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of Churches of  
Christ in Australia

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# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

30 boys were kept  
moving at an initiative  
campa full of activities at  
Camp Waterman, Vic,  
in the school holidays  
—story page 17



This group of people from North Queensland went to  
Brisbane for conference, visiting churches on the way.  
Some travelled 5,500 km. From left: Margaret Martin,  
Janet East, Jenny Mitchell, Pam and Vincent  
Mathieson, Rose and Tom Mitchell, Hazel Morris and  
Shiela Rainbow  
—story page 7

## On the Move



The Feathertop Chalet holiday resort in Victoria's high country is the site for the National Youth  
Convention next January. Young people 16 and over are invited to apply now —details page 17

# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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## Guest Editorial

# Lifestyle Evangelism: Christ Our Model

by Bob Whan



**W**hile preparing for a small-group seminar series on "Lifestyle Evangelism" I was impressed anew with the Apostle John's description of Christ's entry into the world:

"The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

When the group got together we spent an interesting hour or so exploring Christ's way of relating to a lost mankind and the implications for our lives as we model ourselves upon him. In looking more closely at John 1:14 we identified three significant clues Jesus provides as we, like Jesus, seek to live for God in a world largely alienated from him.

First we identified Christ's purpose was to "declare his Father's glory". As the Divine Word of God he perfectly communicated the glory of God to men. As Hebrews puts it: "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being." (Hebrews 1:3)

In our group sharing we explored the thought that just as Jesus was a perfect reflector of God's glory so we too should be true reflectors of the Lord in all of our relationships. This brought new meaning into Jesus' charge to his disciples: "Just as the Father sent me forth so I am sending you." (John 20:21)

In his ministry Jesus accurately portrayed the true nature of God to men. In like manner he also instructs us to follow his example.

Secondly we identified Christ's strategy.

"The Word became flesh." The word "flesh" is a strong, earthy word that effectively stresses the reality of Christ's manhood.

Here in our group sharing we looked at the beauty of Christ's person and his modelling of a most attractive manhood. We revelled for a while in the beauty of his character and his willingness to immerse himself in a lost humanity. We observed how deeply and genuinely concerned he was with people's hurts and sorrows—his concern for the whole person, body, soul and spirit, Christ in his perfect manhood reflected the Father heart of God.

Again we explored the thought that just as Christ in his strategy needed to become flesh so we too are to be authentic "fleshy" (not phony) people.

We need to be seen as totally genuine in our allegiance to Christ and yet at the same time prepared to be vulnerable as we acknowledge that we too are "in the flesh" and often embattled as others are in coming to terms with our handicaps and limitations.

Thirdly, we identified Christ's method—to be "full of grace and truth". His was "the glory of the one and only Son full of grace and truth". We shared in our group how difficult it often is to be able to balance those two virtues—grace and truth.

Sometimes in our attempts to be gracious we are less than frank in sharing the truth of our faith for fear of causing offence. Or we err the other way. We can be blunt and insensitive with the truth to the exclusion of Christian grace. Jesus held these two virtues in perfect balance.

In the group situation two of our number had been primed to share the way Jesus related to Zacchaeus and the woman of Samaria. With both he showed marvellous grace without compromising the truth. In the face of almost total rejection of these two by the community at large Jesus demonstrated a loving, gracious acceptance. However in the case of the woman of Samaria he gently confronted her with the truth: "You are right when you say you have no husband." But once the truth came out he did not go on to condemn her. Jesus' balanced dealing with this woman led her to exclaim: "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Notice that only after a lengthy interview did Jesus confront this woman with his claims to Messiahhood and even then it arose naturally from the flow of conversation. Jesus' sensitive handling of these two hurting people enabled them to enter into a whole new realm of living.

May God give us the grace to be true reflectors of the Christ of Glory in all of our relationships.

• Bob Whan is a graduate of the Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College following a career in teaching. He and his wife Rhonda were missionaries with the Churches of Christ mission in PNG 1968-79 and subsequently had ministries at Epping and Wagga Wagga, NSW, where they are currently serving. Bob and Rhonda had the joy of returning to New Guinea last year to again work with the Bible College students there. They were impressed with the spiritual and numerical growth that had occurred in the intervening years.

## • Point Sturt is 136 years old

### Celebrating History

The tiny church at Point Sturt, on the shores of Lake Alexandrina, SA, was comfortably full on 27 October for the celebration of its 136th anniversary. The neighbouring church at Milang, only 8 km around the lake, kindly closed its doors for the day and shared in the day's activities.

As the congregation sang "All Hail the Power of Jesu's Name", a hymn sung at the church's jubilee 86 years ago, it was observed that not one of the present congregation was even born when this small church thanked God for its first 50 years.

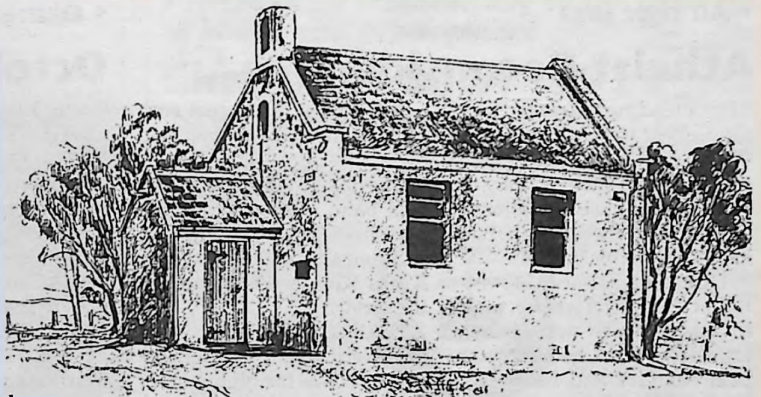
In many ways nothing has changed. The shores of the nearby lake abound in ibis, swan and pelican, as they always have. A narrow dirt road runs alongside the chapel, as it did a hundred and more years ago, when worshippers arrived in horse-drawn vehicles. The wind whistled through the she-oaks in the small adjoining graveyard (the only registered Churches of Christ graveyard in Australia), where the graves of the pioneers are softened by wild lilies and grasses, as it has for over a century.

Here lie the stalwarts: Arthur Pearce, who studied by candlelight until he was skilful and

mighty in the Scriptures—a man who took his small motherless daughter, Jean, on all his preaching trips, travelling in horse and trap to Victor Harbor (before it had a church building), Strathalbyn, Mt Compass and many other places, often staying overnight at the homes of friends.

Here lie the Mitchells, the Manns, the Goldsworthys, the Varcoes and the Yellands. A tall gravestone tells of the drowning in the lake of three members of the one family. It says with poignant simplicity, "They were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in death they were not divided."

A minute book exists, with the earliest dates recording the year 1868. In itself it is a historical document, chronicling as it does the early life of our movement in South Australia. Point Sturt is the oldest country church still operating and even though it is not used every Sunday of the year, it is used with a proud awareness of its place of importance in history. The next service is planned for Christmas morning.



The Point Sturt chapel

The pages of this book tell of the baptisms in the nearby lake (often watched by Aboriginals in early days) and of the sad duty that sometimes fell to those in leadership to "expel" from membership those whose conduct was unbecoming to their profession of faith. A special column in the book is headed "expelled", although it is encouraging to note that these persons were often reinstated at a later date.

In what it is probably a fair example of the cross-cultural exchange of that era, it is recorded in H.R. Taylor's *The History of Churches of Christ in South Australia 1846-1959* that an Aboriginal spectator at one of the baptisms held in the lake asked the brother officiating, "Why you throw Mr X in

the water?"

The solemn reply was, "Because God told me to."

The confused observer then went off to tell his friends, "God been tell him to do that."

The anniversary celebrations in 1991 were an opportunity to recall the struggles and triumphs of the early Point Sturt history, and many present were connected to those whose names appear in the old records and on the tombstones by the chapel.

It was fitting that we had present Shirley Burger, President of Women's Conference, and Brian Symons, President of Southern Districts Conference, both of whom spoke with feeling of the significance of the occasion.

—Helen Oatley

## • Victory in the mud

### Cheltenham Beats CCTC

On 30 August the Cheltenham, Vic, church members played students from the Churches of Christ Theological College.

With coach "Gezza" Rose, senior minister, on the sidelines, Cheltenham looked set for a good win. However, college players Max Viney, Steve Rose, Paul Bower and Mike Follard (who unfortunately snapped a tendon instead of a goal) proved tough opposition for the likes of Peter Martine (a good rover for Cheltenham),

the Burgin brothers, Leigh Verity, Lindsay Dewberry, Paul Hammat and Cameron Graham.

It was a close match all day and, although play was a bit scambly, both sides went tenaciously for the ball, which was very slippery with the wet conditions. With minutes left in the match Cheltenham's forward line proved too strong and they scored a close eight-point victory.

## "Gezza Rose" and his team



• All that jazz

## Atheist Reconsiders

After attending the annual Jazz service held at the Mildura, Vic, church on 3 November, a man commented that he had always considered himself an atheist, but following the service he had to reconsider his beliefs.

This man was one of 140 visitors at the special service, most of whom were non-church attenders. They had come to hear Mr Jazz and his Scenic Stompers, and in the process heard something of God's love for them.

For the past five years the jazz church service has been held as part of the Mildura Jazz Festival. The Mildura church has seen it as an opportunity to involve itself in a significant community event and to present the Gospel of Christ in a contemporary and relevant way.

360 packed the chapel with an overflow crowd watching the service on closed-circuit TV in the foyer. Apart from the jazz band, a special puppet presentation for the children and items by children's choir, Kings Kids, were features of the service.

Feedback from visitors has been very positive with many saying it was the highlight for them of the whole jazz festival.

We thank God for the privilege of being able to share the love of Christ with so many who would not normally step inside a church building.

We particularly thank God for an atheist who is reconsidering his beliefs as the result of sharing with God's people as they worshipped their lord and Saviour.

—David Ratten

• Dinner at CCTC

## Octoberfest

On 26 October the Churches of Christ Theological College Vic-Tas Department hosted an "Octoberfest". The CCTC dining room decorated with spring flowers beautifully arranged by Alice Bates was the venue and a delicious four-course dinner was prepared and served by Eileen Graham assisted by Michelle Martine and a staff of voluntary helpers.

David Brooker was the genial MC and during the evening the 86 guests enjoyed the fine vocal entertainment of "Victoriana", Nina McCredden and friends and flautist Mark Shield (right).

The "Octoberfest" was arranged for a variety of reasons: to raise funds for the college, to publicise the CCTC Vic-Tas Dept and to provide an evening for an inter-church social function. The success of the evening has encouraged the department to plan further fund-raising social functions for 1992.

—Patricia Hilbig



• Trip to Tumut

## Travelling Band

For the third year, the Albury, NSW, church musicians have been invited to provide the music ministry at the Tumut Christian Convention.

Held over the three days of the Australia Day long weekend, the convention draws participants from throughout the Riverina and features prominent Christian speakers.

The first year the Albury musicians attended the organising committee opened the convention with the news that it might go into recess because of falling interest. But it was decided to continue and the musicians were delighted to

learn that it was partly through their ministry that the decision was made to keep the convention going. Such has been the growth of the music that along with an invitation to provide music for the 1992 convention came a special request for the musicians to conduct a Saturday-night program of music, testimony and praise. The program will include a series of musical items, including some special arrangements.

A record eight musicians are planning to make the trip from Albury, led by minister Alex Wilson, who will be song leader, plus a sound operator, with a ninth musician coming from Canowindra. Added to that are all their families, who act as caterers, "roadies" and babysitters. This time the musicians are taking their own sound equipment.

The Tumut Convention begins on Friday night, 24 January, and ends on the Sunday afternoon.

—Andrew Hipwell

## Farewell—Recognition Service

Allan and Lianne Avery

Frankston Church of Christ

Sunday Evening, 15 December 1991, 7.30 pm



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• **On the right track**  
**Glory Train**



As I was contemplating the possibility of future extensions to my HO scale model railway, I realised that here we had two Christians also interested in model railways. Surely, there must be more folk out there with a similar love for the Lord and trains. Asking around, we found indeed there were, and 14 months ago the Shoalhaven Christian Model Railway Fellowship was formed. We now have 20 on our mailing list from 5 different "mainline" churches. We have no fees, no committee and just one head—Jesus!

Meeting the first Wednesday night of the month at different houses, there usually run two hours of operating "play time" (and often hilarious mishaps amongst the serious running) followed by devotions and sup-

per, with a prayer time.

SCMRF is open to all comers, and has proven to be an effective outreach tool, with a few of our regular attenders being non-Christians. Interesting to watch the smoking stop and the language cease when they come into our midst. They even sit without squirming during the devotions.

After receiving an invitation we took a layout up to the Sydney Model Railway Exhibition over the long weekend in October.

The Lord really blessed the group as doors were opened and ways made clear for us to represent him. We ran a short worship service on the Sunday morning that was really appreciated. It was the first time a service had been held at the exhibition, and we don't plan it to be the last.

Although two of our "core" instigators are from Churches of Christ (Nowra and Wollongong) it is a non-denominational group, and it is great to see creeds and doctrines dropped at the door as we unite in fellowship with the one Lord Jesus.

Our hope and prayer is that there are others out there with similar loves, and we would be only too willing to help with information on how to set up Christian Model Railway Fellowships anywhere across the country, indeed, even overseas.

Any reader interested in model railways is welcome to contact me, Hugh O'Dempsey (deacon, Nowra, NSW, church) at 415 Agars Lane, Berry 2535.

• **Responding ecumenically to the concerns of justice and development**

## Christmas Bowl 1991

1991 is a year not many will forget easily. The Gulf War and the Middle East have provided dramatic headlines for our newspapers. And what about the pain and hardship in the Philippines, Ethiopia, Cambodia and Bangladesh? Unfortunately, the aftermath will continue for a long time.

Through the Christmas Bowl, Australian churches have been partners with the communities in these regions, and many other places as well, in their task of alleviating suffering, of rebuilding, of educating.

As you are aware, the Christmas Bowl has been a major means whereby Australians have responded ecumenically to the concerns of justice and

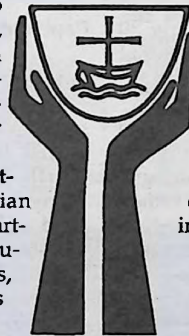
development. It has been an expression of Australians sharing their God-given gifts with those less fortunate.

I invite members of Churches of Christ to use the occasion of the Christmas Bowl to involve those around them in praying, reflecting, analysing and acting locally on some of the concerns that confront our sisters and brothers in our global family.

Churches of Christ have been strong supporters of the Christmas Bowl. On behalf of the Australian

Council of Churches I thank you. Given the scale of human suffering in the world today, your continuing support and involvement are very much needed.

—Caesar D'Mello



• **High standard to be maintained**

## Nine Lessons and Carols

Each year the Berwick, Vic, Regional church presents the "Nine Lessons and Carols". Each time the high standard of the performance seems to increase.

In previous years the 40-50 strong choir has made its entry onto the stage of the Berwick Leisure Centre. This year it will be different. "The Nine Lessons and Carols" will be performed in the church's new mudbrick worship centre in Centre Road.

You are invited to be a part of this great celebration of Christmas through scripture and song. You will need to be seated by 8.30 pm on 22 December and you are invited to stay on for supper with the choir afterwards.

Jennifer Sheppard will again be the conductor. Under her leadership the choir will achieve the standard of excellence that people have come to expect.

Anyone wishing to be a part of the choir will be made most welcome. Rehearsals begin at the church on 25 November at 7.30 pm. Enquiries to the church office on (03) 702 1011.

—Katherine Merbis

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## People

### • Paul and Josuena Mortiz returning to Philippines

## Meeting International Needs

International Needs is at present working in nearly 30 countries assisting national leaders to do the work of evangelism and church planting.

Although International Needs is a missionary organisation, no missionaries are sent out from Australia but rather, by prayer and practical help, it supports and encourages pastors, evangelists, medical teams and Christian workers in many underdeveloped countries as they reach their own people with the Gospel.

There are a number of advantages in doing this. The national leaders can do the job more cheaply, they communicate better, they don't have to spend time learning the language or the culture, funds are not used to get to them to the field and back and they are already known and trusted by the local Christians.

For the past nine months, the Director for International Needs in the Philippines, Rev Paul Mortiz, and his wife Josuena, have been furthering their studies at Kingsley College in Melbourne. Paul has been involved in church planting, radio ministry and evangelistic crusades in the Manila area for the past 30 years.

Not only is Paul an outstanding speaker and evangelist, he is also a very talented gospel singer. His wife Jo also sings with him and accompanies him on the piano accordion. Jo has been sharing something of the work they are involved in, particularly in working with very poor families and children in the Manila area and nearby villages.

Australian Director of International Needs, Clive Stebbins, and Executive Secretary, Glenda de Jager, from the Nunawading, Vic, church, have accompanied the Mortiz



Paul and Josuena Mortiz

family to many churches.

Paul and Jo have shared in many Victorian Churches of Christ this year, including North Balwyn, Ringwood, Burwood, Springvale, Manifold Heights, Portland, Clayton, Swanston St, Red Hill and Nunawading. Paul and Jo, together with their 8-year-old daughter, Grace Joy, will be returning to Manila on 9 December and a farewell tea and service will be held for them at Waverley Baptist Church on 8 December at 5 pm.

Paul and Jo have arranged a special Filipino concert for the victims of the Mt Pinatubo volcano eruption. This night will feature some of the best Filipino Gospel singers and will be held at Greensborough Baptist Church on 30 November at 8 pm.

Further details from International Needs, PO Box 121, Mitcham 3132.

### • Challenging role

## Noarlunga's First Full-time Youth Minister

Graham Mann, 24, has been appointed associate minister at Noarlunga Centre, SA. He started ministry in February 1991 as associate to Ross Pelling. Since then he has taken up youth ministry and worship ministry. Graham is the first full-time youth minister at Noarlunga Centre. His responsibilities include youth and children's ministry, co-ordinating worship services and jointly co-

ordinating the church's music ministry. He has been at the church on an interim basis during 1991 and the church is excited about his full-time appointment.

Graham graduated from the NSW Theological College, Carlingford, in November 1990 with a Bachelor of Theology and Diploma of Ministry. During his studies he had two student ministries—at Castle Hill, NSW, for two years and at Telopea, NSW, for one year.

Graham grew up in the church at Albert Park, SA, before moving to and spending his teenage years at Flinders Park, SA. He has been married to Leanne for four years.

Graham sees his role in the church as a challenging one, as the church has a growing number of youth. "Within the life of the church at the moment there are 200 young people under the age of 20," he said. "That enables a significant and diverse youth ministry here."



Graham Mann

### • Singing for the Lord

## Carols by Candlelight Performer

If you are attending the Melbourne Carols by Candlelight at the Myer Music Bowl this



Stephen Reinmuth

year, watch out for Stephen Reinmuth, who will be performing just prior to the televised performance.

Stephen has been attending the Ascot Vale, Vic, church for four and a half years with his wife Yvonne and their four children.

A couple of years ago he recorded a music tape "Just for Him", which was widely circulated. There are still some copies available. (Phone (03) 370 4923 for copies.)

Please pray for Stephen as he sings on 24 December that the Lord will use him to minister to those assembled at the bowl.

### • Service to brigades

## Captains Retire

At 7 pm on 17 November, Colleen and Chris Peart were honoured by the Launceston, Tas, church for their services to the Girls' and Boys' Brigades over many years—Colleen for 23 years and Chris 14 years. Chairman of the Elders, Henry Dubbeld, made reference to their dedicated service and presented them with a beautifully engraved silver tray. Mrs Plapp, Deputy State Commissioner of Brigades, also acknowledged their services and then commissioned Christina Horder to the leadership of the church company. Mrs Plapp also presented Pioneer Pins to Maree Salmon and Louise Guiger.

Colleen Peart was recently elected a deacon on the church board.

—P. Harrison

## • A long distance but a great experience

### Deputation Goes South

It was late September. Two women from Normanton met up with the three women and two men in Mareeba and their long pilgrimage south was underway. They reached Eidsvold the first night. After ministering there, they moved on to the Ministers, Church Leaders and Elders Camp at Caloundra and then to Nambour. Once in Brisbane the ladies attended Women's

Conference, Annerley CWF and some mid-week meetings. Tom Mitchell spoke at Springwood and the group shared with the Logan City church. On the Saturday of Conference the group introduced themselves and spoke briefly about their church programs. They joined in the massed church service on Sunday at City Hall. Hazel Morris stowed away for the trip back

up north. The route home included visits to Dalby and Chinchilla, who for many years have supported the Aboriginal ministry through finance and prayer. By the time they reached home, they had travelled 5,500 km. A long distance, but a great experience. They loved how churches and Christians accepted them.

#### QAICF Meets Face-to-Face

One of the real delights of the deputation trip was a chance to sit down and talk over committee matters and see each other's faces. The Queens-

land Aborigines & Islanders Christian Fellowship (QAICF) has been meeting for the last 18 months but distance has forced us to meet by telephone conference. This was the first time that Rob Pedler (Dalby), Tom Mitchell and Vincent Mathieson (Mareeba), Sheila Rainbow and Margaret Martin (Normanton), Ben and Kathy Bird (Logan City), Ken Tedford, Don Stewart, Lyle and Hazel Morris (Brisbane) and Ralph and Barbara Bennett (Rosevale) could sit around the same table (even if the table was makeshift).



*Vincent Mathieson—church leader and board member, representative on QAICF, railway worker, chaplaincy work at Lotus Glen Correctional Centre*

*Tom Mitchell—church leader and board member, leads church services*

*Sheila Rainbow—church board member, Sunday school teacher, mature church member, health worker on Aboriginal Health Team*

*Margaret Martin—church secretary, involved in church programs, assists with CWF, co-ordinator of clothing sales*

*Ben and Kathy Bird—have ministered in NSW and Logan City, lead in church services, Sundays school and cottage meetings. Ben is chaplain to Wacol Prison*

**Aboriginal Board Members**

## • 40 years on

### Kalamunda Celebrates

On 12 October, church members gathered at a family tea to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the first Churches of Christ communion service in Kalamunda, WA.

There were five present who were at the first service, Ron and Joy Liddle, who are still in active membership, Wyn Jeffrey, and two who were children at that time, Beth Streeton (nee Mansfield) and her sister Dorothy.

Greetings were brought by Barry Ryall, the current President of the WA Conference, and Des Croot, who was the second minister and the first full-

time minister of the church. A greeting was also received from Lewis Park, the President of Churches of Christ Conference, who conducted the first service in Kalamunda on 14 October 1951.

From that service of only nine communicants meeting together, God has remained faithful in the ensuing 40 years, and the church continues to grow.

A number of early photos and memorabilia of the beginnings of the church were on display and a movie film showing men and women helping to erect the first building in Spring Road was shown.

A segment of praise, thanksgiving and congregational singing was led by Phil Michael.

Geoff Hall presented, on behalf of the elders, a vision for the future.



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# Letters to the Editor

**Letters to the editor are limited to 200 words**

## Which Way Conference?

To the Editor,

The issues raised by Keith Farmer ("AC" 2 November) relate to a debate going on in NSW which I and a number of others have a great deal of difficulty trying to understand.

I have no personal objection to strengthening the role of National Conference (which Keith seems to suggest) but this is essentially a centralising move whereas Keith seems to be advocating decentralisation. Keith must surely be sensitive to the possibility that if national structures are strengthened to the detriment of state structures, this will inevitably lead to a demand for the rationalisation of ministry education which has been opposed both by Carlingford and Kenmore. Further, if, as Keith suggests, there has never been a better time when our churches and conferences have co-operated nationally, what's the problem? If this is the result of centralising tendencies, perhaps we should have more of it?

To suggest that state conferences have any jurisdiction over local churches is patently ludicrous. Rather than desire a decentralised model, my feeling is that our smaller churches are looking for more help from the centre, which is a centralised approach.

Our overall national structure is quintessentially decentralised. The top layer consists of local churches. The lowest layer is the National Conference. How much more decentralised can you get?

—H.E. Hayward  
(Berowra, NSW)

## ABC Programming

To the Editor,

After "Four Corners" on 11 November the ABC showed the most sexually explicit advertisement I have ever seen on television.

It was for the "Peter Couchman Show" on 13 November and it featured up to a

dozen naked/semi-naked people participating in a sexual orgy/fantasy. There was a close-up scene of a naked frenetic young male being massaged by a naked female. Apparently fulfilling sexual fantasies was to be the topic of Peter Couchman's next show.

The ABC and pathetic Peter must be desperate if they have to resort to pornography to attract viewers.

I strongly believe that such an advertisement and the program itself have no place on the public airwaves. I especially object to such a smutty advertisement being shown without warning after "Four Corners" when young people could be watching. It was also an intrusion of my privacy and my right to watch television without having smut thrust upon me and my family.

The sexually explicit advertisements for the ABC's program "Green Man" were bad enough. Are the programmers at the ABC desperate or just sick?

—Barry Kearney  
(Park Orchards, Vic)

## East Timor

To the Editor,

Once again I wish to draw attention to the present situation in ex-Portuguese Indonesia.

One feels for all those killed be they Indonesians, Fretilin or other citizens, and the killings cannot be condoned.

Australian governments have supported the "takeover" in support of their own interests and the interests of "friends".

Now that a massacre has taken place it is more than time that Australians and churches stood up for those people "given away" to become citizens of Indonesia without any human or other rights so that they can be shot down when trying to protest at their situation.

Pray for these people. Be with them in their hour of need as we have said we have done in other cases.

Pray for the downtrodden of every race, and let Christians

focus on the desperate plight of our friends in another land.

Write to your local member. Protest at what has happened and seek for help from the Australian Government, the Australian Council of Churches and other groups who have views on the present serious situation to our northern area.

—W. B. Burn  
(Morwell, Vic)

## Pregnancy Loss

To the Editor,

Society as a whole has been slow to appreciate the impact of all forms of pregnancy loss on the women and couples involved.

Only in recent years have hospital staff and procedures recognised and legitimised the grief of miscarriage and stillbirth, allowing bereaved parents time and opportunity to see, hold, name and remember the child they have lost. Previously, the attitude was one of denial, encouraged by hospital staff unwilling to deal with their own grief over these losses.

The experience of abortion is

subject to similar attempts to deny the woman's natural sense of loss. The absence of a body or funeral rite as a focus for grief, and the tendency for abortion clinic staff (and pro-abortion lobbyists) to downplay the loss caused by abortion, leave many women vulnerable to unresolved grief, despite their having decided on the procedure.

That society, including religious groups, has by and large been slow to understand and minister to parents bereaved through all forms of pregnancy loss does not mean such losses are, or ever were, insignificant.

Ecumenical memorial services for anyone bereaved by miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, abortion or stillbirth are arranged regularly by the Pregnancy Loss Counselling Service. The last service was 27 November at the Ringwood, Vic, Church of Christ.

Enquiries on (03) 879 2332  
9.30 am-3 pm, weekdays.

—Jenny Kearney  
(Director, Pregnancy Action Centre)

# Letters from Tertius

## Too Hard

To the Editor,

I once heard about a man who had a dream. In it all the people in the world who owned New Testaments brought them to a desert place and piled them into a great heap. Then solemnly they asked God to take them back because they were too hard.

I can sympathise with that. I find the New Testament hard. Especially the bits about going the second mile and loving the unlovable and controlling your tongue and your temper and taking up the cross and not being conformed to the world's way of doing things. Most times I read the New Testament it seems to be having "a go at me".

But I'm not sure that I would want God to take it back. I think that a world without the New Testament and its influence, even on a minority of people, would be a much harder world to live in than it is now. And as far as I am concerned personally, although I find the New Testament hard, and I fall a long way behind in following it, it keeps me reasonably well behaved and easier to get on with than I would be otherwise.

The part of the New Testament I find myself turning to most when I am thumbing through it for a reading is the story of the cross. Our Lord asked his Father to take it away because it was too hard. But he also said he was willing to stick with it if that was the only way to save the world. I think I'll do the same with the New Testament.

Hoping you are the same.

—Tertius

## Letters to the Editor

### Ecumenical Co-operation

To the Editor,

It was good to read the reply to my letter of 20 July issue, in the 2 November issue of *The Australian Christian*, under "Comment".

This Department has always taken a leading role in the affairs of our churches and I can only commend it for being so active in all the affairs that it has to deal with from time to time.

Also, it was of interest to see the letter from Lucy E. Griffiths in the same issue referring to our New Zealand Co-operat-

ing Churches (Churches of Christ).

As one who had the privilege of being on a major committee there for many years along with other responsibilities, I can only agree with the statement in her last paragraph. Murray Savage, once minister of our churches there, and one-time President of Conference, said to me in WA earlier this year that insofar as Union was concerned Churches of Christ should have united with others (Methodist, Presbyterian, etc.) and not waited for our Anglican friends to join. But then we waited and lost some

of our ability to continue on and so now we are still a denomination, but we do make, I believe, a fairly significant contribution at a number of levels of church life to the ongoing of the churches.

—Bruce Burn  
(Morwell, Vic)

### Where Have All the Presidents Gone?

To the Editor,

H.E. Hayward ("AC" 16 November) expresses his concern that some churches have introduced "Worship Leaders".

I would suggest that in every case the reason for this is to lift the quality of a congregation's worship, especially in intergenerational-type worship. Not all the presidents have the gifts and skills needed to

involve children and young people in worship and not all worship leaders have the ability to preside over the Lord's Supper with the mature dignity this requires. Some churches are attempting to marry the two in their quest for excellence in worship. This does not turn a worship service into a concert, detract from the communion segment, or change the symbolic role of the communion president and it certainly does not limit the leadership contribution of either sex in our worship. If we are going to allow tradition and fear of change to limit the quality of our response to God we may well soon be asking the question, "Where have all the members gone?"

—Keith Milne  
(Boronia, Vic)



George Warren

### An Invitation to an Adventure in Community Living

I would like to invite you to join us at Greensborough in an adventure of Christian Community.

This is a wonderful chance for spiritual growth and service.

Would you be prepared to buy one of our villa units at 10-12 Porter Street, Greensborough, to be sold on a strata title basis and live in this community of seven households who can pray for each other, study together, serving God's church and the local community?

It is an opportunity to serve the Lord through a supportive community of people who share other parts of their lives, yet with independence and security.

For further information ring me at the office (03) 435 8797.



### Belgrave Heights Christmas Convention

We invite you to the  
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Thursday Evening, 26 December 1991  
to Wednesday Afternoon, 1 January 1992  
Meetings each day in auditorium seating 2000

Hear:

Rev Michael Wilcock from England

Rev Al Whittinghill from USA

Rev. Geoffrey Fletcher from Queensland

Special Missionary Meetings—Monday, 30 December  
Meeting times are 10.45 am (11 am Sunday), 3 pm and 7.30 pm

Picnic facilities, light refreshments, bookroom, SUFM and teenage program  
Further details from  
Convention Office

5 Court Street, Box Hill 3128  
Phone (03) 898 4318

Executive Officer: Rev W.H. Brice

Day Visitors Welcome



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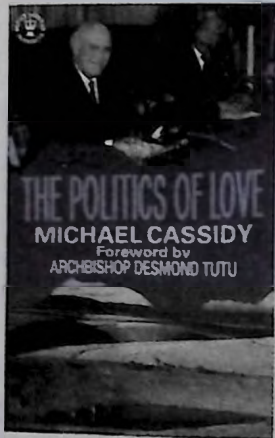
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## Books



### The Politics of Love

Choosing the Christian Way in a Changing South Africa  
by Michael Cassidy (Hodder and Stoughton)

About three years ago Michael Cassidy wrote *The Passing Summer*, which was an examination of the South African situation and his proposal for a way of love that would help South Africa out of its political morass.

Since writing that book there have been momentous changes. The African National Congress has had its ban lifted. Nelson Mandela has been released from prison. But the violence in South Africa has continued and in some places escalated.

There is still hatred and mistrust from various sections of the community.

In this book Michael Cassidy reflects on the incredible changes that have taken place and then looks again at the future and argues once more that if a lasting, non-violent change is to be achieved, then the only way lies in deliberately choosing the Christian way, the politics of love.

He likens South African society to a car that is rapidly heading for a steep precipice. At the last minute the car has veered sharply and is now driving along at great speed parallel to the cliff. The smallest change in direction could cause the car could topple over the edge or (by exhibiting Christian love by all concerned—and a majority confess to following Christ) to head away from the precipice at speed.

The analysis of the politics of love could well be applied in many situations (in other countries, churches, relationships) with great benefit to all.

A highly recommended and readable analysis of the South African situation. —CRA

### Tall Grow the Tallow-Woods

by Geoffrey C. Bingham (Historical Consultants) \$44.95

This is Geoffrey Bingham's first novel. His short stories were renowned immediately after World War II, with many being published in *The Bulletin*. He then returned to his theological studies and was ordained into the Anglican Church ministry. After returning from missionary service in West Pakistan in 1966 he was appointed Principal of the Bible College of South Australia. He also founded New Creation Publications and Teaching Ministry and has written many books of help to Christians.

This novel is set in Wirril Creek in the rural North Coast area of NSW. Denny Cardin is revisiting the little settlement where he

lived with his first wife, Anna, immediately following World War II. Gradually memories of Denny's early days at Wirril Creek and also of his time in the Japanese prisoner of war camps return to him. The memories are painful and have been blocked out for many years. Gradually the story builds to a climax as Denny and others gradually share and learn of what happened on the fateful day when Denny's first wife died on Mt Pirrawarrina, a great brooding mountain that overshadows Wirril Creek.

The story is beautifully told and in the telling raises many questions about faith, belief, love and meaning and purpose in life. There are some fascinating flashbacks to the prison camps and how men dealt with that situation. This is a great story, well written and developing the reader's interest all the time.

The production of the book is excellent and for a hardcover novel the price of \$44.95 is good value.

If local bookshops do not carry this title then it can be obtained from Historical Consultants Pty Ltd, RMB 671, Cherry Gardens Rd, Blackwood Fwd 5157. Phone (08) 388 2138.

—CRA

### Real Christians Don't Dance

by John Fischer (Word Books) \$10.95

Well that's what they told me too back in the 60s. I've wondered a lot about that over the years.

This book was to be a pushover, easy-to-read, easy to pick up and put down—a quickie, I thought.

Think again, and again and again.

John Fischer has a flair for focusing on the issues and "sacred cows" so many of us take such care about protecting. As I started to look at the cows I'd been covering, I found they had to be dealt with first before going on to the next and the next.

I know why Tony Campolo in his preface said, "I can identify with John." Like John I too have a pagan electronic typewriter that beeps every time I type Jesus, or a host of other Christian words as well. He suggested several ways of dealing with the problem. But when he says, "After all God hasn't smashed me or traded me in for another model yet," he stops me in my self-righteous tracks. It's slow work, but I keep on coming back for more. He's even made me feel good about reading graffiti now, after reminding me of the time God wrote on a wall and the "king-of-the-moment" ignored it and lost everything.

It's a slow process, and heavy stuff? Well I guess it all depends on which way you choose to look at it.

—Alan Fletcher

### The Angelic Verses—Daniel Changer



I think we'd better have a look at that star chart again.

# World News

## • Glory in India

# गौरव

चर्च ऑफ़ खाईस्ट - दौन्डचे त्रैमासिक बातमीपत्र

अंक पहिला

घाण्डी विठ्ठलवादी

ऑगस्ट १९९१

During their visit to India in August Jeff May (Executive Director of the Overseas Mission Board) and Thornley Thomas (Vice-Chairman) attended many meetings and participated as requested.

Dr Thomas launched the new church newsletter of the Daund Church of Christ. Its title is *Gourav* (the Marathi word for "glory"). It is planned that the

newsletter will be published quarterly, with information and photographs on the activities of the departments and auxiliaries of the church.

Jeff May presented some Theological Education by Extension (TEE) certificates. Also part of the program were dance and choir items from the Sunday School, Women's Fellowship and others.



Benjamin Tiwari, Jeff May and Thornley Thomas launching the new newsletter

## • Barbers for PNG

# An Answer To Prayer



Keith and Carol Barber

When David and Robyn Harmer returned home from PNG on furlough their concern was whether they could return. They needed to have accommodation in Ukurumpa in the highlands for their daughter Sarah so she could attend high school. At that time there was no hostel available.

In April this year Keith and Carol Barber of the Horsham, Vic, church received a leaflet printed by the Summer Institute of Linguistics advertising the need for Christian teachers to work overseas. They believed it was right for them to offer to SIL and make themselves available. When they heard the need the Harmers

had for accommodation for Sarah they offered to take her into their home when they all return to PNG in early 1992. This is an answer to prayer.

Keith and Carol Barber will be working as support workers with SIL and will also be associate missionaries with Churches of Christ. At present they are travelling around churches so that they will know they have people who will pray for them and support them financially.

Offers of support or requests for the Barbers' team letter ("Barber's Clippings"!) are available through Wycliffe Bible Translators, Graham Road, Kangaroo Ground 3097.

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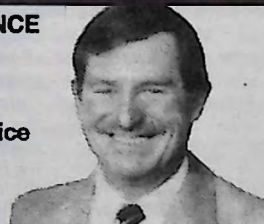
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Services

7.00 p.m.

Gospel Celebration

**Wednesday**

1.15-1.45 p.m.

Lunchtime Service

For further enquiries, please ring (03) 663 3884

# Happenings

The Nurses' Christian Fellowship in NSW was founded in 1922 and is a branch of NCF Australia. The Fellowship is worldwide with 25 member countries. Several activities are planned for the 70th anniversary next year. Details from NCF, PO Box 303, Willoughby 2068. Phone (02) 958 5313.

A major 5-day evangelistic forum will be held in Sydney 25-29 May 1992. Its aim is to help Australian Christians to develop an evangelistic strategy for the 90s, primarily through the local church. To be known as the Australian Forum on Evangelism, the event is being organised by the United Evangelistic Council of NSW. The international speakers will be Dr Leighton Ford and Dr Ravi Zacharias, widely recognised as one of today's most penetrating Christian thinkers and apologists. Australian speakers will include Bishop Paul Barnett, Anglican Bishop of North Sydney, Rev David Cook, Principal of Sydney Missionary and Bible College, Rev Phillip Jensen, Anglican chaplain at the University of NSW, and Barry McMurtrie, senior minister at Wollongong Church of Christ. The forum will deal with all aspects of evangelism in the context of current trends in Australian society. For further information call the United Evangelistic Council on (02) 519 4142 or write to them at PO Box 426, Kogarah 2217.

Dr Mark Tronson, SLM National Ministry Coordinator, chaired a 19-person South Pacific Leadership Forum in Auckland, NZ, 7-9 November. Representatives from Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Western Samoa studied how sports might be utilised in the South Pacific region for evangelism. The forum came as a result of the sports ministry program in the South Pacific Games held in Port Moresby in September, when 160 participat-

ing athletes identified themselves as active Christians.

At the annual Carol Service sponsored by the Christian Men's Society in SA opportunity is going to be taken to say thank you to Keith Aird for his work as SA Conference Administrator. Keith is relinquishing this responsibility at the end of the year.

The legislation to enable the ordination of women as priests in the Church of England has won support in more UK dioceses, bringing the total in favour to 33. So far only 4 dioceses have opposed the legislation. There are only 7 dioceses left to vote on the issue.

An Australian missionary with the Summer Institute of Linguistics in Papua New Guinea, Michael Boone, was killed on 6 November when his motorbike collided with a semitrailer between Goroka and Mt Hagan.

Christian young people will soon be praying to the beat of fast-moving prayer tapes, complete with rap music, drama and ideas on how and what to pray. "Warrior" prayer tapes, produced by the Evangelical Alliance of Great Britain and supported by 15 national youth organisations, offer a lively 45-minute adventure into prayer for Christian teenagers.

The new government in Ethiopia is expected to allow the Bible Society to resume scripture distribution without opposition. Despite a reduced curfew, short supplies of basic commodities and petrol rations, many people are flocking back into the country hoping for a better future under the new regime. With this influx, it is expected the demand for scriptures will skyrocket.

A proliferation of cults have drifted into Bulgaria's major cities over the past year, winning followers among a population of 9 million who

have been cut off from almost all religious influence for 45 years.

Running unopposed for President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Dr Michael Kinnamon, Dean of Kentucky's Lexington Theological Seminary, failed to get the necessary two-thirds vote from the church's General Assembly on 28 October. Opposition to him was based on his support for the ordination of homosexuals. He won 65.1% of the 5,651 votes cast. The 44-member Administrative Committee will appoint an acting General Minister and President, who will serve until next year.

In Florida authorities have posted a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of an arsonist who is believed to have burned at least 22 churches in the last year.

The original print run of 5,000 Mongolian New Testaments has sold out in less than a year and a reprint is being planned by the Bible Society in Mongolia. Because the church is so small in the country the Scriptures are all going to non-Christians.

John Hoopmann was ordained in late October to ministry by the General President of the Lutheran Church of Australia. Although a Lutheran he will minister among deaf Christians of all denominations in South Australia. Mr Hoopmann, who has been deaf since birth, received his theological education at Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, USA, where specialist training was available to those ministering to the deaf. He is a 5th-generation pastor, but says he never envisaged he would follow the family tradition.

New directives outlawing unregistered Chinese house churches and targeting itinerant evangelists for arrest and impris-

onment have been adopted by many county governments throughout eastern China since 1 October.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kenneth Spikin was elected as President of the Victorian Council of Churches at the AGM in July. He is the first Salvationist to hold this position.

Additional Eastern Orthodox communions in the US have joined the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America in suspending their membership in the (US) National Council of Churches. They also suspended participation in the Orthodox-Anglican dialogue process in the US.

Two Seventh-Day Adventist Unions in South Africa have agreed to merge. The South African Union Conference approved the merger of the white South African Union and the predominantly black Southern Union.

While many of the Soviet republics are opening up to the presence of Christian missions, the southern republics appear to be actively discouraging Christian mission work and moving closer to establishing Islam as the state religion. In July, the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted a new law prohibiting missions, missionaries and public meetings for evangelism.

The 1991 Annual Good Citizens Awards made by the Festival of Light were awarded at a dinner in Sydney on 28 October. Doug Johnson won the award for "Fatherhood", Geoffrey Pearce was named for "Community Services", Sarah Fairweather won the award for "Service to the Press", Michael Cobb, MP, won the award for "Parliamentary Service", Penny Sampson won the award for "Outstanding Achievement", John Tingle won the "Betty Lygo Award for Service to Radio", Greg Smith won the "Mother Teresa

Award for Pro-life Service" and the "Malcolm Muggeridge Award for National Citizenship" was presented to Sir Charles Court.

The 1992 Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES) Presidential address will be given by Rev Dr Peter Jensen. Dr Jensen is the Principal of Moore Theological College in Sydney. His topic will be "The Humanity of Christ". It will be given on 18 January 1992 at 11.30 am as part of the AFES National Conference being held at the Belgrave Heights Convention Centre, Vic. The AFES National Conference "God's Spirit God's People" is being held 12-19 January. Details from AFES, 16 Mill Hill Rd, Bondi Junction 2022. Phone (02) 369 1688 or from John Sugars on (03) 568 8979.

What do effective, growing churches have in common? Generally they are strong on corporate prayer, they are caring and compassionate and they demonstrate commitment and courage in their Christian witness. Also, according to American missions professor Harvie Conn, they use cell groups to take the gospel out to the people, instead of using a building to bring them in; they have a "conversion consciousness"; and their worship is characterised by celebration. Finally, they are prepared to "contextualise the gospel".

Some 97% of drug-related deaths in Australia are caused by the legal drugs such as alcohol and tobacco, with 3% falling victim to illegal drugs such as heroin and cocaine.

George Warren, Vic-Tas President-Elect, has been reappointed by the Greensborough, Vic, church, where he is currently ministering, for a further term of 15 years. For 1992 the church has also appointed two students, Gerry Doyle and Stuart Rutter, to assist in ministry while George is involved in Conference activities.

# Australian Churches of Christ

## Digest

### Historical Society

Number 110

December 1991

## Shall We Shoot the Old Preachers?

Almost one hundred years ago our churches in Australia contemplated their future as they prepared to move from the nineteenth into the twentieth century. In the sixty years or so prior to the turn of the century the pioneers of the movement known as the Restoration Movement or simply Churches of Christ had achieved much. By 1904 our numerical strength was 17,298 members under the care of 85 ministers or evangelists.<sup>1</sup> Clarence Lemmon indicated that the movement known as Disciples of Christ (Churches of Christ) had its birth in the minds of ministers.<sup>2</sup> Both Thomas Campbell and his son Alexander were ordained ministers of the gospel. Alexander Campbell believed "that preachers should be qualified for their work in character and, if possible, in education and certainly in industry, and that they should be carefully chosen."<sup>3</sup> He also came to believe that preachers should be supported financially if they were engaged in the work of the gospel full time and that churches should provide that support for preachers and evangelists.

With the merging of The Australian Christian Standard and The Christian Pioneer at the beginning of 1898 under the organising editorship of A.B. Maston, a means of expressing the collective thinking of our brotherhood on a range of subjects became possible. By the turn of the century it had become obvious that the previous methods of ministry, i.e. itinerant evangelists and ruling elders were no longer as effective as they had been and a new style of ministry was emerging.<sup>4</sup>

The first few years of publication of The Australian Christian provide some interesting insights into these issues and to the possible directions some of these issues would take.

Many of them did not suddenly pop up because we had a new national magazine. Indeed, some issues, such as the debate about training, education and a need for a college, were almost 30 years old.

But the beginning of The Australian Christian does provide a logical starting point as its inception straddles the beginning of the twentieth century.

In this issue of the "Digest" Peter Burnham examines the issues of ministry raised in the first years of "The Australian Christian", 1898-1905.

## Preachers and Churches

In just the second week of publication of The Australian Christian D.A. Ewers, the past editor of The Christian Pioneer, wrote two articles relating to ministry.

In the first, "Churches and Preachers"<sup>15</sup>, Ewers suggested that "primitive Christianity" had achieved greater progress in proportion to population in South Australia (than the other colonies) because of the longer ministries of such men as T.J. Gore at Grote St., H.D. Smith at Hindmarsh, and A.C. Rankine at Norwood. Further, he expressed the concern that frequent changes of preacher were not good either for the preacher or for the churches.

He summed up the causes of the ill-health of many of our churches in this way: "There are preachers who, as soon as difficulties arise, run away to fresh fields; and there are churches which, because their preachers do not please every member, lose no time in seeking new ones."<sup>16</sup>

If the lack of longer-term ministries had an adverse effect on churches, then churches were not helping themselves by careless choosing of preachers.

Ewers wrote about churches who had made too hasty a decision to engage a preacher without thoroughly checking his credentials. This problem was already being experienced by the Baptists, and certainly by some of our churches also. He posed the problem in this way: "The difficulty with the Baptists as with ourselves is that each congregation being, in all matters of internal government, quite independent of other churches, no Central Committee, Conference or Union can authoritatively interfere with its choice."<sup>17</sup>

**THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN**

CIRCULATING AMONGST THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH AND NEW ZEALAND.

*An Old Preacher.*

Below will be found a picture of W. W. Davey, who now lives at Taradale, Victoria. For 30 years past Davey has been a preacher and teacher amongst us, and has lived a blameless life. He is now an old man of 77 years, while Mrs. Davey is 70. They have arrived at that time of life when they can do but little to help themselves. A few weeks ago the attention of the Victorian Home Mission Committee was drawn to their helpless condition, and we were asked to go and see them and see what could be done. We visited their home and reported to the Committee, who appointed W. C. Craigie to see with us to make an appeal to the brotherhood generally, and the Victorian brethren in particular, for money, whereby systematic relief can be extended to these old and honored servants of the church. The church at Bendigo, through Dr. Cook, has promised 25 weekly, and we very much desire to get sufficient so that these old people should have a small weekly allowance in addition to a small amount they are receiving from the good brethren and sisters at Taradale. Amounts in a lump sum will be thankfully received, yet if some of our churches could see their way like Bendigo to do a little systematic giving we would be glad. Any bounty the brotherhood may place in the hands of the sub-committee named above, appointed by the Victorian Home Mission Committee, will be used with all care for the relief of these old people. Send money to either W. C. Craigie, Little Collins-Street, Melbourne, or A. H. Maston, Austral Office.

W. W. DAVEY.

**T**here was a call to all churches for mutual co-operation and the suggestion to seek advice from the Conference Committee of their colony.

In 1902<sup>8</sup> Ewers again suggested that churches should be more discriminating about who they engage as preachers. It seems obvious that churches were still open to charlatans and people who were just not suitable to the task. He cites an example of a church who suffered greatly because they had engaged a young preacher who had been recommended to them by an evangelist. The church accepted him without checking his credentials only to find, to their cost, that he was "totally unfit for the work".<sup>9</sup>

There was evidence in *The Australian Christian* of 1899 that there were sharp divisions in our brotherhood about the practice of ministry. F. Illingworth, a successful businessman, and religious and civic leader, who became a member of the Legislative Council of Victoria and later a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia, spoke out stridently against what he saw to be "progressivism" in our churches.<sup>10</sup> In his essay of 1899 he argued that one of the signs of decay in our churches was the reliance on paid ministers or preachers.

"But to call a man an evangelist who labors in a church (planted it may be before he was born) and labors there for years, who feeds the flock, visits the sick, immerses believers, marries the living and buries the dead, and generally acts as priests or ministers do... They are not evangelists. They are priests, pure and simple."<sup>11</sup> The editor of *The Australian Christian*, A.B. Maston, left no doubt as to what he thought of Illingworth's views by calling it a "doleful essay".<sup>12</sup>

In 1902 *The Australian Christian* published an essay written by H.G. Harward, who at that time was State evangelist for Victoria, and who later became the first principal of the College of the Bible. Harward's essay, "Some Problems and Their Solution"<sup>13</sup>, gives one of the early pictures of the emerging maturity and self-understanding of our churches. His essay is insightful in that he identifies clearly the problems encountered by our churches, and it is prophetic in that some of the problems identified are still with us.

The essay covers three areas of the church's work. First, the church and its in-

ternal organisation and methods of evangelism. Second, the church in its relation to other religious groups and denominations. Third, the church and its social and moral duties to the wider community.

In Harward's view a major problem confronting our churches was the care of their members. There were severe leakage problems. As fast as people came into the church, they were lost just as quickly. In 1885 our total membership in Victoria was 3,322 and in the following 16 years 7,137 baptisms had occurred—an average of 446 per year. In 1901 our membership was 5,537—an increase of 2,215 in 16 years. During the same period, however, the losses sustained were about 5,000 or an average of 300 per year. He believed the cause of this leakage to be "the lack of spiritual oversight". He went on further to say that some churches in trying to avoid the "Scylla" of the one-man ministry had run aground on the "Charybdis" of the no-man ministry. A solution to this problem of initially caring for the members is to be found in the New Testament practice of appointing a qualified eldership in all the churches. A further suggestion was to break the members of a congregation up into small regional groups where a leader could accept the responsibility for some pastoral and spiritual oversight of those members.

The problem of evangelisation was set in the context of appropriate personnel. "This problem of evangelisation, as far as the churches of Christ are concerned, is... a problem of men."<sup>14</sup> He proposed two solutions to this problem. One was to recruit as many evangelists from overseas, particularly those Australians who had gone to train in our American colleges. If money was an impediment to their return, then a fund should be established to help in this regard. A more satisfactory answer would be to train our own men. "We must train our own preachers before we will be able to fully solve the problem of evangelisation."<sup>15</sup> A temporary solution suggested was the establishment of a "Bible Chair" and students would also work through an established university. F.G. Dunn in commenting on Harward's essay said, "It is high time that we got rid of the bugbear of colleges being 'manufactories for parsons' and settled down to some steady work in the way of educating men for the 'ministry of the word'."<sup>16</sup>

He argued that the preacher of the future needed a foundation based upon a "liberal education". Education was required because the intellectual task of the preacher was more demanding than other professions, and the interpretation of the Bible was not as simple as some people supposed. He also suggested that education was important for the mission of the church "because it takes an educated man to win and hold educated people". As an American he attributed much of the success of our churches in America to our early leaders being educated men, and the fact that they established institutions for the education of preachers.

Jas Johnston, MA, BLitt, was the second speaker. "The Qualifications of the Preacher" were his concern. Johnston suggested that it was not enough as a preacher to have knowledge, but rather "he should be". His life should be the embodiment of the gospel he preached. Of vital importance was a strong noble character. "Manhood is the best sermon." What he meant by that statement is not entirely clear but he strongly advocated an identification with the needs of the common person and an ability to relate to them socially. The preacher must feel at home with people and they with him. He also thought physical fitness and general good health to be important. Intellectual discipline was also an important qualification, for "no man is fit to preach who is not a student".

He summed up his assessment of the qualifications of a preacher in this way: "Good nature, good health, good heart, good head, and downright moral and religious earnestness."

"A Prophet's Honor" was F.W. Greenwood's topic. He argued that we do not honor our own prophets, and that we ought to affirm strongly the men raised in our culture. So there needs to be co-operation between our churches, and the young men who work for the gospel should be helped rather than retarded in their efforts.

"The Need for More Preachers" was again emphasised by Thomas Hagger. He stressed that those who had the ability to preach should be wholly devoted to the task and if they were unable to support themselves then the churches should support them. He drew attention in his address to three reasons why we need more preachers. First, because the great commission of Jesus was being fulfilled too slowly. Second, because of the enormous opportunities throughout the colonies to evangelise. And third, because wherever men give themselves full time to preaching success follows. He used the 1898-99 Victorian Conference statistics to prove his point. In this period 95 churches reported 347 additions by faith and baptism. The 49 churches that had received evangelistic assistance reported 235 of these additions. The remaining 46 churches, which had not received that assistance, had 112 additions between them. From those 46 churches, one church, Bendigo, had 42 additions. The net increase throughout the colony was 76, while it was 99 in those churches receiving assistance from preachers.<sup>20</sup>

A.B. Maston was the final speaker. His

## The Need for an Educated Ministry

**T**hroughout the early years of *The Australian Christian* the weight of opinion for an educated ministry was expressed through many articles.

D.A. Ewers wrote in 1902 challenging our churches: "If we are to exercise an influence in the land commensurate with the importance of our plea, we must present such training facilities as shall induce our students to be satisfied with an Australian education. This is one of the most pressing needs of our movement."<sup>17</sup> He had written earlier in 1899 that "we

must have as leaders men of culture and ability."<sup>18</sup>

In late November 1899 a meeting had been held in the Swanston Street chapel. This meeting was a watershed, in a way, as it provided an imprimatur for open discussion about ministry and some of the directions in which our ministry might go.

The meeting was chaired by W. Wilson and a number of addresses were given by leaders of our brotherhood. Each speaker was allotted ten minutes and between each speaker rousing hymn singing was led by Robert Lyall.<sup>19</sup>

W.C. Morro, BA, was the first speaker and his topic was "The Ministry of the Future".

## Pastoral Concern about Preachers

If the early "Australian Christians" had expressed concern about where our preachers were to come from, by 1900 the focus had shifted to the other end of the continuum. Articles in *The Australian Christian* of 1900 expressed concern about the elderly evangelists who had reached the end of their ministry and in their old age had nowhere to live—indeed a number had no family to take care of them.

In a provocative article headed with an emotive title: "Shall We Shoot the Old Preachers?" D.A. Ewers expressed concern about the many preachers who had reached old age and the problem of what to do with them. The contributing factors as to why they needed help were that "with few exceptions their salaries have been so small and the calls upon their limited means so numerous that they have been unable to lay anything by for old age."<sup>22</sup> Certainly, with a greater number of preachers approaching middle age around 1900, the problem of what to do with aged preachers was not going to go away.

Indeed, he had raised the issue in a report on a resolution passed at the SA Conference in 1898: "An Aged Evangelists' Fund".<sup>23</sup> The resolution that was carried stated, "That an aged evangelists' sustentation fund be formed, and that a

scheme for its administration be formulated by the Executive Committee."<sup>24</sup>

It was hoped that if South Australia could overcome some of the problems associated with such a scheme, other colonies might follow their example, and even to federate this matter as in Foreign Mission work.

In 1901 the matter had been debated at the Victorian and New South Wales conferences. It was reported that the question of the support of old and disabled preachers had been "solemnly debated", indicating that there was some degree of concern about it.

South Australia had obviously taken the lead in this matter, as Ewers wrote in 1901 that "in the other states the matter has not yet come within the range of 'practical politics', and in the meanwhile our preachers are growing older and some of them feeble."<sup>25</sup> It is interesting to note the genuine pastoral care felt and expressed towards these elderly evangelists who were the pioneers of many of our churches. However, to translate that concern into practical help two hurdles had to be overcome.

Where was the money going to come from? Only small amounts could be expected from the churches. And there was the lack of a structure or organisation to monitor and direct the help.

topic was "The Students' Loan Fund". His concern was to create from the churches around Australia a fund of money that suitable young men could draw upon to enable them first, to complete a university education, and second to obtain a thorough biblical knowledge under the direction of W.C. Morro. The loan was to be repaid so that the whole scheme was self-funding.

At the close of the meeting R.C. Edwards moved a resolution that "the scheme propounded of helping young men to better fit themselves to preach the gospel is workable, and as such, be commended to the brotherhood of Australasia."<sup>21</sup>

As I have already indicated, this meeting was important in our understanding of ministry as our churches moved into the twentieth century. These points can be made:

First, at a brotherhood level the direction of our ministry for the future was enunciated, i.e. it would be an increasingly educated ministry. History has shown this to be so.

Second, the personal qualities that suited a preacher to his task were spelt out.

Third, there was recognition that men giving their full time to ministry was critical to the health and growth of our churches.

Fourth, there was some acknowledgement that our churches had a financial responsibility to support students while they trained for ministry.

These issues of ministry have remained with our churches over the past ninety years.

## The Training of Preachers

The issue of where our preachers were to come from has already been alluded to, but by 1902 it had emerged as a prominent concern for our churches. A common attitude at the time was that there was an inexhaustible supply of preachers and evangelists in America just waiting to be invited to Australia. The truth was that our American colleges were not able to meet the demand for preachers for their own churches.<sup>26</sup> The momentum that had been generated through the 80s and 90s for our own college now reached the stage where rhetoric needed to be translated into action.

Attempts certainly had been made in a number of directions to start a college. In South Australia in 1870 H.S. Earl and A.T. Magarey had visited our American churches for the purpose of raising money for a college in South Australia. A further intermediate step was the establishment of the Victorian Biblical Training Institute, established in 1888.

There was still caution around the turn of the century about establishing our own college. A number of leaders felt that we were not yet strong enough to fully support a college. Ewers expressed the opinion that "when the population of Australasia has increased to ten million, and when our membership is one hundred thousand, we may be able to do something. But not now."<sup>27</sup>

By 1899 preacher training classes had been established in Adelaide under T.J. Gore and A.C. Rankine. In Melbourne classes met under the supervision of W.C. Morro, an American, who took his students meticulously through the Lexington Bible College course of scripture. Another class met at our Prahran church under the leadership of J. Pittman. In Sydney classes were conducted by Geo. T. Walden. The primary purpose of these training classes was, if not to fully equip men to work as evangelists, to provide preachers with some degree of biblical knowledge.

A further Victorian development occurred in 1902 when the Conference Executive endorsed the establishment of the Australian College of the Bible. An administrative committee comprised of F.G. Dunn, A.B. Maston, W.C. Craigie and the Principal, Jas Johnston. Classes met on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, using the facilities of University High School. By 1903 enrolments had risen to 208 students.<sup>28</sup> The teaching staff were Jas Johnston, who was principal and taught biblical languages and criticism, Albert J. Saunders who taught sacred and church history, A.R. Main, teacher of English and philosophy, and Joseph Pittman, who taught hermeneutics and homiletics. In the 1903 Conference report of the Australian College of the Bible it was reported that the committee had been "successful in securing affiliation on equal terms with the Texas Christian University of America".<sup>29</sup> The report also made the point that students who intended going to America to study would receive credit for the subjects they passed at the Australian College of the Bible. In a sense this seemed to be working directly against the movement to establish a college in Australia, for it was encouraging young men to commence study here and, having their appetites whetted, complete their studies in America, where, much to the anguish of our leaders, many of them stayed. This issue, which had been a bone of contention among our churches for almost twenty years, became a focus of a special symposium held through the pages of *The Australian Christian* of 1905. Twelve of our most respected leaders wrote articles on the topic, "What Steps Must We Take to Prevent Our Young Men Going to America to Study?"<sup>30</sup>

Many of our leaders saw the answer to this question in a number of propositions. First, money was of vital importance. Some advocated setting aside a special fundraiser who would go around our churches to raise money for the establishment of a college. Second, our conferences could do more, especially at a federal level, to appoint an educationalist to teach the biblical subjects. Third, there was a need to encourage our students to use the universities in their own states for the gaining of a degree. Fourth, churches should pay their preachers and students who preach on a Sunday a "fair and liberal remuneration".

Two years later the Federal College of the Bible was established in Melbourne.

# A Response to This Early History

**I**t is clear that some of the issues relating to the practice of ministry in our churches at the beginning of this century had been debated over many decades. How our churches collectively responded to some of these issues had begun to emerge by the time the Federal College was established in 1907.

First, there was the need for an increasingly educated ministry but very limited resources to accomplish such an aim. As we have indicated there were some very innovative responses to this need, but the pressure to go the American way and establish our own Bible college was relentless. It was seen to be the only answer to the problem of preacher supply. D.A. Ewers felt that we were not ready for such a step until Australia's population reached 10 million and our membership had achieved 100,000. It is interesting to reflect on the fact that Australia's population is now over 17 million and our membership is below 40,000 and we have four institutions for training men and women for ministry. The tension of the needs for an educated ministry and very limited resources are still with us.

Second, there was the need to deal with the problems brought about by a full-time ministry and the search for structures that would facilitate solutions beyond the resources of the local church. This is a continuing tension in our churches, between centralised bureaucracy and the autonomy of local churches. In the early articles this was most clearly focused on the problem of aged

and disabled evangelists and preachers. While this issue was debated with concern and compassion at many state conferences, our churches lacked a structure, even when they agreed about what should be done, to respond. Again limited resources became a hurdle to effective pastoral care of preachers. The brotherhood was trying to find solutions to problems that were a result of local churches making their own decisions to engage preachers. When these preachers were old and unable to work effectively whose responsibility were they? Clearly, the solution lay beyond the local church. Unsuitable preachers was another issue that concerned many of our early leaders. It wasn't until 1913 that Victoria had an advisory board to help churches in the selection of a minister.

Part of the problem was not that debate and discussion never occurred on these issues, it was that in some cases an inordinate amount of time passed before a constructive solution was found.

Pastoral care of ministers was raised in Victoria during the early 1970s, yet it was over ten years before "our system" was able to respond in a meaningful way. The point at issue here is whether our conference structures can respond to the needs of an increasingly professional ministry. That will be the challenge as we move into the next century.

Third, there was the practice of ministry and the theology of ministry. The focus of our ministry in Churches of Christ has always been on practice, and any theory has always followed. For a great part of our history we

did the task of preaching the gospel without theologising about it. It was not that our early leaders were anti-intellectual, rather they saw a certain givenness about the gospel that did not require the intervention of theologians. There was the three-fold ministry of deacon, elder and evangelist, and any discussion tended to be around the exegesis of passages relating to this. Human thought just muddied the waters.

Our ministry has been praxis driven, with little time or inclination to critically reflect on why we do certain things in the way that we do. This has been a strength and a weakness. In the mid-1970s our churches were the first to embrace the concepts of church growth through the seminars of Dr Win Arn. The critical reflection on what this has meant for our ministry is only beginning. The current debate about ministers' leadership styles is to some degree an outcome of decisions made in the 1970s. What our early leaders showed us through the articles in the first seven years of *The Australian Christian* was that they were not afraid to speak strongly on issues that were close to their heart. Perhaps the challenge for our churches now is that we must not fail to enter into meaningful debate about our ministry and its future directions.

Finally, our churches faced enormous challenges as they entered the twentieth century. They met these challenges and laid foundations for the ministry that we have inherited today. We stand in a similar position now.

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We thank our members for faithfully supporting us over the years and encourage others to subscribe to the society so that we may carry on with our work of preservation, research and publication, particularly of the Digest. Yearly subscriptions are \$3, and can be sent to Mrs Alice Allison.

## News

◦ *Quality*

### Albury News

The women from the Albury, NSW, church recently sponsored a regional convention. The theme was "The Quality of Womanhood" and the guest speaker was Win Cole of Adelaide. About 40 attended, with delegates from Mooroopna, Vic, Gilgandra and Wagga Wagga, NSW, and Canberra, ACT. Afternoon seminars were conducted over the four days by Flo Grant and Maria Williams. The local sights, especially the snow, were enjoyed by the visitors.

Cec Grant, pastor at Albury for more than a decade, now has the use of a caravan for the gospel outreach ministry. Cec travels hundreds of kilometres annually in this service, and the caravan, purchased by FAB from Len Butler of the Ashburton, Vic, church, will fill a very pressing need.

The Sunday School children of the church travelled to Castlemaine, Vic, to share in that church's Sunday School anniversary and had a wonderful time of fellowship. They were quite overwhelmed by the friendship and hospitality.

—Betty Bantow



Some of the women at the convention with speaker Win Cole standing third from right



Albury Sunday School children with teachers Lillian Lacey, Reg Lawrence, Darren Whighton and Marceil Lawrence



Cec Grant taking delivery of the caravan from Len Butler



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## • This January at Feathertop

### NYC 15 Worth Going To

Is \$285 too much to spend for Christmas? Many would say that it probably is. But to attend National Youth Convention 15 it's a bargain. You need a reason to go? This price includes all meals and accommodation at Feathertop Chalet, a holiday resort in Victoria's high country. Facilities include an indoor swimming pool, a sauna, tennis and squash courts, basketball, videos, an indoor gym and fresh mountain streams plus two of Australia's most dynamic speakers—John Bond and Graham

Hyman. They'll be speaking on the theme for the convention: "Give Me a Reason".

Parents, wouldn't you rather your kids attended a Christian convention? Why not part sponsor their fee for this Christmas? NYC15 is open to all young people aged 16 or over. The dates are 6-12 January. A luxury coach is available return Melbourne to take interstate registrants to the convention (cost \$27.50 return). Spaces are filling quickly so ring (03) 326 8900 to have an application form rushed to you.

## • Massive need overseas challenges local welfare agency

### Melbourne Citymission May Go International

The massive need in the Third World and eastern Europe has challenged one of Melbourne's oldest welfare agencies to offer its services internationally.

The executive director of Melbourne Citymission, Don Saltmarsh, has returned from the World Urban Mission international convention in Birmingham, England. Melbourne Citymission has been serving the people of Melbourne exclusively for 137 years. However, Don Saltmarsh said that that charter had to change: "Issues confronting Melbourne Citymission are the same as those impacting on agencies in Africa, Asia, Latin America and eastern Europe."

He doesn't believe that these international links can be satisfied only with financial assistance. "We are looking at exchanging information and training. That could mean Third World workers coming here and our people going there. Mutual sharing has enormous benefits to the global village. It must be an exchange of equals."

He said that it was imperative that Australian welfare agencies learn more about other cultures because increasingly urban development was becoming multicultural.

The linking up of Third World and eastern European communities with Melbourne Citymission would be done through local churches or Christian city missions. "Many church organisations in these parts of the world are desperate to learn how to develop effective welfare activities," continued Don Saltmarsh.

He said he was very encouraged by the spirit and commitment of those church leaders he met, particularly the Christians from the underground church who had kept the Word of God alive in eastern Europe for so many years.

As part of his overseas trip, Don Saltmarsh investigated the

latest developments in social welfare throughout Europe and North America. New community involvement in assisting people with Alzheimer's disease and their carers would provide new opportunities for Melbourne Citymission's nursing homes in Eltham and North Fitzroy. Melbourne Citymission is also interested in developing new community outreaches for people with Alzheimer's disease using the agency's present accommodation and resources.

It was North America that provided the greatest shock. Academics, business and welfare people told Don Saltmarsh that the US was moving out of recession and into depression. "Marginalised groups are out of control. In Los Angeles unemployed young people are forming themselves into violent gangs that are not content with shooting and killing in their own neighbourhoods but are franchising their services all over America."

In New York, he witnessed Third World scenes. Huge numbers of people are forced to live on the streets in cardboard boxes and under plastic sheeting.

"If the US moves into depression, so do we. Fortunately Australia seems better situated presently in terms of more sensitive government programs based on equity and justice."

## • Growing in many ways

### Boys Initiative Camp

30 boys enjoyed a program full of activities at Camp Waterman in September. The boys were kept moving at a steady pace with only short spots of free time. There was a foot rally around the camp, swimming at the Monbulk Pool (heated), an all-day hike in Olinda State Forest, a concert night and "thinking times" where the boys looked at how God gets our attention, how God leads the way and how God provides.

Also included in the program were "Life Be In It" games with a parachute and an Earth ball. A favourite was the night games, where the boys had to stalk through the bush and get to a burning gas lamp without



being detected by any of the six leaders—not an easy feat, but it was done by a few.

This is one camp where you can be guaranteed your boy will have a great time. It is for boys aged 10, 11 and 12, and is held every year, rain, hail or shine (there is a program planned for the eventuality of it raining all week), starting on the Sunday of the second week of the school holidays in September and concluding on the Thursday afternoon at 3:30 pm. Next year it is hoped to fill this camp with 70 boys.

For further information contact Jacob Altes on (03) 723 3348. A video is also available.

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## • Journeying side by side

### Churches of Christ and Uniting Church Meet

Conversations have been held in Western Australia between members of the Churches of Christ Christian Union Committee and the Uniting Church Ecumenical Affairs Committee. The meetings were arranged following the 1990 National Conference at which it was resolved that "member churches consider the possibilities of closer relationship with the UCA in the light of the declaration at Seoul (August 1989) between the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and the Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council".

Our hopes and intention were that we should explore together the text of the Report of the Disciples of Christ-Reformed International Dialogue, Birmingham, United Kingdom, 4-11 March 1987. We hoped to see how this would help us in our life as Christians and churches in Australia. In terms of paragraph three of *The UCA in Dialogue* (Hilary Christie-Johnston, 1990) we hoped to "see ourselves as others see us" and improve, where necessary, understandings each has of the other.

There were four meetings. Time was spent sharing our personal ecumenical journey as a way of getting to know one another during the first meeting. We then met on three occasions to deal with some issues from the report. We covered the nature of the church, baptism and ministry.

We engaged in very informal conversation based on individual readings and reflection and called upon our individual experiences and concerns. We did not seek to come to a consensus but rather to become aware of what we have in common and where our differences in emphasis and understanding occur.

We used our churches' responses to the Lima document, *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry*, as a resource at times and found this useful in helping us appreciate the special aspects of Churches of Christ and the Uniting Church in Australia as contrasted with the international statements.

We did not take official minutes of our conversation nor did we see to make any recommendations arising directly from the encounter.

We recommend the Report as a careful and clear statement worthy of study by members of our churches. We give thanks to God for the opportunity of meeting and sharing together a sense of unity we have in Christ. "The acceptance of each other as churches also implies our commitment to remove other obstacles which keep us from sharing full fellowship and mission in the name of Christ." Paragraph 37 of the Report will remain with us as a challenge as we journey side by side as churches in WA and we seek God's guidance for the future. —John Somerville

## • Spring conference

### Church of the 21st Century



Alan Walker, Barry McMurtrie and Roy Wheeler

The Spring Conference at the Wollongong, NSW, church was a great success. 220 ministers and leaders enrolled in the three-day event. Each state was represented, with a total of 86 from interstate.

Rev Sir Alan Walker gave the introductory address, where he explored his vision of the future. It was a splendid prophetic message that inspired the audience. Keith Farmer commented it was the finest address he had heard in a decade.

The overseas speaker was Roy Wheeler, a Church of Christ minister from Amarillo in Texas. Roy's theme was "How to Stay Five Years and Build a Church". This is just what he has done. Dedicating his life to ministering in a city of 100,000 he has built a caring, evangelistic church with a membership of 3,700. Roy's ministry was deeply appreciated as he displayed a genuine openness about his struggles and his ministry passion.

Electives were led by the staff at Wollongong: Wes Beavis on creative arts, Tammy Tolman on children's work, Larry Galbraith and Mal Reid on youth ministry, Carol Preston on restoring lost members and Liz Hah on Christian education. Barry McMurtrie led two sessions on church growth.

Participants shared in the major worship services of the day and on Saturday the Illawarra Performing Arts Group presented the musical "Godspell".

The final session was addressed by Phil Pringle the founder/minister of the Christian City Church Movement. Phil is a dynamic young man who, without a theological education, has built the largest church in Sydney in just eight years. His major theme was "To Keep Your Eyes on the Vine Not the Fruit".

It was one of those conferences that was destined to be successful because of the calibre of the speakers, however God did something further. The gathering had a touch of God's Spirit and many were deeply blessed.

Many letters have been received since the conference witnessing to the blessing of God. For example one minister wrote, "My vision for my church seemed like a fantasy. Now in spite of stumbling blocks I see a way of beginning. A strong statement from one who really did not want to attend."

Next year Spring Conference will be 10-12 October.

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## Classifieds

### BIRTHS

**SALMON (QUAIFE)** Andrea, Ken and their families are delighted to welcome Mitchell Quaije Salmon into their lives. Born 14 October, a precious gift from God.

### DEATHS

**EASTON** Harold Edward. Aged 76 years. Passed away 10 November. Dearly loved husband of Agnes Lorna. Dearly loved father of Pamela and Toni. Father-in-law of Danny and Ian. Loving Grandpa of Danny, Mark, Natasha, Sian and Tim. At rest.

**PITT** Edith Mary, aged 70, 21.11.91. Much loved wife of Keith, 51 Scenic Rd West, Warragul 3820. Loved and loving Mum of Richard, Keith and Frances, Robert, Rhonda and Kevin (Luttrell). Loved Nanna of 11 grandchildren and Matthew's Great-Nanna. Have thine own way Lord.

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*The family of the late Harold Finger would like to thank all for their prayerful support and sympathy during their recent sad bereavement.*



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Christmas Day at 9 am  
Muriel Robottom  
29 December at 11 am  
Gordon Stirling  
5, 12, 19 January at 11 am  
Mark Butler  
26 January at 11 am  
(and for the rest of 1992)

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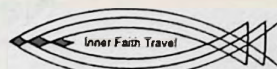
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## News

### • Help for young people in Warracknabeal

## Wimmera Youth Support

Support for the youth of Warracknabeal, Vic, and the surrounding area is high on the community agenda following a well-attended public meeting on 22 October.

A steering committee was formed to investigate the needs of a youth support program and accommodation within the Shire of Warracknabeal.

Under the auspices of the Vic-Tas Churches of Christ Community Care Department, which promised initial funding of \$8,000 to get the program up and running, and also through discussion with staff members Louis van Laar and Joy Butler the program is almost ready to begin.

On the night the chairman was Kevin Luttrell, minister of the Warracknabeal Church of Christ. The aim of the program is to provide support for young people at risk of getting caught up within the criminal legal system, and their families, utilising the resources of the Warracknabeal community.

The objectives are to provide a team of supportive persons to assist the young persons acquire living/survival skills, offer/access skilled counselling for personal and family issues

and offer short/medium-term accommodation for "time out" from family for the young person.

The steering committee consists of Jenny Taylor (Warracknabeal Secondary College teacher), Cr Helen Leggett (CES), Kevin and Rhonda Luttrell, Robert Pitt, Glynn Gangel, Jenni Hewinson (Warracknabeal Youth Worker) and advisers Marion Matthews (CSV, Horsham) and Phil Gilmore (youth support worker).

The idea in providing accommodation for "homeless" youth or young people in crisis is for the short term not the long term.

There are problem areas—crisis care, alcohol, family crisis care, lack of resources, low self-esteem and low motivation.

There is a need for counselling resources and training facilities, though none of these services appear to be locally based in Warracknabeal.

Rhonda Luttrell said eventually the proposal was for an ongoing program, to break the cycle before the problem occurs—to have professional resources available to give assistance and help.

Youth support worker in the Wimmera, Phil Gilmore, touched on the fact that young people are human beings and that there are no job opportunities in Warracknabeal.

The only crisis accommodation in the Wimmera towns is in Stawell and Horsham, which has no vacancies, according to Wimmera Community Care worker, Vivian Davidson.

Kevin Luttrell said the community would need to raise about \$12,500 in the first year

### • Reaching out to all ages in Naracoorte

## Community Contact Week

The Naracoorte, SA, church held a Community Contact Week 20-27 October, with Alan Bailey and Rob George of OAC Ministries.

The week started well with a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon for the Senior Citizens. This afternoon was enjoyed by all, with over 60 attending. The afternoon included a couple of items from some of our church members, then Alan and Rob presented the rest. They used magic tricks, songs, a ventriloquist act and drawings to share God's love with all attending.

A number of non-Christians attended various home meetings, catering for a wide range of people with different needs. These were informal meetings with all attending benefiting from the different subjects.

Rob George conducted a year 11 high school seminar, which was well received. Our youth club and the Uniting Church youth club combined for a barbecue and games night with around 40 young people. Rob led the devotions.

to get the program off the ground.

He said rather than have paid persons to act as "house parents" the committee would look at leading tenants who would offer their services on a voluntary basis.

By continuing in their current employment, the house would be rent free and food would be provided.

The cost of setting up the program is about \$22,500, and it is expected the youths would contribute to the accommodation on a weekly basis while residing in the home.

A childrens program, "Adventure Time", was held after school each week night at the South School. Attendances ranged from around 60 to over 120, with many children that are not associated with any churches. The children had a great time learning about God and his love for them in many ways, through songs, magic, George the ventriloquist doll, drawings and stories. On the Friday night there was a family night, when about 60 children and their families attended.

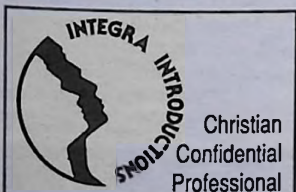
A men's breakfast was held Saturday morning with around 30 men present. This time proved a very relevant and challenging time for all.

The week climaxed with a moving drama, "Julian Centurion", presented by Alan Bailey. The church was packed and all present were moved by the powerful and challenging story of the centurion in charge of the crucifixion of Jesus, going through the events leading up to and including the death of Jesus on the cross.

We all look forward to continuing with the contacts made during the week and including them in our ongoing church activities. —Jenny Blake

## Visitors to Port Fairy WELCOME

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(William Street)  
Christmas Day  
9.30 am  
Sundays  
11 am Communion



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• **Deposit paid**

**Forster's New Building**

The great ambition of most people starting out in married life is to be able to save enough for a deposit to purchase their own home. In these days it is not an easy achievement. It is just the same with a new church.

The commencement of the church at Forster, NSW, was the idea of the late Jean Murray, who for many years was an enthusiastic worker with the late Roy Greenhalgh in the NSW Home Missions and Youth Departments. Jean started meetings in her own home. Later on the church began meeting in the Girl Guides Hall. During that time they held fetes etc. and worked very hard and as a result had \$40,000 for a deposit if and when the opportunity came to purchase a place of their own.

Earlier this year the Jehovah's Witness building became available and steps were in hand for the purchase by the church, but

this did not eventuate. In September the building again became available, the deposit was paid, contracts exchanged and, with the help of the Churches of Christ Property Trust Deposit Fund, negotiations are just about complete. The church gives thanks to God that their prayers have been answered and they now have their own meeting place.

On 3 November my wife and I were present at the morning service, which is held at 9 am. There were 22 present. They have a Bible study at 7 pm on Sunday evenings.

The building is nicely carpeted and painted and has electric fans and heaters. It is situated at 88 Bent Street, Tuncurry. Bent Street runs off the Taree-Forster Road. If you are planning a holiday in the area this Christmas-New Year pay them a visit.

—Alf Bourne (Epping)

• **Homes for those who need them**

**Churches Provide Shelter**

Well, we learnt something about ourselves on 31 October. The Vic-Tas Department of Community Care facilitated a meeting for those within our churches involved in the provision of housing. We were pleasantly surprised! This is what we discovered: that there are at least 12 churches actively involved in this area. Some examples:

- North Balwyn's Stable program provides accommodation for families in need.
- Prahran has an interest in accommodation for street-wise young people.
- The Patch takes young people into their homes for "timeout".
- Vietnamese Church is involved in resettlement of refugees.
- House and Flat Church Richmond is actively involved in addressing the provision of public housing.

• Richmond, Ringwood, Frankston and Cheltenham work with agencies such as Youth For Christ, Crossroads and community housing groups.

• Kensington Christian Network works in partnership with the Department of Community Care.

• Department of Community Care actively addresses some of the housing needs of young women.

Have we left you out?

Those present at the meeting on 31 October acknowledged the need for better links and communication. We are planning further get-togethers so contact us if you wish to be included. Now, we want to develop so that we can resource and support each other. Contact Joy or Louis on (03) 326 8977 if this interests you.

—Joy Butler and Louis van Laar

**The Serendipity of Free Will**

If there is a well-worn phrase that is often a source of anguish for Christians it is the phrase "God's plan for my life"—a perceived linear succession of events that God has pre-ordained for each person to follow throughout their life. Furthermore, in this perception, one is either in the plan, or not. However, this can become a disguised form of law, in which God's perceived favour or disfavour is dependent on our performance, that is, being in or out of "the plan". What happens when we fail, and fail badly with irreversible consequences? Have we missed "God's will" for the rest of our lives? The phrase "God's plan for my life" often engenders the anguished feeling that "I've blown it" or "I can't find it". It may be a well-meaning sentiment for some, but one that can produce unnecessary guilt and a sense of irrevocable failure for others.

God has given us the extraordinary gift of free will to live and act with personal initiative and creativity in emulation of Jesus Christ, and his lifestyle and mission. The Biblical narrative constantly demonstrates the high degree of autonomy and responsibility God has given to his people, to nurture creation, defend and champion truth and justice and restore what has become marred. Jesus gave us imperatives to love, reconcile, give, go the second mile, be salt and light in society, change the world and heal what is broken. This is always the will of God for our lives. God's will is expressed unequivocally—such as the imperative to love. The details will always have to be fleshed out by us in creative compassion and initiative. That is harder but more liberating than being a puppet, waiting for the "right strings to be jerked". In fact, the degree to which we abdicate responsibility at the level of our God-given initiative is likely to be the degree to which we will abdicate responsibility at the level of compassion for others. After all, compassion is a pro-active not a passive quality, and those Christians who have expressed it most courageously in our world have done so with a high degree of personal initiative and exposure to risk, even failure. They saw the unmistakable challenges of the kingdom, challenges we all have access to, and pursued them relentlessly—whatever their gifts or vocation.

The grace of God gives us the freedom to live in the serendipity of free will, with its infinite range of possibilities for living a Christ-filled life. And with God there is even scope for failure! The theology of grace means that we can make the best of a bad situation if we do fail, for God is infinitely creative and always able to create unique possibilities out of failure. The redemptive nature of his love means that he always has the capacity to be redemptive and creative, spawning new beginnings. In fact God is so good at creating new and the "best" possibilities out of our lives, that in retrospect it will always appear that we have made the best choices, and even in failure, that our lives have fulfilled a unique purpose. This is the miracle of grace, and the serendipity of free will! And isn't the cycle of faith, adventure, risk, courage, failure, forgiveness, grace and new beginnings part of his will for our lives anyway?

—Stephen Curkpatrick

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## A Church ABC

**K**enmore is part of Brisbane, Qld, about 10 km from the centre of the city. Set in undulating hills with plenty of trees, this quite pretty residential area with new estates and large houses is one of Brisbane's more affluent suburbs.

The Kenmore Church of Christ is situated in the grounds of the Kenmore Christian College, the Churches of Christ theological college in Queensland. The college was established in 1965; the church on 4 July of that year. Dr Jauncey, principal and lecturer at the college, was the church's first minister, assisted by a college student. The church was also supported by people living in the area who had been worshipping elsewhere.

The chapel, in the college grounds, was built a decade later and has large glass doors and windows to take advantage of its sylvan setting. Set well back off Brookfield Road, its quiet position enhances worship. At present there are 42 active members, plus others who support the church; an average of 55 attend the weekly worship service, which is held at 10 am. This number has been increasing steadily this year. The church has a very good relationship with the

college and it is not surprising to learn that the membership includes the principal and vice-principal and some lecturers and the families of students at the college. The youth group also caters for students' families. An evening service is held



## Focus on Kenmore

on the first Sunday of the month at 7 pm, with small groups meeting on the other Sundays.

Activities of the church during the week respond to the needs of the members. Hence there is a very active Bible study group on Tuesday nights, which provides real strength to the church, as does the weekly Thursday morning elders meeting. "Kenmore Carers", a primary-school-age group, attracts 18 children in grades 2-6, and "Youth Encounter" caters for those in grade 7 and above. A Sunday School group has now begun, and children have a specific time in the worship service as well as taking part in the regular family services.

In the last few weeks the women have begun "Kenmore Coffee and Craft", which ben-

efits the student community as well as being an outreach to the area. The church also has a social group, which has been known as SORE (social outreach recreation evangelism) because of its effect on some of its participants. An

Alcoholics Anonymous group is associated with the church.

The members at Kenmore love committees. Over half the membership is involved in some subcommittee or group, covering every possible aspect of church life. There are committees for worship, publicity, social activities, catering, community care and friendship, missionary action, property and maintenance and growth and development. These are beginning to produce results. Small examples are a regular advertisement in this journal and a sign near the road, increasing the exposure of the church.

The minister at Kenmore is Grant Spangenberg. Originally from Nailsworth in SA, Grant spent many years as a teacher and was an elder at the Keith church before receiving a call to ministry. In his final year at

Kenmore last year he was student minister at the church, and this year was invited to serve the church full-time. A church that has had a chequered history of ministry now has a person who has a commitment to stay for at least five years. Grant is married to Helen, and they have three children, Joel, 15, Alecia, 12, and Luke, 10 this month. The Spangenbergs are ably assisted by Bill Moore and his wife Lorna. Bill, a second-year student at the college,

is responsible for the youth group and assists with the planning of Sunday services. Doing a major in evangelism, he is conscious of reaching out to the community with seminars. In his holidays is planning an amateur mechanics course as well as "Project Beacon", a plan to reinstate a college outdoor chapel complete with a 4.5 m floodlit cross.

The groundwork has now been set in place so that the Holy Spirit can use the people at Kenmore to encourage more people to join the kingdom. This year there have been 27 different positive initiatives. Worship services are ones that people enjoy and have the ability to attract others. There is an air of optimism, enthusiasm and expectancy in the church that augurs well for the future.

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# Church News

## Celebrating a Centenary of Overseas Mission 1891-1991

1985

### News from Overseas

#### India

**Dorothy Holstein's Visa extended**

Miss Dorothy (Dooky) Holstein who is working as a seconded worker with the Emmanuel Hospital Association in India has had her visa extended for one year. We are thankful for this enables Dooky to continue her program. The training of Village Health Workers has been a highlight of Dooky's ministry.

#### Hazel Skuce on Furlough

During her time in Australia Miss Hazel Skuce will be involved in deputation in South Australia. Excellent progress is being made in both her work with the Bible Correspondence lessons and the Baramati Agricultural Development Trust.

#### Vanuatu

**Ni-Vanuatu as Headmaster**

In 1986 a Ni-Vanuatu is to be appointed to the position of Headmaster at the Ranwadi Junior Secondary School on Pentecost Island. It is planned that by Term 2 Lyall and Jill Muller will move into another ministry connected with the Conference. A maths/science teacher will be needed from June 1.

#### Samuel Vusi to PTC

Samuel Vusi the present Principal of the Banmatmat Bible College is to go with his wife and family to Pacific

Theological College in 1986 for further studies. This is a big step in faith both for Samuel and the Overseas Mission Board. This extra training will cost the Australian brotherhood around \$11,000 p.a. plus the airfares to Fiji. But we're in it because we believe in theological training.

#### Papua New Guinea Hospital handed over to Government

From the beginning of December it is anticipated that the Bunapas Hospital will be under the control of the PNG government. Agreement has been reached to move the hospital to a different site in 1989. In the meantime the pastoral care of patients attending the hospital will continue.

#### Over 1000 Baptisms

Since August 1984 there have been over 1000 baptisms in the area in which Churches of Christ are ministering in PNG. A major challenge is helping these new Christians to grow in their faith.

#### Medical Studies

Former missionary nurse in PNG Greg Law has completed his first year in medical studies at the University in Port Moresby. He expects to be home in NSW for Christmas.

—*The Australian Christian*, 14 December 1985

#### Vic

**SPRINGVALE** (John Carmichael) New minister John Carmichael unanimously endorsed at AGM... Minister & new church board inducted 10 November... 100 attended youth outreach night with Ashley Barker, YFC worker & Springvale City Junior Citizen of the Year. Singing group "Adonai". One young man made decision... After church YP Fellowship commenced... Springvale & Rowville combined for Cup Day picnic... Cathleen Scapendonk & Paul Dodds married at new Dandenong chapel.

**BOX HILL** (J. Longbottom, P. Hunt, M. Osswald) Kanga Club running well. Enthusiastic leaders & helpers. 60 children involved... CWA speaker Carol Fricke, refuge worker... Thanksgivingservice held in renovated chapel... Recent speakers Owen Clark, Glen Wegner, Andrew McKinney, Dean Hamilton.

**WERRIBEE** (Roger Risson) CFA group started with the help of Theresa Carew... Eight members took part in the 40 Hour Famine. Over \$600 raised... Church concert revealed undiscovered talents among members... Church families enjoyed a weekend camp at Log Cabin Lodge, Creswick... Laurie & Denise Quarmby, missionaries with Asia Pacific Christian Mission, spoke at a morning service & had lunch with church members afterwards.

**KNOXFIELD** (Rod Brown, Craig Allan, Brian Tunks) Unfortunately Knoxfield suffered a second fire, which burnt interior of office. However members are rallying, office should soon be repaired & we hope to move back into chapel end of November... Celebrated successful baptismal service at Boronia... Indebted to Dr Geoff Whiting for conducting review of church life... As fundraiser some members auctioned off home-cooked meals to our church membership.

**MANIFOLD HEIGHTS** (Max Ball) Max Ball is to finish ministry Jan 1992... Greg Illingworth will commence as minister Feb 92... Illness of Hec Douglas causing prayerful concern after major surgery, also Ian Collins... Welcome baby news for families Lucas, Cooling & Keefe... Two baptisms... Planned giving program leader Ian Tippett... Speakers church anniversary Charles Schwabb (Open Doors), Afton Turner, Ray Kidney (Director of Offenders Aid & Rehabilitation, SA).

**PRESTON** (Tony Armstrong) Lynette & Tony Armstrong are now residing in church manse... Service

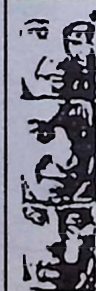
held in recognition of the work Jack Manallack has done, & is still doing, in church & Open Door. Several spoke of their appreciation of his untiring dedication... Ron Mill was an ordinant at CCTC graduation... Open Door raised \$800 at street stall. They recently spent a week at Lakes Entrance.

**BELLARINE PENINSULA** (Mark Butler) Mark, Nicola, Daniel & Andrew Butler welcomed into fellowship & ministry on 17 Nov. "Invoices" sang at service. Ian Tippett represented DMED... Church shared in luncheon after service... AGM held in afternoon with a draft planning proposal for 1992 presented by Mark Butler... Church to share in Carols by Twilight with Newington Uniting Church 8 Dec.

**ASCOT VALE** (Ross Bourdon) AGM held 3 Nov led by Barry Hammond. Gifts given in appreciation to various leaders. Mike Williams & Joe Cardona appointed to board... Church is excited as Stephen Reinmuth is invited to sing at Carols by Candlelight... Howard Willard preached three night meetings... Saturday morning craft classes held... Mrs Wilson suffered a bad fall at funeral of Mr Wittick... John Howard baptised.

**CHELSEA** (Ian Whitelock) Ian & Jean Whitelock visited PNG... Successful garage sale & street stalls for new kitchen extensions raised over \$1,500... "Grow" groups have studied "Let It Begin with Me"... Several members transferred to country. Some new young families attending... Annual meeting re-elected elders Harold Taylor & Brian Fielder for three-year term. Andrew Augustine appointed elder emeritus for life.

**PORT FAIRY** (R.N. Hope) Church crowded for combined evening service with Uniting Church 13 Oct when young people from Portland helped with music... Baptismal service for Heather Hoy & Karen Shalders a witness to many unchurched folk... Prayer vigil 29 Oct well supported & encouraging... Grateful praise being offered as we set about repaying loan on our newly purchased manse.



#### 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

**OMB**  
Overseas Mission Board

## Personal

### Baptisms

•Vanessa Hope, Devonport, Tas  
•Karl Barker, Greg Stockdale, Carol Stockdale, Natalie Marr, Werribee, Vic  
•Samantha Allan, Scott Leslie, Ron Webster, Cathy Herd, Peter

Herd, Knoxfield, Vic •Jacinta White, Heather Singleton, Sarah Kuilenburg, Kyeema Waddell, Scott Haas, Hobart City, Tas •Conrad & Corina Sindelar, Caroline Thomson, Peter Fitzpatrick, Lyn Van Eck, Trudy Price, Geraldton, WA •Matthew

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Stephen & Kathryn Fuller, Happy Valley, SA •Mrs Heather Hoy, Miss Karen Shalders, Port Fairy, Vic

### Marriages

•Cathleen Schapendonk to Paul Dodds, Springvale, Vic •Deanne Cranney to Craig Dicker, Cathy Wilson to Geoffrey Roberts, Cheryl Emms to Grant Slade, Brighton, SA •Doreen Perceval to Michael Barratt, Lisa Farr to Roderick Wood, Wembley, WA •Melissa Ovenden to Steve Leman, Karen Manning to Robert Mason, Warwick, WA •Alayne Wissmann to Lee Mimi, Bundaberg, Qld •Leonie Hansen to Peter Kowalski, Chelsea, Vic •Joanne Price to Andrew Flannery, Thornleigh, NSW

### Deaths

•Ray Kliening, Numurkah, Vic  
•Brian Riley, South Tamworth, NSW •Mrs Chadwick, Brighton, SA •Eddie Walker, Gladys Madsen, Albion, Qld.

### Changes

Springvale: Minister—John Carmichael, 8 Oriole Court, Carrum Downs, Vic 3201. Phone (03) 786 5789.

Sunbury Community Church: PO Box 783, Sunbury, Vic. 3429.

Pastor: Milton Oliver—16 Denman Court, Sunbury, Vic 3429. Phone (03) 744 5511.

Patterson: K.J. and V.M.—75B Millcrest Street, Scarborough, WA 6019.

Bellarine Peninsula: Minister—Mark Butler, 26 The Parade, Ocean Grove, Vic 3226. Phone (052) 55 2025.

Secretary—Joyce Reed, c/o PO Box 314, Ocean Grove, Vic 3226. Phone (052) 56 1840.

Brighton, SA: Minister—Stephen and Virginia Curkpatrick, 18 Mortimer Terrace, Brighton, SA 5048.

Taylor: Millie and Cliff—29/1039 Pittwater Road, Collaroy, NSW 2097. Phone (02) 782 3931.

## Penrith District Churches of Christ SENIOR PASTOR FROM FEBRUARY 1993

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- \* Able to effectively communicate Christian Truths in a contemporary environment

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- \* Initiative in exploring new opportunities for ministry
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Mr Geoff Bowser  
140 Greenbank Drive  
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(047) 30 4069 (home) (02) 834 1881 (bus)

All enquiries confidential

## Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

**Reese, Noel Campbell** (20.6.91) Born in Mount Morgan in 1919, Noel spent his childhood in Toowoomba. He was employed in the public service until joining the armed forces in 1940. He was captured in the Middle East campaign and spent three years as a POW in Italy and Switzerland. He returned to Toowoomba upon discharge and it was there he was brought to a saving knowledge of Christ in the Church of Christ. He entered Woolwich, NSW, College and studied there from 1949 until 1953 then commenced a ministry that included pastorates at Beverley Hills and North Auburn, NSW, and at Dover/Geevston and Ulverstone, Tas. He served on the Federal Aborigines Board for two years. Returning to Brisbane he commenced full-time work in 1965 with Bible Radio Productions, working alongside the founder, the late Wallie Guilford, and with the exception of a two-year break when he ministered at

Wodonga, Vic, he served continuously until his death. He was in charge of the office for many years. He also had an effective ministry at the Grovelly and Clayfield Gospel Halls, being an excellent preacher, counsellor and friend. He was an active supporter of missions and other Christian organisations.

**Riley, Frank Brian** (16.10.91) Brian was born at Wellington, NSW, 7.10.27. He committed his life to Christ as a young man and was baptised at Yoevall Baptist Church. Brian served the Lord in many ministries—in Arnhem Land, NT, Qld and NSW. He was a tireless worker for the Aboriginal people. He joined the South Tamworth, NSW, church in 1987 and held the positions of elder and treasurer. Because of limited space in our church several hundred gathered in St Paul's Anglican Church in a service of praise and testimony. Brian's life echoed God's word in Philippians 1:21: "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."

—Graeme Barnett

## SA

**COWANDILLA** (Russell Mountford) Welcome kit being distributed to new residents in local area ... Tape ministry being made available to the sick & elderly ... Calendar distribution being planned for local community prior to Christmas ... Training & encouragement session held for presidents & readers ... Updating of constitution by church board ... Church invites Russell Mountford to continue ministry in 1992.

**BRIGHTON** (Neville Moore) Neville Moore retiring next March ... Stephen Curkpatrick commencing ministry January 1992 ... Blyth Mann appointed administrator ... Plans to set up Community Care Centre on Sturt Rd ... Local council approved plans for two senior citizen units to replace Bennett St manse adjoining church property

... Choir reformed for Advent services ... Morning services well attended now northern migrants & overseas travellers returned ... Youth musicians assist evening worship. **BERRI** (R. Patterson) Riverland Churches Conference held Kingston Hall. Speaker R. Roberts. Tea followed ... "Bike for Bibles" accommodated & tea provided ... Visiting speaker Jeff May, Victor Harbor choir helping service & PSA ... Berri-Barnera CWF lunch. Proceeds Arthritis Association. Two speakers ... Family welcomed into fellowship, also an elderly lady ... Camp committee putting many hours of work renovating camp. Refurbished cottage for hire ... Youth Bible class commenced. **HAPPY VALLEY** (Russell Allison) Crossbows Books Players presented very entertaining evening service ... Successful quiz night & garage sale ... Lorraine Todd from

## Church News

Blackwood gave interesting & informative talk at CWF about Anne of Green Gables ... 50s plus group received \$500 grant from State Govt to purchase two indoor bowls sets. Local MP Bob Such made presentation at luncheon ... Grant Fitton, Stephen & Kathryn Fuller baptised.

## Qld

**SOUTHPORT** (N. Newton, S. Palmer, G. Barnes, S. Smith) Children's choir "Psalty" musical "A Heart for the World" 1 & 3 November. 550 heard them at the gospel service. Trained by Carol McCallum & Trisha Napper ... High Road barbecue to farewell Greg & Susan Taylor, returning to USA, Greg having spent a year training leaders for High Road Wilderness Expeditions ... Jim Hohnke will commence 1992 as assistant pastor ... Annual meeting scheduled 27 November ... 52 baptisms during 1991 a cause for rejoicing.

**ANNERLEY** (Richard Pearce) An Aussie bush social run by Richard & Shirley Pearce on a recent evening. It was great to see very young children & up into 80s all taking part together in bush dances. Comic skits also brought great laughter. Altogether a delightful evening ... Membership blessed by excellent messages from pulpit & dynamic services ... Planning for end-of-year activities well underway.

**BUNDABERG** (Alan Leane) Conference President Col Deacon & wife Joy visited. Toured Kanaka relics, stood on site of first church, 1880, for district ... Negotiations launched monument of site Missionary Thompson's Hill ... Alayne Wissmann & Lee Mimi were united in marriage 16 Nov ... Brady Pohle excellent final year. First Ancient History, First Arts. Mayor's Medal academic, cultural, sporting, gaining 5 out of 6 very high achievements over two semesters. Student of the year.

**ALBION** (Peter Overton) Annual meeting appointed committee to

investigate problems of declining membership & possible amalgamation with Kedron church ... Kedron members joined Albion for two Sunday morning services ... Congratulations to Peter & Anna Overton on the arrival of daughter Georgina ... Peter served as part-time chaplain during Ron Sansome's holidays ... Major Roger Joy (Australian Army) awarded Meritorious Service Medal for part in Gulf War.

## Tas

**DEVONPORT** (B. Butler) Annual general meeting church confirmed extension of Bruce's ministry for another 12 months ... Presentation of re-focusing process of home groups completed. Now moving into next phase of church evaluation & biblical workshop ... Church challenged by Graham Agnew's messages at Friday morning ladies coffee hour, Friday night fellowship dinner, Saturday afternoon seminar, Sunday morning service. One commitment.

**HOBART CITY** (J. Weston, G. Hush) Held first service in new building on 20 October ... Enjoying having own facilities for use again ... Youth numbers on increase despite not having had a "home" for past several months. Five recent baptisms ... Discipleship Training Institute students undergoing ACT exams ... Planned giving program being held early November ... Fund-raising continuing towards building fund.

**LAUNCESTON** (R. Foster, C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) 120 adults & children family camp 8-11 Nov. Don Barns & Michael Priddle speakers in ministers' absence ... Morning tea 13 Nov to meet Brian & Julia Coats on furlough from Zaire. Brian morning speaker 17 Nov ... CWF 2nd Mile Box contents, \$70, given Philippine relief ... Big attendance at Girls' Brigade & Boys' Club 7 pm parade 17 Nov, Keith Bricknell, Bible Society, guest speaker.

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# Church News

## NSW

**MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins)** Commitment Sunday when congregation indicated financial support for new building program greatly blessed ... Paul & Sylvia Campbell shared experiences with Operation Mobilisation in England, Europe ... Ray Yesburg's series "Apocalypse...Soon!" proving very interesting. He is from Brisbane ... Christian concert evening featuring church's children excellent time.

**SOUTH TAMWORTH (Graeme Barnett)** Many parents attended the baptism of six young people ... The youth work is growing led by Graeme with a Bible study after school Tuesdays & fellowship on Friday nights ... 71 ladies attended the CWF anniversary. The theme "An Incredible Journey". Messages were given by Lorraine Hensly (NSW CWF President) & Anne Barnett ... A group from Turramurra church held a week's youth mission.

**ALBURY (Alex Wilson)** Youth took over monthly Sunday night service ... Musicians take over Dec night service as culmination of Musicians Month to buy new piano & sound gear. Afternoon of 22 joy flights raised \$500 ... Step Out in Faith weekend launched new year with theme "Building Up Others" ... Pastoral care to be expanded through home cell groups ... Young families to be area special ministry.

**TAREE (N.G. Aubrey)** Successful "Trivia" night 9 November. Neville Aubrey compered & \$1,000 raised

to aid John Smith Mission September 1992. Most local churches participated ... Baptism of Trish McMorrine & welcomed into church fellowship ... Maureen Parsons welcomed by transfer ... Neville Aubrey & family leaving in January. Thanks for teaching over past four years ... February we welcome Peter & Jenny Wallis, presently at Rockhampton, to minister.

**THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley)** Annual church meeting held on 18 November with an excellent attendance. June West & Bruce Moffat reappointed deacons & church secretary & treasurer respectively. Also at the meeting Barry Barakat was elected to become part of the ministry team commencing February 1992 & his specific role will be prayer ministry & counselling. Annual report revealed church blessed of the Lord both spiritually & statistically over the past 12 months.

## WA

**GERALDTON (Rohan Burcham)** Planning & finance raising for church building extensions well in hand ... Additional ministry by Carl Carmody (Challenge newspaper), Dr David Shelley (WA Bible College) & Barry Ryall (Conf Pres) ... Grant & Emma Murray have been selected to go on staff at New Tribes Mission training college in Sydney for two years & Tanya Murray (daughter) has commenced work with NTM in PNG ... New sound

system installed in hall & church system extended.

**FREMANTLE (D. Good)** Many "came home" for this church's 99th anniversary on 3 Nov. Graham Carslake guest speaker. Arthur Johnson (an elder) given a Bible in recognition of many services rendered by him. Fellowship continued at lunch ... CWF "talent money" to date totalled \$750 ... At 7 pm services Des Croot & Hans Bohm told of Home Mission work & that of Christian Blind Mission International respectively.

**SCARBOROUGH (Nigel Merrick)** Challenge newspaper delivered to local homes with quite good response ... Dean Metheringham of New Creation Ministries spoke at faith promise meetings. \$56,800 given to missions in past 12 months augmented by anonymous gift of \$10,000 ... Children's Choir in international costume delighted ... Sonia Peters spoke on Russia assisted by youth group as KGB.

**WEMBLEY (Kim Roberts)** Stephen Cuss accepted by Carlingford College commences training ministry 1992 ... Church's 52nd anniversary 16-17 November. Celebrated Saturday family tea & concert. Sunday Peter Clayton, minister Kingsley church, preached am service with Glen Smyth, minister Joondalup church, speaking pm meeting.

**WARWICK (G.B. Carslake, B.A. Eagles, R.L. Mason)** Graham & Freda Carslake involved in pulpit exchange for five months with George & Elizabeth Sublette,

Indianapolis, USA, from January ... Building extensions worth \$250,000 commenced ... Team of young people & leaders involved in ministry to Korean Deaf Church, Korea, for two weeks during January ... Excellent concert with local talent ... A number of recent baptisms ... Ron Roberts led follow-up seminar on Callahan workshop.

**MAYLANDS (David Jolly)** Missionary Convention included an evening sharing with Dr Grant Thorpe (New Creation Ministries), Saturday morning breakfast, Friday-Saturday seminar, also Sunday services with John Bond (Sonlight Ministries) ... Ron Smith & Elizabeth Polglaze welcomed into membership ... Peter Moyle speaker on pulpit exchange 10 November ... CWF elections Connie Eaves (Pres), Audrey Jones (Vice-Pres), Wilma Humphrey (Sec), Betty O'Meara (Treas), Vi Smetherham (Asst Sec/Treas).

## ACT

**LYONS (Kevin Caulton)** Lyons church celebrated its 25th anniversary during November. Special activities have included a Spring Fair, Sammy's Restaurant, an anniversary picnic, house meetings with Gordon Stirling, the first C of C minister in ACT, & morning & evening services featuring guest speakers & great music ... Kid's Club on Wednesday evenings continues to attract large numbers of children ... Two Koinonia groups are meeting weekly.



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• Exciting housing venture

## Developing Christian Community

An exciting adventure in Christian community is being developed by the Greensborough Regional, Vic, church. They are looking for people of vision and commitment to Jesus Christ to come and join them.

This would involve living in one of the six new well-appointed units being developed on blocks of land adjoining the church property and the manse. The residents of this community will share together in a praying and caring fellowship and become involved in service and outreach to the local neighbourhood.

The minister, George Warren, says that this community is based on a number of ideas:

- The Christian life is most clearly visible in community. Jesus told his disciples, "If you have love for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples." John 13:35
- The depth of community life in terms of its witness in the church is limited by the



fact that we are scattered during the week.

- People in Western democratic societies, while they need community, are socialised into independence.

Grace Vale will provide a model of community where people share more of their lives than a worship time, yet retain privacy and independence.

Residents for Grace Vale Community will purchase one of the five new two-bedroom units being built or the three-bedroom, brick veneer cottage that is being renovated. Together with the manse these six properties on freehold titles will form the community.

In the initial stages time will be spent together praying and discussing the kind of life the community will have together and the nature of its service to the Lord in the church and the local neighbourhood. An important element in the whole project is privacy and independence. While there will be the support, caring and service of community, each household's privacy and independence will also be protected.

The Vic-Tas Department of Community Care will be responsible for the ongoing management, which would involve the more practical issues of property maintenance.

Greensborough church is seeking expressions of interest and would be pleased to hear from people soon as the units are almost at the building stage.

# The Last Word

The true work of art is but a shadow of the divine perfection.

—Michelangelo

*Yes, we had separate holidays. We went to Perth and our suitcases went to Surfers Paradise.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*A routine order was issued in an office asking all personnel to search for a missing file. The file's title: "Losses and Thefts".*

\*\*\*\*\*

*A vicar who was inadvertently locked inside his parish church was rescued by a seven-year-old girl. She heard the vicar ringing out SOS in Morse code on the church bell.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*At theological college students took turns saying grace. Originality was very much the fashion. The whole program was brought to an abrupt end by this contribution: "Lord bless this bunch as they crunch their lunch."*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Upon entering a local shop a sign on the door reading "Beware of Dog" was noticed. The person proceeded with caution but all they encountered was a very small terrier. "Is this the dog to beware of?" asked the customer incredulously.*

*"Yes," replied the shopkeeper. "Until I put the sign up, people were always stepping on him."*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Whatever troubles Adam had in bygone days of yore, None could say, when he cracked a joke—"I've heard that one before."*

\*\*\*\*\*

*"How you have changed Mr Jackson. You used to have dark hair and now it's fair. Once you were stout and now you are thin. And you're not as tall as you used to be." "I'm not Mr Jackson."*

*"Dear me! Even your name has changed."*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Then there was the person who crossed a carrier pigeon with a woodpecker and got a messenger that knocked on the door.*

\*\*\*\*\*



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