims for year.

THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliott) Youth "Out Rage" camp for 18+ & senior high over 16-18 Feb at Lake Macquarie. Over 70 attended ... Some from church attended John Wimber Spiritual Warfare Conf at Sydney Showgrounds 5-9 March ... Newly formed Kids Club underway under leadership of Trudy Armstrong & Kim Roberts for kids grades 3-6 ... All other activities in church now in full swing for 1990.

ALBURY (Alex Wilson, Allan Blyth) Music team provided music for Tumut Christian Convention, receiving positive comments. Team hopes to become permanent ministry ... Recent visit from La'el Music Co ... Successful Financial Management Seminar ... Special faith offering raised \$7,000 ... Good News Band ministered at March Good News Celebration ... Keith Farmer led Cultivating Christian Community weekend ... Young Adults & King's Kids combining for some activities & youth camp.

STANWELL TOPS (Tim Hall) 1990 opened with induction of church's first full-time minister, Tim Hall, graduate of Institute of Contemporary Church Leadership. Barry McMurtrie & Dr Carol Preston conducted induction & Tim & wife, Adele, were welcomed by elders & various members of congregation ... 47 girls attended first Girls' Brigade meeting for year ... Adventure Hour for children & Bible study groups resumed with strong interest by all age groups.

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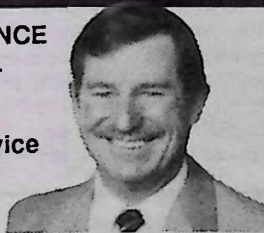
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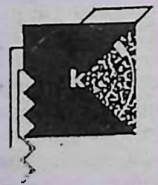


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Discipleship

•Christine Gray, Centenary, Qld
 •Lisa Kambouris, Ken Richardson,
 Pearl Murdoch, Craig Kingdom,
 Harlaxton, Toowoomba, Qld
 •Ruth Parfett, Glenn Coulthard,
 Horsham, Vic •Greg Else, Karen
 Else, Ruth Tilley, Bendigo, Vic
 •Christine Brophy, Cameron
 Knight, Nubeena, Tas •Mandy
 Quantrelle, Nunawading, Vic
 •Maud King, Ross Junior, Grote St,
 Adelaide, SA •Kerri Hart, Joanne
 Lawry, Bianca Ross, Barbara Way,
 Hawthorn, SA

Marriages

•Joy Creek to David Birrell, York St,
 Ballarat, Vic •Narelle Knight to
 Roger Griffiths, Lyons, ACT •Ur-
 sula Hunt to Leighton Bell, Hor-
 sham, Vic •Rachel Giles to Stuart
 Copeland, Lismore, NSW •Carlene
 Anderson to Neville Hamilton, Julie
 Birkett to John Martin, Deanne
 Coleman to Mark Anderson, Sue
 Ferris to Bruce Gayther, Nuna-
 wading, Vic •Nicole Barns to Luke
 McGing, Grote St, Adelaide, SA
 •Ruth Copping to John Gates,
 Michele Cambereri to Eric Bardy,
 Brooklyn Park, SA

Deaths

•Jack Spriggs, Myrtle Varidel, Mrs
 W. Rosenberg, Harlaxton,
 Toowoomba, Qld •Stan Cooper,
 Elsie Jones, Belconnen, ACT
 •Nancy Morris, Ainslie, ACT •Hazel
 Maitland, Horsham, Vic •Mrs Hol-
 ley Thomas, Bendigo, Vic •Patricia
 Hubert, Eric Winslo, Carnarvon,
 WA •Mrs Phyllis Gairns, Angus
 Riddell, Nunawading, Vic •Sandie
 Sanderson, Albury, NSW

Changes

Chelsea: Minister—Ian Whitelock,
 27 Riversdale Avenue, Carrum, Vic
 3197. Secretary—Karen Milan, 7/
 519 Nepean Highway, Bonbeach,
 Vic 3196.
 Parker, H.—46 Minnipup Road,
 Bunbury, WA 6230.
 Alexander Heights: Minister—

John & Kaye Caporn, 11 Peregrine
 Rise, Ballajura, WA 6066.
 Swan Hill: Minister—Lindsay
 Mayes, 138 Chapman Street, Swan
 Hill, Vic 3585. Phone (050) 32 4595.
 Minister—Stephen Willis, 182 Bever-
 ridge Street, Swan Hill, Vic 3585.
 Phone (050) 32 9408.
 Secretary—John Forrest, 5 Murray
 Court, Swan Hill, Vic 3585. Phone
 (050) 32 9137.
 Church Office—Phone (050) 32
 1449 (Monday-Friday 9 am to 12
 noon).
 Hawthorn: Secretary—Miss
 Pauline Orr, 5 Byron Avenue, Plymp-
 ton Park, SA 5038.
 Federal Aborigines Board: Unit 4,
 7 Baretta Road, Wangara, WA 6065
 (Postal address—PO Box 1199,
 Wangara, WA 6065) Phone (09)
 309 3922. Fax (09) 309 4101.
 Montrose: Secretary—Chris
 Streader, PO Box 108, Montrose,
 Vic 3765. Phone (03) 728 3258.

CYTA LODGE, COOMA Short Term SNOW SEASON STAFF

Each winter CYTA LODGE at
 COOMA has vacancies for up
 to eight young people for a
 period of 3-4 months. These
 positions are suitable for
 single young guys and girls
 18-30 years interested in
 learning more about the
 operation of a large Christian
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 dation Centre.

Interviews will be held in
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 June commencement.

Duties include catering,
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 maintenance, assisting in
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 program and other activities
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For further information write
 or telephone:

Mr Bruce Bolton,
 CYTA Lodge, Cooma 2630
 Phone (064) 52 1375

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This couple will be viewed as future managers.
 Nursing or similar background is an advantage but
 not essential. The hostel currently caters for 16
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Full details of duties, working conditions, salary and
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 and the world.

If your answer is yes for this full-time
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 please contact the Secretary,
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 PO Box 83, South Tamworth, NSW 2340.

Applications are invited by the SA Joint Chaplaincies Committee for the position of

Prisons' Chaplain

The appointment, based in Adelaide, is open to ordained
 ministers of the Churches of Christ, Baptist Union and
 Uniting Church in Australia.

Remuneration, housing, travelling, etc. are in line with
 those of the applicant's denomination.

Duties to begin September 1990 or as negotiated.

Please write to

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 Adelaide 5001
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for job specification.

Application in writing, with names and addresses of three
 referees should be sent to Rev. B.L. Smith at the above
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Church News

SA

ALBERT PARK (Steve Ogden) Friendship Club, CWF, Crop-In Centre & Bible study groups re-commenced with new zest ... Cottage meetings held to review future planning following board's 1989 discussions with George Mathieson & study of Dr Kennon Callahan's *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church* ... Val Stevens commenced three-year Diploma of Ministry course at Burleigh Theological College ... Catie Ogden resigned from ministry at Albert Park. Steve will continue full-time.

KENSINGTON PARK (Joan Fewster) During holidays minister shared leadership touring party Holy Land & Seven Churches (Revelation) sites ... Very successful stewardship campaign held 16 Feb under leadership K. Home. Friday evening dinner & Sunday service. Members indicated proposed giving. Record offerings since ... Minister engaged in Graduate Diploma in Ministry course CCTC ... Monthly evening services encouraging wit attendance & new contacts.

GROTE ST (Ian Adams) Christian Community Care transferred to upper storey hall, 100 Grote St ... Prayer groups & auxiliaries commenced Feb ... Julie Adams CWF President ... Kids' Club held January, 50 attending, Thelma Gormlie leader. Week concluded with family tea & gospel service featuring children ... Youth group now meeting weekly. Seven leaders in training class ... Julie Adams inducted Women's Ministry President by Conference President, Trevor Lawrie.

HAWTHORN (Ron Hewitt) Church year off to great start. Attendances am & pm encouraging. Nine additions—four baptisms, five transfers ... Theme "One More Year"—dedication, commitment, outreach ... Visiting speakers January well received ... Bible School & Kids Klub high attendance. Heather Mason new Superintendent, Rose Huckins Kids Klub leader ... Family picnic held 18 Feb ... John Phelps, Bible Society, spoke 4 Feb ... Youth Services Focus on street kids, Peter Johnson (Blackwood).

PROSPECT (G. Payne) Stephen Schmaal has filled in while Geoff has been on leave ... Home fellowship has begun, so has the other groups ... Mrs Muriel Mitchell will be 100 on 20 March, what a wonderful achievement ... Camera Club, Aerobics Club & Koala Clubs started up with a good response ... Evenings have had a variety of events—Coffee Pots & fellowship tea, Sea Shanty Night.

BROOKLYN PARK (G. Shaw) In 66th year ... Newdeacons J. Adcock, J. & M. Cambareri ... Deficit budget of \$65,400 accepted at AGM. Fundraising to finance deficit ... Project for Mulgrave College continues ... 50 plus Fellowship has first meeting, action strategy planned ... God's Gang club has 75 children ... Serendipity groups for 50 ... Ministry committee searches for minister, start Feb '91.

Vic

YORK ST, BALLARAT (Jim Cunningham, Gary Berry) Fellowship luncheon held to farewell Risson family ... Brian White (Dept MED) inducted Jim Cunningham & Gary Berry. Fellowship luncheon followed service ... Early Feb key youth leaders joined ministers to review 1989 & discuss strengths/needs for 1990. All youth groups commencing soon ... Barbecue lunch for 18-25 age group held at Berry's. 39 attended discussing young adult small group ministry.

STRATHMORE (James Pearce) Members challenged to read entire Bible in 1990 ... Annual meeting planned for March ... Successful house church held at Jenkins. 30+ attended ... Sunday School recommenced. Liz Booth in charge ... Leisure Time & God's Gang ceased due to lack of leaders ... Board members of four Essendon churches met & further meeting scheduled with MED representative to discuss options for Essendon, North Essendon & Strathmore churches.

HORSHAM (H.A.L. Clark, Ian Hunt) Church commenced two new ventures in February. An earlier, second family service at 9 am has proved popular ... Instead of Sunday School "Action Stations" after-school program has attracted over 60 primary age children ... Monthly communion service is held in hospital chapel for sick & elderly members ... John Clark was top VCE student at Horsham High School.

THE PATCH (Mike Folland) The Folland family welcomed into fellowship. Mike inducted as minister by Dr Warmbrunn ... Wes Treloar recovering from heart by-pass surgery. Cliff Davie recovering after time spent in hospital ... Church extensions underway ... Strong support from membership with gifts & interest free loans ... Open cupboard gifts appreciated by local council ... Church anniversary celebrated with Gerald Rose as guest speaker.

OAKLEIGH (L.S. Dewberry) AGM reports show church in good health & finances satisfactory. Owing to

regretted retirement of minister due to approaching retirement age, minute of appreciation of minister's work was placed on record. Ministry will conclude in January 1991 ... From 25 March church services will commence at 10.30 am ... Margaret Shaman & Clyde Taylor elected to board.

BENDIGO (John Sweetman) Annual outdoor carol service with Eaglehawk Brass Band held Christmas Eve ... Minister & family returned from holiday ... Recent speakers V. Symes, I. Lacy, K. Lacy, R. Broad & C. Houston ... Family camp held Halls Gap Australia Day weekend, 40 attended ... Many participating in seminar "Analysing Mormonism" 16-17 March ... Three recent decisions ... Members travelled to Echuca for C&ND Conf 3 March. Concert by "Kaleidoscope" from Mildura.

NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn) A special service held on 25 Feb when 11 former members of the Reservoir church, two from York St, Ballarat & one local resident received into the fellowship of the church. After the service lunch was served in the hall ... Daisy Dix & May Tracey now in Fred Combridge House ... John Gluyas treasurer ... A group of Wesleyan Methodists to use chapel weekly.

NUNAWADING (E. Keating, D. Hamilton, J. Wright, L. Smith, A. Spoelder) Church leaders' tea video address by Kennon Kallahan ... Anne Spoelder inducted as Singles Co-ordinator & Outreach Secretary ... Dedication of Sunday School teachers, outreach callers, playgroup leaders, Religious Education teachers, club leaders. E.L. Williams guest speaker, guest violinist Julian Quirett ... Kids 'n Co weekday club at Surrey Road ... Cornerstone children's club at Springfield Road ... Bethel groups recommenced, also 12 cell groups.

BORONIA (Keith Milne, Andrew Henley) 4 March Keith Milne led 280 in a service which combined our 69th anniversary with the induction of Andrew Henley into joint ministry with Keith. Andrew and wife Lee-Anne were welcomed into membership. Conference President Phyl Davis gave the address & Dr Bill Tabbernee led the induction service. Over 200 stayed for lunch & fellowship ... Auxiliaries operating well in new year.

PORT FAIRY (Roy Hope) 70 attended social evening 9 Feb to welcome Roy & Margaret Hope. Representatives from Portland, Hamilton, Warrnambool & local churches ... Roy's caring & friendly ministry appreciated by both locals & visitors ... Bible study, Sunday

School, KYB, Playtime, CWF, Men's Fellowship all off to a great start ... church grateful for many answers to prayer.

GARDINER (Paul Creasey) 7 Jan induction of new minister Paul Creasey performed by retiring minister Harold Steele. Paul & Irene welcomed into fellowship ... 18 Feb official welcome to Paul & Irene into district at PSA including greetings from Phyl Davis (Conf Pres), Don Smith (MED), local council & local churches ... Paul resumed studies part-time at CCTC ... 2 March impressive service held for World Day of Prayer.

BAYSWATER (Reg Combridge) 1990 up & running with large increases in attendance at Boys Explorers & Sunday School due mainly to the children bringing along their school & play friends ... Minister hospitalised recently but all O.K. now ... Youth group ran Pot Hole Coffee Shop 3 March. 90 in attendance. Guests "Joint Heirs".

MONTROSE (Neil Galbraith, John Sharpe) John & Chris Sharpe welcomed into membership. John commencing student ministry for 1990 ... Montrose Christian Support Network established for community emergencies ... Organisation of community festival combined churches service & Carols by Candlelight ... New leadership structure results in greater involvement of members ... Many new groups & auxiliaries organised ... About 14 new families welcomed & 12 baptisms over last 12 months. **CHELSEA** (I. Whitelock) Friendship hour of music & entertainment recommenced as monthly feature for Wednesdays ... Girls' Club has started again with new leader, Joanne Scott ... Chelsea churches held World Day of Prayer in C of C ... CWF Opportunity Shop made \$100 on reopening day ... Explorer Boys' Club attended combined adventure camp at Rubicon ... Chelsea Inter-Church Council were hosted for tea & evening meeting. CWF catered.

Church of Christ SOUTHPORT

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Worship and Communion
6.30 pm

Gospel Celebration
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31 4353 (AH)

Church News

WA

CARNARVON (Don Bone) Criss Jones presented with Australia Day achievement award for services to community ... CWF held "Back to School" evening. President Aileen Bone brought devotions. 1990 theme "The Grace of God" ... Combined churches planning march of witness at Easter ... Barry Paveling, high school teacher, welcomed into fellowship ... Bruce Bone commenced new job at Renmark, SA.

Tas

DEVONPORT (B. Butler) Guest speakers during minister's holiday W. Howard, State Director of Bible Society; G. Green, Tas Conf Pres; K. Overton with family contributing items ... New families consistently attending over January-February period, bringing big increase in Sunday School ... Indoor bowls proving big success as outreach into the community ... Family camp being held 9-11 March.

NUBEENA (Gordon Henderson) Ulverstone men's group visited, Clem Burt presided & their minister Tom Edge spoke on Matt 5:17-30. Luncheon followed ... Youth camp held at Port Arthur ... Youth service held & Wayne Henderson preaching his first sermon ... 70 attended baptismal service of Christine Brophy & Cameron Knight ... 37 attended World Day of Prayer evening.

LAUNCESTON (Rod Foster, John Rees) Maurie Pieper, Christian Blind Int, speaker 25 Feb & baby Kara Spaulding dedicated at morning service ... Andrei Voth, Aust Director of Mission USSR, spoke 2 March ... All elders & deacons attended retreat held Bridport 9-11 March with Ted Keating as consultant ... Helen Hall, Vic-Tas CWF Pres-Elect, spoke at CWF 12 March ... New Gene at a 60s party celebrated Wayne Francis's 21st birthday.

Qld

EAST IPSWICH (Norm Flett) Church departments resumed after holiday recess ... Church looking forward to 1990 with Norm Flett's ministry ... After-church fellowship in Brown's Park successful. Carol Singers appreciated by community ... Sunday evening service in Queen's Park opportunity for outreach ... Several adults baptised recently ... Church board held planning retreat ... Program for year outlined at church dinner on 7 Feb ... Attendances remain at am & pm services.

BRIBIE ISLAND (Wayne Kirk) Induction of first minister for Bribie Island. 18 Feb Prof Alan Wilson, Qld Conf Pres, gave the address at the induction of Wayne Kirk. Wayne completed studies at Kenmore in 1988 & served at Pine Rivers in 1989. Wayne's wife & young son welcomed at luncheon ... Wayne appointed to panel of RI instructors Bribie schools.

CENTENARY (Reg Charles) Dedication & thanksgiving services for Lauren, daughter of Ken & Ruth Martin & Joel Peter, son of Peter & Kerry Schulz, recently returned from

Vanuatu ... Welcomed Ken & Ruth Martin (ex Gympie), Cliff & Christine Gray & Fred Martin (ex Cairns) ... Visitors book shows 300 for 1989 ... Anglican Singers contributed to evening service ... Four Bible study groups established ... Kiah Occasional Day Care Centre flourishing ... Several community groups using facilities.

HARLAXTON, TOOWOOMBA (Daryl Thorpe) Over 100 attended family camp at Camp Cal. Studies were led by Rod Tippett ... 100 attended a men's dinner. Ron Sansome showed slides on the Holy

Land ... A social group for mature singles called "Friendship Club" has been commenced.

BONGEEN (B.M. Nowitzke) Quarterly planning meeting made plans for future benefit of membership & outreach ... Barry Nowitzke will conclude ministry at end of year ... Social committee arranged family barbecue & travel video night. Video was made on trip by Trevor & Betty Muller ... Adrian Nowitzke & Brooke Schmierer have announced their engagement ... All auxiliaries have resumed & the ladies have a particularly busy year.

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Vanuatu Workparty

A voluntary team of six men and one woman completed a successful month-long building project on Ambae Island, Vanuatu, in September 1989. The team, from Nunawading, Vic, church, donated their annual leave, or took leave without pay from regular jobs. The men, from a mixture of occupations, all had handyman skills.

Andrea Kierer, a nurse, was team cook. Each morning, Andrea's duties were to prepare the food for the team. In the afternoons, she usually worked on the building site. Andrea, in her 20s, loved the whole experience and would like to return to Vanuatu some day.

So would the others! Ted Gray, an A-grade motor mechanic, told of a wonderful closeness with God throughout the month. One special experience was to fix a difficult mission-owned vehicle. Ted worked all night with a Ni-Vanuatu Christian. By sunrise, the Land Cruiser was working smoothly. As the sun rose over the horizon and they drove the vehicle along a palm-fringed, deserted beach, Ted tells of his overwhelming thankfulness to the Creator.

Ted's wife, Dora, was to have accompanied him on the workparty. However, shortly before departure, she suffered a heart attack. After much prayer, they decided that Ted should still go. Dora, meanwhile, recuperated back in Melbourne. Both Ted and Dora believe that God was with them through this and that it was God's will for Ted to go to Vanuatu. Dora's health is much improved now.

God's timing was perfect in other ways. The team was concerned that they not be a burden to the missionaries on site. It seemed to be divine timing that a missionary family was on furlough, thus releasing a house for the workparty.

Matt Comrie, a musician and clerk with a plumbing firm, was deeply moved by the inspiring singing in Vanuatu. He said the harmonising by the local congrega-

tions and the fervour in their voices revealed a wonderful love for God. Matt's piano accordion and singalongs were a "smash hit" with the teenage boys.

Daily team devotions and prayers were led by Ian Roberts, a trade instructor with TAFE.

Each day, the men worked on the building a teacher accommodation house—starting with bare ground. They said that mixing the concrete slab for the floor was riddled with problems. They had to use crushed coral in the mix! There were many obstacles, delays in supplies and other building problems. Perhaps it was fortunate that none of the men was a qualified builder—who might have been appalled at the adjustments made. Re-reading the plans and creatively devising alternatives were essential.

The oppressive heat and humidity presented difficulties. Don Atkinson, a spectacle-maker, found fresh coconut milk thirst-quenching. Swimming each day was essential for survival.

Ern Kiefer, a public servant, and John Sallows, a businessman, also spoke of the wonderful fellowship with Ni-Vanuatu Christians and the fun of working with a team.

Overall, the team felt that their time in Vanuatu was both useful to the local mission church and a spiritual growth experience for themselves.

The "workparty wives" met for fellowship meals and sharing of news. The whole church prayed. All year, the fun and creative fund-raising activities united the church with one purpose—to raise \$7,000 for Vanuatu. The building is now complete and has been officially opened—mission accomplished!

Any church considering such a scheme, either within Australia or overseas, is invited to contact Ian Roberts on (03) 874 5110. The team is available to speak about their adventures, show slides and present Vanuatu music. —Rosemary König

The Last Word

Worry should only be a reminder to pray.

—Karen Muller

It was one of the worst accidents ever seen in the district. A bus was on its side, a car was wrapped around a telephone pole and a semi-trailer had crashed into a shop. The injured lay all over the road as ambulance crews worked frantically.

A person ran up, dragging a small child. "Have the insurance people arrived yet?" she asked the police.

"Not yet," they replied.

The person turned to her child. "Quick, get over there and lie down and groan!"

★★★★★

Two tourists were driving through the wilds of Scotland. As they approached a bend a big old Rolls Royce came hurtling towards them, driven by the local laird's wife. As the two cars passed, she wound down her window and shouted, "Pig!"

The two tourists were disgusted. "What a rude old woman" said the driver, "I gave her plenty of room." And he accelerated round the bend and slammed straight into a 350 kg hog.

★★★★★

My husband is the pastor of a church that recently decided to have a pictorial directory made. We hoped this would be a tool for our members to connect names and faces and get to know one another better.

The time came for our family's photo session. When we arrived at the church our 3-year-old daughter, who thinks going to church is for Sunday School, children's choir and church dinners, was puzzled.

"Why are we getting our pictures taken at church?" Megan asked. I explained to her about the directory, but apparently not well enough. She thought a moment, then announced, "Oh, I see. We'll have a book with pictures of all the people in it so we won't have to go to church and look at them."

★★★★★



I'm pretty fit for my age. First thing in the morning I bend down and touch my slippers fifty times... Then if I feel like it, I get out of bed and put them on.

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