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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Brides through the Ages

Three-year-old Brooke Fielke models a 1990 flowergirl dress, Vicki Tabbitt an 1832 silk wedding dress and Helen Brown a 1959 cream gown with full cathedral train at a bridal fashion parade at the Mt Clear, Vic, church

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At Withcott—

40 Grand Please

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Curkpatrick—

Comfortless Comforters

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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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Guest Editorial

• **Christ intended that his body, the church, would be unique in its structure and we limit its ability to reflect that unique nature when we adopt the world's organisational practices**

The Nature of Christian Leadership

by Max Carter

The emphasis placed by Churches of Christ on local church independence and congregational government allows a wide diversity of practice from one church to another in the matter of leadership and decision making, but the nature of the church portrayed by the New Testament implies that certain principles be observed in the practices that local churches adopt in relation to their structure.

From the very earliest times, the New Testament stresses that the church is a fellowship in which great value is placed on unity, peace, harmony and mutual edification within the fellowship. It therefore follows that those attitudes and practices that do not encourage such qualities have to be avoided as far as possible.

Paul severely criticised the Corinthian church for the harm that was resulting from the divisions within the fellowship. Therefore our local structures must be such as to encourage unity, rather than to create the potential for divisions. In many of our community organisations, as well as our system of government, we provide for the democratic right of each person to express their opinion or preference by a vote, and the decision is carried on the basis of majority support. It is easy to see the potential for divisions and tensions that this practice can create, and yet we so often find local churches resorting to a "vote" within the fellowship to determine a course of action, only to find that the tensions of the resultant division inhibit the distinctive characteristics of the church that it was intended to display to the community.

"Voting" on a specific matter within a church fellowship may provide an indication as to the preferences of the members but those preferences need sympathetic analysis by the local leadership, who must then make decisions that acknowledge the primary requirement that the unity, peace, harmony and mutual edification of the fellowship is maintained.

Paul was speaking with wisdom imparted by the Holy Spirit when he likened the church to a body, and this should give



us the lead as to the nature of the structure that best serves such a "body". Because we are a body, we are an organism—not an organisation. "maintenance" quickly becomes the focus, but in an organism "ministry" is the focus. In an organisation lines of authority are established and power is delegated according to position in the structure. In an organism min-

istry roles are identified and implemented according to the particular gifts of members.

James and John aspired to positions of power when they came to Jesus asking if they could sit at his right and left hand in his Kingdom. This upset the other disciples but Jesus called them to himself and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so among you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:42-45)

It is clear that Christ intended that his body, the church, would be quite different; in fact, unique, in its structure, and we limit the ability of the church to reflect that unique nature when we adopt the "world's" organisational practices.

In his analogy to the body, Paul makes it clear that all the members of that body are subject to the head, which is Christ. This indicates a totally flat organisation, with every member responsible to Christ for their "ministry role" in the church. This is not to say that there are no leaders. The leadership is recognised by, and is drawn from, the body of believers on the basis of service, spiritual gifts and faith and they remain in exactly the same relationship to Christ as every other member of the body. For example, the seven men appointed in the early church were recognised by the members as those who were serving within the fellowship. They were full of the Holy

Spirit, they were ministering, and they were accomplished in teaching God's Word. In this model, the authority of the leadership arises from the recognition by the people in the body of those who are serving and they willingly respond to that leadership.

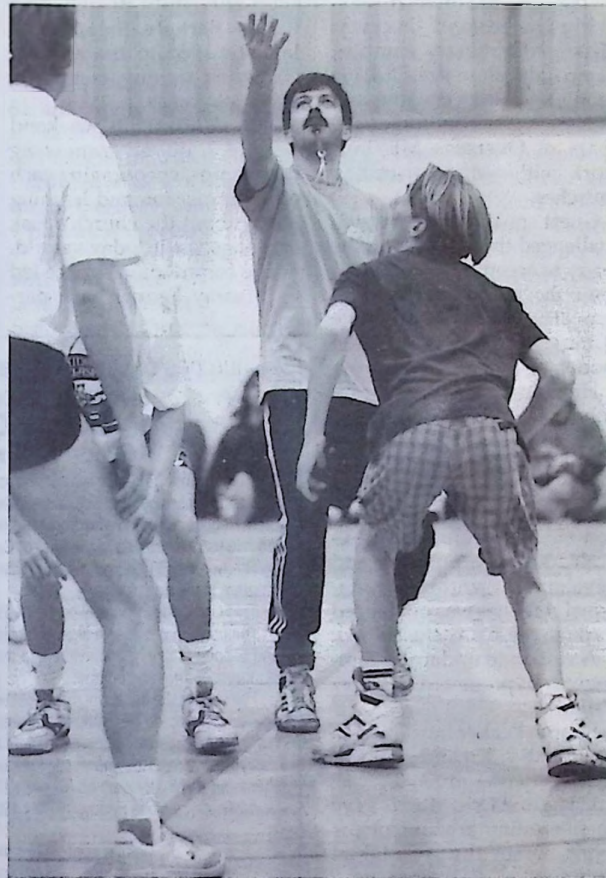
The responsibility of the leaders in this unique structure is best illustrated by Peter (1 Peter 5:1-3), who, interestingly, identifies himself as a "fellow elder" rather than as an apostle when he says, "I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd the flock of God among you, not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock." It is impossible to misconstrue these words, they speak plainly of the servanthood role of church leadership.

It seems to me that in the structures and organisations around us, the acceptability of leadership positions is measured by the answer to such questions as: How much power do I have? How many people do I control? How much money do I make? In the Lord's Kingdom, however, the criterion is: How much service can I give? This is the true nature of Christian leadership.

• *Max Carter is a layman and an elder at the Footscray, Vic, church, where he has been in membership since his baptism at the age of 13. Prior to his election as Vic-Tas Conference President, he served as secretary of the Advisory Department and was an elected member of Conference Executive. A professional engineer, he was employed for 40 years by Olex Cables and held the position of Technical Director at the time of his retirement in December 1989. He is married to Stella, who is the President of CWF in Victoria and Tasmania in this Conference year. They have four daughters and seven grandchildren.*

• Good sports

Vic State Youth Games



A tense moment in the basketball competition at the Victorian State Youth Games

Who in their right mind would go camping in Barwon Heads in June?

Well, I did, and so did about 75 other young (or those who thought they were young) people on the long weekend in June. We were there for the first-ever Victorian State Youth Games. Nunawading, Frankston, Ormond, Ringwood, Glen Waverley, Knoxfield and Rowville churches all sent representatives who formed their own teams or got together to form teams to play volleyball, basketball, squash, tennis and golf. It was a weekend of fun, competition and celebration of life.

Ormond took home the trophy for the highest team score.

Other results were: basketball—Rowville (old boys), volleyball—Ormond, men's squash—Ormond, ladies squash—Ormond, golf—Frankston, men's tennis (singles)—Ormond, ladies tennis (singles)—Rowville, tennis (doubles)—Ormond.

Trophies and medals were presented to all winners. The organising committee did a wonderful job and already I'm in training for next year.

And, it's not just for those heavily into sport. I'm heading up a lobby group for the inclusion of Scrabble and speed cross-stitching.

See you there next year!

—Andrea Salmon
(Ringwood, Vic)

• Brides through the ages

Brides Galore at Mt Clear

A 160-year-old dress was among 70 bridal gowns and 100 dresses on display in a bridal fashion parade at the Mount Clear, Vic, church in June.

"Brides through the Ages" was a parade of bridal gowns from the early 1800s right through to the 1990s, as well as a collection of going-away outfits and bridesmaids' dresses. All dresses worn were originals, providing a fascinating look at changing trends in wedding fashion. Dresses from the 1960s and 1970s were particularly interesting, as were some from the swinging 30s. The highlight, however, was the dresses that dated from the 1800s.

The evening was organised by the Lorikeets, a newly formed women's group at Mt Clear, as a fundraising event. The night was a huge success with over 250 attending and \$1,600 raised for some special projects—such as a new illuminated sign for the front of the church.

The event was not only successful as a fundraiser, but was great "PR" for the church as well.

All of the "models" were church members or children of church members, many of whom modelled a mother's, aunty's or grandma's gown. Some even wore their own wedding dresses from up to 20 or 30 years ago.

Nostalgia was experienced by many people in the audience as they saw their own dress beautifully paraded on the catwalk!

Minister Dale White was one of the soloists during the evening, and Vic-TV personality Margot Cosgrove compered the event. The whole evening was conducted efficiently and professionally—a real credit to the Lorikeets!

• **Women under stress**

Nunawading Dinner

"This dinner was one of the more significant breakthroughs in outreach we have made in women's ministry at our church," said Glenda de Jager, co-ordinator of the "Women under Stress" dinner organised by the Nunawading, Vic, church.

"Rarely have we seen people so keen to invite friends and neighbours to a function."

Only 120 spaces were available for the dinner, but somehow 125 attended. Hostesses co-ordinated the invitations by personal contact and over a third of those who attended did not have an active connection with the Nunawading church.

Pat Greig, clinical and educational psychologist, of the Ringwood, Vic, church, spoke to the women on the effects and strategies regarding stress, and related the Scriptures to the subject. A music ensemble group (all women!) provided background music throughout the night and the church's catering committee provided an excellent three-course meal.

"We wanted to impress those who came with the quality of the meal, the music and the address," said Glenda. "Pat showed how relevant the Gospel is to this issue of modern living."

Further outreach dinners are planned throughout the year.

North Balwyn

Church of Christ
16 Walnut Road,
North Balwyn

40th Anniversary 18 August

10.15 am Worship and
Communion
Speaker: Trevor Giles

12 noon Luncheon
7 pm Evening Worship
Speaker: Alan Hirsch

Contacts for further details
(03) 857 8760
or (03) 857 6444

• **Queensland Overseas Mission Centenary Camp**

"One for Each Year Plus One"

On the weekend of 24-26 May, at the Queensland Overseas Mission Centenary camp at Camp Cal, Caloundra, Qld, 101 people shared an exciting and challenging celebration of 100 years of Overseas Missions work within our Australian churches.

Guest speaker, Bob Brown, challenged those present to be ready to accept God's call and share the harvest for his Kingdom. The apostle Paul's style of mission was the suggested model.

Historical reviews of our involvement in PNG and Vanuatu were presented by Aileen Draney and Ian Flood (PNG), and David Eagling and Roger Bawden (Vanuatu). Contrasts and changes were clearly revealed and the progress and development within the national churches was evidenced through these presentations.

A video and update on Zimbabwe was presented by Garry Hills.

Sharon Peaker introduced a new MAF video and spoke of her experiences in PNG

Hazel and Lyle Morris gave an interesting account of the work within the Aboriginal communities of Queensland.

A challenging Saturday evening program was a blessing to all. The children shared with a brief mission segment (songs, play and diorama). Operation Mobilisation shared exciting news of their work in Europe and West Africa and presented two very effective mimes. Gary and Pam Hine, who will be moving to PNG late 1991, shared their testimony and led in a devotional

segment. Bob Brown and Patrick Bartelle (Solomon Islands) added to the evening with their singing, comments and testimonies.

Throughout the weekend people enjoyed renewing friendships, encouraging each other in mission and learning much about the church's task of evangelism in today's world.

The communion service led by Murray Fenner gave par-

ticipants the unique experience of joining in worship with isolated members in outback Queensland and appreciating their needs. Arranged through Telecom by Trevor Meares, this experience gave insight into his ministry, its challenges and needs.

Hopefully next year we will be able to say: "One from Each Church Plus More."

—Ken Warne

Churches of Christ Department of Community Care Fred Combridge House Director Of Nursing Grade 7—Extended Care

Fred Combridge House is a nursing home which cares for thirty elderly residents. This senior management position requires an appropriately experienced Victorian State Registered Nurse who is creative, innovative, compassionate and an effective team leader. A working knowledge of CAM and SAM funding is essential.

The home will undergo a half million dollar building extension and renovation program in the near future.

Fred Combridge house is committed to the principles of social role valorisation.

The position provides a significant challenge to be a team builder and to assist and support staff in a commitment to the Commonwealth Government's outcome standards for nursing homes.

The successful applicant must possess postgraduate qualifications in gerontology and have, or be working towards, gaining a postgraduate management qualification. Effective human resource skills are an essential requirement.

If you require further information please feel free to contact the Acting Director of Nursing, Robyn Johnston on (03) 481 1211.

Applications close Friday, 19 July 1991.

Written applications including two referees to:

Mr Trevor Giles
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Churches of Christ Department of Community Care
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People

Queen's Birthday Awards

In the Queen's birthday awards Ken Patterson and Ray Vincent were both awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia. Their names were put forward as part of the Western Australia Churches of Christ Centenary Celebrations held last year.

Ken Patterson

The award to Ken Patterson was in recognition of the long and outstanding contribution made by him in the work of the churches.

As an ordained minister Ken Patterson accepted ministries in Victoria at Ivanhoe and Oakleigh and in SA at Prospect and Balaklava. In 1956-58 he worked with an interchurch group (the Wells Organisation) as a fundraising consultant in various churches in NSW and Queensland. His academic training in accounting, his experience in several churches and his church fundraising gave him relevant resources to move into the most significant period of this church service.

In 1963-84 he held the position of State Organiser for Churches of Christ in WA. This was a diverse job, with its priorities changing over the years as situations required. Ken was the central reference point for the overall work of the churches and was especially prominent in the financial administration of the Association.

This was a period of expansion and change in which he played a vital role.

The Organiser's task was formally divided into four functions. He was Secretary/Organiser of the Home Missions Department and this involved consultation, planning, fundraising, research on church locations, liaison with Churches of Christ congregations and other churches, report preparation, program development etc. Home Mission churches received financial assistance from the Association and Ken

gave valuable financial advice to the smaller churches. A second area of work involved the Churches of Christ Christian Centre in Beaufort Street. He was the day-to-day manager of the centre, treasurer for the Board of Management 1972-82, and fundraising consultant for debt liquidation and overall financial management. The third area of his work involved the Properties Committee, of which he was organiser.

This required legal work with properties, purchase of land for future church sites and fundraising through special funds. Under this umbrella he initiated an Association "Mutual Fund" in which churches and individuals deposit funds that can be used to support the work of the Association. At the end of 1989 this fund had grown to \$176,000.

The fourth major function of the state organiser was as special assistant to the Executive Committee of Conference. This was an advisory role especially in the areas of taxation and finance and a representative role to government departments and other Christian bodies.

The Association restructured its departments at the end of 1984 and Ken spent his last three years prior to retirement as Mission and Extension Officer.

Ray Vincent

Ray Vincent has made an outstanding contribution to the Australian community in two broad areas of activity—service to Churches of Christ in several capacities and prominent work in the field of social work and community development.

Ray entered theological training from South Australia, graduating in 1934 from the College of the Bible, following which he undertook further university studies. He served as a local minister in WA at Palmyra (1½ years), Inglewood (4½ years), Bunbury (3 years), then after war service at Prospect, SA (4 years).

In 1950, Ray returned to WA to undertake work with the Commonwealth Government.

For many years he was a member of the Youth and Christian Education Committee, the Advisory Committee (concerned with ministerial appointments), the Churches of Christ Aged Persons Homes Board, the Social Questions Committee and the Board of the Christian Welfare Centre. He had periods as Chairman of the Advisory Committee, Aged Persons Homes Board and the Christian Welfare Centre Board. During a crisis period he acted as full-time Director of the Christian Welfare Centre for eight months. In 1966 he was elected President of Conference. He is currently the Editor of *The Western Christian*.

Ray has always been very ecumenical in his outlook and is well known among the leaders of the main denominations in WA. He spent several years on the committee of the WA Council of Churches, and an even longer time on the Faith and Order Commission of that Council.

Over a period of three years he was engaged part-time by Archbishop Sambell (Anglican) concerning the restructuring of welfare and marriage guidance services for the Anglican Church in WA.

Ray received international recognition for his social work expertise and spent several months of 1965 working full-time in Louisville, Kentucky, for Christian Church Homes doing evaluation and advising on restructuring of social work services to aged and children's homes.

Ray Vincent has never restricted his community service to church structures but has gained wide renown in the general community for his expertise and commitment. He worked for three Commonwealth Government Departments—1950-57 as a social worker with the Department of Immigration, 1958-62 with the Department of Territories in Darwin and 1963-66 with the Repatriation Department. His responsibilities in these jobs involved assistance to large numbers of refugees over the



Ken Patterson

whole state, assistance to Aboriginal people and liaison with government and mission facilities and broad-ranging service to individuals and families. His prominence in the field of social work was recognised in his invitation to be the inaugural lecturer in Social Work when the Western Australian Institute of Technology (now Curtin University) established a School of Social Work in 1967. He led this department through its first years, retiring as senior lecturer in 1972 at the age of 60.

During the war, Ray volunteered to be a chaplain and served 1943-46, including nine months of overseas service.

Some of the community committees that Ray has been involved with include Red Cross, the WA Council of Social Service, the WA Council of the Ageing, Richmond Fellowship and the Marriage Guidance Council.

—Allen Smyth



Ray Vincent

• **Reading the Word of God more often**

Bible Sunday

Christian leaders of every denomination have joined in urging Australian Christians to give thanks to God as they remember the importance of the Bible on National Bible Sunday, 21 July.

Now an annual event, National Bible Sunday is specially set aside to encourage people to read the Bible in churches and privately more often to stay in touch with the Word of God.

The Bible Society in Australia and Scripture Union in Australia, organisers of the day in conjunction with heads of all



Christian churches, have made Bible promotional, reading and study materials available to churches as a way of stimulating interest in the Bible.

Additional information and free support material is available from Bible Society and Scripture Union offices in capital cities.

• **Alterations and additions**

Goolwa Reopening

On 28 July the Goolwa, SA, church building will again be open for worship, after alterations and additions.

We welcome all friends to come and celebrate this event. The morning worship and communion service will be held at 11 am with the official opening service at 2 pm.

Many hours of volunteer work and planning have gone towards the completion of the chapel and we wish to give

thanks to God for the talents and willingness of people to help.

We thank the local Roman Catholic church for allowing us to use their building over the past three months for worship services and the Goolwa Primary School for rooms provided for Sunday youth classes.

It has been a great time of co-operation and sharing.

—Fay Neighbour

• **Developing links Australia wide**

Christian Singles Ministry

There is a need for a unified and effective ministry to single people in our churches.

Many lonely, divorced and separated people attend our services and a growing number of people in our community come to find the Lord through this crisis experience.

Singles ministries should aim to reach these hurting people with the Good News that Jesus heals the broken hearted by providing a sharing, caring environment where singles can receive support and encouragement and have access to counselling and workshops that facilitate growth.

In 1987 the NSW branch of ACSF (Australian Christian Singles Fellowship) was formed after a seminar was organised by single Christians at Maitland to bring together Christian singles leadership Australia wide.

This interdenominational group was formed to provide an opportunity for the leadership teams of Christian single groups to meet together and work towards a common vision—to see lives restored to wholeness and people won to Christ through a healing, nurturing singles ministry.

ACSF members in Newcastle, NSW, meet every month to encourage unity between Christian singles groups in the area and to organise such special activities as combined singles nights, seminars and camps and to foster more group interaction.

It is hoped that through the formation of regional ACSF groups a united vision for singles ministry will be developed Australia wide.

The aim of ACSF is to support and encourage Christian singles groups so they can provide more than a "prop" to lonely single people and to further develop singles ministries in churches.

ACSF has designed a Singles Leadership Pack for people who desire to start new singles ministries to encourage

these groups to have a united vision and a firm foundation.

Based on a collection of written experiences by the ACSF team, the pack contains an outline of how to establish singles groups and testimonies by singles group leaders on what to expect when organising ACSF groups. Scriptural guidelines are also given for ministers to help establish singles as "whole" people.

Part of the vision has been CSF (Christian Singles Fellowship). This correspondence network provides a means for isolated single Christians to have fellowship with other singles Australia wide. CSF also has overseas members in Fiji, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Burma and the Solomon Islands.

ACSF also aims to organise annual conferences for singles leadership as a forum for liaison, discussion, development of skills and dissemination of material.

For more information about the Australian Christian Singles Fellowship, the Leadership Pack or CSF contact Fran Pearce, Wallaringa Road, Wallarobba 2420 (phone 049) 95 6151 (AH), or Betty Holt, PO Box 411, Mayfield 2304.

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• Investing in the future of Withcott

40 Grand Please

At the monthly board meeting of the Withcott, Qld, church on 8 April, Rona Hickin, treasurer, said existing funds amounted to \$31,000. This was the exact amount for the new car park and road widening required by the Gatton Shire Council.

The reality was that by the end of April we would have no money. Therefore, I asked the board's permission if they would trust me to motivate the congregation to give as they had never done before. Permission was given.

That night I was so excited by the future prospects of the church I slept very little. Come morning, the figure of \$40,000 seemed to be the amount the church needed: \$5,000 for a new PA system, \$15,000 to complete our multipurpose building and \$20,000 towards employing an associate minister in 1992.

On 14 April I shared my vision for the future with the congregation and asked if the congregation would give \$40,000 the following Sunday. Yes, 40 grand, in one week's time.

There was a mixed reaction in the congregation. I saw the blood drain from the faces of a few people as the challenge was presented, but overall the response (as it normally is at Withcott) was positive and encouraging. Would it happen? Could a congregation of 125 members with an average attendance of 150 find \$40,000 in one week?

L. C. F. Higgins

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The following Sunday (21 April) saw 175 in attendance. Everyone was present! The sick dragged themselves to see what would happen.

During the service I shared the following four testimonies before the collection was taken:

- An unchurched friend of mine had rung me at say he would donate \$5,000 to our offering. (God works in mysterious ways.)

- A member woke up at 4 am one morning and drove to my home and placed \$5,000 (in cash) in my hand for the future needs of the church.

- An unemployed couple contributed \$1,000 with the prayer that the church would continue to grow.

- My commitment of \$1,100 (if you struggle with this being made public please read 1 Chronicles 29:1-9 and Acts 4:36-37). If I was to lead it had to be by example.

The offering was then collected and was \$29,354.75.

[During the week before Steve had been asked if he'd be disappointed by a sum less than \$40,000. He shared with the congregation, "What minister in his right mind, wouldn't be thrilled with receiving an offering of \$20,000 plus in one day."]

After the announcement a song of thanksgiving and invitation was sung. Three young people—Kim Shaw and Jaime and Tracey Porter—came forward to commit their lives to Jesus. This was more to rejoice about than any sum of money.

What a magnificent day! We at Withcott saw the visible evidence of the Spirit of God at work in our lives and we thank God for provision to meet the future needs of the church

—Steve Fahey

• This article first appeared in The Christian Echo. Since then Graeme Scott, currently ministering at Caloundra, Qld, has agreed to join the ministry team as the associate minister in January 1992.

• New church

Callala Bay Beginnings

The Nowra, NSW, church commenced a new church at Callala Bay, on the NSW South Coast, on Christmas Day 1990.

Services are held every Sunday morning with an average of 20 attending. A special family service last month saw 48 attending. Peter DeWildt is ministering to the church.

The Sunday School has 20 enrolled, a weekly craft group has 10 ladies meeting and an "umbrella" care group visits the Culburra Nursing Home.

A ladies KYB group meets and a weekly night Bible study group is studying Ephesians. "Christians under Construction" is the theme.

The minister is sharing his ministry with Nowra for 1991 as they await the full-time ministry of Clinton Wardle in 1992.

We would value your prayers as next year the subsidy we receive will be reduced

and Peter DeWildt will have to have a tent-maker ministry. A defacto couple attending the church have booked their wedding day and several people have enquired about baptism.

Visiting Brisbane?

Come and worship in the Ewers Chapel at Kenmore Christian College with Kenmore Church of Christ at 41 Brookfield Road, Kenmore
10 am Sundays
8 am Good Friday and Christmas Day

Telephone Pastor Grant Spangenberg
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Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Women in Ministry—Again

To the Editor,

The role of women in ministry is a rather tired issue but it still appears to be troubling some ("AC" 8 June). Taking the New Testament in its entirety, the inescapable conclusion is that the Great Commission to "go...teach...baptise" (Matthew 28:19) applies to all Christians irrespective of gender.

As to authority, any woman who teaches the Word of God faithfully does not exercise authority over men in doing so. The authority is in the Word itself and ultimately in the Lord.

The women referred to in 1 Timothy 2:12 did not have the NT corpus available to them and the context suggests they were ignorant. Paul's concern here, as elsewhere, was in establishing true testimony through credible witnesses. Timothy himself was "authorised" by Paul for ministry (2 Timothy 1:6) and there were special contemporary problems in allowing women to preach.

Those circumstances no longer apply and we now have the Apostle's teaching in the New Testament, which is the basis of our authority. By denying the right of qualified women to teach we may be acting in contempt of the Apostle's real intention.

—Harold E. Hayward
(Berowra, NSW)

"Motherhood Of God"

To the Editor,

I quite agree with A. Barron ("AC" 25 May) that nowhere in the Bible are we enjoined to address God as "mother". But

neither do we find the doctrine of the "Holy Trinity" spelt out in the Scriptures.

We are enjoined to "search the scriptures" and as our founding father Alexander Campbell pointed out in his *Declaration and Address*, Christians are often required to exercise their God-given powers of reasoning and logic in order to "rightly divine the Word of Truth".

It is refreshing to find at least one of our number (J. Ludbrook, "AC" 8 June) finds it appropriate to adopt Campbell's maxim in his search for divine truth.

—Marj Buckingham
(Caulfield, Vic)

Worship Sameness

To the Editor,

Thank you Ronald W. Graham ("AC" 25 May) for raising issues that have long caused me to wonder about the flatness or sameness of so much that goes for worship. Your article should be read and re-read by all members.

The quote by William Temple is a gem and one I have cherished since college days.

All over Australia one is struck by the very subjective, repetitive choruses used at great loss to the brilliant words that have so much meaning in hymnals. That is not to say that every chorus is subjective as some are useful and helpful. Over years I have enjoyed and appreciated SCM hymnbooks and chorus books, but not at the expense of meaning found in hymnbooks.

Undoubtedly many words of Wesley and others were to tunes that belonged to the people of that time, but the words had relevancy and meaning and still do.

Recently I heard a young lady state in a conference interstate that, in effect, older people no longer counted in the church. Thank God that he does not say or think so—we are all his children!

As I worship I try to think of God and to share that same God with his people, who are like and unlike me, but still we all need what he has to offer us, and we may respond in various ways. But the need is to worship, like Temple suggested.

—Bruce Burn
(Morwell, Vic)

Tradition versus Contemporary

To the Editor,

In reply to A.E. Boettcher ("AC" 8 June)—please stop making unbiblical and self-centred statements about what God is doing in the church today.

We only have to look to the Bible to get guidance on how we should worship. It is a shame that his eyes cannot read the screen in church.

Perhaps those who like the status quo of 1891 (not 1991) should read Psalms 98, 47 and 149 and Isaiah 55.

We are supposed to be the light of the world. I cannot think of anything more attractive than a church full of alive people having a great time and worshipping God with new songs.

What a ridiculous comment A.E. Boettcher makes complaining about the new younger people taking over and running the church.

Unless of course he wants dead people to take over the church. Now that would save a few arguments about worship in the church.

—A. Vigners
(Canberra, ACT)

Letters from Tertius

Enthusiasm

To the Editor,

The editor of our little church paper gets syndicated quotes to act as fillers between the news items. I'm not sure that the one she used last Sunday was particularly appropriate as we are in the middle of a campaign to raise funds for alterations to our church hall. The quote was, "More churches die from lack of enthusiasm than from lack of money."

I don't know how much research the anonymous author put into such a proposition, but I do know that in our church we could do with a bit more enthusiasm.

Our minister does his best with lively sermons, bands, pop choruses and interviews with dynamic people; and the services are growing. But pathetic pleas from church paper and pulpit for volunteers for this and that seem to indicate diminishing enthusiasm.

The young people reckon that they are bored with church...but they are bored with everything! When I was their age the only use of the word "boring" was in connection with well-digging. I'd never heard of people being bored, not even in old-fashioned, traditional, same-thing-every-Sunday church services.

Then I began to wonder if modern kids are bored with church because some of us older ones don't show a lot of enthusiasm for it and excitement about it ourselves.

But what to do? I don't think that whipped-up enthusiasm or contrived excitement or self-induced spiritual whoopee are the answer.

Maybe we'd all better go to church one Sunday night and go down to the front (like we expect sinners to do) and get ourselves converted again.

Yours phlegmatically,
Tertius

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Letters to the Editor

Attention Rotarians

To the Editor

Several years ago, Rotary International through its IPAC program subscribed approximately \$6,500 to an irrigation demonstration project in India in an area notorious for its unpredictable and sometimes non-existent rainfall. This project was situated in Baramati, in Maharashtra State, and the funds provided gave impetus to the adoption and use of extremely efficient irrigation systems throughout the state and beyond, achieving significant water economy and increased production. Wives of Rotarians through Inner Wheel also gave significant support to this project.

The Baramati Agricultural Development Trust was the primary beneficiary but the people of drought-prone areas are the ultimate beneficiaries.

This Trust is supported by our Overseas Mission Board and two of its trustees are Edna Vawser and Hazel Skuce.

The purpose of this letter is to seek the attention of Christian Rotarians and their wives around Australia to another project directed towards the Baramati Trust (IPAC project 63A, 1990-91). This project is aimed at providing courses covering a range of agricultural, secondary and cottage industries, in development of trade, production, management and marketing skills, so improving employment opportunities for people in a rural setting.

Perhaps Rotarian readers may encourage their clubs' international committees to consider supporting this project, with confidence that all funds are effectively administered.

—Laurie Stafford
(Mildura, Vic)

Traditional versus Contemporary Worship

To the Editor,

We are almost reluctant to reply to someone with the credentials of Ron Graham, but some of the statements of his article ("AC" 25 May) concerned us greatly. His biased, often demeaning comments on contemporary worship and, in particular, choruses highlighted a "for" and "against" mentality which unfortunately is alive and well in Churches of Christ.

We were sorry it was written in such an emotive, divisive style which detracted from any legitimate comment. Readers immediately knew which side of the fence they were on. While A.E. Boettcher applauded Ron

Graham, we were among those who wanted to protest.

We feel for people whose traditional services have been changed to contemporary against their wishes, but shouldn't the needs of "others" also be considered?

In their teens our children considered the Tribulation was a weekly event, 11-12 on Sundays, yet loved to go to charismatic/Pentecostal services (twice as long, too!).

They, like many young or new Christians, and some of us others, find much of the traditional services as uninspiring as people such as A.E. Boettcher and those mentioned by Ron Graham find contemporary services. Sadly, too many churches are doggedly one or the other and show a lack of love in their determination. While moving to a more "suitable" church is one answer it's not always practicable. As a family we made up for the lack we felt by also attending other churches, conventions etc.—worth ever kilometre we have travelled.

Finally, we're sorry Ron Graham stooped to describe repetition of choruses as "no better than mindlessly fingering rosary beads".

We have just returned from a Pentecostal service (which included hymns). Once again the joy of raising hands in worship, clapping in praise and adoring God in tongues was so gloriously worshipful for us that it almost defied description. And it made that statement very offensive.

—Kaye and Reg Wray
(Owen, SA)

Readers' Experiences Sought

To the Editor,

I seek the active help of your readers, again, for a program I shall be assembling in July.

It will probably be called: "Thrown to the Emus".

One can't help but notice that if Muslims or other minority religious groups in this country come under attack there's concern expressed by most Australians and a will that it should not happen again. Com-

ics tend not to tell anti-Islam or anti-Hindu jokes. But Christianity, its beliefs and its churches seem to be fair game—the butt of jokes and insults alike.

The Korean delegates to the World Council of Churches spoke of feeling alienated in their own culture because of their Christian faith. How much is that also true of Australia?

I'd like to hear from readers who've been harassed or disadvantaged in the work place; clergy, deaconesses and others who've felt stereotyped and hampered in the general community, and/or put upon by insecure congregational members displacing their own anxiety about the Australian milieu; chaplains who've had to be ten times better than the other professionals for the same results; groups who've been dismissed by politicians or newspapers; anyone who's had to "hide" religious affiliation and passion and from those who've heard too many "wowser" jokes and seen too many Easter Bunnies. And anyone else with an angle on this existential issue—how much, for instance, is any alienation the churches' fault?

Ring me at (03) 640 3269 at anytime. The answer machine runs all night. Callers beyond Victoria can reach me for the cost of a local call by ringing local ABC switchboards. But ring soon. I'd like to get started.

—Kay McLennan
(ABC Religious Broadcasting)

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Mrs J. Quartel (03) 898 6493, or Professor Allan Day (03) 817 4398.

Letters to the Editor

Gender Benders

To the Editor,

One of the World Council of Churches services at Canberra was televised and was according to the Lima Liturgy with a lady preacher who thundered forth as good as any male evangelist. You can imagine the shock waves that went through our sitting room when she thundered in conclusion to instant applause, "When She the Holy Spirit is come etc.!" and again repeated, "When She the Holy Spirit is come!" My question is what do these gender benders try to prove with a deliberate distortion of Scripture, e.g. John 16:8, 13? The Trinity has always been masculine gender. And the order of creation with regards to male and female will stand to the end of God's time, because he has declared "heaven and earth will pass away but my words shall never pass away".

In Adelaide one gender bender exceeded all bounds of the ridiculous. New to a ladies' college, previously LMC, as chaplain he introduced the Lord's Prayer, "Our Mother, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name". Front page news in *The Advertiser*. It created a furore.

From what James Murray, Religion Editor, said in *The Australian* about the Canberra experience, virtually thumbs down, our representatives can well be more vocal and lodge a few protests. Did any of our representatives lodge a protest at the Lima heresy?

—Arnold Caldicott
(Blackwood, SA)

Contemporary Worship

To the Editor,

Ron Graham and A.E. Boettcher argue for the status quo to continue in the musical side of our worship services. It is natural for the older folk to enjoy what they know best. The hymns they enjoy singing are good but time marches on and with it brings change. It is natural for the next generation to enjoy the music of their age. The new choruses and hymns reflect the change in the style of music and also the needs of this

generation—surely young and old appreciate the acute needs we have today.

I believe the contemporary choruses and hymns are calling us into a deeper personal relationship with Jesus. Many of the old hymns are great doctrinal statements of the faith and some of those hymns will be kept by this generation. But the contemporary injects what is lacking in our church today—a personal relationship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Another benefit of the contemporary is the greater expression of joy. This generation is far more open and expressive in lots of ways and this is certainly being seen in our Sunday services, and as a preacher I say, "Praise God for that!" But I quickly add I respect those who do not wish to openly express their joy and adoration with clapping and raising hands etc. So let me say surely the two can happily come together in love and tolerance. Let me also hasten to add East Ipswich isn't a "happy, clappy pew jumping" congregation—despite what A.E. Boettcher intimidated. But we are a loving, joyful and fun church to join. For we are trying to be a church that attracts the outsiders of this generation.

—Norm Flett
(East Ipswich, Qld)

Ray McKenzie's Travels

To the Editor,

I'm not sure if this would fit into one of the categories in *The Australian Christian*, but if it can I thought it might raise a few smiles.

Dad (Ray McKenzie) finally retired from ITIM and with his wife Jose has left for an eight-month holiday to England on the *Achille Lauro*. Dad being an ex-Navy man was really looking forward to the cruise.

The following excerpts from their letters brought a smile to my face.

Letter from Dad (23 May): "Seas still very smooth, weather hot. Food is excellent and a wide choice."

Letter from Jose (26 May): "Spent the last 48 hours flat on

our backs praying for calm seas—living off dry bread and water. Mountainous waves—everything flies off the dressing table!"

They have arrived safely in Essex, England, and are staying with Jose's sister and having a great time.

—Fran Peters

[Ray McKenzie recently retired after 15 years of service as an ITIM chaplain. He was involved in chaplaincy at Yazaki, Philip Morris, ACI Fibreglass and BHP and was also involved in the education of fellow industrial chaplains. Before his appointment with ITIM he was Director of Christian Education for the Vic-Tas Conference.]

Assistance Sought

To the Editor,

Over the past year I have had the pleasant experience of acting as amanuensis for Eric Hollar of Glenelg, SA, one of our well-known retired pastors, as he completed his autobiography. This colourful character and much-travelled raconteur has written a racy account of his (almost) 80-year pilgrimage—in particular his long life in the ministry. Eric's story spans many generations, and includes his association with many of the great names in Churches of Christ.

How he came to enter the ministry in the first place, memories of those who encouraged and inspired him and all that helped keep him there—all these are documented in a lively and interesting manner. Assisted by his wife, the loyal and indefatigable Fern, Eric has overcome many a hurdle, including the loss of his leg, to shake his fist in the face of self-pity and frustration to say in the title of his book *I'd Do it Again!*

It would be great if it were possible to publish this impressive story of a Churches of Christ pastor who well deserves the appellation "little Aussie battler". The title of his story sums up his life-long energetic attitude to the work of the ministry, and the secret of his successes.

Inquiries I have made into

having this manuscript published for the enjoyment and edification of all seem to indicate it is not financially viable. It would seem a great pity, particularly as the gentleman reaches the milestone of 80 years in November this year, that the wherewithal (approximately \$4,000) could not be found to enable us all to have our own copy of this valuable book. Just a thought!

—Helen Oatley
(c/o PO, Milang 5256)

Blasphemy

To the Editor,

Where are the denominational leaders? There have been two recent occasions of the blasphemous use of God's name but no public response from the churches. Perhaps the church leaders have criticised privately as I have done to the Prime Minister. Could we be told of this?

Mr Hawke called on the Christian church only, and not the heathen worshippers in this atheistic nation, to support the Aborigines that they might be able to continue worshipping the god "Bula". The Old Testament tells how strongly God defended his name being linked to idol worship. He withholds judgement at present to allow people to repent and accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

Secondly, *The Age* in Melbourne linked God's name to that of Gary Ablett. Maybe Gary is the apple of the Geelong supporters' eyes but he is not God. I have complained to the editor asking that such blasphemous use of God's name does not occur in the future.

Again no obvious complaint from church leaders. Where are they—hiding under a bushel?

—E.M. Brough
(Kerang, Vic)

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Letters the Editor

Developing Small Churches

To the Editor

I found it interesting to compare Bob Smith's approach to developing a small church (Pamphlet Club 374 in "AC" 8 June) with the ideas offered by Dr Kennon Callahan at a recent seminar in Adelaide. They obviously represent two schools of thought.

Bob Smith seems to place his faith in an exceptional, energetic, entrepreneurial minister who has the ability to draw people to him/herself with the hope that this newly formed group will integrate into an existing congregation.

Callahan's approach is one of motivating the local church at a grass roots level to become an effective church. His advice is that "the antidote to despair is mission (a purpose)—not success and growth...the motivation is to serve, not to survive". A minister who leads church members to discover the joy of serving the Lord through one community recognised mission-oriented activity that meets a human hurt or hope, and develops the strengths of the church in such areas as worship, small groups and visitation will see their small church being to grow.

In seeking their next minister, local churches need to decide which plan of development is most appropriate in their situation. The Bible will give them some clues on God's role and purpose for his church.

—Keith Ridge
(Hampstead Gardens, SA)

Mother Attributes and God

To the Editor,

Does God have mother attributes? The answer is no. But mothers do have God's attributes, for God is love.

In Genesis 1:1-3 we have the Trinity "three in one and one in three".

God the Father in verse 1, God the Spirit in verse 2 and God the Son in verse 3 and God said—"Christ the spoken word" (John 1:1 and Hebrews 11:3) The Godhead in Christ (Colossians 2:9). God manifest

in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16). There is the unity of God (Exodus 20:3-7, Deuteronomy 6:4 and 5), the distinction of persons in the Godhead. (Matthew 28:19, John 14:16 and 17, 2 Corinthians 13:14) The plural noun, "Elohim" (God) with a singular verb, "bara" (created) in Genesis 1:1.

The expression "let us make" (Genesis 1:26).

The priestly benediction in Numbers 6 24:27.

The formula of baptism in Matthew 28:19.

The apostolic benediction (2 Corinthians 13 and 14).

Can we not accept that there is no reference in scripture for a woman to think of herself more high than she ought (1 Timothy 2:13-15, 1 Timothy 3:16).

There are some mistaken sources of the idea of God as many past religions have worshipped a female god. The Bible never seeks to prove the existence or gender of God any more than an author in writing a book seeks to prove his own existence. The very fact of writing this material you will believe I exist. The Bible is written on the this very assumption that it is proof in and of itself that God exists.

Men under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (God) wrote the books of the Bible. It is God's word. The word became flesh (Jesus) and dwelt among us. (1 John 1:1-5)

The apostles heard, saw with their own eyes, and their hands handled Jesus.

We are all in the world, but the church has been called out of the world. What is the New Testament organisation of the church? Election or appointment of officers? In New Testament times the terms elders and bishop represent one office. (Acts 20:17 and 28, Philippians 1:1, 1 Timothy 3 1 and 8, Titus 1:5 and 7. 1 Peter 5:1).

In post-apostolic times and in later church history the elder and bishop represented two distinct offices, the latter being the higher. Bishop in Greek means an overseer, the word elder in the Greek means one of adult years possessing experience and counsel. The appoint-

ment of deacons was about 33 AD (Acts 6:1-6), the appointment of elders was about 45 AD (Acts 11:30), the appointment of deaconess (Philippians 4:3 and Romans 16:1).

The gifts of Christ were apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers and pastors. Qualifications of bishops and deacons (1 Timothy 3:11-13, 1 Timothy 5:17-20). By an appointment a deaconess cannot claim to be a bishop, elder, deacon, evangelist or minister as the word deacon (male) means "minister" or "helper".

Approximately a century ago women were needed and accepted in the workforce. The munitions, army, navy, air force, hospitals etc. The ones who have been suffering for this turn of events have been the children. Lack of discipline and direction by mother in the home, many children left in the care of relations, friends and kindergartens. I beg the question, is the world coming back into the church? Do women have more of the attributes of God than men because they are female? In the church women are to be in subjection to men, they each have a God given role. The last days will see this departure from the faith.

—H.L. Pietzsch
(Hurstbridge, Vic)

Abstinence Debate

To the Editor,

I have read with interest the debate on complete abstinence in Churches of Christ. Surely this is in contradiction to our creed, "Where the Bible speaks,

we speak—where the Bible is silent, we are silent."

How would the "complete abstainers" judge the Lord Jesus Christ? His first miracle was turning water into wine! It was judged to be the best wine too, not grape juice.

The Passover Festival (a model of our communion) had alcoholic wine—ask any Jew. Because of a need to know, I once asked a Jewish rabbi what kind of wine they used. His reply was, "The same as we have used for thousands of years—naturally fermented wine!"

There can be no additives of any kind to the fresh grape juice otherwise it is unacceptable for the Passover. Alcoholic? Sure is!"

It was alcoholic because the grape harvest was in autumn and the Passover in spring.

The sin is not in the "use" of alcohol but in the "abuse" of it. The Bible continually speaks out against the abuse but not against the sensible use.

I was brought up by my widowed father who was alcoholic and violent. I know full well the evils of abuse.

—Violet Phillips
(Wollongong, NSW)



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• **What can we do to help Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia?**

Africa in Crisis

World Vision has been at the forefront of responding to Africa's crisis, and will continue to keep Africa high on its priority list.

World Vision has worked in the Horn region since 1971, beginning its work in Ethiopia. The agency now has extensive relief and development work in southern Sudan, and was one of the primary agencies that responded to the **Somalian** refugee crisis in the early 1980s.

While World Vision is responding to the immediate relief needs of Ethiopians, Sudanese and Somalis, the aim is to move the work on to rehabilitation and development. World Vision firmly believes that relief, without continued assistance to help people move beyond a relief mode, is not only wasteful but also immoral.

Together with Norwegian People's Aid, World Vision is this year trucking 17,000 tonnes of food in to southern Sudan from neighbouring Kenya. Since 1988 25,000 have received lifesaving

food through this program and another 10,000 have received medical help. The relief phase merged into a rehabilitation and development phase as seeds and agricultural tools were made available and people around the town of Kapoeta, once a relief centre, began growing their own crops once again.

Further desperate areas of need have been found further north and funds from the 1991 **World Vision 40 Hour Famine** will help expand its program to include these areas.

Somali refugees are being helped with such items as milk, blankets and eating sets. World Vision will put \$130,000 towards a project that will renovate maternal and child health centres in Mogadishu and rural health posts. Needless deaths are occurring for the lack of basic medical facilities. More than 150,000 will benefit from the project.

World Vision's work in Ethiopia is widespread, including long-term development programs and child sponsorship

projects as well as relief needs. A trucking and warehousing centre in the north of the country has been ensuring the relief food pipeline has been kept open, despite a temporary halt due to the recent rebel offensive that overthrew the Mengistu regime. Relief food is also distributed in the south.

The long-term development projects have shown the amazing results that can be obtained when relief turns into development. The Ansokia and Omo valleys were dust bowls in the 1984-85 famine, and scenes of emergency feeding centres with tens of thousands of starving people desperately clamouring for food. Now both valleys are green and lush, with people able to plant and harvest enough food not only for them-



Starvation in the Sudan

stocks, but also to replenish seed stocks and even to sell at market.

World Vision will be assisting the thousands of refugees now on the move in the Horn region. The agency will be providing 500 tonnes of sorghum, 9,500 blankets and 2,500 10-person eating sets and have seconded a staff member to the UN to assist with the interagency response.

• **Australian evangelist going to Russia and the Ukraine**

Bill Newman Crusades for Soviet Union

Australian evangelist **Bill Newman** and his team will conduct major city-wide crusades in the Soviet Union in August and September.

Commencing with weekend evangelistic meetings at Moscow Baptist, the team will then fly to the Ukraine, where crusades are being organised in the cities of Zaporozhye, Lugansk and Melitopol by churches of the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of the Soviet Union. The team has been officially invited to the Soviet Union by the Baptist Union.

Different venues have been booked, including huge open-air sports stadiums, cultural centres and indoor youth sports stadiums.

The crusade team will comprise: **Bill Newman, Bill**

Thorburn (ministry to pastors), **Pat Morgan** (soloist), **Margaret Murray** (crusades co-ordinator) and **Peter Starchenko** (soloist). The Slavic Gospel Association is sending two of its workers to assist in interpretation: **Rev Dr Nicholai Porublev** and **Larissa Porublev**. Dr Porublev and his wife will remain in the Soviet Union for several weeks to assist in the work of follow up and to undertake further interpreting for well-known Bible teacher **Dr John McArthur**.

The Bible Society has undertaken to cover the cost of giving special crusade-edition New Testaments and follow-up material to enquirers, with printing of the material being done in the United Kingdom.

The crusade programs will include special rallies for school-

children, visits to maximum-security prisons, special meetings with teachers and educators, meetings with civic leaders, a ministry to pastors and church leaders, university rallies and daily evening evangelistic rallies. None of the three cities to be visited in the Ukraine has had major evangelistic meetings before.

Bill Newman and his team are looking forward to being in the Ukraine. The people are still suffering from the shock of the Chernobyl disaster, and are currently in the midst of critically severe economic depression. They are a people thirsty for truth and ready for the Gospel.

A Bill Newman Crusade will be held on the **Gold Coast, 20-28 July**, and following the Soviet Union crusades, the team will



Bill Newman

undertake crusades in **Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby and Lae)** in October and in **Sydney (Sutherland/St George)** in November.

Further information can be obtained from **Bill Newman Crusades, PO Box 195, Toowong 4066. Phone (07) 371 0750.**

• Paul Mortiz reports on Philippines volcano

Country in Turmoil

"Manila is in turmoil. Everything is covered in black ash. Outside the International Needs office the ash is two inches deep all over the main road and the typhoon is turning this to black mud." This was the voice of David Mortiz, son of Rev Paul Mortiz, Director of International Needs in the Philippines, when Paul phoned home to Manila. Paul Mortiz and his wife Jo are on study leave this year and spending it at Kingsley College, Melbourne.

Paul Mortiz went on to say: "It was a killer earthquake last year, but now it is a devastating volcano in the Philippines. I was reminded of that Monday, 16 July 1990, at 4.30 pm. I was in the office of International Needs, Philippines, in Quezon City, Metro Manila, when suddenly our building started to shake. It was so strong and I was alarmed. I shouted, "It's an earthquake." So we ran outside the building and while we stood on the street the shaking continued, electric poles swinging from left to right, lasting about 40 seconds. The result was that many buildings collapsed, including five big hotels, which were flattened to the ground with many people caught by surprise, thousands of lives being sacrificed.

"Now it is a devastating volcano, Mt Pinatubo. This volcano

has been asleep for about 600 years, and then suddenly it spews forth a fury of death, killing more than 100, and many more buried, unaccounted for. Even the Americans with all their modern equipment were caught by surprise. It forced them to evacuate and leave the area otherwise ashes would cover them alive. Thousands of evacuees fled to Manila and the suburbs, housed in schools, churches and other centres. In Marikina, where we live, the Rodriguez Sports Centre, a very large complex, has been used to shelter about 10,000 evacuees, all needing food, clothing, blankets, medical assistance, water and the Gospel. Our President, Cori Aquino, has appealed to all non-government organisations to help the evacuees in all their needs. Our team in Manila is doing their part, but they can only do so much. They can only give if they receive something. Therefore we are appealing to all of you with Good Samaritan hearts to help."

If you would like to respond to this request from Christians in the Philippines as they reach out with material aid as well as the Gospel to the evacuees, please contact International Needs, PO Box 121, Mitcham, 3132. (See the advertisement on page 16.)

All relief aid will be distrib-

uted personally by International Needs staff ensuring it reaches those who are really in need. All gifts are tax deductible.

Paul and Josuena Mortiz have in recent years been planting and overseeing house church fellowships in the suburbs of Manila. Through their ministry more than 10 churches have been established in the barrios, with over 400 members. Crusades, weekly radio broadcasts and literature outreach programs are undertaken.

Paul is an evangelist, church planter, radio broadcaster, Bible teacher and fine singer. Josuena, who holds a Bachelor of Theology, is studying for a Graduate Diploma in Pastoral Counselling. They have five adult children who are well known throughout the Philippines as a Christian singing group.

Outreach to children and their families is an important part of the ministry too and three areas of Manila have a child-sponsorship program. The mothers are also reached through the Dorcas sewing classes, Bible studies and other outreach programs.



Paul and Josuena Mortiz

In the next few weeks Paul and Jo will be speaking at the following Victorian Churches of Christ:

Burwood, 28 July, 10.30 am

Springvale, 4 August, 7 pm

Balwyn, 11 August, 11 am

Manifold Heights, 25 August, 10 am

Berwick, 1 September, 10 am.

• Witnessing in a Malaysian taxi

A Mosque Official

We came across the taxi outside a house in a squatters' camp on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, while visiting one of our own ministers. It was a good opportunity to get a ride back to the hotel. One look at the owner-driver indicated that this was no ordinary taxi driver. Conversation revealed that he was an orthodox Muslim and as a Mullah exercised a "tent-maker" ministry at a local mosque.

Questions came thick and fast. Where did we come from? How did we like Malaysia? Why were we here?

The fact that we were attending a seminar sponsored by Churches of Christ was not well received. It was pointed out to us the great number of mosques compared with the very few Christian chapels in the city. We felt happier talking about Australia, especially when asked how many mosques there are compared with Christian churches.

I had a problem. In a few minutes how could I get some Christian witness over to such an enthusiastic Muslim without starting a "holy war"? An Old Testament incident would probably

be a good place to start: "In your records do you have reference to a Holy Prophet by the name of Jonas (Jonah)?" I asked.

"Yes," he replied, "Jonas was forty days and forty nights inside a great fish and then came out alive."

"Our Holy Book also speaks about him," I said.

"Actually he was three days and nights inside the fish."

"You may be right" here replied.

As the taxi forced its way through the bedlam of traffic, I continued, "It is interesting what Jesus told us about Jonas. He said that the three days and nights that Jonas was inside the great fish were a picture of the fact that he himself would be

three days and nights in the grave and then come out alive again. The resurrection of the Lord Jesus is proof that he is the Son of God."

For the remaining few minutes of the journey we were berated by a torrent of Bahasa Malay. "Sorry we only speak English."

Later that day, from the window of our seventh-storey hotel room we recorded the plaintive cry of another Mullah rising in the evening air from a local mosque.

We wished we had the opportunity of telling him about Jesus risen from the dead and mighty to save.

—H. Colin Wheat

Media Review

Radio

Religious Broadcasts on ABC Radio

Following is a list of the religious programs broadcast on ABC Radio.

Prelude

Stephen Watkins

Guests talk about their spirituality and views on the world
Radio National, Sundays, 6-7 am

For the God Who Sings

Kay McLennan

ABC-FM Stereo, Sundays, 7.05-8 am

Encounter

Religious documentaries and features

Radio National, Sundays, 8-8.45 am

Also Radio National and ABC Regional Radio,
Wednesdays, 7.45-8.30 pm

Insights

Paul Collins

Insights into belief, spirituality and theology

Radio National, Sundays, 5.10-6 pm

Repeated Radio National, Mondays, 11-11.50 am

Sacred Music

Kay McLennan

Radio National, Sundays, 6-7 pm

Sunday Night Talk

John Cleary

Issues on belief and doubt

ABC Metropolitan and Regional Radio, Sundays,
10.10 pm-midnight.

The Search for Meaning

Caroline Jones

Caroline and her guests explore what is meaningful
and important for today's living

ABC Regional Radio, Thursdays, 8.30-9.30 pm

Radio National, Fridays, 11 am-noon

Repeated Radio National, Saturdays, 9-10 pm

Kronos

Alan Austin

Religious current affairs in Australia and around the world

Radio National, Fridays, 8.30-9 am

Repeated Radio National same day at 7.15 pm

Daybreak

Pru Goward and Warwick Adderley

Radio National's new breakfast program includes items
from ABC Religious Radio

Radio National, Mondays to Fridays, 6-8.30 am

Late Night Live

Phillip Adams

This program on current issues and events occasionally
includes items from ABC Religious Radio

Radio National, Mondays to Thursdays, 10.10-11.10 pm

Books

Disciplines of the Home

by Anne Ortlund (Word Books) \$10.50

As I read through this new release, I was very challenged about family life today in this busy world. We talk and read so much about our children having peer pressure. I feel that this comes out strongly in this book for adults/parents to take check of their own values in life. Along with this, the point is made about just how much they also are being influenced by the peer pressure of the world and others.

The author clearly emphasises through each chapter the stress that actually hinders relationships in family life. You will be taken through what she calls drastic do's and don'ts of reshaping family life before anything drastic happens causing a family breakdown—such areas as teaching respect, values, rediscovering discipline and being there. These aspects are backed up by a beautiful chapter on "Do Believe God" in which Anne brings out the need to turn from fears to faith. In the final two chapters Anne Ortlund brings a challenge to you personally. She brings out the concept of God being at work in everything. Do you believe that? I found as I read the last chapter that I was drawn to thinking of my own life and my own family in the today, yesterday and forever. You are encouraged to recap the book and ask the Lord's guidance in your life and to take a new direction for both yourself and your family. Take time to read this book! You'll be blessed and grow in the Lord!

—Berniece Hicks

The Kingdom of God Is a Party

by Tony Campolo (Word Publishing) \$10.50

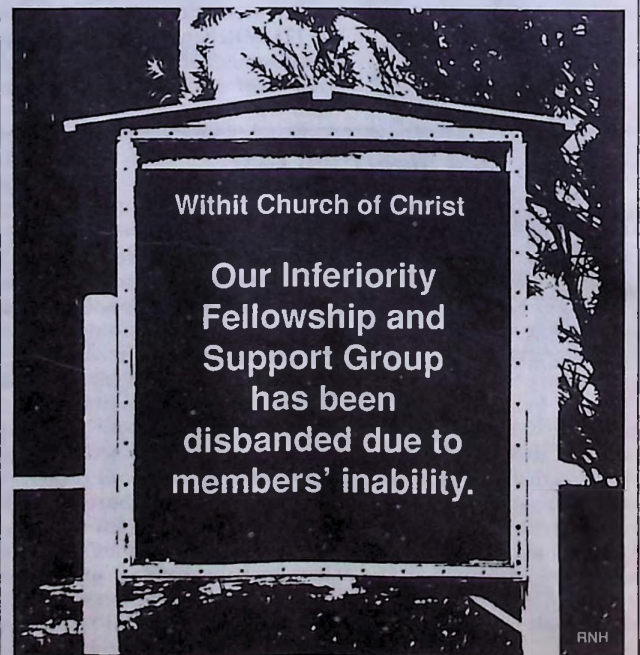
After an entertaining story about how he gave a birthday party for a prostitute at 3.30 in the morning in Honolulu, Tony Campolo states that: "Our Jesus was and is the Lord of the party. This book is an attempt to make that point blatantly clear. It is an attempt to highlight an often-forgotten dimension of what Christianity is all about: The Kingdom of God is a party!"

Apart from using the example of Jesus, Tony Campolo, a sociologist and currently one of the leading US Christian apologists, argues that Deuteronomy 14:22-29 instructs the Jews to use the tithe fund for a gigantic celebration. The question that then comes up is: Who is invited to the party? The answer from Tony Campolo is that all are invited and that this invitation is particularly good news for the poor and the oppressed.

He argues for turning the church into a party atmosphere and thus attracting people to God rather than turning them away from faith. He also warns about the false attraction of the world.

An excellent, easily read book that gives a different approach that should be very seriously considered and celebrated.

—CRA



Happenings

An unusual Scripture publication in Tibetan was released recently by the Bible Society of Nepal. The publication, comprising the books of Exodus and Esther, is part of a project working on translating the whole Old Testament. Exodus and Esther both deal with the fortunes of people in exile. It is hoped that Tibetans in exile in India and Nepal who receive these Scriptures will discover how God cares for his people even in times of hardship and trouble.

Baby Baby, the single from Amy Grant's latest album, *Heart in Motion*, has emulated its American success by making No. 1 in New Zealand. Another Christian artist, Grant's friend Michael W. Smith, has also gained airplay and success with *Place in This World*, the first single from his latest album, *Go West Young Man*. The single has made the Top 40 in the US and is already receiving limited airplay in New Zealand.

After 6 years of debate, a law that will permit the ordination of Church of England members who have divorced and remarried or who married divorcees will be passed later this year.

Alcohol and other drug abuse kills 26,000 Australians each year. Over 25,000 of them are the victims of alcohol and tobacco. In the face of these appalling statistics, DRUG-ARM (Qld Drug Awareness and Relief Movement) is calling for a day of prayer 21 July to focus on victims of drug abuse and those who work to make things better.

In what will be one of the largest mailings in history, the Church of Christ plans to send a comic-book-style religious pamphlet to every US household that has a mail service. The pamphlets, which present Jesus Christ as the answer to the world's social ills, will be mailed in the first week of July. Horace Burks, a church member and businessman, conceived the project,

called "One Nation under God" in 1989.

A 14-person delegation composed of leaders from 7 mainline churches and church organisations in Taiwan visited churches in mainland China 25 April-7 May. Under the invitation of the China Christian Council, the church group was said to be the first official visit of Taiwan Christian churches since 1949 when the Communists took over mainland China.

Over the last 6 years Amity Foundation, a Chinese social service initiated by Chinese Christians, has supported more than 70 projects in 18 provinces in the People's Republic of China. The number of Amity foreign language teachers has grown from 22 to 71, over 2 million Bibles have been printed by the Amity Printing Press, and more than \$US1 million has been spent on health, education, social service and development initiatives.

On May 14 Joan Brown Campbell was installed as the 7th General Secretary of the National Council of Churches. A Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister, she is the first ordained woman to serve as NCC secretary.

29 June will be the bicentennial observation of the Cane Ridge Meeting House Shrine. On that day there will be a special observation when a presentation of the story of the historic blue ash log church in Cane Ridge, Kentucky, will occur.

5 weeks after its launch at the end of April, the ACC's Gulf Appeal had raised \$250,000. This is one of the best and fastest responses ever to an ACC appeal. It followed a request from the Middle East Council of Churches, which is co-ordinating a range of rehabilitation efforts in areas affected by the Gulf War, including but not limited to the Kurdish refugees.

Courses on religious studies, designed as part of the Tasmanian Council of Churches' theological education program, have been approved by the State Government for teaching in the TAFE system. The syllabus for a Certificate in Religious Studies (Christianity) and an Advanced Certificate in Religious Studies (Applied Christianity) will be available for teaching in all Tasmanian TAFE colleges from 1992.

Religion is to be a recognised and assessable subject in South Australian secondary schools for the first time next year, as part of the new matriculation level SA Certificate of Education. The Studies in Religion course has been designed by the Catholic Education Office, the State Education Department and Catholic schools and will be offered to Years 11 and 12.

In Brisbane work is proceeding on the formation of a new ecumenical council in Queensland that would include the Roman Catholic Church as a full member. The new body is expected to take the place of one of the two existing councils—the Queensland Ecumenical Council of Churches (affiliated with the ACC) and the Queensland Council of Churches—neither of which includes the Catholic Church.

Representatives of 11 Christian parties in Poland have decided to work together to form a Christian election alliance in view of the intensifying aggression of secular left-wing forces in relation to Christian values.

For the second successive year a video featuring the work of the Bible Society has won an international award at the Worldfest-Houston, the International Film and Video Festival. The silver award went to the video "The Challenge of India", based on the massive illiteracy problem in India and the Bible Society's role in helping to pro-

vide literacy material for some of India's 600 million illiterate people.

Bulgarian Baptists held their first congress for over 40 years on 4-5 May in Sofia. When the old regime collapsed at the end of 1989 there were 9 Baptist churches with 850 members. Now there are 26 churches and groups with 1,350 members.

The international Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need has supplied a "chapel truck" to the Catholic Church in Czechoslovakia. The truck, containing a chapel with a library and video equipment and accommodation for 2 priests, will serve small Catholic communities in the border regions of Bohemia where many churches have been destroyed.

More than 300 Christians are now living as refugees in the compound of a church in the southern Mexico state capital of Oaxaca, after a violent mid-April assault by people hostile to the presence of evangelical Protestants in their village.

Nearly 125,000 attended the 24th German Protestant Kirchentag (church festival) 5-9 June. The Kirchentag, whose events were dispersed over 4 cities in the Ruhr region was the first since the reunification of Germany.

Radio "Radonezh", the first independent Russian Orthodox radio service, started broadcasting from Moscow in May. The broadcast, which will initially be for two hours four times a week, will include material on the history and current life of the Russian Orthodox church, church-related news, music and commentary.

A Small Groups Seminar is being conducted by Serendipity Christian Resources for the ACT Conference of Churches of Christ over the weekend 2-4 August. Details from the Conference office on (06) 247 7214.

The Governor-General, Bill Hayden, recently opened what is claimed to be Australia's largest Christian building, the new Wesley Centre in Sydney at 220 Pitt Street. The Wesley Mission (previously the Central Methodist Mission) has been on the Pitt Street site since 1905. The new building consists of a church, two theatres and a restaurant.

In Indonesia Arswendo Afmowiloto, former editor of the *Monitor* newspaper, has been sentenced to 5 years in prison for blaspheming Islam by publishing a poll rating the Prophet Muhammad 11th among 50 public figures.

The Billy Graham Moscow School of Evangelism is to be held in the Central Sports Complex, 8-13 July, the first ever such event to be held in the USSR. 4,500-5,000 pastors and lay leaders from all denominations in the Soviet Union are expected to attend.

The first visit of Pope John Paul II to the Soviet Union, planned for 1992 or 1993, might be a short "symbolic" visit to Moscow, Siberia and Kazakhstan. Preparations for a visit to include Ukraine and Lithuania would probably take much longer. The Pope was invited to visit the Soviet Union by President Gorbachev when he visited the Vatican in December 1989.

"The World at Our Door" is the title of this year's Scripture Union Victoria's Training Day. It is being held on 27 July at the Hawthorn Institute of Education, 442 Auburn Road, Hawthorn, with David Clayton, Federal Secretary of the Church Missionary Society, as the keynote speaker. More than 60 electives are being offered on the day, which starts at 8.45 am. For brochures, further details and registration contact SU Victoria, 393 Smith St, Fitzroy 3065, or phone (03) 417 7159.

Classifieds

80TH BIRTHDAY

PETERSEN Congratulations to Elna on her 80th birthday, 18 July. She has served the Lord well and taught Sunday School for 56 years. God bless.

ENGAGEMENTS

BOBADILLA—PORTER Nancy and Bill with both families' blessings are pleased to announce their engagement 5 July 1991.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

CUNNINGHAM—WILLIAMS Addie and Claude give thanks to God for 50 years of happiness together. Married at Kaniva Church of Christ on 8.7.41 by A.B. Withers. Now residing at 27 Hastings Ave., Sellicks Beach, SA.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

JENNER, Alf and Jane, Golden Age Village, 60 Ridgeway Avenue, Southport, Queensland. Married 2 July 1932, at Rosewood chapel. Your family love and congratulate you, and thank God for you.

DEATHS

CHISWELL Arthur Charles, at St Arnaud Hospital on 22 June 1991, in his 80th year. Loving husband and mate of Florence for 51 years. Loved father of Mervyn, Colin, Norma, Janice, Garry and John. Fond father-in-law of June, Glenys, Robert, Kerry, Jenny and Robyn. 18 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. His deepest faith and outlook on life inspired all who knew him.

CHISWELL Arthur Charles. Eldest son of the late Charles and Maude (both dec.) from Bet Bet. Loved brother of Ada (Cave), Bert, Ernie and Phyllis (Burchell). Brother-in-law of Horace (dec.), Dorothy, Esma and Ken.

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We will be having our **CENTENARY CELEBRATION** on the Labour Day Weekend in 1992 and we are looking forward to it with great excitement and anticipation. We believe that the 1990s will be a time when God will do great things with his church in Colac and we would love you to share it with us.

Our celebration planning committee is anxious to be in contact with all former worshippers so as to invite them to Colac over the weekend of 6-8 March.

"FAITH WORKING THROUGH LOVE"

Galatians 5:6



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Secretary
 Anne Box
 10 Batson
 Crescent
 Elliminyt 3251
 (052) 32 1804

Please send slip along with any other relevant information to either of the addresses at left.

Do you have any photographs that you feel could help in our Centenary Celebrations?

Yes No

Name

Present Address

Testimony

• *Jim Collett's extraordinary ministry*

A Man and His Mission

by Peter Philp

Jim Collett wanted to step back into history for one day. To return to that place in which God had thrust him to carry out an extraordinary ministry. But in retracing his steps, Jim was confronted with memories of many human tragedies.

89-year-old Jim Collett of Prahran, Vic, revisited Melbourne Citymission's North Melbourne Centre where he had served as manager over three decades.

Jim Collett is a small, quiet and gentle man who suddenly found himself embroiled in the lives of broken people who had lost their families, dignity and a purpose to live.

The most tragic memory that haunts Jim concerns his close friend Michael, a man ordained into the ministry, who later became a psychiatrist but crashed in both callings because of drink. Michael lost his family and his career and finally landed on the doorstep of Melbourne Citymission.

Jim Collett supported Michael as a father would a son.

"I said to him, 'If you ever go out on a big binge, you can come back here to the centre' and he did, time and time again over the years."

One day Michael came in to the Melbourne Citymission and confided in Jim that he wanted to accept Jesus as his lord and saviour.

With Jim Collett's help, Michael returned to study, returned to his church and was even prepared to preach to the men who came to the centre. But some of the homeless men would say to Jim, "Michael will break." Sadly, he did.

Eventually Michael drifted out of Jim's life, but for a long time he kept in touch by sending cards explaining where he was and the type of treatment he was receiving.

Even today, Jim often thinks about Michael. He treasures a few old yellowing newspaper cuttings about this man. As Jim says, Michael had the world at his feet but could not overcome a problem that he first encountered while serving as a pastor.



Jim Collett today is an active member of the Swanston Street, Melbourne, church. His membership in Churches of Christ goes back more than 50 years to the days when he was a member of the Murtoa and Stawell churches. As a railway ganger, Jim moved to Ballarat and joined the York Street church, where he taught Sunday School for 14 years and started a scout troop.

While a member at York Street a number of remarkable incidents occurred. One day in the Ballarat railyards, a colleague walked over to him and said that he was wasting his time in the railways: "You should be a missionary."

A few weeks earlier, Jim had felt a strong calling from God during a service. But he had kept it to himself.

While on a church visitation, he met a blind woman. Part of her greeting to Jim was, "You are called—you are chosen."

Finally he spoke to the ministers at York Street. They admitted that they too were aware that God was calling him.

"In a Christian newspaper there was an ad for a missionary for Melbourne Citymission. I did not know who they were.

"But I applied," continued Jim. In the 1940s, Melbourne Citymission was situated in a lane off Lonsdale Street. Those were hard depressing times. That end of Melbourne was dotted with slums and violence on the street was common. Most mornings, recalled Jim, Melbourne Citymission was feeding 300 men. An important focus of Melbourne Citymission in those days was the three gospel sessions conducted each week. Many of the men seeking help were on the run from the law and the police were constant visitors.

Jim was not a professional welfare worker in that he became deeply involved in the lives of his clients. He knew most of the homeless by name and they knew him.

After the war and even into the 1950s, there was a big influx of returned servicemen who found it difficult to return to civilian life and so many of them made their way to Melbourne Citymission.

Jim also discovered that among those who existed on the free meal at Melbourne Citymission were many professionals, lawyers, doctors and chemists who had turned to

drink when the bottom had fallen out of their world.

"I knew a man who had accepted Christ as his lord and saviour but who was a drunkard. The craving for drink was so embedded in this man that one day while he was walking past a pub the urge came over him and he fell on his knees on the footpath and prayed to God. He did it in front of all the people, calling on God to save him."

As Jim wandered around Melbourne Citymission on his special day, he also remembered the success stories. There was Werner, a barrister who walked out of home after a domestic argument and joined the homeless—sleeping at the Gill Memorial and eating at Melbourne Citymission.

Jim became very close to Werner, became his counsellor and encourager. Werner embraced the gospel and began a new life. One day Jim and his wife were walking through the Botanic Gardens and they saw Werner walking towards them. He was now beautifully dressed.

"Well, I hesitated. I thought he might want to forget the past. So I said to my wife that I did not want to talk to him. It was enough just to see him."

A police officer confronted Jim one day and said that every second or third derelict that his men picked up would demand to see Mr Collett. They would tell the police to ring Jim because he would get them out of the lockup.

The hefty police officer walked across Jim's office and stood by a text on the wall which read: "I am the way, the truth and the life." "The policeman put his hand on my shoulder and said: 'Never stop turning the men to that way.' And I said that I would never stop. I couldn't," said Jim.

It was a tough assignment from God. But Jim loved it and was a sad day when he retired from the ministry at Melbourne Citymission.

• *Peter Philp is the Public Relations Manager with the Melbourne Citymission.*

Ministers' Workshop

In more recent years a different kind of minister has arisen in our churches. As some churches have moved through the "200" barrier of attendance at worship, it has become evident that it is difficult for the congregation to grow much larger without multiple staff.

So a number of our churches now have a "senior minister" who leads a ministry team. The senior minister is the visionary leader who has a team of other "specialist" ministers and office administrators who are accountable to this person.

All large, growing churches are moving in this direction. The problem is that there are not many ministers in our Australian churches who are suitable as senior ministers. Largely, theological training in our colleges does not equip our ministers to lead a ministry team. Indeed, not every minister is gifted to be a senior minister; some are better suited to solo ministries.

Those who have become senior ministers have had to "unlearn" much of what they were taught in preparation for solo ministry.

• The distinctive features of senior ministers

Being a Senior Minister

by Ron Elbourne

What are some of the distinctive features of senior ministers?

Primarily they are to be **visionary leaders**, that is, those who have a clear vision from God for the particular local churches which they serve as senior ministers. They are the **pacesetters** and the **goal-setters** as they share the vision with the leaders in the church. They do not seek to maintain the status quo. They are committed to **enlarging the faith horizons of the congregation**, and challenging God's people to be moving ever forward.

Almost inevitably this means a **long-term ministry** so that the vision can be achieved. In a few of our Australian churches we are now seeing long-term ministries emerging.

Senior ministers have the primary responsibility for deciding on the configuration of

the staff team and are an influential voice in selecting new members for that team.

Senior ministers also have the major role in developing a "**localised**" church philosophy, which sets the direction for all church planning and programming. They are **initiating leaders**, who are always leading congregations to the next stage of growth. Therefore they are **decision-takers**, those who do not suffer from a paralysis of will or who are easily intimidated by a vocal minority who seem committed to maintaining the status quo. (This minority will seek to perpetuate their own "power" in small churches and to glorify mediocrity in God's service.)

The large congregation needs a senior minister who can specialise in a few areas of ministry, with a high level of competence and delegate to other

skilled specialists many other responsibilities and not feel guilty about not doing everything.

In his book *The Senior Minister*, Lyle Schaller writes, "This book is based on the assumption that the most critical single factor in determining the effectiveness, vitality, morale, attractiveness, numerical growth or decline, community image, and outreach of the large congregation is the senior minister."

Experience in our larger Australian churches would confirm that view. The one common, clear purpose of our senior ministers in Australia is that Christ wants his church to grow, and they are committed totally to the realisation of that primary task of effective evangelism.

• Ron Elbourne is the senior minister of the Glen Waverley, Vic, church.

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

Pontius' Puddle



Trilogy

The Light that shone at Bethlehem could not be extinguished by Calvary, and shone forth from the tomb. The cradle, the cross, and the empty tomb stand, as a trilogy of witnesses to God's love. And the first statement of this divine trilogy was heard in a baby's cry at Christmas.

—Garry Harris

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A Church ABC

Warrnambool is a regional city in south-western Victoria. A growth centre, there are now 40,000 people in the area, with about 24,000 in the town itself, and people continue to move to the city. There is industry, not a bly

Fletcher Jones and Warrnambool Textiles, and Warrnambool is also an important educational centre, with a Deakin University campus, private and government schools and a TAFE college. The surrounding fertile areas support a strong agricultural industry.

The Church of Christ is centrally located on the highway in the town. The work was commenced in 1874, the current sandstone chapel is about 85 years old and the hall was built by voluntary labour in the 1950s. A full-time minister has been supported since the war. The membership is 84, and about that number attend the 10.30 am service, including children. There is also an evening

service, at 7, or 6 pm in the winter. The style of worship is very open, with a worship leader taking the service, musicians and much interaction with the children.

The minister at Warrnambool is Peter Broadbent. Originally from South Australia, Peter trained at the College of the Bible and had previous ministries at Launceston, Tas, and

A leadership retreat for the south-west is planned soon.

Warrnambool has a visionary leadership, which is looking to the future of the church. At present they are considering re-

vamping the hall and chapel, major alterations

Focus on Warrnambool

Childrens work is strong at present. There is a club, "Hey, Hey, It's Sunday", and an afternoon outreach program, "G'day Sunday" is conducted in a Ministry of Housing area. There is also a youth group.

There are three women's groups: an afternoon group for older members, an evening group for working people and an outreach and contact group for young mums with kids.

Three home fellowship groups meet regularly, and there is also a fourth group that also meets.

An Upper Room Ministry using Don Miller's guidelines has been operating for six months and is working well.

Warragul, Vic. Now in his fourth year at Warrnambool, he is married to Margie, and has three boys.

The church co-operates well with other churches in the town. There is a strong interdenominational witness and outreach from the Church of Christ, Salvation Army, Baptists, Assemblies of God and the Christian Revival Centre, with many specific joint projects and services.

The church also has positive links with the other Churches of Christ in the area: Portland, Port Fairy and Hamilton, including strong leadership interaction. Support has been given and received by these churches and the boards meet together.

designed to increase the usefulness and outward visibility of the church. They would like to build further links to the east of the city, where there is no church at present. They had thought of relocating, but that was proved not to be viable. The church's aims for membership and attendances are on target; numbers have increased 15% in the past three years. Every twelve months the church's aims are examined afresh to carefully examine the state of the church.

Warrnambool is a church with a positive flavour, characterised by the openness and acceptance of its members. They continue to be a witness for Christ in the area.

Growing Spiritually

Disobedience is a word and a concept I find pops out of the pages of the Bible more often than I would like. An uncomfortable concept and, if we take it seriously, one that results in fresh honesty, repentance and life-giving change.

And I for one used to draw some comfort from the fact that I didn't often actually disobey God—I'm not given to shaking my fist and telling him, "No." Well, not often, and then only until the Holy Spirit convinces me that I don't know best after all.

But I have been disturbed by a definition I've heard: disobedience is very often "incomplete obedience".

Evangelist Bob Gass used the definition and it certainly altered my thinking. He was talk-

• An uncomfortable concept

Disobedience

by Kaye Wray

ing about King Saul's incomplete obedience to God in not completely destroying the Amalekites and all they had.

Then he suggested that we can also rationalise God's message to us, taking out all the bits we find too demanding, uncomfortable or perhaps just inconvenient.

I thought about the "filter system" we put to good use when we hear God's word to us—whether through reading the Bible, praying, hearing a sermon or reading a book. How often we can rationalise the call to witness to others—our pro-

grammed filter system reminds us that we don't have the gift of evangelism, so we dispense with that.

Stewardship of time, talents and resources—we're very practised at filtering the challenging bits out of that! Working for justice—well, I'm only one person. And I try to love the unlovely—at times—and have a servant attitude though I do grumble about being "used".

We can sit and listen to a rousing sermon on the Lordship of Jesus in our lives but if we put it through that filter

system we will go home moved, but not changed.

Incomplete obedience—what an uncomfortable concept!

• Kaye Wray is a member of the Owen, SA, Combined Congregation.

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Ministry Meditation

• *Formulas for winning people to Jesus*

Secrets for Success

by Ray Hawkins

Numerous books entice us to purchase them with a promise to reveal some secret "ingredient" that will give us success in ministry. You will, as I do, have a number of such books on your shelves. A secret implies that only a select company possesses the "formula" and they may or may not be willing to share it with others. Willingness usually has conditions. In ministry circles it usually means attendance at a seminar at some fancy cost or the purchase of the latest book or video.

It is doubtful whether there are any real secrets to a successful ministry. For the Bible is God's manual about ministry and he has spelt it out for us in examples, doctrine and precepts. The problem is not one of knowledge but of application. It is so easy to be enticed into thinking there is an easier way than those plain, simple, powerful and demanding concepts outlined in the scriptures.

Jesus listed two formulas that today sound so glib, so expected, that they are bypassed for more stimulating notions. "Love the Lord thy God, and love your neighbour as yourself" are in fact the basic material for successful ministries.

This is where it is so easy to switch off. For we all know that such is the case. And yet in our moments of honest assessment how weak we are in these areas. For the soul, even of preachers, will "love" God so long as it is pleasurable. The soul will "love" the neighbour so far as it is profitable. For the soul equates love with an emotional feeling that is in harmony

with personal expectations. It is here that so many relationships and ventures break down. For love is not an emotion but a commitment for, in simplistic terms, the honour or welfare of another. It is not explosive passion or religious exercises or pious phrases but involvement whether we like it or not.

"Love your neighbour" sounds so noble, so right, so spiritual, but oh how quickly it can evaporate when the neighbour is uncouth, unlovely, unco-operative. Sentimental love does not endure. Endurance requires the tough love of God within the heart. When there is a clash of persons the love that prevails is that described in 1 Corinthians 13.

That magnificent passage talks about love with the shadow of Calvary hovering above it. Such love is not manufactured by emotive appeals or even a sense of duty. It is born and maintained within the company of the risen Christ. He is love and he alone is the source of tough, enduring, tender love. It is from out of this position of strength that the church can go and endure the rejection of the world and be gracious, positive and successful. People ultimately are wooed and won to Jesus Christ not by gimmicks, programs, fear or fun, but by the warm, accepting, transforming love of God expressed through his people. This is why the minister and the congregation must spend time in the presence of God and in his Word.

You and I may not be the greatest preachers, the wisest counsellors, the most effective administrators. You and I may not be the most athletic in the pastorate or the most dynamic or best educated, but by the grace and presence of God, we can be the best lovers of people.

• *Ray Hawkins is the minister of the Maitland, NSW, church.*

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1930

REPORTS FROM INDIAN MISSIONARIES.

T. Escott.

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—THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN, 10 JULY 1930.

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 •Dorothy Irving, David Hainsworth, Kalamunda, WA
 •Frank & June Grose, Kalgoorlie, WA
 •Jane Stanley, Kristy Somic, Glen Waverley, Vic

Marriages

•Heather Armstrong to Stuart Harris, Virginia Thomson to Ivan Cikara, Kalamunda, WA

Deaths

•Wander Anderson, Bordertown, SA, Mavis Campbell, Perth City, WA
 •Gordon Krieger, Bundaberg, Qld
 •Alice Inverarity, Col Light Gardens, SA



Churches of Christ NSW Theological College Golden Jubilee Celebrations

The College will celebrate its Golden Jubilee In March 1992. As part of these celebrations a Register of Graduates from Woolwich and Carlingford is being compiled. An Alumni Dinner will be held.

Graduates—Where Are You?

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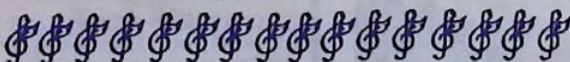
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Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Campbell, Mavis

(17.4.91) Mavis Campbell died at 92 years at Carinya Nursing Home, WA, her home for the past six years. She was the last of the family of Mr and Mrs Henry Wright (foundation members of Churches of Christ in Perth in 1890). Throughout her long life, Mavis was a faithful member of Perth church. She inherited her father's gift of singing and delighted in using it in her Master's service. Her warm friendly nature, infectious laughter and generous hospitality endeared her to all. Mavis was a dedicated homemaker for husband Kenneth and children Ross, Beverley and Heather, and was grandmother of 10 and great-grandmother of 12. —J.S. Bridge

Everett, Lindsay

(29.5.91) Lindsay Everett was born

at Castlemaine, Vic, on 6.2.16. When he was six his father John died, and at 14 he moved with his mother, brother and sister to Burnley. He took up an apprenticeship and became a very skilled boilermaker and welder, serving as a foreman for 25 years. In 1941 he married Kath Morrow. Lin and Kath had three children, Margaret, Ian (who died in 1989) and Vicki. For many years the family attended the Ormond church, joining the Boronia church when they moved here in 1977. Lindsay was a keen sportsman and dancer and respected Lodge member. Along with Kath he was a very loyal and loved member at Boronia, attending regularly until a few weeks before he died. A large group of family and friends travelled from many areas to attend a thanksgiving service shared by Andrew Henley and Keith Milne at the Boronia Baptist Church. —KRM

NSW

MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins) Excellent Mission 91 Expo. John Saulo speaker. Ed Holt, Rosalie Rofe & drama team highlights. "The Travellers" sang morning service. 17 mission societies set up displays. Meetings in marquee ... Lance Hawkins set apart for YFC ministry, WA. The elders led church in service ... Recent speakers W. Flett (Hamilton), A. Leenman (prison chaplain) ... Newcastle Mayor, John MacNaughton, shared faith at church's outreach dinner.

NOWRA (Peter DeWildt, Clinton Wardle) After-school program held 13-17 May. Over 50 children attending daily ... Film series "Turn Your Heart toward Home" by Dr James Dobson well attended each Sunday evening from 19 May. Many challenged & helped. Fellowship teas before films great sharing ... Craft Group working toward stall in Nowra plus enjoying fellowship ... Clinton & Trish Wardle ap-

pointed to minister full time from 1992.

Qld

NAMBOUR (B. Roberts, Tony Gibson) Pastor on extended recuperative leave ... Visiting guest speakers have included G. Hyman, N. Ward, G. Sloman & Kenmore College Principal Rod Tippett ... Mother's Day tea catered by men's group great success ... Chapel crowded for evening service featuring Kids' Club ... Morning service involving Bible School well attended ... Over 60 children regularly attending Kids' Club & attracting many families beyond regular church membership ... Faith offering for missions now almost \$10,000 for year.

BUNDABERG (Alan Leane) Minister back in pulpit after holiday in tropics ... Gospel service starts 6 pm winter months ... Edna Theuerkauf home from Vanuatu ... Youth service attracted around 100

Church News

... Alan & Irma Rackeman & family returned Melbourne ... Bike for Bibles ride raised approx \$1,000 ... 22 youth joined in Sunshine Games Brisbane bringing home a gold ... Gordon Krieger passed away result of accident ... Selina Thwaite celebrated 21st.

SA

BALAKLAVA (Graham Lawrie) Rob Combridge's Workshop on Creative Worship gave new insights ... Ron Holmes displayed Christian literature for sale ... Friendship Group held Mother's Day progressive luncheon ... Several church ladies received 20 Year Awards from Meals on Wheels ... Dulcie Good farewelled for Portarlington ... Craig Bailey guest speaker at bush dance & youth rally ... Elder, Peter McPharlin, elected to Wakefield Plains Council as Richard May retired.

BORDERTOWN (S. Pillay) New piano purchased from monetary gift from the late Jean & Alf Tilley ... Baptismal service 29 May Michelle O'Brien, Simon Mock ... Marj Dredge, Rae Thomson guest speakers Women's Conference ... Annual high night of prayer held. Prayer for future church work & youth work ... CWF held cooking morning for youth camps (pasties galore) ... Russ & Leola Maddern 50 years married ... South Eastern Conference at Keith. Speaker Deane Woods.

ELIZABETH (R. Oke) Church has just completed the Callahan Consultations of the characteristic of an effective church & everyone that took part is very excited at the prospects. Jim Keatch will be here on 23 June to summarise ... Four were baptised last Sunday night service.

GOOLWA (Graeme Ritchie) Speakers who helped out (while minister on holidays) were Allan Bell, Ron Holmes & Alan Jones ... Women's Fellowship arranged progressive tea as fundraiser for Indian

work ... Film shown on Ethiopian famine by Community Aid Abroad ... Brian Ricketts (minister of Marion church) guest speaker on setting up small groups ... Celebration of Christian faith held on Pentecost Sunday with all Goolwa churches combining.

HAPPY VALLEY (Russell Allison) Jarrad Allison & Nathan Bryant baptised Mother's Day. Visitors included Jarrad's grandmother, Mrs Alcorn, & cousin Mark, from Melbourne ... Russell preached at Port Lincoln church ... Seniors held luncheon at church ... Local ecumenical service held in Lutheran chapel ... Over 40 participated in 40 Hour Famine. Youth group stayed at church for weekend ... Proceeds from cake stall to go towards purchase of overhead projector.

KADINA (Steve Kitto) Play "Bee-Attitudes 2" to be presented in August for church anniversary ... Craft Group well attended ... Motor Bike Club very popular with parents & children riding bikes ... Youth groups reaching out into community ... Teens Bible study Wednesday nights ... Night services 5.30 during winter with tea & fellowship in homes to follow ... Supporting our member Ruth Perkins working in Niger, Africa.

COL LIGHT GARDENS (Adrian Clark) 50 Plus group organised special service with reports from World Council of Churches Assembly ... Soup 'n' Sandwich Sunday night services popular ... Over 60 attended a progressive dinner ... Meryl Pillar raised over \$300 for the 40 Hour Famine ... Rebuilding of the foyer about to start, thanks to the help of the League of 2000 and fundraising activities held at the church.

Tas

MIDWAY POINT (C. Humphris) Infant dedication service held for Charles Jacobson, son of David & Gaye, & Belinda Clarke, daughter of Leon & Jody Ann ... Mobile Mission Maintenance spent a week with church doing carpentry & guttering on new building. Plumbing also now complete ... First service was held in new building 16 June ... Looking forward to completion of building.

Vic

MONTROSE (Neil Galbraith, John Sharpe) Prayer Link running well ... Seven leaders attended Kidsmin training night ... Family camp at Badgers Creek ... CCTC focus with Keith Bowes ... Neil & Jan Galbraith

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Church News

accept invitation to minister Belmont from August 1992 ... Youth group peaked at 62 ... Church planting planning continuing ... Support Network assisting emergency requests for food ... CWF "Trading Partners" evening great success ... Art/Craft Fair planned for 31 August ... Youth disco planned 14 September.

STRATHMORE (James Pearce) Inter Church Council's combined Easter Event very successful ... Prayer meeting started before service well attended ... Preacher exchange with Ken Stothard from Essendon ... Karen Varrasso transferred into membership ... Sunday School children took service 26 May, service prepared by Talitha Pearce. Puppet play on John 3 was fun & much appreciated.

KANIVA (M. Goldup) Successful church garage sale. Proceeds divided between DMED & CCTC ... Andrew Ball, Youth Director, visited us 18-19 May, preached Sunday sharing with Andrew Williams. A youth seminar followed ... General church meeting 2 June set goals towards future youth ministry in Kaniva ... Appreciation expressed for work of late Reg Dyer in our church.

BAYSWATER (R.C. Combridge) Pastor returned after successful surgery with the pulpit taken by A. Clark, L. Dewberry & G. Clark in his absence ... Day groups being well attended ... Church preparing for 120th anniversary on 20 October

... Two young ladies confessed Jesus as saviour ... Fund for new chapel steadily growing ... Mike Lee has taken leadership of YP ministry.
LA TROBE TERR, GEELONG (Dr C.J. Mackenzie) Garth Paddle dedicated & commissioned to assist church two days per week including doorknock visitation ... Tennis team won premiership ... Married lady & young girl baptised 16 June ... \$503 raised for Alzheimer sufferers at musical afternoon provided by South Barwon Salvation Army Corp ... CWF gave \$300 for outdoor kitchen at Vanuatu ... Groceries given to needy High School students ... Several members participated in 40 Hour Famine.

CROYDON (Martin Burgess) Growth in youth & childrens group encouraging ... "Junior Church" teachers attended training day with OAC Ministries ... Land adjacent to Tarralla Village purchased for village expansion ... Drama group formed & ministering in evening services ... Five recent baptisms ... Young people & children involved in 40 Hour Famine ... Martin Burgess led preaching training for interested members ... Men's breakfast attendances increasing ... Children attended Kidsmin film night at Ringwood.

THE PATCH (Mike Folland) Sunday evening fireside church held local restaurant. Theme "Disciplining Your Children" ... Wayne Prince & minister led successful Adventure Committee trail bike trek at

Woods Point. 16 riders, many having no contact with church ... Third "Christianity Put Plainly" course completed ... New Kids Club, based on Christian ideals, for children from Grades 2-6 commencing in July ... CWF met for demonstration of needle work.

MOUNT CLEAR (Dale White) Lorikeets women's group presented successful "Brides through the Ages" parade, which attracted over 250 & raised \$1,600 for church ... 30 involved in Parenting Seminar with Brian & Joan White ... Monthly church family teas proving popular during winter ... High attendance at recent youth services, which included testimonies & songs from young adults, drama & music from youth group & input from "Kings Messengers" bikers.

GLEN WAVERLEY (Ron Elbourne, Lindsay Croxford, Howard Sanders) Elders led special prayer ministry in morning services ... Church billeted Wollongong ICCL first-year students, faculty member & driver on their annual field trip to GW ... SBS (soup, bread, slice) held after six "Live at Five" services ... Parenting Seminar led by Brian & Joan White ... Heartbeat Nightclub & Coffee Shop now third Saturday each month ... Sunday afternoon quarterly prayer focus led by elders.

WA

PERTH CITY (George Powell) Much prayer & planning being fo-

cused on possible relocation ... In recognition of multinational congregation, Mother's Day tributes read in Indonesian, Malaysian, Cantonese & English ... Minister holding discipleship classes for young people who made commitments at Easter camp & others ... Visiting Indonesian pastor preached with interpreter ... CWF attended Lutheran ladies "At Home" ... Ross Povey graduated Bachelor of Architecture with Honours ... Adrian Povey celebrated majority.

KALAMUNDA (Mark Proud, Paul Sanders) Paul Sanders, youth pastor, appointed for further three years ... Dr David Shalley, Principal WABC, sharing in series of messages "The Nature of the Church" ... Welfare outreach program into district meeting real needs in many areas, food parcels, transport etc ... Mid-year mission weekend with Larry & Barbara Podmore & Antony Cook was a time of sharing in special meetings. Also other visiting missionaries.

KALGOORLIE (L.D. Gibb) 50 enrolled in Winter Bible School. Church joined with Christian Outreach Centre for Russell Sage Seminar on Spiritual Gifts ... Young people held a camp in Esperance & an overnight bush sleepout ... Ministers' Fraternal are investigating the possibility of a chaplain at the high school ... Visit of pastor Frank Hultgren & wife June well received. Combined with Shiloh Family Church for mid-week meeting.

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October 1993

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Curkpatrick

Comfortless Comforters

Job is a drama of intense suffering, a story of a man who loses everything—his wealth, his family and, finally, his health. It is a drama that involves much mental anguish and turmoil during which Job's friends, Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar, though seeking to console him, make matters worse. Known as the Comforters, they offer very little or no comfort, being far too preoccupied with their idea of the "truth"

and setting Job right in his understanding of life and God. However, the "comfort" they offer turns out to be torment for Job: "Why do you keep tormenting me with words? The comfort you give is only torment. Listen to what I am saying, that is all the comfort I ask from you." It seems in attempting to be theologically orthodox

(their perception of orthodoxy) they forget the elementaries of sympathy towards their friend in his anguish.

Despite the comforters' attempts to illuminate Job with their "orthodox" views on suffering, they are rebuked in the end for not speaking the truth! "I am angry with you...for you did not speak the truth about me as my servant Job did." What then was the truth they should have spoken? Perhaps the humbling truth we must all accept in the face of anyone's suffering or heartache: "I too am that frail," or "I too would wrestle with God and his ways in the world." The paradoxical lesson of Job's

friends is that cold comfortless "right" people may be terribly wrong. Putting people's orthodoxy straight is missing the point of Christian theology "that God entered this world in Jesus Christ to identify with our frailty in order that he might be our faithful and merciful high priest".

In the end, Job became their priest and intercessor, as so often the suffering ones do, for it is they who have learnt how to

comfort and intercede with understanding and empathy. They alone have plumbed the depths of tragedy and heartache and know how to be the presence of God that extends beyond words. Perhaps the best, most useful thing the comforters did do was at the beginning when they "sat on the ground with Job for seven days and nights

without saying a word, because they saw how much Job was suffering". Their comfort lapsed significantly when they attempted to straighten out Job and his views about God and life.

Words are so often inadequate to offer comfort and strength and the poet's dramatic conclusion reminds us that God is far above all that we can think or know about his ways. But he leaves us with an imperative to seek his face in all who genuinely wrestle with him. "I knew only what others had told me, but now I have seen you with my eyes," says Job at the end of his ordeal. —Stephen Curkpatrick



The Last Word

Man cannot cover what God would reveal. —Thomas Campbell

Motor mechanic to customer: "Your mechanical worries are over. Your only problem now is where to dump your car."

It can get quite boring when new parents talk on and on about their new baby. Your only hope is that they'll have to get up and change the subject.

A doctor to his patient: "Congratulations! The high price of butter, meat and eggs cleared up your cholesterol."

"That pain in your leg is caused by old age," said the nurse to the elderly patient.

"That can't be," said the patient. "The other leg is the same age and doesn't hurt a bit."

"I hear your children are learning tap dancing. How are they getting on?"

"Oh, they gave it away. They kept losing their balance and falling in the sink."

A user of the postal system, presenting a ruined package for a claim at the post office: "I know that the mail has to go through—but what did this go through?"

St Bernard, who founded many monasteries made the following one of his rules: "If a strange monk arrives at your monastery receive him graciously. Provide him with food and shelter. If he criticises you, listen carefully for God may have sent him for that very purpose. But if he proves to be troublesome, noisy and disobedient tell him to leave. If he refuses to leave then let two stout monks, in the name of God, explain the matter to him."

Did you hear of the parents who couldn't afford a holiday because they had children at university? They were suffering from "maltuition".



He didn't mean it that way, but everyone thought his sermon last Sunday was humorous.



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