

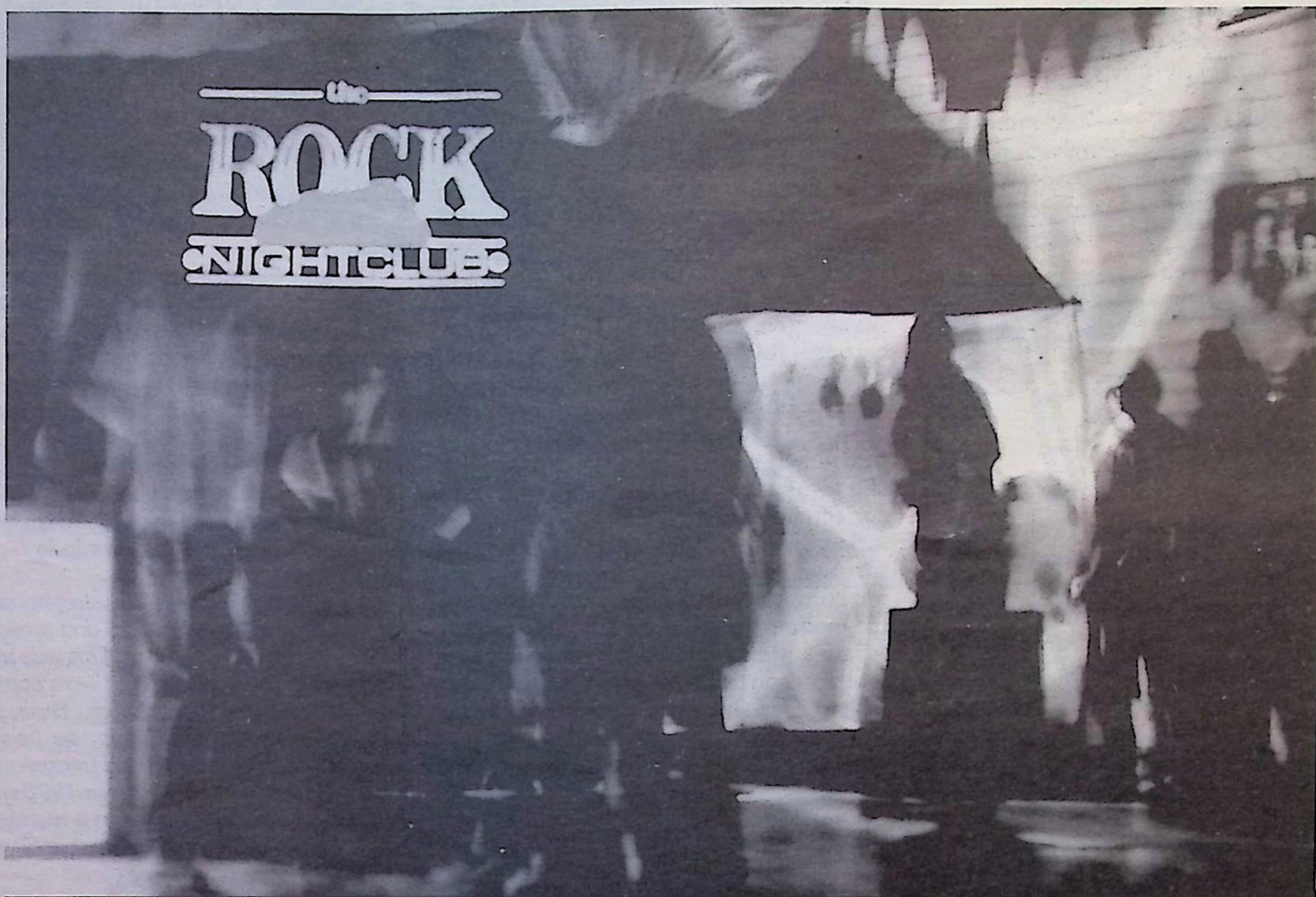
National Journal  
of Churches of  
Christ in Australia

Vol. 94 • No. 17

5 October 1991

# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Registered by Australia Post  
Publication No. VAR 0761



## The Rock Nightclub Rocks On

—page 3



# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Vol. 94

No. 17

5 October 1991

Managing Editor: Chris Ambrose  
Assistant: Geoff Alves

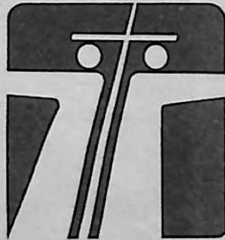
Issue	Deadline
19 October	11 October
2 November	25 October
16 November	8 November

Address for All Correspondence  
(including all subscription payments)  
PO Box 101  
North Essendon 3041  
Telephone (03) 379 1219  
After Hours (03) 337 8349



Member  
publication of the  
Australasian  
Religious Press  
Association

National logo of  
Churches of Christ  
in Australia



"The Australian Christian" is published by the Board of Management of the Australian Christian, a Department of the National Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia.

Keith Aird, Chairman (SA)  
Don Burdett, Secretary (ACT)  
Lindsay Mott, Treasurer (Vic)  
John Batchler (Tas)  
Steve Downie (NSW)  
John Sheriff (Qld)  
Allen Smyth (WA)

Printing by New Litho Pty Ltd,  
63 Sunbury Cres,  
Surrey Hills 3127

Responsibility for electoral material is accepted by Chris Ambrose,  
3 Hamlyn St, Essendon 3040

This publication is indexed in the  
Australasian Religion Index  
ISSN 0004-8852

## Advertising Rates

Displayed: \$4.80 per column  
centimetre

Classifieds: \$10 for the first 25 words  
and 10c for each additional word

## Guest Editorial

• *Sin has not changed. Sorrow has not changed. Death has not changed. The task of the church has not changed*

# Change and Continuity

by Colin Deacon

The world in which we are living is in a continual state of change, most significantly in this 20th century. In particular the last decades have ushered in great changes in areas of social relationships, education, travel, science, language, fashions and customs, to name but a few.

The basis of all these changes is to make us happy, secure and to find a peace of heart. But with all our expertise we have been unable to solve the problems of the human race because all that secular people can do does not address the three basic problems that are akin to all of us.

Sin has not changed. It is easy to trivialise sin and give it cosy names. Thus stealing becomes fiddling. Sin is a psychological problem or the result of poor social background. It was sin that brought Jesus into the world where he became sin for us, and it is humanity's rebellion against God that still results in so much suffering and misery. Sin has not changed.

Sorrow has not changed. There is more sorrow in the world today than ever. We are constantly reminded of this through the media. We still experience the sorrow Adam and Eve must have felt when they looked upon the lifeless body of Abel after he had been slain by Cain. That act began the sorrow that has plagued the human race to this day. The media reveal the tragedies that occur worldwide but fail to communicate the heartrending sorrow of the individual.

Death has not changed. We have tried to soften the reality of death by dressing it up with different and more pleasant names. We use the word "casket" instead of "coffin". We endeavour to soften the reality and sadness but death does mean separation. It is real, hard and cruel and has not changed.

These three things are a continuing part of history. Our past is filled with sin, sorrow fills the present and the certainty of death is ever before us. The person in the street is plagued by hopelessness.

But there is hope. Thousands of people can testify that Jesus Christ can and does meet and solve these three basic problems.

Hebrews 13:8 records for us "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever".



I believe yesterday means when Jesus was on earth he gave himself as an offering or sacrifice for our sin, that is for our past.

Today is this present time. He has been raised and seated on the right hand of the Father interceding for us, that is those who have placed their trust in him.

Forever looks in the future when Jesus will return to rule and reign as King of

Kings and Lord of Lords.

We are changing. The society in which we live is changing but Jesus will never change.

The task of the church has not changed. Jesus' command in Matthew 28:19, go—teach—and make disciples, is ever before us. In these times of harsh economic recession, unemployment and pressures and frustration of life the church has a message of hope, but we need to be taking this message into our communities in a practical way as well as preaching it.

We need to live the message to show the reality and hope of Christ for today.

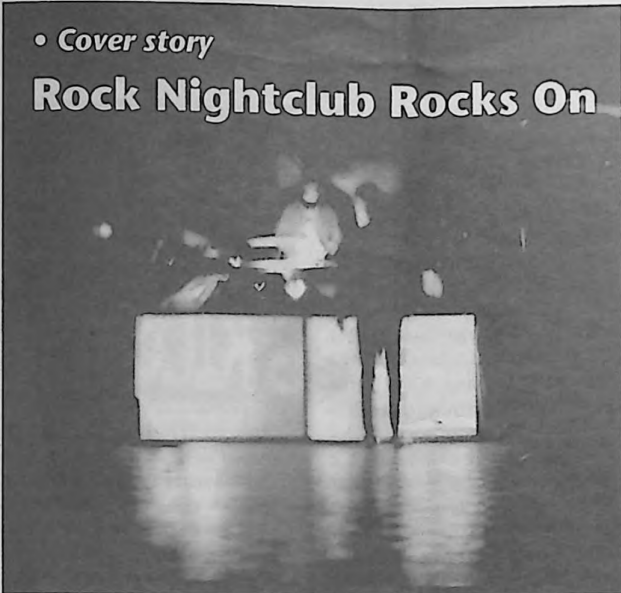
• Colin Deacon was born in Maryborough, Qld. He was married in 1950 and moved to Dalby, where in 1952 he and his wife made decisions to follow Christ and were baptised and joined the Dalby church. During 38 years of membership at Dalby he held the positions of elder, deacon and treasurer. The Deacons moved to Caloundra in 1990 where Colin is an elder. He has been a member of Gideons International for a number of years. Colin and Joyce have three sons.

## Amendment

In Kenmore's missionary honour roll in the last issue some names were omitted. David Eagling served as honorary lecturer at the college, having previously ministered in Vanuatu (1960-70), where he was the founding Principal of the Banmatmat Bible College (1965-70). John and Joan Wicks have served in Lebanon, Cyprus and UAE. John is now Australian Director of Middle East Christian Outreach.

• Cover story

## Rock Nightclub Rocks On



Crowds of young people on 21 September danced the night away at the Rock Nightclub.

Amidst the smoke, strobes and flashing lights, eerie figures could be discerned moving rhythmically to the pulsating music.

Across the road, The Invoices, with Lisa Hugo on the piano, entertained the young people who were enjoying the more relaxed atmosphere of the piano bar.

There was plenty of food available at very reasonable prices. (Where else can you buy a Mars Bar for 60c?)

The Rock Nightclub is held about four times a year by the youth of the Cheltenham, Vic, church as part of their outreach program for kids of the local area. They are providing good-quality entertainment in an alcohol-free, safe, caring Christian environment.

Each Friday night they also hold Da Hangout Youth Drop-In Centre in the large lounge at the rear of the church.

Young people play pool and snooker, listen to music, watch videos, enjoy the free sausage sizzle and have a chance to talk and develop worthwhile relationships with the trained Christian young people from the church who run the centre.

—Mary Dewberry

• Work to begin soon on new office

## Friends of the Christian

Thanks to the many readers who have generously contributed to the Friends of the Australian Christian Capital Fund. By 27 September we had received 335 contributions and a total of \$13,968. Our aim is \$25,000 for this fund, which will help us set up and equip our new office. The first work on the new office at the North Essendon, Vic, church complex should begin soon. At the moment we are obtaining quotes for some of the

work. The new office will include a fax line as part of a new telecommunications system. The new numbers will be advised when these are known.

We would also like to thank the churches at Maidstone, Vic, Balaklava, SA, Kingsford, NSW, Caloundra, Qld, Carnegie, Vic, and Nunawading, Vic, for their support. As we had only asked our subscribers for support at this stage, it is heartening to receive recognition from churches as well.

• Craft work raises funds for charities

## 365—Chatswood's Friendship Centre

The 365 Friendship Centre, which meets each Thursday, is a most useful adjunct to the Chatswood, NSW, church. Despite cold weather the attendances are holding at about 75.

On 8 August the centre was visited by the Mayor of the City of Willoughby, Alderman Noel Reidy, to receive a cheque for \$560 as a fourth contribution to the Willoughby Community

Switchboard, which provides an emergency link with medical help for senior people.

The week before a paper dress competition was a happy occasion, in which seven of the activity groups participated to produce "elegant" paper ensembles. It was creative fun as a break from the diligent craft work that is the usual occupation of the members. The craft work raises funds for charities.

Since commencing in 1980 gifts to charities have totalled \$46,000. This year the charity being helped is the Muscular Dystrophy Association of NSW.

On 22 September there was a display of samples of the craft work of the centre. This was held in the Chatswood Chase Shopping Complex, which is adjacent to the centre and the church.



The paper dress competition at the 365 Friendship Centre

• Singing along with the old and new

"Praise Melbourne"

How many times have you been to a concert or musical and wished you could sing along with those on the stage. Well, on 24 August at Dallas Brooks Hall, Melbourne, Vic, everyone was asked to "sing along" with the 130-voice choir and the 65-piece orchestra.

What a feeling! The hymns and songs were all very well known, a great mix of old and new.

The evening was based on the lines of the famous "Prom Praise" in the UK, where the congregation sing along with the choir and orchestra, interspersed with well-known pieces from the classics by the orchestra and some beautiful choral items.

"Praise Melbourne" was organised by a group of committed people from nine Melbourne churches of all denominations, many of whom had

never met each other before. The choir and orchestra comprised people from 90 different churches.

Geoff Conrau, from the Montrose Church of Christ, and a teacher at Blackburn High School, conducted the orchestra. David Cranshaw from Carey Grammar compared the evening and shared the task of conducting the singing and choir with Geoffrey Thomlinson from Monbulk Secondary College and Blackburn Baptist Church.

Proceeds from the evening were divided between the Bible Society and World Vision.

Next year, when you see "Praise Melbourne" advertised, get your tickets early as I'm sure everyone who attended this year's very professional performance will go again and take their friends.

—Margaret Meehan

• Sunday-evening workshops

A Look into the Nineties

The Victorian Department of Christian Union and Ecumenical Affairs has arranged a series of Sunday-evening workshops to help members of the department and other interested people discuss some issues we will face as Churches of Christ in the next decade. The idea for these evenings arose from two workshops held at CCTC, Mulgrave, last year, which looked at the vision that members of our churches may have for the 21st century. A number of issues were identified, four of which will be considered at the workshops: lead-

ership, women in the church, worship and witness in a secular community.

Recent correspondence in *The Australian Christian* shows the interest there is in these subjects.

The speakers, John Bailey, Julie Renner, Shirley Ludgater and Peter Marshall, will bring a wealth of experience as well as academic ability to their respective workshops.

In choosing Sunday evenings for the time-slot it is recognised that some people will be excluded because of services in their own congregations. Congregations who are flexible in their arrangements may choose to make this series their evening service for four weeks. Others may decide to send representatives.

The series is to be held at the Balwyn Church of Christ at 7 pm on 13, 20 and 27 October and 10 November.

—Trevor Banks

**BUCKINGHAM  
MEMORIAL CENTRE**  
Self-catering camp site  
38 Lockwood Road,  
Belgrave Heights  
Accommodation for 60  
Large recreational hall  
Low tariff  
Small groups welcome  
Enquiries: Jack Edwards  
(03) 568 1825

• Ministry to children in South Australia

Churches of Christ Kidsmin

The Children and Family Life Committee of Churches of Christ in SA has been redeveloped with the establishment of a new group to be known as Churches of Christ Kidsmin in SA, which will incorporate the functions of the COCKE and TIM Players and Kidsmin Publications, with the COCKE Playhouse as part of the Torrenville church, as a medium for the ministry to children and families.

The management team has been working diligently on an extensive activities and skills analysis of Kidsmin's current and future functions. The function modules covered by the analysis are: administration (co-ordination, financial, public relations), production (presentations in Playhouse etc.), Kidsmin Publications (books, tapes, marketing etc.), Playhouse (maintenance, props, costumes, canteen etc.), kids camps, retreats, slumber parties, services (to churches, kids clubs, Sunday schools etc.), training (children's work, leadership, organising functions, i.e. camps etc.) and social activities.

The team has nearly completed publishing the song book and cassette *More Kids Everywhere* and will be presenting "The Legend of the Temple Bell" at the COCKE Playhouse, 50 Clifford Street, Torrenville, on 18 and 19 October at 8 pm and at 2 pm on 19



October. "The Legend of the Temple Bell" is a modern-day parable written by Robyn Page, with the musical score composed by Paul Grant, our Musical Director, and presented by the COCKE and TIM Players. The land of Temple represents our bodies, the Temple Bell the Holy Spirit and Belch is an evil ruler. Belch's pleasures represent anything we do that would be detrimental to our bodies. All other characters in the drama act as mirrors to ourselves and the choices we make. The parable has varying levels of depth and it is up to the audience to apply it.

Tickets are adults \$6 (concession \$4), family (two adults and two children) \$15 and children \$3. Tickets are now available from Jenny Thomson (phone (08) 352 4273) or Jean Feder (phone (08) 356 1565), by mail via PO Box 142, Findon 5023, or at the Playhouse door.

**Ivanhoe  
Church of Christ  
74th Anniversary**

Sunday, 27 October 1991  
at 10.30 am

Guest Speaker—  
Greg Elsdon

Soloist—Christine Sharpe  
All former members are  
invited to attend  
Light luncheon will be  
provided

Ring G. Harman  
(03) 458 2677  
Further details

**RICHMOND  
Church of Christ  
102nd Anniversary**

11 am Service  
Sunday, 27 October  
Speaker Graeme

Rogerson

A light lunch will be  
served after the service  
All welcome

## People

• *Friend, counsellor, missionary extraordinaire*

### Tribute to Grace Waterman

There are many who will remember Grace from the College of the Bible, youth camps or CWF Executive, but I remember her as a true friend. We lived together for 18 months on Ambae in the New Hebrides (Vanuatu).

Grace was an exceptionally practical person yet deeply spiritual. My husband and I grew to love her as we valued her advice to a couple of "raw recruits" on the mission field. She "gentled" us into what could have been a very difficult time. Grace had a keen sense of humour and we were able to en-

joy our time together, overcoming difficulties and trials through our times of prayer and sharing and laughing!

Over latter years our paths very rarely crossed, but there was the deep fellowship of prayer and correspondence. With the help of her daughter Joan she was able to continue letter writing until quite recently. There are many who will miss her prayers and letters.

I did not know of her "home call" till she was laid to rest, so I write this tribute.

—Dorothy M. Smith

• *Ministry study*

### Dr Richard Lawton

Richard Lawton, minister of the Maylands, SA, church, has been awarded the Doctor of Ministry degree (DMin) by Fuller Theological Seminary in California.

Over four and a half years, Richard did courses on the Minister's Personal Growth and Skills Development with Arch Hart, Building Strong Families through the Church with Jack and Judy Balswick and Spirituality and Ministry with Eugene Peterson. His final dissertation was on "The Revitalisation and Development of the Maylands Church of Christ from 1990 to 2000". Most of the work for the practically orien-

tated degree was done in Australia as part of Fuller's extension program, by which it has sent faculty to Australia each year to conduct intensive courses.

Two years ago Richard spent time on campus for one of the courses.

Among other Australian Churches of Christ ministers to complete the Fuller Doctor of Ministry degree in recent years have been Keith Farmer (Principal, Carlingford College, NSW), Don Stewart (Director, Queensland Social Service Department) and Graham Carslake (minister, Warwick, WA).

• *Open to the work of the Spirit*

### Ninety Not Out!

We continue to praise God at Dawson Street, Ballarat, Vic, for the number of people who are following their Lord through the waters of baptism, but there has never been a greater joy for me than to baptise Myra Williams, Nan to her friends, at the golden age of 90.

Nan is a great example of someone who is continuing to grow in her love for Jesus.

This re-enforces the importance for us as churches to continue to preach the gospel and baptism as the response of a commitment to Christ, as baptism by immersion is a command, not an option.

We just continue to praise God for the way he is working in so many lives and trust that when we reach the golden age of 90 we may still be as open as Nan,



Myra Williams and Stephen Templeton

to the work of God's spirit in our lives.

—Stephen Templeton

L.M.C.T.  
6549

# Ken Geyer

SELECT USED CARS

49 Bond Street, Ringwood 3134

Telephone: (03) 879 4004

A.H. (03) 722 1780

CONTACT KEN IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR  
A USED CAR OR NEED TO RENT ONE



### SAVE TIME & MONEY

Both are precious during your retirement.

Move to Bethany Close to gain time and money to spend on the things you enjoy doing—why use up your time and money on the maintenance of your home? Move into one of the new, high-quality two-bedroom units at Bethany Close and we will take care of the maintenance for you—at no cost to you! Our unique lease-type (license) arrangement means you pay no maintenance fee at all during the duration of your occupancy! Bethany Close, Arnott St, Ormond, is a Christian retirement project managed by the Department of Community Care of Churches of Christ (Vic-Tas).

To convince yourself about the special benefits this offer has for you, phone us now on (03) 326 8977 for details of our arrangements. Only five units are still available. So act quickly

## • Australian Board of Church Development and Education

### New Board's First Meeting

The Australian Board of Church Development and Education met in Melbourne 28-30 July for its first national meeting. This follows approval for the formation of the new structure by Federal Conference meeting in Brisbane last October. Representatives from all states and the ACT met with executive members and staff at the Nunawading church.

The board's new responsibilities include education and evangelism roles, the production of appropriate resources, the co-ordination of work at a national level and the exchange of reports, personnel and services as appropriate for national planning and direction. Dr David Merritt of the Joint Board of Christian Education met with representatives at the opening session on issues in education for the 90s.

#### Increased Support

Don Smith presented a survey and overview of the board's work and the challenges for the decade. A highlight of the survey was the increased financial support from all states and the steady rise in the sale of publications. The board's overall income from churches for the year to 30 June 1991 was \$12,139.

Expectations are for a continuing rise in support this financial year. It is hoped that all churches will make a contribution.

The board is also acting as the national co-ordinating agency for the Church Attenders Survey directed by Dr Peter Kaldor for a large group of co-operating denominations.

#### New Resources

Existing publications are constantly being reprinted. Scheduled for release this year are new studies by Alan Hermann, *Come Alive*, and another in the "Growing Faith" Bible study series, *Empowered People*, by Cath Greatbatch, together with a number of youth studies. In 1992-93 a wide range of new material is proposed.

Jeff Deuble's *Effective Eldership* has had a significant national impact upon our churches. Jeff recently lectured on the theme in New Zealand, where the book is being sold. Overtures to hand after the conference from the United States may also open up a market there.

Representatives expressed a sense of confidence in the quality of material being produced

## • Stress in the last semester at college

### Equipped and Ready

Conflict resolution and stress management are two key needs identified in recent studies of Churches of Christ ministers. For two hours each week in the second semester Harvey Miller is guiding final-year ministerial students at CCTC as they enhance their awareness and develop personal strategies in these areas. The intention is that the mission of the local church will be strengthened. The approach is perceptive, practical and appreciated by the students.

In the other half of this unit, "The Practice of Ministry", Keith Bowes is facilitating the students' consideration of sharing the gospel so that people can make initial response to God. The students are drawing upon the experiences of ministers and themselves concerning evangelism and church planting.

Their goal is to be well equipped for personal evangelism as well as leading the congregations they will serve next year to grow through conversion and restoration and not just through transfers. Their enthusiasm as they share their findings and ideas is infectious.

All but two of the final-year Diploma in Ministry students have received appointments to local churches next year.

At the time of writing those two are negotiating. One graduate will be involved in planting a new church (at Aldinga, south of Adelaide), the second year running for this kind of appointment.

Graduation will be held on 22 November at Blackman Hall.

Regular attenders should note that this is a week later than usual.

—Keith Bowes (Principal)

by a range of contributors from around Australia. The Board acknowledges the strong sense of partnership with the Federal Literature Department.

#### Youth Ministry

Andrew Ball presented a report from the National Youth Summit held at Monbulk, Victoria, 12-14 July. The recommendations were received and will be progressively worked on. The board is sponsoring the 15th National Youth Convention to be held at Harrietteville, Victoria, in January 1992.

#### 1992

Alongside the new publications and resources proposed, a national conference of church planters will be held mid-year. A special team to stimulate matters of church revitalisation is being developed. This project will be of particular relevance to older existing churches. In the first instance it is planned to have the team work in state capitals. The success of the conference highlights the high levels of co-operation and sense of unity existing between the states and the Board.



Some of the participants and visitors to the ABCDE conference: (back) Ross Wakeley (NSW), Jim Keatch (SA), Alan Hermann (Qld), Dr David Merritt (JBCE), (front) Doug Adam (Vic), Dr Neale Fong (WA), Lynette Leach (Vic)

### BALWYN

69th Church Anniversary

Sunday, 13 October

Worship and  
Communion Service—  
10 am

Speaker—Gerald Rose  
Theme—"Staying Sane  
in a Crazy World"  
Light refreshments

### Epping is Expanding

and celebrating the  
dedication of recent  
building renovations  
for mission and  
ministry on

20 October, 2.30 pm.

Guest speaker:  
Dr Keith Farmer

• **Purchase of private nursing home and retirement village**

## Reynella Complex in SA Bought

The Board of the Churches of Christ Retirement Services Inc. in South Australia is pleased to announce the purchase of an attractive complex in Old South Road in Reynella, 20 km south of Adelaide.

The site includes a 31-bed nursing home, a 22-room hostel, 36 independent living units (28 of them with two bedrooms) and two adjacent houses.

The complex also has administration, activities and consulting areas as well as a spa, heated swimming pool and bowling green.

The nursing home was built in 1975 and the hostel and ILUs were completed in 1985 and now cater for approximately 110 residents and 50 staff.

We look forward to working with the residents and staff as this new complex is incorporated into the organisation.

—Kingsley Curtis  
(Administrator)



### Kenmore Christian College

*"Training Servants for Ministry"*

R.W. Tippett  
Principal

41 Brookfield Road  
Kenmore 4069  
Phone (07) 378 7633

• **North east meets department**

## Seminar with Ministers



Ministers from the churches at Wangaratta, Bright, Wodonga, Albury and Yarrowonga met with Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development staff members Ian Tippett, Brian White and Don Smith for a day seminar on 9 September. Keith Milne of the Boronia church was invited to share in the seminar and speak of his experience in smaller and

larger churches in city and country.

Areas covered included church programming, personal and family issues in ministry, Conference directions and planning.

This event is a continuing part of the Department's policy of meeting with groups of ministers from similar church situations.

Earlier this year some 40 ministers and spouses from Western Victoria attended a conference at Halls Gap.

This was followed by a seminar with staff of larger churches mid-year. Planning is in hand for further events of this nature and on a broader scale. Each group has commended the events and suggested further contact.

• **Thanksgiving service**

## State School Thanks God for 80 Years of Education

This isn't the sort of headline that is common, given our society's sensitivity about keeping state schools secular. But it is what happened on 1 September at Warragul High School in Victoria.

As part of the school's 80th anniversary celebrations, the steering committee agreed to hold a thanksgiving service. The school's chaplain, Bruce Waldron, was given the responsibility of organising the service.

The special "School's Service of Thanksgiving" was held at the Warragul Uniting Church.

The church was filled with people from all over Australia and overseas who had returned for the celebrations. The Principal, Don Welch, opened the

service with prayer. Members of the school community presented symbols of thanks to God.

A symbol of teaching was presented by the Deputy Principal (duster and chalk), pastoral care by a year-level coordinator, learning by a Year 9 student, student friendship and support by a Year 8 student and a Year 10 student, parenting and the gift of children by one of the parents (a budding flower), supporting services (a school bulletin) by the school bursar and a Bible was presented by the chaplain as a symbol of God's presence in the school.

Responsive readings were lead by a teacher, the President of the Parents and Friends Association, a Year 12 student and

an ex-student, thanking God for all aspects of school life, which have, for 80 years, prepared young people for their place in society.

Items of music were presented by the school ISCF. Tania Waring (Warragul Church of Christ) played "The Heavens Shall Declare the Glory of His Name" on her saxophone. One of the hymns sung was written by Christopher Venning, the chaplain at Warrnambool High. The message, delivered by Bruce Waldron, focused on the school's motto: "Aim for a Definite End".

More than 3,000 attended the celebrations, which went from Friday night to Sunday afternoon. 420 ate at sit-down dinners catered for by the Warragul High School Chaplaincy Committee as part of its fundraising effort.

More than 60 parents, teachers and students assisted with this.

## Letters to the Editor

### Letters are limited to 200 words

#### Leadership Debate

To the Editor,

Enough is enough! For some time now I have been concerned at the misrepresentation and distortion of my position in the so-called leadership debate. You have indicated that I may exercise a right of reply when you decide to close the correspondence on this debate. Thank you for that consideration.

However, after reading Graeme Chapman's edition of the *Historical Society Digest*, I can no longer remain silent. In a segment entitled "History Is Dangerous: The Leadership Debate", Graeme claims that he is not interested in entering the debate, then blatantly proceeds to do so in a subjective manner that distorts further a view of leadership held by a number of senior ministers.

Graeme's conclusion that "the style of leadership...exemplified by...senior ministers is foreign to the ethos of Churches of Christ...Most arguments advanced in its favour are pragmatic rather than biblical", leaves me disappointed and sad.

Disappointed, in that by his own admission Graeme states that a historian will identify available primary sources. As far as I am able to ascertain Graeme has not consulted with a cross-section of senior ministers or researched the writings and tapes of their teaching. Therefore his statements are not objective but entirely subjective and based on hearsay. I would consider senior ministers to be "primary sources" of the views they hold.

Sad, because instead of clarifying the debate as a historian should do, he has muddied the waters by presenting a caricature of a certain style of leadership which bears no resemblance to the reality of that style.

If we are to seek the mind and purpose of God for our churches, let us be fair and ethical in diligently researching the views being presented. Then we will honour the Lord of the

church with an integrity in our relationships, even agreeing to disagree while still maintaining the spirit of unity in the bonds of peace.

Otherwise we may have to concur with the facetious comment of Henry Ford that "all history is bunk"! My plea is that, as far as humanly possible, we try to understand the varying viewpoints in any debate, then on the basis of facts, seek prayerfully to reach a conclusion.

—Ron Elbourne  
(Glen Waverley, Vic)

#### Leadership Debate

To the Editor,

I was greatly interested in Graeme Chapman's article "History Is Dangerous: The Leadership Debate" (*Historical Society Digest* inserted in "AC" 7 September). I want to ask Graeme the following questions:

- In discussing ministry styles he seems to imply that pragmatism and Scriptural foundations are dichotomous. However Graeme also observes that there is evidence that leadership styles in the New Testament were influenced by pragmatic considerations. Could Graeme clarify this slight confusion? On the basis of the New Testament should leadership styles in different cultural settings continue to be based partially on pragmatic considerations?

- Graeme points out, using the Troeltsch-Niebuhr typology of sect, church and denomination, that we have moved from being a sect to being a denomination in a sociological sense. He suggests that the "Elbourne style" is similar to the patterns of strong clerical leadership given by some Pentecostal ministers and that this could lead us back into the sectarian phase. Is not there evidence of strong clergy leadership within the church and denominational traditions? Who was in charge when we were sociologically categorised as an "established sect"? Was not strong lay leadership and the subtle anti-clerical attitude of past years one of the sectarian

characteristics of Churches of Christ? Is it not possible then a greater respect and acceptance of ministerial leadership associates us more with the denominational type than the sectarian type?

- Graeme points out that the "Elbourne style" is "foreign to our ethos". Is that terminology a value judgment expressing tacit disapproval? Or is it saying that larger churches are a relatively new phenomenon in our "small church denomination" and that the leadership style associated with some of these churches is a response (or a cause) of this new development? In other words "do new occasions teach new duties"?

- Is the debate about a new pattern of leadership? Are there not examples of "strong, visionary leaders" who have been ministers in past decades? Is the debater about whether ministers of large churches need a different set of skills

compared to ministers of smaller churches?

- Has Graeme researched senior ministers to see if they have identical approaches to leadership within their churches?

—E.C. Keating  
(Nunawading, Vic)

#### Response

To the Editor,

First, let me thank both Ted and Ron for the courtesy of ringing me to indicate their displeasure with my article and to alert me to the fact that they were writing to *The Australian Christian*.

In this letter I intend to make a response to the tenor of their criticisms, rather than to the detail, though I will deal with certain specifics. Because of their response, and that of others, I intend writing an article specifically on the subject of leadership, where criticisms, not addressed in this letter, will

## Letters from Tertius

### "Clap Your Hands"

To the Editor,

I can remember when to clap hands in church was considered to be the height of irreverence. I recall when a preacher was so good that when he finished one brother, who was carried away by the sermon, forgot himself and spontaneously clapped. An icy chill came over the congregation as the poor man wished for some way of withdrawing those offending claps.

But now we clap if we like a soloist or if we hear of good news such as a debt reduction. We haven't clapped our preacher yet, although he deserves it.

Now we have a new song leader who gets us to clap during some of the songs. There's even one with a syncopated clap. I've been trying to analyse whether clapping really adds something to the worship or whether it's another form of spiritual self-gratification. So I got my concordance out and looked up what the Bible says.

I found that in the eight references to clapping in five cases it meant disapproval and was associated with such things as hissing. In three cases clapping was for approval.

We have rivers clapping their hands and in one passage trees clapping their hands in response to a choral concert put on by the hills and mountains.

Psalm 45 calls us to clap our hands with loud songs of joy. So I guess that gives some authority to our enthusiastic song leader. I don't mind a little clapping here and there if it really helps us to worship, provided it doesn't become part of the ritual and always required with certain songs or parts of songs.

It's amazing how quickly innovation becomes ritual!

A clap—of approval—to the Editor.

—Tertius

## Letters to the Editor

be dealt with, not seriatim, but in the context of the argument.

At the outset, I need to clear up two misunderstandings. First, I wrote an article on history, not on leadership. This was probably obscured by the fact that it was editorially dissected to provide a more interesting layout. The article "Why History?" was originally constructed as a seamless robe. I used the leadership issue illustratively. Had I wished to debate the issue of leadership, as a central theme, I would have taken an entirely different approach, one that was far more comprehensive, detailed and penetrating. I merely hinted at several of my concerns as a way of illustrating the need for historians to be involved in this debate.

Second, it has been assumed that I have entered the fray as an opponent of our "senior ministers", who have been arguing for strong, visionary leadership. This is not the case, as I trust will be apparent both from copies of a lecture which I have forwarded to those who have indicated their concern

and from the fact that I am on record as arguing for a diversity of ministry models, and for a mutual acceptance of such diversity. However, I do have legitimate concerns about this model, as I do about others, and such concerns need to be heard. Had I wished, as has been assumed, to joust with the senior ministers, I would have gone in boots and all. This was neither my stance nor intention. Having said this, however, I can appreciate how such an impression was gained.

I intend dealing with the sorts of concerns raised by Ted that relate to patterns of sectarianism in the ensuing article. One comment I will make here, however, is that I do not see theological conviction and pragmatism as dichotomous, but as complementary. I would have hoped this would have been evident from paragraph seven. In fact, I would argue, speaking practically rather than theologically, that pragmatism is as important as are scriptural principles, given the uniqueness of local ministry situations. I was raising the question of how we

will know when pragmatism has subverted basic biblical principles, a circumstance that can occur within the context of any one of a number of ministry models. Incidentally, I would be happy to receive material offering biblical support for the model, in all its diversity, that Ron has been arguing for.

It has been pointed out to me that elders in some of the larger churches have been offended by my comments, which appeared to suggest that they are rubber stamps. I neither said nor implied this. I described them as "supportive, if not uncritical". The problem may have been the double negative. I did not want to describe them as "critical", which would have conveyed a wrong impression. The double negative was used to soften the sense of the word.

I argued throughout the article, that the issue needs far more debate, more rigorous and informed debate, than it has received to date. If the model being advocated is the way to go, let us be convinced about it. If there are weaknesses in the approach, let us be aware of them.

It concerns me that we, as Churches of Christ, have no forum for vigorous, substantial debate. This is of particular concern because, almost invariably, changes in our theology have stumbled along behind changes in practice, without significant theological critique. Scriptural justification is always sought after the event and is always forthcoming! The changes have mostly been beneficial, but there is never any guarantee that this will always be so.

In the absence of such a forum we are grateful for *The Australian Christian* and for the indulgence of its editor.

—Graeme Chapman

*[I have allowed these letters, which are longer than that normal for this column, to help clear up some misunderstandings following the last issue. As Graeme notes this is one of the few public forums in our churches and I wish to make it available to eve-*

*ryone, not just a select few. All contributors are asked to adhere to the limit in the future and deal with issues, not personalities.—Editor]*

### Destruction of Australian Manufacturing Industry

To the Editor,

Here are a few observations from the perspective of a professional engineer committed to Christian principles and trying to build things in Australia.

It is intolerable that any Australian government, especially a Labor one, should preside over the de-industrialisation of our manufacturing industry. Manufacturing the world over is where the mass of people get their livelihood.

The following process is widespread and deep seated:

Government tries to make manufacturing industry world competitive by reducing tariffs.

Reduced tariffs expose our makers to cheap imports, often products of exploited labour or dumped in Australia by countries subsidising their exports.

The owners of our factories know that without our government's protection from overseas predators their manufacturing segments cannot survive.

Our government refuses to listen to our manufacturing leaders, and persists with the idea that less protection will make our manufacturers more competitive.

Owners refuse to take continued losses and close down large segments of our manufacturing capability.

If we refuse to protect our manufacturing industry from this process it will be destroyed—and Australia will ultimately regress to a third world country.

Our government should support our manufacturers, not be another predator. Our higher labour costs support a higher standard of living—do we want our workers to be reduced to Third World workers?

—Graeme Doel  
(Eastwood, NSW)

### Christmas in Bethlehem



**15-day Group Tour to Israel**  
**Departing: Saturday, 21 December 1991**  
**Tour Price: \$3490 per person twin share**

The same itinerary is also available for three other departure dates:

Departing Saturday, 16 November \$2750 p.p. twln share  
Departing Saturday, 7 December \$3380 p.p. twln share  
Departing Saturday, 4 January 1992 \$3290 p.p. twln share

Each departure date is based on a minimum of 10 participants. Prices include: return flights, first class accommodation in Israel with breakfast and dinner daily, sightseeing, entrance fees and all transfers plus possibility to extend time away. The above tour is also available on a private car driver/guide basis for 2-7 people per car for other departure dates.

For further information and a detailed itinerary please contact:  
Dani at Jetset Travel Balaclava (Group Dept.)  
300 Carlisle Street, East St Kilda 3182  
Tel (03) 527 6119 Fax (03) 527 2394

Only available from Jetset Travel Balaclava  
SPECIALISING IN TOURS TO ISRAEL AND THE BIBLE LANDS

lic. No. 30577

## Papers

### Studio



#### Studio

**A Journal of Christians Writing**  
*Studio*, formerly *Christians Writing*, is now 10 years old. It is a quarterly journal of poetry, short stories and reviews written by Christians, but not necessarily written on "churchy" themes. Some outstanding Australian writers who are Christians have written for *Studio*. As with many small magazines the quality of the material can be patchy although the editors do strive to keep up the standard of material. They have also managed over the years to ensure that the material has a wider appeal to all interested in

literature. The current edition (No. 42) contains 18 poems. These are by various authors and in several styles. There are two short stories, of which I found "The Town Hall Clock" by Lindsay Roberts the more interesting. This issue was completed by six pages of reviews of a wide variety of books.

A subscription to *Studio* costs \$24 for a year (4 issues) and can be obtained from *Studio*, 727 Peel St, Albury 2640. —CRA

## Books

### C.S. Lewis—A Biography

by A.N. Wilson (Collins Publishing)

A generation ago the writings of C.S. Lewis had almost a cult following, and deservedly so. His childrens books, such as the "Narnia" series, enriched the imagination of many young readers. He was also renowned as the writer of many excellent works of Christian theology; probably the best known were the *Screwtape Letters* and *Miracles*. Now we have this fine biography by a writer who is worthy of the subject, both in style and scope. I would recommend that this biography be read in conjunction with Lewis's own autobiography, *Surprised by Joy*.

Lewis's journey into faith makes absorbing reading and will encourage all who are sensitive to the nuances of the Spirit, both in themselves and in others. As a young man in the 1920s, Lewis was one of the most brilliant dons that Oxford University ever produced. He was an authority on medieval English literature; many of his books on this subject remain standard texts today. At that stage he was a convinced atheist. Then he moved to a general belief in God, becoming a theist in a general sense. But the "Hound on Heaven" would not let him rest and Lewis finally became a committed Christian, as "Christ finally took hold of me". Interestingly, it took him some time to get used to the ways of the life of the church. Then, as Wilson comments: "There were giants in the land in those days [the 1930s]; Lewis joined such writers as G.K. Chesterton, T.S. Eliot, Dorothy Sayers and J.R.R. Tolkien in presenting to the English-speaking world Christian values through English literature.

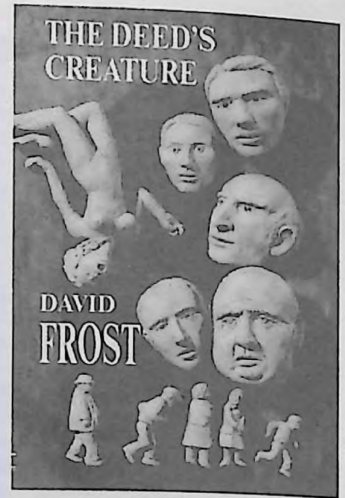
Like most solid, well-produced books this one is fairly expensive. However it is now in paperback. If all else fails, the local library should prove user-friendly!  
 —Viney Longthorp

### The Deed's Creature

by David Frost (Aquila) \$9.95

The various literature that came with this book when it was sent for review described *The Deed's Creature* thus: "Sex, mystery and religion combine in this powerful new novel, set in outer

London in the mid-1960s at the beginning of the sexual revolution. The plot concerns a police officer investigating the murder of his own mistress, and two clergymen who find that his attitudes threaten their beliefs. Hoping that he will face the consequences of his casual involvement, they collude in a revenge action that leads to a surprising and terrifying denouement, taking the reader into the bizarre world of fringe religious sects, the phenomena of 'possession' and of 'speaking with tongues'. The story is a study in the genesis of violent crime, and the social and family backgrounds and perverse sexual relationships that contribute to it. But despite its serious theme, the book is also macabrely humorous."



I am still trying to work out my reactions after reading this book. The religious characters seemed to exhibit a faith of which I have little experience. The type of "pious Anglicanism" of the clergy and the over-the-top existence of the religious fringe group are not true to life to me. Yet there is lurking in my thinking the thought that many of the actions and thoughts written about here are possible given a slight push to the beliefs of many in the pews today. It is not an easy detective read. I struggled reading the book a chapter at a time and feel it needs careful reading with time to reflect. I did not find it humorous, only sad and threatening.

The author, David Frost, is Professor of English at the University of Newcastle and he wrote the modern language Psalm translation printed in *An Australian Prayer Book*, adopted for use by the Uniting Church. He has been very active in liturgical writing and is well-known around the world for his work in this area.

If your local bookshop does not carry this book then it could be obtained from Aquila Books (Australia), 27 Tyrell St, Newcastle 2300.  
 —CRA

### The Angelic Verses—Daniel Changer

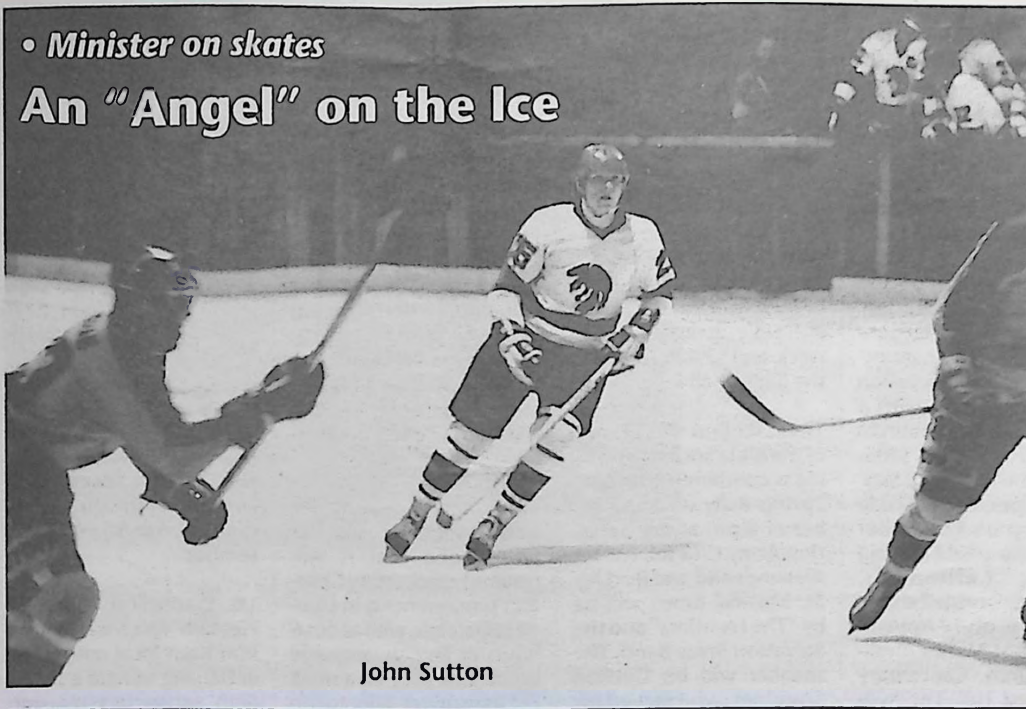


Could I please have some salad...oh, and some of that pastor as well...

## People

• *Minister on skates*

### An "Angel" on the Ice



John Sutton

• *Mobile again*

### Appeal Brings Wheels for Eric Hart

Recently the Chairman of the NSW Community Care Department, Frank Elsmore, became aware of the increasing difficulty Eric Hart was having in walking. The Department decided to launch an appeal for Eric to enable the purchase of a motorised "Gopher".

Funds for the appeal came from all over Australia, from friends who had known Eric in his ministry positions, including the Qld Social Service Department. Eric, who entered College of the Bible in 1940 had ministries at Boonah (Qld), Toowoomba (Qld), Bexley North and Caringbah (NSW). As well as this he was a Migrant Chaplain to England, Assistant Director of the Social Service Department in NSW, and Director of the Qld Social Service Department until 1977, when he retired. After retirement Eric went to New Zealand and had several brief ministries.

Eric currently resides at the Pendle Hill Retirement Village Hostel and his wife Madge is in the Pendle Hill Nursing Home. Since gaining his Gopher Eric is often seen driving around the retirement village visiting people. He regularly uses his Gopher to do his shopping and to travel to nearby Pendle Hill church.

#### Church of Christ Northcote celebrates 88 Years of Worship and Service

**Saturday, 12 October, 6 pm**  
Dinner and Nostalgia Social (Donation to Piano Fund)  
**Sunday, 20 October**  
**10.30 am** Worship—Speaker: Max Carter, Conf. Pres.  
**12.15 pm** Lunch—Interviews with Conf. Pres. and Stella Carter, Pres. Vic-Tas CWF  
**2.30 pm** Musical Program—Greensborough Church of Christ Musical Group  
*All Welcome*  
Please notify if coming  
Contact: John Gluyas (03) 470 4846  
Bruce Alcorn (03) 499 2628

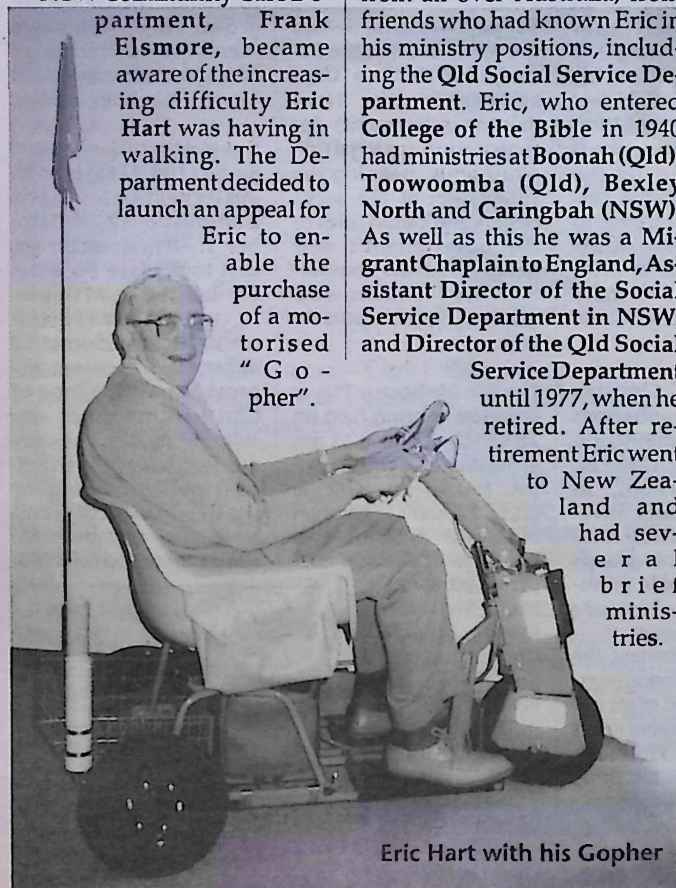
*The Knox News writes:*

The new senior minister at the Rowville, Vic, church combines his heavenly duties with a sport that some people might consider as not too heavenly—ice hockey. But for John Sutton, thrashing out his stress on the ice and sometimes suffering an injury or two, it is all in a day's work. And his hard work, determination and commitment have paid off, as he was selected to play for Victoria in the Australian championships. John is a member of the Black Hawks Ice Hockey Club. He has been selected for the Victorian team four times previously, and once for South Australia.

John trains once a week and says he enjoys the excitement of the sport, and the skating aspect. "I enjoy the physical contact and mateship of the club and it's a good stress release," he said. "However, it is an expensive sport and I don't like the violence. But being a Christian is a challenge and an opportunity to share with the other guys."

When not busy with his sport, John's duties as senior minister include the administration of church business, preparation of sermons for church and Bible studies, and marriage and family counselling.

• *In the Australian Championships the Victorian team finished third among the six states competing. John's brother, Lester, who is now at the NSW Theological College, Carlingford, training for ministry, has also played ice hockey for Victoria.*



Eric Hart with his Gopher

#### BRUNSWICK Church of Christ 109th Church Anniversary

27 October 1991  
Worship service 11 am  
with Max Carter  
(Conference President)  
guest speaker  
PSA 2.30 pm  
with Greensborough  
Church of Christ Choir

# Happenings

Robert Schuller, minister of the Crystal Cathedral, Golden Grove, California, and television evangelist featured on "The Hour of Power", underwent emergency surgery in the Free University Hospital in Amsterdam on 1 September for a burst blood vessel in his brain. At last report his condition was stable.

9 of the top 15 US churches with the fastest-growing attendances are predominantly black congregations. Many black congregations are mimicking white megachurches by offering plenty of special-interest help, such as divorce recovery, and family and drug counselling. 2 black congregations of the Disciples of Christ fit the megachurch category. They are Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, which has 2,885 members and a 1,062 average worship attendance, and Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, Memphis, which has a 3,011 participating membership and 2,800 average worship attendance.

Sir Ronald Wilson, recently retired President of the Uniting Church in Australia, and President of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Board, is the new President of the World Conference on Religion and Peace in Australia. Sir Ron succeeds the late Archbishop of Melbourne, David Penman.

The Whole People of God, a new Christian Education

curriculum, will be introduced to users and interested churches through a series of workshops planned for October and November. The 1992 edition of the curriculum is being published by MediaCom. The Whole People of God originated in Canada and Dr Deidre Palmer is editor of the 1992 Australian edition. The curriculum is lectionary based, with a connection between education and worship and with a wide range of resources for teachers. Each seminar will be held on a Sunday, 2-5 pm. The Adelaide workshop on 27 October is at the Rosefield Uniting Church, Carlton St, Highgate. The Melbourne workshop, on 17 November, is at St Mark's Anglican Church, Canterbury Rd, Forest Hill. The Sydney workshop will be on 24 November at St Giles Anglican Church, Greendale St, Greenwich. There is a nominal registration of \$5 each person. Details, including registration forms, from MediaCom, PO Box 610, Unley 5061. Phone (08) 371 1399.

The regular stamp and coin show is being held at the Blackburn Baptist Church, Holland Rd, South Blackburn on 26 October 9 am-4 pm. There is a Churches of Christ stall in the show, being operated by David and Eileen Lewis from SA. People wishing to donate stamps could contact E. Blake on (03) 803 4858 or they can be left at the Box Hill manse.

A delegation of Christians from the Soviet republics urged Christians from Africa, Asia and Latin America to help them evangelise the unreached people in what previously was the Soviet Union. They said that Christians from the Third World can be more effective than Christians

from the US and Europe in helping evangelise people of the Soviet Republics.

Bible readership in America has remained constant over the past 4 years, according to a survey by the Barna Research Group. In a typical week, 10% of all Americans read from the Bible every day, 45% read from the Bible at least once a week, and 52% did not read the Bible at all.

The Essendon, Vic, branch of the Bible Society is holding a combined churches Spring Rally on 25 October at 8 pm at the Salvation Army Citadel, cnr Mt Alexander Rd and Buckley St. Musical items will be by "The Frontiers" and the Salvation Army Band. The speaker will be Gordon Scambler, who served for 12 years as national treasurer of the Bible Society and has also served as Vic-Tas Conference President for Churches of Christ.

Almost twice as many new missions were opened in the 1980s in West Africa as were opened during the decades of the 60s and 70s combined. In 1983 22% of the population in the 8 West African countries surveyed were untouched by the gospel. By 1990 the percentage had dropped to 8%. However, there are still 8 people groups of more than 100,000 who have never heard the Good News.

More than 320 Christian parachurch organisations are involved in ministry in Eastern Europe. These include 185 missions, 56 radio broadcasters, 35 research, education and public advocacy groups and 44 low-profile ministries.

The Spanish parliament, the Cortes, is considering legislation that would grant unprecedented religious rights to the nation's Protestant minority. For the first time, churches and affiliated organisations will be exempt from property and corporation taxes. Protestant min-

isters will be recognised as a legal profession, equal in stature with Roman Catholic priests.

Nigeria has reportedly suspended its participation in the Organization of the Islamic Conference, in what had been viewed as a controversial political move by Africa's most populous nation. Though officially secular, the Nigerian government has been rocked by years of religious violence between Muslims and Christians.

Protestant evangelical mission SIM International has announced that it will resume broadcasting Christian programming in Liberia in October, with about 6 hours of English language broadcasts daily on a small FM transmitter. Prior to the complete destruction of Radio ELWA, the station had provided 37 years of uninterrupted service with broadcasts in more than 40 languages to west, central and north Africa.

Bulgaria has so far denied the application of the Society for Krishna Consciousness (the Hare Krishna movement) for registration as a legal religious body, pending the submission of the sect's beliefs and canon rules to the government's new Religious Affairs Committee. The Mormons were granted legal status in July.

The 8th Melbourne Prayer Breakfast is being held on 28 October 7.30-8.45 am at the World Congress Centre. The speaker will be Bruce Redpath, Chairman of Mayne Nickless Ltd. Bookings of seats at \$25 per head through the Melbourne Prayer Breakfast Committee, GPO Box 986H, Melbourne 3001. Enquiries to Ian Prescott on (03) 890 0499 or Richard Whaley on (03) 383 2666.

Over the weekend

of 25-27 October the ACT Conference will hold its Conference Camp at the CYTA Lodge at Cooma.

Special editions of the Russian Scriptures have been produced for the visually handicapped. The United Bible Societies has placed an order with a Hungarian publisher for 25,000 copies of each of the 4 Gospels.

We have just learnt that W.J.O. Todd, a New Zealander who ministered to the churches at North Sydney, Wagga Wagga and Nambour in Australia, died in England on 5 September.


The Evangelical Church of Vietnam received permission from local authorities in Danang to hold a public 80th anniversary marking the arrival of the first Christian and Missionary Alliance workers. The celebrations on 15 September were to be held on the site of the first mission station in 1911. Over 2,000 were expected to attend. The church has grown to an estimated membership today of 325,000 believers despite extreme hardship.

Central Victorian Gospel Radio (104.7 FM) is holding its next series of test transmissions 7-20 October. Their first test broadcast took place on 4 December 1984 and this series will be their 13th test transmission. Some 50 different presenters will provide a wide range of Christian messages and suitable music. They are working towards a scheduled public hearing by the Department of Transport and Communications scheduled for 1993.



**INTEGRA INTRODUCTIONS**  
Christian Confidential Professional

Assisting Christian Singles  
PO Box 240  
World Trade Centre 3005  
Phone (03) 306 1549

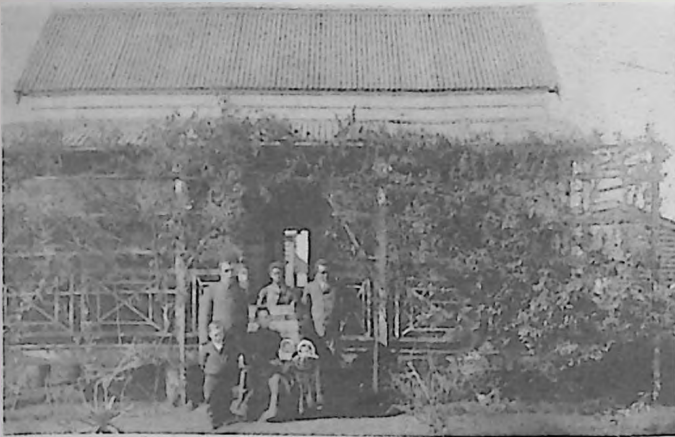


**ON YOUR OWN, YOU'RE NOT ALONE**

Christian Singles Fellowship offers friendship through correspondence with other born-again Christian singles and single-again people

Write enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:  
CSF, PO Box 411,  
Mayfield 2304

## • Group from Vanuatu visit Queensland Pilgrimage to Bundaberg



The home and family of John Thompson in Childers at the turn of the century

In 1989 John Buli, from Vanuatu, accompanied by his wife Janet, visited Bundaberg, Qld, to trace his grandfather's footsteps. Their impressions were so great, and John as Conference President spoke so enthusiastically of them, that a party of 18 Ni-Vanuatu made a pilgrimage to Bundaberg in August.

Preparations for the visit aroused a great deal of interest throughout the area. Hope Egmollese, the only remaining full-blood descendant of the Kanakas, was excited about the visit and her family organised a barbecue. The oldest man in Childers, Harold Blare, aged 99, recalled many instances with missionary John Thompson. Jim Ruddy, in his 80s, the son of the man who allowed John Thompson to build a church on his land, was also excited about the visit. The original gate to the church is still on the land. Mr Ruddy gave land to many Kanakas when they accepted his offer to stay instead of returning to the New Hebrides. And the whole church at Twyford Street, Bundaberg, was excited about the visit.

Ken Warne and Bob Dewar of OMB accompanied the visitors, who arrived on 21 August. A big fellowship tea awaited them at the church.

Early next morning the party

inspected the stone wall fences built by the Kanakas from bluemetal rocks picked out of the rich volcanic soil to make cane farms. The visitors climbed Bundaberg's only hill, "The Hummock", where they saw cane farms and ocean. They moved on to Missionary Thompsons Hill, where they were met by Jim Ruddy, who piloted them to view the actual sites of their forebears, seeing trees planted on various sites, the fireplace and stone floor of a hut and the remains of an old iron bedstead.

When the party assembled on the site of the church built about 1880 where John Thompson ministered to the Kanakas and won many to Christ, they sang in beautiful harmony "We are standing on holy ground".

Suggestions have been made, both locally and on the Qld Overseas Mission Committee, that approaches be made to Jim Ruddy to obtain the chapel area of his land.

People in Childers were also interested in the visit. Rose Hamann, wife of preacher Charles Hamann, was baptised by John Thompson in 1890 in Childers. John Thompson was a founder of the Bundaberg church and we understand that the first communion service at "The Yellow Waterholes" was held in May 1883. Just recently

## • Innovative use of the media Video Tapes for the Hearing Impaired

HANDD Ministries Inc, an organisation working in conjunction with local churches to spread the Gospel amongst deaf and hearing-impaired people, has appointed a technical and media consultant. Using the latest equipment, and working in conjunction with Blackburn North Baptist Church, Vic, they now have available video tapes interpreted for the deaf. Topics available include "The New Age Movement" (a Christian re-

sponse), "Paul's Letter to the Romans" (an exegesis by Rev Jack Simmonds available in weekly parts) and "Your Money Matters" (a Christian guide to finance by Malcolm McGregor).

For further details about these and other resources available for ministry with the deaf, contact HANDD Ministries on (03) 560 1171 (TTY and voice) or call into the resource centre at 55 Chancellor Drive, Mulgrave. —Barry Knights

we were given by Mary Asmus the original communion goblets used at that service.

The party was shown the burial grounds on the head-

lands of the present golf links at Doolbi as well as the recently discovered graves not far from Twyford Street church.

—Wally Pohle

### Department of Community Care Annual Fetes Fun for All the Family!

Churches of Christ  
Nursing Home  
Wahgoo Road  
Murrumbena  
Saturday  
26 October  
10 am to 3 pm

Christian Guest Home  
and Emmaus at  
139 Atherton Road  
Oakleigh  
Saturday  
9 November  
9.30 am to 1.30 pm

*Morning teas and lunches available  
Paintings, Cakes, Plants, Jams, Pickles, Toys  
and Gifts for Sale*

### Churches of Christ K I D S M I N in SA

*Inc. C.O.C.K.E. & T.I.M. Players  
and KIDSMIN Publications  
present*

### THE LEGEND OF THE TEMPLE BELL

at the C.O.C.K.E. PLAYHOUSE  
50 Clifford Street, Torrensville  
on FRIDAY, 18 OCTOBER 1991—8 pm  
SATURDAY, 19 OCTOBER 1991—2 & 8 pm  
General Admission  
Adult \$6 Family \$15 Child \$3

• *The source of love*

## Eyre Peninsula Conference

The Eyre Peninsula Women's Conference held at Tumby Bay on 30 August celebrated "The Source of Love" through God the Creator, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit. 120 from our churches on Eyre Peninsula and sister churches of Tumby Bay met for a special service in music, song, floral arrangements and verse. Beautiful flowers, singing by the Tumby Bay Ladies Community Choir and well-presented individual items were a delight.

The decorations represented the theme. The Creator was illustrated by the sun, a rainbow, a tree, grain of the field and fruit of the garden and farm linked to the Godhead with golden ribbons, representing

the richness of creation. Jesus the Son was represented by an old rugged cross with a crown of thorns and white lilies at the base, linked with a white ribbon for the purity of Christ and a green ribbon for faith, forgiveness and healing. The Holy Spirit was illustrated by beautiful flowers in shades of mauve and the white doves of peace were linked with a mauve ribbon for loyalty.

An offering was presented for our Keep a Missionary family Pahulu and Enid Maea in Carnarvon.

This amounted to \$300. The service was prepared and led by our President, Daphne Cartmel of Tumby Bay.

—Roma Nankivell

• *Coach no. 2—an ongoing saga*

## WCCC Tour Reunions



1991 tour reunion

On 21 July 1980, following the World Convention of Churches of Christ in Honolulu, the 39 who were to travel on Coach No. 2 met at Vancouver Airport. Jack Searle was introduced as coach leader with Gillian Foster as tour guide.

A few in the group were already friends, others vaguely knew one or two while a few felt quite alone and a little apprehensive. This was soon to change and each day brought greater sharing. However it was not until the tour had returned to Australia and 18 from South Australia and Victoria met at May and Jack Searle's home that the desire for continuing fellowship was expressed.

In the intervening years reunions have been held in most states. These began as long weekends but soon turned into times lasting at least a week.

28 August–4 September was the largest gathering yet, when 26 of the original 39 were full- or part-timers at the Baptist Youth Camp, Mylor, SA. Six travelled from WA, six from Queensland, two each from NSW and Victoria with the remainder from SA. On the closing night plans were made for the next reunion to be held in Queensland. —M. Searle

• *Indonesian Praise Church*

## Affiliation Application



Conference Secretary Ian Allsop, Don Smith, DMED, and Hendra Iskandar

The Indonesian Praise Church under the leadership of Hendra Iskandar has applied for affiliation with the Victorian-Tasmanian Conference. The new church hopes to be welcomed into the Conference in May 1992. The church has been meeting for some years, and last December relocated to the Malvern church, where it was warmly welcomed by the members. Services are held each Sunday composed mostly of

young married couples, singles and students.

Peter Bradley, minister of the Chadstone church, played an important part in building links with the group.

This new church is one of a number of new ethnic congregations to become associated with the Conference through the CROP initiative of the Department of Mission, Education and Development and the Properties Corporation.

## 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  
(07) 378 9033  
or home (07) 378 8817

## Camberwell Church of Christ 75th Anniversary Service

- Sunday, 10 November 1991, at 10 a.m
  - Guest speaker: Dr Rowland Croucher of World Vision Fellowship and refreshments to follow.
- A warm welcome is assured to all visitors.

## CHURCH OF CHRIST Matilda Street PORT LINCOLN

### 50th Anniversary

Sunday, 24 November 1991  
10.45 am Sing-along  
11 am Worship and Communion  
Speaker: Ron Roberts  
2 pm Musical Celebration

All past members and friends welcome Luncheon 12 noon RSVP 8 November Box 517, Pt Lincoln

• **Important date on the calendar**

## CWFs Go to Caveside

45 CWFers from Ulverstone, Launceston and Caveside met at Caveside, Tas, on 10 September for their annual "get to-

gether". A delicious lunch, begun with Aunt Ena's soup, was enjoyed, and there was much catching up of news between members who had not met for 12 months.

It was particularly happy for Launceston members to meet Pearl Spicer again after her move to live in Ulverstone.

A session of praise and worship followed, in the church, led by Colleen Harrison. Leonie Cripps centred thoughts on the rainbow theme. The sun fortuitously broke through a dull sky just as she commenced.

This annual visit to Caveside is an important date in the CWF calendar.

—P. Harrison

### Youth Worker Wanted Part-time

Mature young adult Christian to assist with ministry primarily to youth at the **Church of Christ Nailsworth**

Enquiries:

42 Derlanger Ave  
Nailsworth SA 5083  
or phone Daryll Telfer  
(08) 344 1099

### Balook

is a tiny unspoilt hamlet surrounded by the unique Tarra-Bulga National Park, two and a half hours from Melbourne

Central heating

Log fires

Transport from Traralgon station by arrangement

Fern Valley

Guest House

RMB 7565, Balook 3971

Phone (051) 96 6141

### L. C. F. Higgins

**Chartered  
Accountant**

7 The Parade  
Norwood SA 5067  
Phones (08) 362 1665  
& (08) 362 8619

- Accountancy Services
- Business Management
- Financial Planning
- Taxation Returns

## Celebrating a Centenary of Overseas Mission 1891-1991

1960

### New Guinea Notes

One day Rex Chamberlain walked to Minung with one of the older boys who lives in that village. Rex asked the lad if he walked to Pir at the same leisurely rate. The reply was a definite negative. He said he ran all the way so that he wouldn't be late, because if he came late without good excuse he would have to cut the grass for half an hour after school had finished...

The people have begun to cut a road from the River Ramu to Tung... Frank Beale is marking out the place for the road. Even in such a work there are opportunities for a Christian witness. After walking about with the headmen of six villages there was time off, and everyone sat down to talk. The headmen were all glad that the road would mean that their lot in the world would be improved. From there the conversation was brought around to what God expects from each person's life in this world and the next. Little private talks during daily contact can often mean more than preaching. The people expect a sermon on Sunday and they patiently endure it. But the Word can be made more effective if they can be brought to realise that God has a claim to more than Sunday worship.

—*The Australian Christian*, 4 October 1960

# OMB

Overseas Mission Board

### Professionals

**David Pullin & Co.**  
Pty Ltd  
9 Sturt Road, Brighton 5048



Phone (08) 298 5500  
Fax (08) 296 6831  
AH (08) 378 3112

Licensed Agents  
Member of the Real Estate Institute



Providing a service in new and established homes, units, townhouses; property management; investment; sales, auctions.

**For all your real estate needs**

**Dean Sander**



**SWANSTON STREET  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Melbourne  
(cnr Swanston & Little Lonsdale Streets)

**Sunday**

9.00 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Worship & Communion Services

7.00 p.m.

Gospel Celebration

**Wednesday**

1.15-1.45 p.m.

Lunchtime Service

For further enquiries, please ring (03) 663 3884

## Classifieds

### BIRTHS

**WEST (MASON)** 20 July 1991. To Adam and Susan, a son, Jack Samuel Mason. Brother for Addison David, grandson for Ken and Dal Mason and David and Barbara West.

### ENGAGEMENTS

**SMITH—EVANS** Doug and Lyn Smith together with Frank and Lorraine Evans are happy to announce to family and friends the engagement of Sharon Smith and Darren Evans.

### GOLDEN WEDDINGS

**PADDICK—McGUIRE** Ern and Velda give thanks to God for 50 years together in his service. Married at the Stirling East, SA, church on 4.10.41 by the late J.E. Shipway. Living in retirement at 8/953 North East Road, Modbury 5092.

### DEATHS

**BARNETT**, Millicent Thurlow (nee Doyle). Passed away on 7 August, 1991. Loved and loving wife of Fred, dearly loved mother of Pat (Ots) and Fred, fond mother-in-law of Ed and Rosemary, and loving grandmother of six grandchildren.

**DUFF**, Douglas. Passed away at Malvern Private Hospital, Melbourne, on 30 August 1991. Beloved husband of Gwenda (dec). Loving father of Elizabeth, Ann and Michael (dec). Brother of Helen Wilmot (dec), Margaret Stevens (dec) and Madge Bubb (Ulladulla, NSW). Loved by all his nieces and nephews in Tasmania and New South Wales.

**REYNOLDS**, Maxwell Stanley (Max), Magill, SA. Suddenly at home, 9.9.91. Much loved and caring husband of Dorothy, father and father-in-law of Peter and Rose, Bary and Heather, Chris and Nicola, grandpa of David and Julian, Naomi, Ashley and Calvin and Matilda. Gone to be with his Lord.

### IN MEMORIAM

**ROBERTS** Rita Ellen. In fond memory of Aunt, the gentle lady

whose constant happiness and smiling face showed us a side of Jesus which I love. She left us 24 September 1990, aged 86 years— from Betty.

### BUILDERS

**PHILIP KEILAR** Fully qualified carpenter & joiner. Carports, decking and pergolas, home maintenance and repairs, home alterations, staircase, handrail specialist. For free quotes please ring (03) 729 6415 or (03) 761 4190.

**IAN & L.A. McDONALD** Carpenters and builders. Renovations—kitchens and bathrooms. All jobs large and small. For free quotes please ring (03) 557 1257. 41 Somers St, Bentleigh.

### HOLIDAYS

**GRAMPIANS SUNRISE HOLIDAY UNITS** Modern FSC 2-BR units at Pomonal. Superb views, peaceful farm setting. Bertram family resident owners. Phone (053) 56 6300.

**HOUSEBOAT** "White Heron" 8-berth. Moored at Blanchetown, SA. Phone (08) 365 1153 or (085) 40 5100 or write 7 Gameau Rd, Paradise 5075.

**POINT LONSDALE** Holiday house. Excellent position, close to front and back beaches. 3 bedrooms. Modernised. \$200 p.w., \$250 school holidays (not Christmas-January). C.R. Brough (03) 808 2815.

**QUEENSLAND GOLD COAST** Absolute waterfront unit Runaway Bay Broadwater. Peaceful area. Delightful views. Very reasonable rates. Enquiries: Len Brooks, 118 Wilgarning Street, Stafford Heights 4053. Telephone (07) 359 7227.

**SURFERS PARADISE, GOLD COAST** High rise. Ocean and river views. 2 bedroom with ensuite. Casual Dec 91—Easter 92. Lease Winter 92. Telephone (07) 206 3001.

**VICTOR HARBOR** Now available for the summer! Cosy 2BR cottage. Cheaper than a cabin and better! Phone (08) 276 6605.

## WANTED TO SELL

Belmont, Vic, Church of Christ  
20 x 12' (3.66 m) solid wood, maple-  
coloured pews with book racks  
\$225 each ONO

Contact Ross Allen on (052) 44 1411



and gives you  
**100% hospital cover**

# I.O.R

## HEALTH FUND

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON  
THE LOWEST PRICED  
HEALTH FUND IN VICTORIA**

'phone obligation-free  
**819 5522**

**Toll-Free 008 114 014**

or call into Head Office:

**262 Burwood Rd, Hawthorn 3122**

I.O.R. AUSTRALIA P/L IS A REGISTERED HEALTH BENEFITS ORGANISATION  
ACH 007 031 165

STRATAGEM 10R1111K

### Overseas Mission Centenary Rally

Sunday, 27 October, at 2.45 pm

Lygon Street Church of Christ  
54 Lygon Street, Carlton

- Julie Trinnick
- David Harmer

- Items from Overseas Groups

All churches are invited to bring a bus load

Make this a great celebration of 100 years of  
Overseas Mission of Australian Churches of Christ

Details: Dorothy Geyer (03) 861 8558

## Comment

**T**he Restoration Movement, founded early last century by Thomas and Alexander Campbell, was part of something big, something that God ordained and purposed from the beginning of time.

The apostle Paul taught (2 Thessalonians 2:1-3) that the church would "fall away" from the truth and power that characterised it in its early years. History testifies to the truth of this prophecy. Over the years, Biblical doctrines and practices were lost to the church—a low point being the dark ages, when largely only religious form remained. Sadly, some parts of Christendom have stayed in the "dark ages" in this respect,

### • Restoring the church

## The Start of Something Big!

by David Youens

"having a form of godliness but denying its power".

The good news is that God does not intend his church to remain in a fallen, powerless state. In fact, Jesus promised that the gates of hell shall not prevail against her (Matthew 16:18) and the apostle Peter said (in Acts 3:21) that the ascended Jesus would remain in heaven with the Father "until the times of restoration of all things",

which God's prophets spoke of since the world began. The writer to the Hebrews encourages believers to leave the elementary principles of Christ and go on towards completeness and perfection. (Hebrews 6:1)

Undoubtedly, God gave the Campbells a revelation of the united Body of Christ, based on the faith and order described in the New Testament. This was

a significant step towards the restoration of his church—particularly in the areas of congregational autonomy and the truth of believers' baptism by immersion in water. However, God wants us to move on towards total restoration, embracing other areas such as recognition of the ministries of apostles and prophets, as well as evangelists, pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11, 12) and the operation of the Holy Spirit in worship and ministry. In this respect I was encouraged to read ("AC" 19 August 1989) of a movement in the USA called Christ's Church Fellowship, arising out of the Disciples of Christ, which hold to these doctrines.

My prayer is that the movement of God that started with the Restoration Movement will continue on and that God's people will be open to change towards restoration of the church in readiness for the return of Jesus.

• David Youens writes: "My wife Janine and I have fine pedigrees in Churches of Christ—my father was F.A. Youens and my wife's grandfather was E.J. Waters, both of whom were used greatly by God in ministry in the Brotherhood. We thank God for this heritage of Biblical truth. God has "stretched" us in recent years and this process has relocated us in the Body of Christ to take up a pastoral ministry in a leading Pentecostal Church in Canberra—New Creation Ministries Centre, an assembly of the Apostolic Church. We pray that God will continue to bless Churches of Christ and that the Restoration Movement will continue."

### Pontius' Puddle



### Les Lawlor says...

I stand behind every Lawlor Pest Control job personally—all types of buildings—anywhere. Everything unconditionally guaranteed! Weeds—birds on roofs—Argentine and all other ants—"white ants"—borers—carpet pests—lawn pests, in fact, any pest that grows, walks or flies.

**LAWLORS PTY. LTD.**  
THE PEST CONTROL PEOPLE  
6-10 Henley St., Torrensville  
Phone (08) 43 9636



### Strong Roots—Good Growth

Richmond's Vietnamese congregation led by Nathan Nhan has developed strong roots from its refugee beginnings. The economic recession has buffeted members. However conversions and membership growth continue, with Department support planned for new church expansion in 1992.

**Department of Mission, Education  
and Development**  
77 Capel St, West Melbourne, Vic 3003



### Church of Christ SOUTHPORT

now meets in  
Parklands Drive  
8.55 am  
Worship and Communion  
6.30 pm  
Gospel Celebration  
Minister: Noel Newton  
(075) 94 6154, 94 6633  
31 4353 (AH)

## A Church ABC

**F**airfield is a south-western suburb of Sydney, NSW. Its community of 180,000 is probably Australia's most ethnic—85% of the population are migrants or the children of migrants and there are over 100 different ethnic groups represented. Fairfield is situated on the edge of large concentrations of people from Southeast Asia, the Middle East and South America. Lately there has been a large influx of people from the South Pacific.

In this setting it comes as little surprise to find that the Fairfield Church of Christ is multicultural too. The chapel is used by Arabic- and Vietnamese-speaking congregations, and the membership is composed of many nationalities. Even one of the ministers is a migrant. There is now a sizeable Spanish-speaking group within the congregation. Co-minister, Phil Wyllie, is learning Spanish and has found himself working with many different South American nationalities—from Chile, Argentina and now Peru.

Fairfield's situation has brought home to its members that the mission field is right on their doorsteps, and are adept at finding ways of reaching out to others. A decade ago Elsie McNeill saw the needs of moth-

ers in flats with young children and opened the church to help them. This playgroup, despite many difficulties, now has large numbers attending each week. In another ministry, Danny Forster, a member who is a policeman, started an interdenominational Christian police association. It now has 450



## Focus on Fairfield

members, who meet in home groups and conduct missions.

The membership at Fairfield, though, is only small, about 35 members, although the active attendance is double that. Population patterns in the area have meant a 128% turnover in the last 6 years.

However there are indications that the area is now becoming more stable. At present it is the third-largest-growing area in Australia, with a projected population of 200,000 by the year 2000, but by then most of the area for new growth will have been built on.

Services are at 10 am. The Spanish-speakers meet simultaneously so that their children can use the Sunday School too. The other congregations using the facilities meet at 12 noon

(Arabic) and 2.30 pm (Vietnamese).

The Fairfield Church of Christ is very well placed. It is situated at the junction of two main roads that lead to the main commercial area, on a triangular shaped block with high exposure opposite a large shopping centre, on the edge of the

residential area. Large signs add to the church's visibility. There are 15,000 housing units within a short walk.

The ministry team includes Ted Bjorem and Phil Wyllie. Ted was born in Oregon, USA. After study at Santa Fe Bible College and the Emmanuel School of Religion in Tennessee and ministry positions in the USA, in 1980 Ted came to Australia to teach at Woolwich on a short-term basis. An interim ministry at Fairfield convinced him to stay there, and he has been minister at Fairfield for seven years. He is married to an Australian, Julie, and they have two children, Caleb and Danae. Ted's ministry has stressed three areas of importance: worship, small groups and leadership. He is also chap-

lain to the local Westfield Sports High School, an institution that has raised the pride of students in education in the area.

Phil and Debbie Wyllie are originally from Tasmania. After training at COB, and an 11-year ministry at Maylands, WA, this year they accepted the challenge of an urban ministry in Fairfield. Full details were given in "The Christian" of 2 February. They have since been able to obtain a well-positioned flat close to the church. The Wyllies have two children, Lucy and Chris.

The playgroup has benefited lately by a great deal of time and money being spent to upgrade the facilities. A new kitchen area, new flooring, lining and painting have transformed the environment, much of it done by voluntary labour. To provide money to help run the group an opportunity shop has been opened in two rooms of the old manse. The local newspaper did a feature on it and it has proved very popular.

There are of course the usual groups at Fairfield, such as a women's group, a craft group, and home care groups, but it is in its high visibility in and reaching out into the community where Fairfield really shines.

### FOR A NEW HOLDEN SEE MURRAY ECKERT

**OVER 16 YEARS EXPERIENCE**  
as a master sales consultant.

**Competitive Prices**  
in a Competitive market.  
Guaranteeing **Integrity, Service**  
and **Sound Advice.**

Member of Blackwood  
Church of Christ.

**CALL IN OR PHONE MURRAY ON (08) 272 1600  
FOR YOUR NEW OR QUALITY USED CAR**



**Claridge Holden**

363 Unley Road, Malvern  
Phone (08) 272 1600 A.H (08) 278 4515

### Berwick Regional Church of Christ Grand Opening

You are welcome to join in our  
'Month of Celebration' Services during November  
as we thank God for his provision of our new home at  
432-446 Centre Road, Berwick

#### Service Times:

10 am

to be followed by a barbecue lunch each Sunday  
and  
7 pm

featuring special programs and guests including—  
Barry McMurtrie  
Doug McFarlane  
Yurana Singers

City of Berwick Children's Choir  
Local Music & Drama Presentation

Please contact the Church Office on (03) 707 1868  
for further details.

## Ministers' Workshop

*Help! There's a Child in My Church* is the title of a recent book by Peter Graystone (Scripture Union, London). It echoes the cry of many ministers and parents who acknowledge in theory that children belong in worship, but are struggling to come to grips with what that means in practice. Children can be restless, distracting and sometimes embarrassing. Is it really worth having them in church? Here are a few practical ideas to help ensure that the time children do spend in worship is enjoyable and beneficial for them and for the rest of us!

- Encourage families to sit near the front of the church: children will be better able to see what's going on, and will feel more involved in all that happens.

- Make the chapel visually attractive: children won't maintain concentration for the whole service, so create some "useful distractions": banners with Christian symbols or words on them, coloured hangings on the lectern, stained glass windows—all these things will convey something about faith and worship even in the child's most distracted moments!

- Use language that can be understood by children and talk to them at appropriate

### • Practical ideas for children in worship

## Help! There's a Child in My Church

by David Brooker

moments to let them know they are included.

- Encourage people to make a fuss over children: be sure that the children are spoken to and made to feel important during any greeting time.

- Make use of the developing capacity of children to read: prepare worship sheets for children, listing song numbers and readings to look up (provide bookmarks to keep the places) and including pictures to colour or word puzzles linked to the theme of the service. Children can actually help design these worship sheets with you.

- Invite children to help prepare the chapel for worship: putting hymn numbers and readings on the boards, opening the pulpit Bible to the right place, helping set the communion table, taking the dust covers off the organ and piano—all help children to feel that they are part of the service when it happens.

- Distribute brochures on "Children in Worship" highlighting the significance of worship for children, and giving parents and other adults clues on how they might help to make it more significant. People who do not have children of their own at worship may enjoy caring for a child during the service quietly explaining things as they happen and responding to questions about the service as it unfolds.

- Keep a rotating stock of soft toys and story books in the foyer so that children can collect something on the way in. Some churches prepare activity packs with all sorts of simple bits and pieces for children to turn to when the service loses its appeal!

- Be aware of children when planning your service: make use of simple things like a change of personnel out the front, or a change of location for speaking, or music from a different instrument etc., to draw the focus of attention back to worship.

You will be able to add to this list from your own experience and initiative. Do some brainstorming! Children do belong in worship: it's where they begin to discover avenues through which God may speak to them. It's also essential for us that they are there because children, as Jesus asserted, can teach us about God. Bringing children to worship may not always be easy, but it's worth it!

• David Brooker is minister at the Surrey Hills, Vic, church and Chairman of the Vic-Tas DMED Kidsmin—Ministry with Children Committee.

*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.*

### Living in Melbourne?

You are welcome at the Richmond Church of Christ cnr Coppin and Murphy Streets Services: 11 am and 7 pm (03) 428 4844

# Do something for yourself and your community!

ANSVAR

Ansvar/Aware has exciting income earning opportunities waiting for you!

Ansvar - Insurance for non-drinkers only

Aware - Insurance for church people

AWARE

Phone our Hotline TODAY!

008 337 330 - ask for Julie or John

650 9711 Melbourne metro area

## ANSVAR

Ansvar/Aware is helping to reduce the use and abuse of alcohol through community education

## Curkpatrick

# The Blocking Character

There is a convention in dramatic comedy that centres the narrative on the "blocking character", who is a hypocrite, legalist or conceited braggart. The blocking character has a "ruling passion", such as legalism or self-righteousness, on which the ethical dimensions of the drama are focused. There is a pretentiousness in the blocking character's ruling passion, which is eventually demonstrated to be absurd. The irony is that while everyone else sees the absurdity of the ruling passion, the blocking character does not. The judgement of absurdity on the blocking character in dramatic comedy is a social judgement on the ruling passion, which prevents the fulfilment of community for everyone else.

This convention has fascinating parallels with the Prodigal Son, when the elder brother articulates a peevish jealousy at the prodigal's lavish welcome and consequent celebration. He does so on the basis of an ethical concern, his ruling passion—loyal dutiousness to his father. The fact that the elder son has overlooked the reunion of father and son in a new community of reconciliation after the son's assumed "death" demonstrates the absurdity of his stated ethical position: "I have slaved for you all these years; I never once disobeyed your orders..."

Self-righteous obedience is the ruling passion of the elder son, the blocking character to the new community in this parable. Within the parable's context of Luke 15, it is the Pharisees and Scribes, with their ruling passion of self-righteousness and legalism, who are the blocking characters to the new community, in which ungodly tax collectors and sinners are welcomed, extravagantly, into the kingdom.

While comic convention aims to expose the ethical absurdity of the blocking character's ruling passion, the tendency of the new community in comic drama, nevertheless, seeks to include rather than exclude.

Hence the blocking character, as conceited braggart, legalist or miser, and who has no right to be at the celebratory feast, the celebration of community that comes at the climax of the drama, is nevertheless there. This is sheer grace, which, while it reveals the absurdity of the blocking character's ruling passion, is nevertheless quick to forgive, and get on with the party. We might surmise, even hope, that this was also the end result for the elder son, as the father successfully persuaded him to join the party, to celebrate the new community that has been formed.

The motif of elder son/blocking character is often found in the church, where it can take only one person in a prominent position with an absurd "ruling passion", such as legalism, to become an impediment to the unrestrained celebration of new community in Jesus Christ. If only blocking characters knew the irony of their position! Their ruling passion—legalism, self-righteousness—whatever it is, is obvious to everyone else but themselves.

—Stephen Curkpatrick

Uniting Church in Australia  
Birregurra-Lorne Parish  
Centenary—St Cuthbert's, Lorne  
Saturday and Sunday, 7 and 8 March 1992

All past members and friends who have or still holiday in Lorne and would like to receive an invitation, please contact Keith Hocking, 19 Grand Parade, Lorne 3232 (052) 89 1189



**"THANK YOU  
KEITH HORNE**  
—for more than four decades  
of outstanding ministry..."

Take the opportunity to say it personally  
at a special  
**RECOGNITION & THANKSGIVING  
CELEBRATION**  
**SATURDAY, 16 NOVEMBER, 7.30 PM**

For interstate travellers: Billeting available  
Contact: The Administrator, Marlon Church of Christ  
Mary St, Mitchell Park 5043  
Phone (08) 277 7388



## Caringbah Church of Christ

*We are praying for a senior pastor  
to commence in early 1992*

The pastor will have leadership and visionary skills and abilities to capitalise on the opportunities open to this well-established church committed to growth. Proven communication skills are essential with the ability to motivate and encourage a strong leadership group into the 90s and beyond.

The church is well known in the community and has developed well-balanced and contemporary worship services. The church is well serviced through a strong music team, an innovative and talented group of people.

A generous remuneration package is coupled with a large and well-appointed manse.

Applications in writing, including resume, should be sent to:  
Mr D. Bruce  
12 Glen Ayr Ave  
Wowie Bay NSW 2228



## Shepparton Church of Christ

PASTORAL MINISTER

Shepparton, a major regional centre of the Goulburn Valley in northern Victoria, is seeking to appoint a pastoral minister.

The person appointed is to be suitably qualified and have a sense of God's leading to consider ministry at Shepparton, demonstrated leadership skills and a commitment to church growth principles.

We invite resumes, applications and enquiries to be directed to

Phillip Collins  
31 Skene Street  
Shepparton 3630  
Telephone (058)21 1413 or (058) 31 1475 (AH)  
(058) 21 6988 (BH)

All enquiries confidential

## Personal

### Baptisms

• Ian Rasmussen, Annerley, Qld  
• Samuel Whitten, Dylan Riessen, Dale Megson, Scott Megson, Happy Valley, SA • Nicole Hawkins, Bundaberg, Qld • Matthew Sharp, Peter Sharp, Scarborough, WA  
• Dianne Cashion, Hobart City, Tas  
• Melanie Baker, Launceston, Tas  
• Frank and June Grose, Gillian Bolton, Kalgoorlie, WA • Jessie Dreckow, Max Sawley, Elsie Sawley, Walter Dick, Matilda St, Port Lincoln, SA • Tony & Susanna Burgess, Midway Point, Tas • Elizabeth Connell, Essendon, Vic

#### LYONS, ACT CHURCH OF CHRIST 25TH ANNIVERSARY

A month of celebrations each Sunday during November culminating with a series of sessions with

#### GORDON STIRLING

Wednesday, 20 November, to Sunday, 24 November  
Former worshippers very welcome

RSVP to Warwick Wright  
(06) 281 3088

### Marriages

• Avegril Argueles to Don Chislett, Springvale, Vic • Jeannie Bourke to Trevor Kingston, Pine Rivers, Qld  
• Helen DeMaria to David Staggard, Victor Harbor, SA • Sue Smith to Darryn Quayle, Suzanne Joyce to Ian Walson, Jane Hamilton to Andy Hunt, Kalgoorlie, WA

### Deaths

• Cleave Griffin, Bundaberg, Qld  
• Michelle Lang, Springvale, Vic  
• Ray Mitchell, Bill Quinn, Henley Beach, SA • Jessie Bray, Lil Pring, Victor Harbor, SA • Leslie Armstrong, Hobart City, Tas • Mrs G. Ratcliffe, La Trobe Terr, Geelong, Vic

### Changes

Churches of Christ Kidsmin in SA:  
PO Box 142, Findon, SA 5023.  
Phone (08) 356 1565 or (08) 261 7613 (AH).

Kidsmin Publications: PO Box 142, Findon, SA 5023. Phone (08) 353 3469 or (08) 261 7613 (AH).

Midway Point: Minister—Craig Humphris, 5 Water View Court, Midway Point, Tas 7171. Phone (002) 65 2376.

### Churches of Christ Homes Incorporated Chief Executive Officer

Churches of Christ Homes Inc. is a dynamic organisation, committed to the Christian principles of faith, hope and love. We provide residential care for upwards of 1,000 people in Western Australia and our purpose is to promote individual well-being and personal development in an environment that enhances the quality of life for residents and staff.

We are seeking to appoint a Chief Executive Officer who possesses skills in communication, leadership and administration. The successful applicant should bring energetic enthusiasm to the task of building a strong, effective management team which takes a proactive approach to the rapidly changing environment confronting organisations providing services to the elderly.

The person who is appointed will be responsible for the administration of the whole organisation which presently operates at one country and ten metropolitan locations and will be expected to:

- Have empathy with the Churches of Christ Philosophy of Care.
- Be accountable to the Board for effective management of the organisation.
- Provide leadership, vision and direction.
- Represent the organisation throughout the industry.

Applicants should have an empathy with the aged and disabled, and be able to demonstrate a proven track record at senior management level.

A negotiable package will be agreed commensurate with the seniority of the position.

We are an equal opportunities employer.

Applicants will be expected to address the selection criteria which are available by telephoning Ms Victoria McKay, Organisational Development Services on (09) 321 1605.

#### Churches of Christ in Qld Social Service Dept (Brisbane Homes)

invites applications for the position of

### Personal Care Provider (Hostel Supervisor)

or their new 50-bed Aged Care Hostel

"Buckingham Gardens"

presently under construction at Alexandra Hills.

The successful applicant will be well acquainted with the care of the Aged in Hostels, and be familiar with the current requirements of the Commonwealth Department of Health, Housing and Community Services (DHHACS) in relation to Aged Care Hostels.

There is a preference for a person who is a Registered Nurse.

The chosen applicant will be responsible for the delivery of Personal Care to Hostel residents, will have supervision of all staff and, in conjunction with Administration, will have responsibility for keeping of Hostel records to meet DHHACS requirements.

Buckingham Gardens will offer a very high standard of care in 5 Hostel Houses, each one providing accommodation for 10 residents. Sandringham Place, comprising 6 independent living units, forms part of the complex, and the Hostel Supervisor would accept responsibility for emergency calls from unit residents. Buckingham Gardens provides an innovative form of Hostel care for the Aged, and the person we are seeking would need to be self-motivated and have proven ability to direct staff in the delivery of a high standard of compassionate, competent care to residents in a homelike environment.

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications of the successful applicant.

Anticipated Opening date is 7 December 1991.

Closing date for applications is 18 October 1991. Please seek an Application Form from

The Administrator  
Brisbane Homes  
PO Box 3  
New Farm, Qld 4005  
Phone (07) 358 3603

### Interchurch Trade & Industry Mission (SA) Inc.

Applications are invited for the position of

### STAFF CHAPLAIN and REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR

The appointee will reside at Port Augusta and be required to carry out industrial chaplaincy work in local organisations, to co-ordinate the work of a team of chaplains, and to be involved in the marketing of chaplaincy services. The appointment is initially for 2 years, commencing in 1992.

#### Qualifications

**APPLICANTS** must be ordained clergy or persons accredited for ministry with a member church of ITIM (SA).

**PREFERENCE** will be given to applicants with experience in industrial chaplaincy and in preventive and crisis counselling.

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE 1 November 1991**

and should be addressed to:

The State Director  
ITIM (SA)  
28 Franklin Street  
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Further information is available from the above address, or by phoning (08) 231 0120

## Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

**Barnett, Milicent Thurlow** (nee Doyle) (7.8.91) Born in St Arnaud, Vic, in 1906 where she was baptised by George Hughes in 1924. She joined the North Richmond church in 1926 where she served as a Sunday School teacher. In 1929 she was married to Fred at the Bumley church by the late Will H. Clay. This commenced a loving companionship of 62 years. Millie was an active lady, being Kindergarten Superintendent at Bumley and involved in the state catering committee. She was a good mixer and positive in her thinking. Millie and Fred have supported the church in the Richmond area for 65 years. When Bumley closed they attended Richmond, where Millie's thanksgiving service was conducted by John Schulze. Millie and Fred have two children, Pat (Ots) and Fred, and six grandchildren. —E.C. Ots

**Bidgemia, Dolly (Nanna)** (24.8.91) This remarkable lady, a long-time resident at the Olive Laird Hostel in Camarvon, was reckoned to be 121 years old, although no document ever recorded her birth. Dolly lived the events we read of in history books and embodied all that made the people of her time a great people. She was proud, strong, resourceful, independent, reliable, self-sufficient and hard-working. To the last she remained as independent as her failing health allowed. The stories of her life and

exploits on the pastoral stations around Camarvon are well known. She worked stock with the "best of them", and her prowess as a midwife is legendary. She only had one child of her own but was a foster mother to many. At age 109 Nanna was baptised into Christ by Hugh Roose and Keith Thompson in the pools of the Gascoyne River. Nanna spent her latter years being cared for by missionaries at the Hostel. She battled serious illness several times. Enid Maea, who cared for her constantly in her last days, heard Nanna's last words—Aboriginal words that mean "welcome". She had seen Jesus and went to be with him. The funeral service was conducted by Don Bone, the minister at Camarvon, assisted by Ron Jones, who knew Nanna for the 38 years he has been in Camarvon.

—Avon Moyle

**Ratcliffe, Gertrude E.** (13.9.91). B. Stevens and C.J. Mackenzie took part in the funeral service. Gertrude became a Christian and joined the Moreland, Vic, church in 1926 and came to the La Trobe Terrace, Geelong, church in the 1950s with her husband Jack, who died in 1980. She spent her latter years at Grace McKellar Centre and was well known there for her kindly acts and Christian life. Even when unable to attend services, she gave regularly to the work here and at Norlane. She was also faithful in her giving to missionary work and Christian Women's fellowship and was always interested in church affairs. We offer our love and sympathy to all who mourn, especially her daughter Pauline and her family.

—Ruth Carr

## Church News

### Tas

**HOBART CITY** (J. Weston, G. Hush) Construction of new chapel area commenced. First service now expected to be 20 October ... Extensions to carpark underway. Carparks to be leased during week for income ... Various activities for building fund. This month included lamington drive (sold over 300 dozen!), concert, fashion parade & progressive dinner ... CWF monthly luncheons, in various homes, good response ... Another baptism celebrated in indoor pool.

**LAUNCESTON** (R. Foster, C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) Fathers & sons choir sang 7 pm on Father's Day when Craig Spaulding spoke ... Wilma Dubbeld home after six months with family in Scotland ... Kate Skirving recovering after removal of cataracts ... Faith Promise Sunday on 22 Sept ... Further courses being held in Effective Assimilation, Christianity Explained & Small Group leadership training.

**MIDWAY POINT** (Craig Humphris) Church camp held at Camp Seaview in Bicheno. Camp focused on planning the church's growth strategy for the next five years ... baptismal service on 22 Sept led by Graeme Hush. 69 attended, including a number of new contacts ... Church buildings nearly completed ready for official opening 24 Nov.

### Qld

**ANNERLEY** (Richard Pearce) Qld Conference President Geoff Risson led induction service for Richard Pearce 1 September. Richard, his wife Shirley & family, recently returned from ministry in New Zealand. As well as pastoral ministries within our Brotherhood, Richard & Shirley have conducted evangelical ministries in Australia, England & US ... Alterations to inside back of church almost completed to give more seating, a cry room & other amenities.

**BUNDABERG** (Alan Leane) Worship services maintaining 130 level, gospel services exciting ... 141 attended Youth For Christ Travellers Group visit at Twyford St ... Nicole Hawkins confessed Christ ... Joshua Vea-Vea transferred from Toowoomba ... 18 Ni-Vanuatu made pilgrimage to Bundaberg to trace their forebears' footsteps visiting missionary Thompson's church site & singing "We Are Standing on Holy Ground", which stunned local identities ... Sunday School anniversary huge success. Prizes presented by Wally & Grace Pohle who recommended new Sun-

day School after being amalgamated with Sims Road in the 60s. **PINE RIVERS** (Neale Proellocks, Ian Todd) Sunday School anniversary huge success. Theme on the fruits of the Spirit. Approximately 250 attended ... Fashion Parade co-hosted by the CWF & Child Care Centre well attended with models from Centre & church ... 98 shared in family camp at Mapleton. Geoff Fletcher guest speaker. Great time of studies & relaxation enjoyed by all ... Telephone books delivered to help church finances.

**WYNNUM** (Charles Cole) All board positions filled at AGM August. New members N. Brown (elder), R. Carlyle, G. Edwards & C. Smith (deacons). Charles & Beryl Cole thanked for service in ministry & invited to continue at Wynnum for as long as they feelled ... Evening services have emphasised sermons preached by minister, local & visiting speakers ... Community outreach helped by "Open Door" program. Group meets monthly for Christian fellowship, devotions & outings.

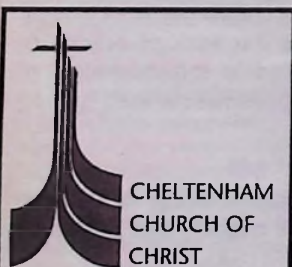
### WA

**SCARBOROUGH** (Nigel Merrick) Rob Adams & Rob George speakers for Community Contact week. Many informal meetings held in houses. Friends & neighbours invited. "Adventure Club" conducted each day for primary children. Senior citizens attended lunch at Carinya Village. Week concluded with fellowship tea at which new contacts, basketballers & their families welcomed ... Weekly After School Club commenced.

**KALGOORLIE** (Larry Gibb) Weekend with Avalon Hamill very successful. 56 women attended breakfast to hear Avalon ... Young people organised first inter-church youth rally ... FOGIES (Fellowship of Girls & Guys Involving Enthusiastic Socialising) started for young adults & singles ... 18 involved in 40 Hour Famine. Raised over \$2,000 ... Sunday School participated in Bible Society project. Held lunch featuring Brazilian food ... Computer installed in church office.

### FURNITURE RESTORATIONS French Polishing and Cabinet Making Fine Craftsmanship

Repairs, staining and refinishing of all types of furniture, specialising in antiques Furniture made to order  
M.A. Wing-Tang and B.J. Purdie  
B.H. (03) 723 0363A.H. (03) 720 1629  
**FREE QUOTES (03) 723 0363**



### CHRISTIAN RETIREMENT CENTRE

14 Chesterville Road  
Cheltenham 3192  
A resident funded centre  
comprising 1 and 2 bedroom  
units

Enquiries welcomed  
Phone manager  
(03) 584 5202

### FRANKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST



**GREENWAYS RETIREMENT VILLAGE**  
330-356 FRANKSTON-DANDENONG ROAD,  
**SEAFORD 3198**  
1 & 2 BR Villas

Motel Type Lodge Suites  
**PHONE (03) 786 8679**  
Waiting List Now Open

# Church News

## SA

**HAPPY VALLEY (Russell Allison)** Both morning services well supported ... Many family & friends witnessed baptisms of Samuel Whitten, Dylan Riessen, Dale & Scott Megson ... Singing group "Sound Advice" performed at evening service ... Norma Robinson made new banner "New Life in Christ" ... Hub Club numbers increasing. Aibly led by Russell Allison & assisted by Rod Mase & Dorothy Allison ... Men's dinner very well supported.

**TUMBY BAY Church** appreciated & challenged & encouraged by visits of ministers from Adelaide on first weekend of month ... Eyre Peninsula Women's half yearly Conference, presided over by Daphne Cartmel, held 30 August. Well attended from Wudinna, Whyalla, Port Lincoln, Ungarra, Tumby Bay as well as other fellowships in Tumby Bay. Choir, conducted by Roma Nankivell, recitations, floral arrangements, music, all centred on theme "The Source of Love—God".

**HENLEY BEACH (Brian Hill)** Henley hosted combined Western Districts gospel service. About 200 present to hear Michael Aishe, Norwood League footballer, give testimony. Edwardstown Baptist Youth Choir brought two brackets of singing, enjoyed by all. Jim Keatch gave challenging message entitled "Football, Meat Pies, Kangaroos & Holden Cars". Service rated success by all ... Church saddened at

death of Ray Mitchell & Bill Quinn. **VICTOR HARBOR (Don Wesley)** 45 Junior CYFers & leaders enjoyed weekend camp-out in Newland Head Conservation Park, finishing with open-air service ... Covenant Players led evening service with Russ Wesley speaking ... Food parcels made up for emergency relief ... Friendship Centre celebrated sixth birthday with barbecue & birthday cake ... 50 attended leaders' breakfast catered for by teens Sunday School class raising money for COCOA's Bangladesh appeal. **MATILDA ST, PORT LINCOLN (Jim Spiker)** Preparations are underway for church's 50th anniversary & fundraiser musical concert ... "Friendship Day" street stall raised \$425 ... 60 enjoyed a "bad taste" social night ... Ivy Bain recovering from major knee surgery, Walter Dick is in hospital from a stroke, Thelma Nancarrow has a broken arm ... Recent visitors from WA & Tasmania ... "Bring a friend" luncheon held at Noel Skillicom's.

## Vic

**SPRINGVALE (John Carmichael)** Church unanimously endorsed appointment of John Carmichael as interim minister ... Eight members transferred to Rowville for their formal Membership Day ... Rowville combined with Springvale for baptismal service on 22 Sept ... Julie Trinnick, OMB, gave update of C of C Overseas Mission ... \$200 raised for Bibles for China at Esther Fan

from CNEC afternoon rally ... Buildings painted in readiness for anniversary.

**PRESTON (T. Armstrong)** Recent speaker at CWF was Val Garth who talked of her work with Adult Migrant Education Services ... Combined service with Greek church well attended & good fellowship afterwards at a luncheon & sing-song ... A series of Bible studies have been held on the Psalms.

**LA TROBE TERR, GEELONG (Dr C.J. Mackenzie)** Laurie Barker, Allen Carr & Garth Paddle guest speakers ... Two ladies rededicated their lives to Christ ... Russell Wesley & musical group conducted family service ... Tennis, table tennis, varied stalls & 12-hour static bike ride provided great day for families & raised \$460 for Bible Society ... Dr Barry Edwards guest speaker on leprosy work ... Church saddened at passing of Mrs Ratcliffe.

**NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn)** Church attendances still affected by illness among members ... Third Sunday at 5 pm speaker Julie McDonald from CASS ... A day for prayer held on 19 Sept ... Soup & sandwiches lunch held after church on 22 Sept after which presented a session "Where Are We Going?" ... Minister has been attending CCTC for a short course on "Stress" ... Church has purchased new piano.

**STRATHMORE (James Pearce)** Farewelled Gallaghers June ... Large number travelled Sunbury for combined evening service ... Max Viney (CCTC student) guest speaker ...

July Mike Esbensen spoke on work of KCN ... Alison Booth organised morning service run by Sunday School 28 July ... CWF meeting in homes during winter ... 15 minutes song service introduced prior to regular starting time ... Board held successful retreat August.

**ESSENDON (Ken Stothard)** Many members now returned from northern holidays ... 13 Sept church dinner well attended with Heather Ferguson special speaker. All enjoyed her slides & entertaining accounts of her experiences as a teacher in 1990 in Nanjing, China ... 8 Sept Elizabeth Connell baptised at morning service ... 15 Sept Sylvia Gribble received into membership from St Alban's Baptist Church ... Netball team completed first season in UBCCNA competition.

## A Church for the 90s

Four Sunday evening meetings will be held at 7 pm at the **Balwyn Church of Christ**

13 October **John Bailey**

—Leadership in the Church

20 October **Julie Renner**

—Women in the Church

27 October **Shirley Ludgater**

—Worship in the Church

10 November **Peter Marshall**

—Witnessing in the Church

Opportunity will be given for discussion.

We warmly invite you to attend.  
Sponsored by the Vic. Dept of Christian Union & Ecumenical Affairs

## 44th NATIONAL CONFERENCE

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

Melbourne, 5–11 September 1993

"Christ: The Timeless Resource"

**NATIONAL PRESIDENT:** Clive Ward, 77–79 Capel St, West Melbourne 3003  
Phone (03) 326 8900

**NATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS SECRETARY:** Ian Allsop, 77–79 Capel St, West Melbourne 3003  
Phone (03) 326 8900

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE SECRETARY:** Ian Allsop, 77–79 Capel St, West Melbourne 3003  
Phone (03) 326 8900

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE TREASURER:** N. Allison, 381 Bluff Rd, Hampton 3188  
Phone (03) 598 9847

### DIRECTORY OF NATIONAL AGENCIES

**AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:** President: Eunice Reidy, 50 Hewish Rd, Croydon 3136  
Phone (03) 725 5328; Secretary: Eleanor Roberts, 11 Winchester Rd, Nunawading 3131  
Phone (03) 874 5110

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** Secretary: Mrs F. Morris, 27 Albert St, East Malvern 3145; Treasurer: Mrs A. Allison, 28 Potter St, Black Rock 3193  
Phone (03) 598 5594

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST OVERSEAS MISSION BOARD:** Executive Director: J. May, PO Box 320, Unley 5061. Send donations to: Vic-Tas: Val Wilson, PO Box 362, Springvale 3171; SA: D. Lewis, 9 Cilsby St, Vale Park 5081; WA: J. Devenport, 90 Victoria St, Mosman Park 6012; Old: L. Christensen, 9 Gilmour Cr, Toowoomba 4350; NSW: D. West, 28 Bayview Ave, Earlwood 2205

**BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF "THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN":** Chairman: K. Aird, 263 Melbourne St, North Adelaide 5006; Secretary: D.W. Burdett, 22 Ferdinand Pl, Campbell 2601

**BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE:** 40–60 Jacksons Rd, Mulgrave 3170. Chairman: J. Bailey; Principal 1991: K. Bowes; Registrar: G. Wigney; Manager: R. Alabaster. Phone (03) 790 1000

**CHURCHES OF CHRIST PROVIDENT FUND:** Secretary: J.R. Ashley, PO Box 140, Carlingford 2118  
Phone (02) 630 7784

**FEDERAL ABORIGINES MISSION BOARD:** Executive Director, A. Moyle, PO Box 1199, Wangara 6065. Forward donations (tax deductible) to: NSW: Miss E. Lincoln, 165 Gloucester Rd, Hurstville 2220; Vic: Treasurer, Malcolm Anderson, 22 Goe St, Caulfield South 3162; SA: J.E. Wehr, 4 Cleo St, Ffife 5060; Tas: J. Harrison, 12 Henrietta Cres, West Launceston 7250; WA: Treasurer, H. Folland, 9 Canterbury Rd, Bayswater 6053

**AUSTRALIAN BOARD OF CHURCH DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION:** Executive Director: D.H. Smith, Churches of Christ Centre, 77–79 Capel St, West Melbourne 3003  
Phone (03) 326 8900; Chairman: Dr C.E. Warmbrunn

**FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN UNION:** Chairman: Dr T. Banks, 13 Elton Rd, Belmont 3216  
Phone (052) 43 3713; Secretary: J.W. Pye, 43 Grey St, East Melbourne 3002  
Phone (03) 419 4318

**FEDERAL HOME EVANGELISM:** Treasurer: N. Allison, 381 Bluff Rd, Hampton 3188  
Phone (03) 598 9847; Secretary: I. Allsop, 77–79 Capel St, West Melbourne 3003

**FEDERAL LITERATURE DEPARTMENT:** Chairman: K.J. Clinton, 149 Jolimont Road, Vermont 3133; Secretary: Mrs E.M. Rankine, 5 Atkins Ave, Glen Inis 3146

**SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE:** Secretary: C. Wilson, PO Box 140, Carlingford 2118  
Phone (02) 630 7533

# Cultural Relevance

by Barry McMurtrie

Churches of Christ have now fallen to below 1% of the Australian population resulting in the loss of our listing on the recent Census form.

This really peeves me. Culturally, we have so much in our favour. If it takes talent to stop a church growing then we abound in talent.

As I see it we have three areas where our church culture suits Australia's ways better than most denominations. First is our **uncluttered Christianity**. No prayer books to follow, no clergy gowns or complex creeds. Plain uncluttered Christianity.

Another strong point is our use of **laity**. Gifted people (unfortunately sometimes ungifted as well) play a major role in leading the church. This leadership is in administration and in worship. Faith is perceived to be very relevant when the communion is introduced week after week by men and women of various vocations.

Thirdly, our movement has produced local churches that have a strong feeling of **family**. In our churches, whether they are traditional or modern in practice, whether large or small, there is a strong feeling of "belonging". Sometimes it only encompasses you when you have passed "the test" but even if you don't experience it you can see it shown to the "elect".

Growing local Churches of Christ reflect some other characteristics that demonstrate a link with Australian culture. For example **music**. Most growing churches today are winning youth and young adults. These generations have a totally different taste in music and our growing churches generally reflect an ability to musically communicate with the baby boomers.

**Architecture** in relevant churches also reflects the culture. Open space, non-threat-

ening atmosphere with plenty of seating, parking and areas for fellowship.

So do their **youth programs**. Most of our dynamic churches have an ethos that youth find welcoming. And the youth programs are not aimed at the lowest common denominator but reflect high discipleship demands.

**Leadership** is also evident within growing churches. For these churches to grow the various leadership styles obviously reflect societal demand or people would not join. I think, however, that the kind of leadership that best suits Australian ways was expressed by the Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 5:1-3:

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. (NIV)

Our churches need strong, dynamic leadership. It needs to be the kind that "rules by example". I thank God for the autonomy of our churches. Autonomy is not at conflict with leadership. Leaders generally get the power they deserve.

In closing, the tension is always between invading our culture with the Gospel and protecting the essentials of the Gospel from invasion by a pagan society.

You cannot surpass our great maximum: **In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty and in all things love.**

• Barry McMurtrie is senior minister at the Wollongong, NSW, church.

# The Last Word

A saint is never consciously a saint; a saint is consciously dependent on God.

—Oswald Chambers

A: I have nothing but praise for the new minister.

B: Yes, I noticed that as the offering plate passed you.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Smith's a family doctor," Simpson told a friend. "Smith treats mine and I support the Smiths."

\*\*\*\*\*

Patience is the thing you admire in the driver behind you and scorn in the one ahead.

\*\*\*\*\*

The hard part about being broke is watching the rest of the world go by.

\*\*\*\*\*

In a Disciples congregation in Ohio the hymn of invitation and decision came to a close. The senior minister asked the congregation to be seated while the senior minister read a letter of resignation.

This unexpected action brought stunned silence. Then the benediction was offered by the assistant minister, and the organ pealed forth with the postlude announced in the bulletin: "Let All Rejoice!"

\*\*\*\*\*

The chair of the membership committee of First Christian Church in Maryville, Missouri, suggested that everyone attending Sunday services be given a name tag—even God, if he showed up.

A person's voice piped up: "That's an excellent idea. A few of our members don't know him!"

\*\*\*\*\*

Digging holes is the only job where you start at the top.

\*\*\*\*\*



I'm sorry you're moving. You've been excellent sermon material.



## SUBSCRIPTION FORM

PO Box 101, North Essendon 3041

Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Amount Enclosed: \$ ..... Church .....

Renewal  New Subscription

Payment can be made by Bankcard, Visa or MasterCard

Please charge my—

Donation: \$ .....

Bankcard  Visa  MasterCard

\$23 Full Year  \$6 Rest of Year

Card number

\$4 Rest of year if recommended by a current subscriber

.....

Expiry date .....

Subscriber: .....

Signature .....