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# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN



## Fire!

Just before 5 am on Friday, 15 March, a fire broke out in the Boronia, Vic, church complex. Apparently the fire started near the kitchen area but the Arson Squad is still investigating the actual cause of the fire.

Three halls and the kitchen area were destroyed. The kindergarten was badly damaged but could be restored. The fire went through the ceiling of the chapel and extensively damaged the roof.

It appears that the walls and the roof supports are not so damaged that the building needs to be demolished. Most of the seating and other furnishings inside the chapel were destroyed—but the communion trays were found intact by one of the members who had made them originally. The church offices escaped with only smoke and water damage.

It will be several weeks before final decisions can be made on the future of the building and what will need to be done to restore the damage. Estimates for repairs total \$700,000, which will probably be covered by insurance.

*More on page 7.*

# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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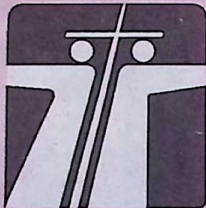
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## Guest Editorial

• *I discovered that when you give God a signal that you are ready to move with him, your faith will be honoured and spiritual maturity will result*

### Over the Hill at 40!

by Jeff Weston

**T**his year, 1991, is going to be a big year for me. I have a special birthday that my kids tell me makes me "over the hill" (already my son calls me "ancient one"! ). This year I turn forty!

As I reflect on what seems to me to be a relatively short period of time, I am rejoicing at seeing the hand of God at work on my life. The last 20 years in particular have been so full of change that I stand in awe of God's work.

It has been in these last 20 years that I met my wonderful life's partner, Rosemary, and we were married. I also underwent the transition from dependent to parent, becoming the father of two great kids (despite their derogatory comments). In the first 20 years I only ventured out of my home state once. In the past 20 I have visited most parts of Australia and even studied and toured overseas. I have even been privileged to live and work in exotic tropical places like Papua New Guinea and Darwin, as well as in the more temperate and beautiful south of Tasmania. Following a 10-year break, I even went back to school, achieving my HSC and a degree. I also made a major career change in that time. However, by far the most dramatic change has been the way God has matured and developed my faith in him.

The pivotal point for this change was when I decided to stop fooling around as a nominal Christian and invest my small amount of faith. The way this came about was my deciding to give up a well-paid job and move to Papua New Guinea to serve as a mission carpenter. In the short space of two and a half years my whole life was turned inside out and a living faith with a God-given dream of serving as a full-time pastor developed.

As a result of that experience I discovered that when you give God a signal that you are ready to move with him, your faith will be honoured and spiritual maturity will result. I have also discovered that spiritual maturing (I call it "growing up" as a Christian) means being made ready for consistent use by God. And that when you have reached that place it will be marked by certain signs, which the Apostle Paul talks about in Romans 1:14-16. These are the three "I am" statements he makes in this passage.

Verse 14: "I am obligated"—Paul has a heart that compels him to reach out to

people. It is a heart that is dominated by the love of Christ and the needs of those people around him that only that love could meet. It is a love that causes Paul to write: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." (Galatians 2:20)

Verse 15: "I am so eager to Preach the gospel"—Paul not only rejoices in living in Christ, but the joy of it has him earnestly desiring to share the great truth of the gospel to all people, even though at times he would be called a fool and persecuted severely for doing so.

Verse 16: "I am not ashamed of the gospel"—Paul reached the conclusion that the gospel has no rivals and that there is nothing like it for releasing the power of God. In fact he believes the gospel to be "the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes". In Paul's mind, as should be our own, here is the revealed power of God—who could ever be ashamed of it!

Here is the spiritually mature person. The person who is confident in the power of God. Confident that he is at work in the world, and confident that he will be at work in their lives.

What sort of year will 1991 be for you? For me, I'm looking forward to all that God is going to do in and through me this year, as I step boldly in faith and he continues the maturing process. Hopefully when I'm 60 I'll be able to say the last 20 years were even greater than the 20 before that.

• *Jeff Weston, with wife Rosemary and children Michelle and Matthew, serves as senior minister at Collins Street, Hobart, Tasmania. He served as mission carpenter with the Churches of Christ OMB in Papua New Guinea. On return he trained at College of the Bible gaining the BTheol. He had a successful ministry of six and half years in Darwin, NT, before moving to Tasmania. He was awarded the Australian Christian Foundation Scholarship in 1986 and studied church growth and development in the USA.*

Four out of every 10 Americans go to church in a typical week, reports a Gallup Poll of 1,236 adults. This percentage has remained constant throughout the 70s and 80s. Those most likely to attend: Roman Catholics, born-again Christians, women, blacks and those who have received some college education.

## • *Stillness and storms surround baptisms*

### Peace in Calm and Turmoil in Two Different Settings



Preparing for baptism at Balmoral Beach

Two recent baptismal services held at the beach were symbolic reminders to the people at the Northside Community Church, NSW, of the contrasts of the Christian life.

The first service, held at beautiful Balmoral Beach overlooking the heads of Sydney Harbour was characterised

by calmness. A sign, warning of dangerous rocks, was the only hint of danger. As over 100 people (church members and beachgoers) looked on, seven people were baptised into Jesus, and they now walk in his peace.

In contrast, a second service, set in the turbulent surf of

Stanwell Park, was characterised by danger and turmoil. Three more Northside people were baptised in the pounding surf, just moments before the lifeguards declared the beach unsafe and closed it to swimmers. Another large crowd looked on as the waves threatened to overwhelm the candi-

dates. There seemed to be a message, warning of the dangers that lie ahead for these new Christians. During the stillness and the storms of life, it is great to know that our Lord Jesus Christ also endured the contrasts of life and has cleared the way for us to know his peace. —Geoff Payne

## • *FAB meets by telephone*

### February Teleconference

The Federal Aborigines Board has adopted a facet of modern technology with its introduction of the teleconference.

This form of communication may not be totally ideal but it draws the states together via a telephone linkup without the delay of travel or mail.

The February teleconference took place on the first Sunday of the month at 12.05 pm, Western Standard Time, E. Maxwell presiding and 13 members taking part.

General business centred on staff changes at Carnarvon,

WA, deputation to churches in NSW and SA, the Mooroopna, Vic, church and its need of a pastor and the availability of a caravan for the Grants to use at Albury to assist them in their outreach there.

Other subjects discussed were the distribution of prayer letters, the Bible training course to commence at Roelands, WA, on 18 February and the projected meeting by assembly in Perth in August 1991.

The conference took 50 minutes in all.

—Betty Bantow

## • *Call to Australia to increase intake*

### Global Refugee Crisis

Christian churches have voiced their concern that while global numbers of refugees are increasing, Australia's contribution to resettling people who are refugees has declined since 1982.

In a strongly worded submission to the Australian Government, the Australian Council of Churches has criticised the government for not making full use of allocated places set for refugees in past years.

While re-affirming its support for the current govern-

ment's commitment to maintaining an appreciable migration program, the report notes that worldwide "there were more refugees at the end of the year than when the new year began in January 1990."

The ACC has submitted that 17,300 places need to be created in the next year for Australia's off-shore refugee intake.

The submission presents in detail the global refugee crisis and the ACC's response as a member of an international ecumenical network coordinated through the WCC.

• **Aged care study opportunity**

## Consultancy Offered to Ministers

The Board of the Churches of Christ Retirement Services in SA is to offer a one-year consultancy to provide a minister with the opportunity to study and work in the area of aged care. The consultancy is for the academic year February to November 1992 and will incorporate tertiary study, research in a related area and practical work within Churches of Christ homes. The aim is to provide the successful minister with additional resources that can be used on return to the pastoral ministry. The board will provide a salary commensurate with the minister's current salary, superannuation, sickness and accident cover, book allowance and office facilities. Courses are available at the University of

Adelaide and Flinders University and the selection of an appropriate study program will be negotiated with the Retirement Services Board and the tertiary institution. It is expected that the successful applicant will continue to minister in South Australia for three years at the conclusion of this consultancy. The Board has written to churches and ministers seeking expressions of interest by 14 June. This early date is essential to give the church time to make special arrangements for the year and for time to arrange the study program. The Board believes that this is an excellent opportunity to increase the resources available for use in our churches. Over a number of years it hopes to build up the expertise in the area of aged care and so increase opportunities to help those elderly people who make up large proportion of our church membership.

—Kingsley Curtis  
(Administrator)

### Campaigners for Christ Family and Youth Camp Cheshunt

Self-catering camp site at Lake William Hovell Road, Cheshunt. Accommodation for 55. Low tariff. Small groups and schools welcome. Self-contained cottage available for hire. For more information contact Ian Crowe (057) 29 8258

### Visiting Brisbane?

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

Telephone Pastor Grant Spangenberg  
(07) 378 9033  
or home (07) 378 8817

### CYTA LODGE, COOMA SNOW SEASON STAFF

Each winter CYTA LODGE at COOMA has vacancies for up to 8 young people for a period of 3-4 months. These positions are suitable for young, single guys and girls between 18-30 years, interested in learning more about the operation of a large Christian Youth Camp and Accommodation Centre.

Interviews will be held in Sydney in May with a mid-June commencement.

Duties include catering, general housekeeping, maintenance, assisting in conducting the evening programme and other activities at the Lodge.

All staff must be prepared to be part of the work team that makes our busy Ski Season happen!

For further information write or telephone:

Mr. Bruce Bolton, CYTA  
LODGE, Cooma, 2630.  
Phone: (064) 521-375

• **Good news for new readers**

## Reading!



Basil Rebera, Governor-General Bill Hayden, Bruce Pearce and James Evangelidis at the presentation of "Good News for New Readers"

Most of us take it for granted. Every day we read signs, notices, newspapers, books—the list goes on and on. However, have you ever thought for a moment what it would be like if you were not able to read?

Not being able to read would be like being in a country where you don't know the language—you are able to see the words, but you cannot understand what they mean.

Last year was declared International Literacy Year by the United Nations. During the year prominence was given to an area that much of the community would prefer to not know about—illiteracy.

In studies commissioned in late 1989, it was revealed that there are approximately one billion people around the world who are unable to read and write.

Closer to home there are nearly one million Australians over the age of 15 who have considerable difficulty in reading and writing. Despite Australia being an advanced Western nation with compulsory schooling, 10% of our adult population cannot undertake basic reading and writing tasks!

If such a significant proportion of our population is in this situation, this must also mean that people in our churches find themselves in the same predicament. For example, how can a person read the Bible, if

not literate? How can this person take an active part in Bible studies, church services? Such questions have important implications for that person's spiritual growth.

These are the concerns that motivated the Bible Society in Australia to research and publish a set of graded Bible reading material designed to help adults strengthen their reading skills. The publication, titled *Good News for New Readers* is the first of its type ever to be produced in Australia. The publication provides much-needed adult reading materials, of which there is a shortage in Australia.

In a recent presentation to the Governor-General, Bill Hayden, at Government House, Bruce Pearce, General Secretary of the Bible Society in Australia, said, "*Good News for New Readers* represents our commitment to seeing non-literate Australians provided with material that will greatly help them in the years to come."

The publication can be used in many situations from formal literacy classes at the local TAFE to prisons to English as second language programs.

**DIAL FOR  
NEW HOPE  
(03) 11610**

## People

### • Welcome dinner

## New Ministries in South Australia

The SA Ministers' Association hosted a welcome dinner on 18 February for new Churches of Christ ministers in that state. 90 attended the function at the Marion church and were hosted by association president, Joan Fewster. Liz Tilsen delighted the gathering with beautiful songs, Graham Agnew gave a devotional challenge and State Minister, Ron Roberts, urged the necessity of a team spirit among the ministers.

The new ministers, David Althorpe, Darren Kittel, Ross Pelling, David Thompson, Jim Tilsen, Phil Webber, Don Wesley and Russell Mountford, together with their wives, were introduced and prayers

offered for their blessing in new beginnings.

Other ministers present engaging in new ministries within the state were recognised and commended. Catie Ogden spoke briefly about her new appointment as Social Justice Officer for the Uniting Church.

It was announced that the Ministers' Association is bringing Barry McMurtrie to Adelaide in May for a series of meetings to encourage the churches and ministers. It was noted that there now over 20 ministers enlisted in "Dad's Army"—the retired stalwarts marshalled by Eric Hollard.

—Roger Brown

### • Toowoomba's Australia Day Citizen

## David Lowe

David Lowe, of the Margaret Street, Toowoomba, church, has been presented with an Australia Day Citizens Award by the Toowoomba Australia Day Council.

David has worked for approximately 15 years to bring to the community's awareness the dangers of drug and alcohol use. He is on the board of Queensland Temperance League, now Drug Arm, and was the instigator for the formation of the Toowoomba branch of Drug Arm, of which he is now president. He has given much time and travel to give numerous talks to community and church groups in Queensland and Northern NSW on this subject.

He has also made an impact on the musical life of Toowoomba and the Darling Downs. His guidance has been appreciated by hundreds of people over 20 years with free tuition at his business—Lowe's Music Centre—conducted with his wife Gillian. These premises are fully used as community bodies conduct



David Lowe

meetings there.

During Toowoomba's Carnival of Flowers, the business premises are decorated and have won champion floral displays many times, delighting viewers with their novelty and beauty.

David has been involved all his life in local and state church activities, including two workparty visits each to Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu.

### • Geoffrey Heath

## Church Leader Honoured

Geoffrey Heath was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the recent Australia Day honours list. Geoff is a member of the Maylands, SA, church.

Geoff gave more than 30 years of service to the city of Campbelltown, SA, as councillor, alderman, mayor and deputy mayor. He was a member of the Campbelltown Lions Club for 16 years and of the HMAS Australia Veterans Club.

Last year he celebrated the 50th anniversary of his baptism at the Maylands church. He is a member of the church's Board of Management and of its Stewardship Committee.

Geoff is a retired plumber. His wife, Joan, is a former City of Campbelltown Citizen of the Year. His brother Bill is a former President of the SA Conference, Berek is a member of the Magill church, Kevin, a former minister, is a psychologist in private practice, sister



Geoffrey Heath

Mary is the wife of former Churches of Christ minister and now Episcopalian rector Maurice Coombs in Philadelphia and sister Joy is a member of the Warragul, Vic, church.

—Richard Lawton

### • Danielle Larsen

## Queen's Award

Danielle Larsen, of the First Launceston Company of the Girls' Brigade attached to the Launceston, Tas, church, was presented with her Queen's Award by the Governor of Tasmania, General Sir Philip Bennett, at an afternoon tea function at Government House, Hobart, on 13 February. Danielle is the first girl in this company to gain this, the highest international award in the Girls' Brigade. The work for this award is done over a two-year period. Danielle gave six months voluntary service of two hours per week in assisting handicapped children at St Giles Home. She also completed a well-researched project on the life of Martin Luther King Jr and passed a two-hour exam on the monarchy, Girls' Brigade knowledge and general knowledge with a result of 86%.

Included in the work necessary for this award were two initiative tasks set by State Council. Danielle is now doing officers training and proving to be a very valuable helper within the company and other youth work within the church.



Danielle Larsen receiving her award from the Governor of Tasmania

# World Council of Churches Assembly

• Letter to churches and Christians worldwide from participants who share evangelical perspectives

## Evangelical Perspectives from the WCC Assembly

We wish to share with you the challenges we have received, the lessons we have learned and our observations on the Assembly.

### Background

The Sixth Assembly of the WCC at Vancouver in 1983 made increased dialogue with and participation by evangelicals in WCC activity a priority. The WCC expressed this commitment by seeking greater involvement from evangelicals within the member churches of the WCC, promoting interchange with evangelical consultations such as Lausanne II at Manila, and increased input in WCC consultations and working groups from those in charismatic, evangelical and Pentecostal movements both within and beyond the WCC.

### Our Experience

Evangelical participants at Canberra accepted the invitation of the WCC to participate in its deliberations on the theme: "Come, Holy Spirit—Renew the Whole Creation". We felt welcomed in the dialogue and were able to contribute in concrete ways and at all levels. We were listened to, for example, as the Assembly worked on a biblically informed theology of creation, relevant to the eco-crisis we face. As the Assembly discussed the process of listening to the Spirit at work in every culture, we cautioned, with others, that discernment is required to identify the Spirit as the Spirit of Jesus Christ and thus to develop criteria for and limits to theological diversity. We argued for a high Christology to serve as the only authentic Christian base for dialogue with persons of other living faiths. Some drafts of Assembly documents appear to show reluctance to use straightforward biblical language, but the opportunities for evangelical perspectives to find inclusion in the reports of the

Assembly represented real progress in the dialogue begun in Vancouver.

Despite such a sincere commitment to take more seriously that major segment of the worldwide church which those with evangelical perspectives represent, evangelicals remained under-represented at Canberra, at the level of plenary presentation and in leadership of sections. For this reason, we have asked the leadership of the WCC to address structural deficiencies in the Council by welcoming an evangelical presence on every commission, just as women's and Orthodox perspectives have been solicited; and to establish a monitoring group composed both of WCC staff and evangelical advisers from member and non-member churches.

We who hold evangelical perspectives however must share the responsibility for the present theological imbalance within the WCC.

There is presently insufficient commitment to ecumenical activity by evangelicals in member churches of the WCC and in churches in the wider Christian communion. This has helped perpetuate the divisive stereotype that the WCC can only assist churches with regard to issues of justice and human rights while organisations like the Lausanne movement and the World Evangelical Fellowship should be turned to for insight concerning evangelism. In fact, insofar as all these organisations claim to express the whole gospel, they all need to listen to and learn from one another.

### Theological Concerns

The Moderator of the Central Committee of the WCC identified in his report that the WCC has remained unable to develop a "vital and coherent theology". Our experience of the Assembly confirms this. The ecumenical movement needs a theology rooted in the Chris-



tian revelation as well as relevant to contemporary problems. At present there is insufficient clarity regarding the relationship between the confession of the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to Scripture, the person and work of the Holy Spirit and legitimate concerns which are part of the WCC agenda. We share many of these concerns, such as those related to justice, peace and the integrity of creation, to the contextualisation (or inculturation) of the Gospel and to religious pluralism. This theological deficit not only conspires against the work of the WCC as a Christian witness but also increases the tensions among its member churches.

We encourage individuals and churches with evangelical concerns to engage themselves in serious theological reflection to fill the existing gap. The challenge is to develop a theology forged in the midst of obedient action for the sake of the gospel, so as to bring together the apostolic faith and the suffering of the oppressed, the personal and the social, the private and the public, justification by faith and the struggle for peace with justice, commitment to Christ and action empowered by the Holy Spirit in the midst of the crises facing the modern world.

### Practical Challenges

• We have been challenged again by the call for Christian unity which the WCC has had as its vocation. We call those with evangelical concerns to place high priority on visible expressions of Christian unity.

• Evangelicals need to take a more active part in ecumenical events, both evangelicals who are part of member churches and those who are outside; for example we draw attention to the WCC Youth Event in 1992 in which we hope that the evangelical youth movements will also be able to participate. Evangelical youth movements have a long experience of empowering young people.

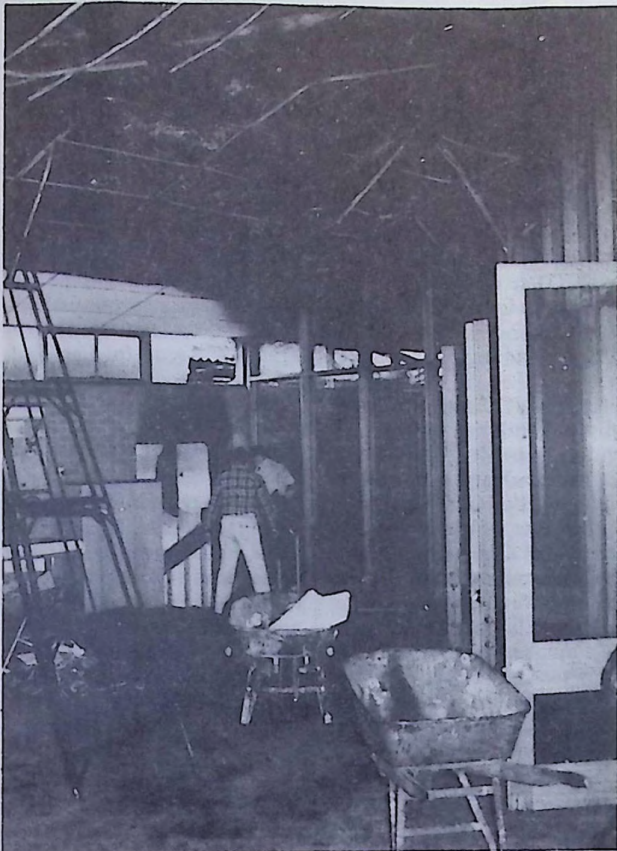
• In light of the assembly theme, "Come Holy Spirit—Renew the Whole Creation", we were concerned at the failure of the Assembly to highlight the significant contribution of Pentecostal and charismatic Christians to the renewal of the church in its life and worship. Fearing that we too are all too often guilty of treating them in the same way, we urge non-Pentecostal evangelicals to work towards greater respect, harmony and co-operation with Pentecostal and charismatic Christians.

• The Assembly challenged us to respond more adequately to the needs of indigenous and marginalised peoples in our own contexts. It alerted us to the special predicament of Aboriginal people in Australia. Aboriginal evangelicals who participated in our meetings shared their pain and anguish and the lack of support for their churches received from evangelicals in general. They call on evangelicals to support their aspirations for recognition as a people, with a culture shaped by the interaction between their traditional culture and the biblical perspective for their right to self-determination, and to support their struggle for justice and land rights.

• The experience provided by the assembly of work in subsections enabled evangelicals and those from other perspectives to discover each other not as antagonists but as believers together. In particular we recognised many common theo-

• Cover story

## Fire at Boronia Causes Extensive Damage



Inspecting the damage at Boronia

A fire on 15 March destroyed much of the Boronia, Vic, church and extensively damaged the chapel.

Three halls and the kitchen area were destroyed and the kitchen area was badly damaged. The fire damaged the roof of the chapel, but this can probably be repaired. There was damage to seating and furnishings in the chapel. The church offices escaped with only smoke and water damage.

The church was to have celebrated its 70th anniversary on 24 March. This will now be held at St Joseph's Roman Catholic School, 212 Boronia Road, Boronia.

The service will be held at 10 am, followed at 12 noon by a fellowship lunch and a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon at 1.45 pm. Parking will be available on the school oval.

It is anticipated that future services will be held at 10 am at Boronia Primary School, Rangeview Road, Boronia.

Tremendous support has been given to the church from the community and other churches. The local council has offered all the support it can give.

It is hoped that the day kindergarten will be operating in its normal premises in two or three weeks. The day care centre started operating the Monday after the fire in the nearby Anglican church. Other groups and services are continuing in a variety of locations.

On the Sunday following the fire the church held its service in the car park. In beautiful sunshine over 250 attended the service, which was presided over by Andrew Henley, with Keith Milne, the other member of the ministry team, preaching. Reports of the service indicate tremendous support from the membership. There is a definite spirit of willingness to face the future. Ian Allsop (National Conference Secretary and Vic-Tas Conference Secretary) and Brian White (Vic-Tas Conference President) offered their support during the service.

Allan Emmett, Executive Officer of the Vic-Tas Properties Corporation, and a member at Boronia, has been very active in following up matters such as insurance and building inspections and has been a great support to the ministry team.

logical commitments and concerns with the Orthodox. We strongly urge that conversations and encounters between evangelicals and the Orthodox be fostered as soon as possible to explore common ground and address differences.

- We have been challenged to pursue the examination of our own experience and expression of the syncretism between Christianity and cultural traditions. We cannot address the charge of syncretism to the religious experiences of people in the Two-Thirds World without at the same time examining afresh the degree to which Christianity in the Western world has easily assimilated aspects of its own culture such as rationalism and individualism.

- Very inadequate attention was given in the Assembly to the dramatic and far-reaching changes that have taken place in Eastern Europe. It raised questions about the way in which sections of the ecumenical movement supported the ruling ideologies in Eastern Europe. We were challenged to examine ways in which Christians are tempted to align themselves uncritically with the spirit of the age. We were also encouraged by the witness of those Christians in Eastern Europe whose testimony witnesses to the power of the Holy Spirit to sustain God's people and to bring new life amidst death and adversity.

- The debates on the Gulf War forced us to recognise the inadequacy of the traditional

Just War theory which evangelicals have by and large embraced, except for those from the peace tradition. We are challenged to work afresh on a Christian approach to war and peace-making in a modern context.

- The inadequacy of theological reflection in the handling of complex issues regarding justice, peace and the integrity of creation challenges us to recognise the lack of such reflection on those themes among evangelicals and the need for intensive theological reflection in these areas.

- We have been challenged by the leadership of women in this Assembly. Women were visible and active participants in the full program of the Assembly including: worship

(both preaching and administering the eucharist); section work, plenary sessions, business and committee actions as well as the educational offerings of the visitors' programs. The Assembly was enriched by the participation of these many gifted women. This challenges the evangelical movement to reassess its theological understanding of women's spiritual giftedness and to take care that it does not unwittingly quench the activity of the Holy Spirit.

We thank God for the opportunity we have had to be involved in this Assembly. We humbly encourage evangelical Christians everywhere to join us in praying "Come Holy Spirit—Renew your Whole Creation" and begin with us.

# Letters to the Editor

## Letters are limited to 200 words

### Correction

To the Editor,

Thank you very much for printing my letter in your last issue ("AC" 2 March) regarding the letter by David Allen. However, on reading it in the magazine I was surprised to see that instead of "it was quite apparent...", in the second paragraph, you had printed it as "it was quite appropriate..." which alters the whole meaning of what I was saying.

—Ethel Wladysiuk  
(Fairfield, NSW)

*[We apologise for this misreading of the word when keying in the letter in the last issue.—The Editor]*

### WCC Assembly

To the Editor,

The Seventh Assembly of the World Council of Churches held in Canberra, 7–20 February, presented a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many Australian Christians.

Contemporary, multicultural worship was the highlight of the Assembly. Participants were exposed to an expanded picture of the church worldwide, its struggle to witness to the gospel and to share in the sufferings of the world. In addition, new friendships have been made and networks established to help individual Christians in their own life and witness.

The Assembly, which only occurs every seven years, is the most significant gathering of the Christian church. Many members of Churches of Christ took the opportunity to attend, and all I have spoken to have felt enriched by the experience. However, I am saddened that the people entrusted with the growth, development and mission in our various states were not among those attending. They and our churches will be the poorer for their absence.

Fortunately the Assembly will be well documented. I would urge those who were not privileged to attend the Assembly to obtain and use the material.

Come Holy Spirit—Renew the Whole Creation, including Churches of Christ in Australia.

—Trevor Banks  
(Belmont, Vic)

### Uniting Church Worship

To the Editor,

In his Guest Editorial ("AC" 16 February) Ian Tippett quoted *The Australian Christian* for 17 November, referred to the Uniting Church as suffering from "appalling worship". He did not qualify this judgement so I conclude that he agrees with it.

I do not know what Uniting Church services of worship Ian has attended or what criteria he uses in making such an evaluation.

Over the past seven years I have attended many services of worship in Australia: Churches of Christ, Uniting Church, Anglican and Baptist, in NSW, Queensland, Victoria, Central Australia and the ACT. I, for one, have not found the services of the Uniting Church any more appalling, or any less appealing, than those of the Churches of Christ.

In fact, the two most memorable and meaningful regular services I have participated in in the last 10 years have been, first, an Anglican, and second, a Uniting Church. But that raises the question of my criteria for making such a judgement.

—Ron Graham  
(Johnston, Iowa, USA)

### Women in Ministry

To the Editor,

It was very refreshing to read the letter from David Brooker ("AC" 2 February) regarding women in ministry.

Yes, we do hear and read much of the theology of the discussion of this subject; to feel the kindness behind his comments was very nice to read.

We women are humans, and do have feelings.

As an older one myself, having lived through two world wars and a great depression, I've had plenty of chance to sit under much teaching on this vexed subject;

sometimes amusing, sometimes not so amusing.

I could be writing for many others when I say to David Brooker, "Thank you."

—D. Dallinger  
(Asquith, NSW)

### WCC Meeting with Aborigines

To the Editor,

E.M. Brough has written ("AC" 2 February) that the Churches of Christ should withdraw from the WCC because (1) it claims to be the world religion, and (2) at its recent Canberra Assembly it celebrated animistic Aboriginal rites.

(1) The WCC is not the world religion and has never pretended to be. It is not even a world church and could not be if it tried to be. It is a "fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures".

(2) That large-spirited apostle, Paul, enjoined the Philippians to "think upon" "whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious". I appreciated the

"smoke ceremony" of the Aborigines. I took it that what they did was done worshipfully and out of a conviction that there is a spirit, or there are spirits, that can "cleanse mind, body and spirit".

How we need cleansing! How we need to be in touch with the world of the spirit that transcends the world of things we so much love!

Many in the WCC Assembly rightly asked, "Is every spirit the Holy Spirit?" But the answer to that demands dialogue, discernment and sympathetic appreciation, not easy withdrawal and scornful dismissal.

—Ronald Graham  
(Johnston, Iowa, USA)

### Explanation

To the Editor,

May I be permitted, through your pages, to apologise to Mrs Ethel Wladysiuk for offence taken from my recent letter in defence of "The Last Word", and to explain my purpose. My writing style, like that of your "Last Word" columnist, does not appeal to all tastes. Such is the wonderful diversity of the

## Letters from Tertius

### Dogma

To the Editor,

Cyril was all steamed up at Bible study last week. "It's all a lot of dogma," he said, "and I can't stand dogma." Then there was an all-in about whether dogma was good or bad.

I said nothing because I wasn't sure what "dogma" meant, except that I had an idea that it wasn't very nice. So when I got home I looked it up in the dictionary and discovered that it is "a doctrinal system". So I looked up "doctrine" and found that that means "teaching".

So it appears that "dogma" is a system of teaching, and I can't see anything wrong with that.

Maybe "dogma" got a bad name because people tended to clobber one another with their differing doctrinal systems. "Your's is dogma, mine's sound doctrine" sort of thing.

Or maybe doctrinal systems were put before the needs of people, with the bright boys so busy putting fine points on them that ordinary people couldn't understand them let alone live by them.

While I was looking up the meaning of "dogma" I noticed words like "dogmatic" and "dogmatise" that seem to be real nasties. I suppose this is so because well-meaning people used dogmas in ways that were not in keeping with the spirit of the God of their systems of doctrine.

—Tertius

## Letters to the Editor

Christian family. My intention in writing was to point out (tongue in cheek) that the content of "The Last Word" should be taken as the Editor intended—a mix of truth and humour.

To apologise for that intention would be less than honest. As for the perfection of Christ's parables, I believe that God has deliberately given to writers and preachers—and yes, even cartoonists—the ability to amplify the simple truths of the Saviour's teachings, so that they can have meaning for people at any given point in time. To say otherwise is to do a great disservice to my ministers at Boronia and to yours at "whatever", to William Barclay, General Booth, Martin Luther King, Dr Paul White and a host of Christian writers and preachers down through the centuries; to demean their mission. And I'd include cartoonists like Charles Schulz of "Peanuts" fame. Cartoon humour and "straight" writing can both achieve that purpose with equal efficacy.

I am convinced that God has richly blessed, and continues to bless, all those who seek to present The Word, in word and picture with typewriter, pen and felt-tip, to a materialistic world of atheists and humanists who would never think to pick up the Bible and read it as presented by the saints of old. I am sure he richly blesses all columnists and contributors to *The Australian Christian* including those responsible for "The Last Word".

And let us not forget how to laugh. Is possession of a sense of humour a sin? I think not!

Laughter, too, is a gift from God, to lift our spirits and to stop us from taking ourselves too seriously. Let us glorify God and spread his message of truth, love and salvation, with all the talents he has given us, to all the world.

That's my "last word"—for now.

—David Allen  
(Boronia, Vic)

### World Day of Prayer at Benteleigh

To the Editor,

For 20 years we had been saying our congregation at Benteleigh was too few and too elderly to cope with holding the district World Day of Prayer at our church, but this year we decided to "give it a go".

We had not counted on the co-operation of the representatives of the other churches in the area, who usually take part in the presentation, nor the willingness of our own folk to act as ushers, stewards, organist and soloist, and prepare and host the morning tea which followed. We started planning early and were able to get the CWF President as our speaker. The Mayor's secretary proved very helpful with street signs and display advertising, and the local library offered to distribute advertising material to all their branches. The local paper printed our notice free, with no amendments of their own! Two lovely posters were prepared by one of our Baptist friends, and nearly 90 folk joined to pray together in a service which everyone felt honouring to God.

We have learnt to plan early and well, to be ready to accept advice and help from others, and now feel able to "give it a go" in other areas.

—Alma Yewdall  
(Benteleigh, Vic)

### Visiting Melbourne?

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

## News

### ◦ From Christian persecutor to persecuted Christian

## Bulgarian Pastor To Visit Australia



Christo Christov and Ned Blaskow preaching in Shumen, Bulgaria

Pastor Christo Christov is the leading pastor of the church in the Bulgarian city of Shumen and other towns in the district. He planted a number of churches during the communist rule in Bulgaria.

As a child Christo was separated from his Christian mother by his communist father. Brought up in the atheist teaching of Marxism, he became an active member of the communist party and a persecutor of the people of God until one day God miraculously led him to his praying mother whom he had never seen.

From a Christian persecutor he became a persecuted Christian, who was greatly used by the Lord.

At the invitation of the Australian mission Voice of Peace, Pastor Christov will be visiting Australia in April and May.

Churches wishing to hear Pastor Christov's thrilling personal story and an account of the revival now taking place in Bulgaria, should contact Ned Blaskow at "Voice of Peace" office by phone (02) 527 2387, or write to PO Box 339, Cronulla 2230.

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# Media Review

## Papers

### New Age

New Age thinking has great power to influence ordinary, thoughtful people who find attractive those positive values which the New Age movement stresses—self-improvement, radiant health, stress management, holistic medicine, the unity of humankind and so on. Although these things may be good in themselves, for those for whom New Age has become a whole new world view, they are part of a belief system that holds them all together. A sanitised Western version of much Eastern religious thought, this world view is based on the belief that we and the universe and God are all one.

This belief, harmonious as it may seem, directly opposes the Jewish, Muslim and Christian understanding of a Creator distinct from creation. New Age further challenges the Christian understanding of the meaning of the birth, death and resurrection of Christ.

In a timely new Zadok paper, John Harris explains what New Age thinking is, considers it from a Biblical perspective, and discusses the challenge it presents to the church to demonstrate the values of the Kingdom of God.

*New Age: A Christian Response to a Serious Challenge*, Zadok Series 1 Paper, \$50, is available from the Zadok Institute for Christianity and Society, Blackall Street, Barton, ACT, 2600 for \$2 plus 90 cents postage.

## Television

### Where the River Flows

A major television documentary on the contemporary Australian Christian church will be screened nationally on the ABC network during Easter Week. *Where the River Flows* is a film of hope and challenge.

It will be shown at 10.30 pm on Palm Sunday (24 March) as the Compass program, and 12 noon on Good Friday (29 March).

The film looks at the creative edges of the Christian church and the people involved in those ministries. It deals with ordinary folk and how they relate their faith to other Australians. It is not burdened by triumphalism or cynicism.

The documentary is a joint effort of Sydney's Anglican Home Mission Society, the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, World Vision Australia, the Uniting Church (NSW and Queensland), Scripture Union, Pilgrim International (who produced the program) and ANZEA Publishers. It is based on Peter and Sue Kaldor's book of the same name. It takes us beyond the *Sunburnt Soul* on a journey to the rivers of faith which are flowing in new directions in the Australian scene.

The idea for the film was generated at a conference on evangelism in Sydney in 1987. It gained momentum after the Lausanne Conference in 1989.

General Secretary of the Uniting Church Board of Mission (NSW), Dr Dean Drayton, said the script emphasised some of the emerging trends and models of church life.

Presenter Belinda Luscombe says: "This is not a search for the faint-hearted, but if it is not undertaken for even more Australians the 21st-century church will become an irrelevant institution. Perhaps the stark challenge for today's church is to take risks, to start to come down from its British hill. The option is to retreat into certain redundancy."

The film, however, does not leave us without vision, giving us the opportunity to reflect upon new directions in mission. It shows models of church life in response to contemporary contexts—multicultural churches, diverse congregations, interest-

based churches and those seeking to connect with their local community.

Leading Australian evangelist and teacher John Mallison said the film proved that no group in Australia was unreachable when Christians responded to the hopes and hurts of others with sensitivity and concern.

In order to maximise the value of the documentary for churches, a video kit has been produced. The package includes the entire television documentary plus an additional 30 minutes of video material to help churches and Christian groups to think about reaching people in their communities. A study guide and a copy of the book are also included. The kit has been designed to stimulate reflection that will be both challenging and encouraging. It is available by mail order.

## Books

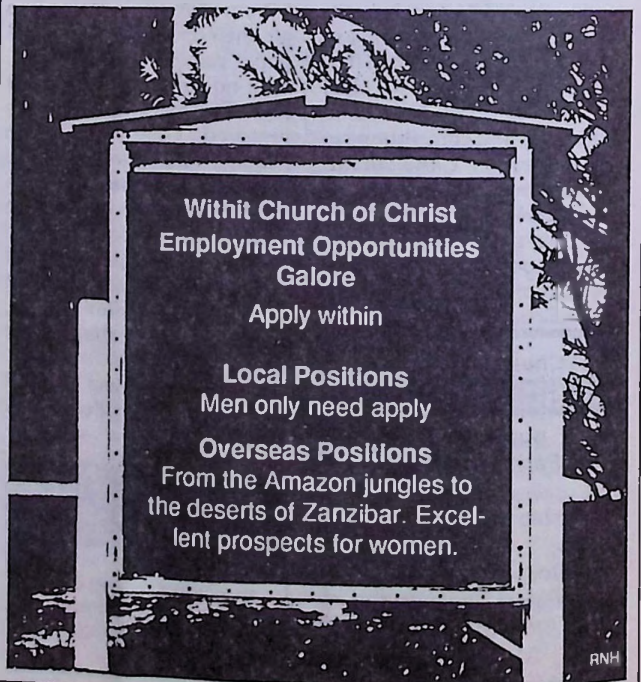
### A Pastoral Report to the Churches on Sexual Violence against Women and Children of the Church Community

by CASA House (CASA House) \$15

This report results from an innovative collaboration between CASA House (Centre Against Sexual Assault), the Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne, and the churches—Roman Catholic, Anglican, Churches of Christ, Uniting Church and Salvation Army.

The churches can no longer pretend that sexual violence is absent from the Christian community. Here is a firm challenge to break the silence promoting that pretence. From case study, through the myths surrounding sexual assault and spiritual exploration, this report moves to challenge the pastoral education and practice of the churches.

In exploring "sexual assault as spiritual assault" the pastoral report offers guidelines, checklists and strategies for ministers and carers, plus practical suggestions for congregations engaged in the care of the victims. How sensitive is that pastoral care? Is it expected that the female victim of sexual assault will readily seek help from a male counsellor or minister?



## Media Review

This report is highly commended and merits close study in every congregation and by all engaged in theological education and pastoral training. It is comprehensive, informed, explicitly Biblical, theological, ethical and a pastoral response to the human violence of sexual assault. Read it! Act upon it!

The Report is available from CASA House, Royal Women's Hospital, 270 Cardigan St, Carlton 3053, for \$15, which includes postage.

—Neil Gilmore

### The Scandal of Family Violence

Edited by Anne Amos (Uniting Church Press) \$7.95

This book stems from a series of lectures on the subject of family violence in Australia that were sponsored by the Uniting Church. As such, it deals with the subject on a local basis, driving home that family violence is not something that is foreign to our society, or even to our churches! The authors range from lay leaders to professional clergy, from professional counsellors to lecturers at the University of Melbourne. Therefore the subject is treated from a range of perspectives, but all have in common the cry that the problem of family violence be acknowledged, that we stand up for the rights of those who are physically and/or psychologically abused in the "security" of their own homes. The book is not lengthy, only 64 pages, but it is heavy going to sit and read. This is not because of the style, for it is easy to comprehend, but because of the subject matter. The book is disturbing, as it should be, and even if you don't agree with everything that is said, you are left changed, knowing that something horrible is happening in our society, and knowing that we, as Christ's body, have to act to care for those around us who are suffering just as he cared when he walked the earth. I would consider it essential reading for everyone in our churches, and even those outside them, because it addresses an issue that we find so difficult to deal with, in society, and within the church.

—Nigel Pegram

### You and Your Problems

by Charles R. Swindoll (Word Publishing) \$10

The list of contents sounded like a helpful sermon series—which it originally was: the problems of inferiority, temptation, depression, worry, anger, loneliness, defection (from Christ), death, resentment, discouragement, clergy-laity gap and others. The contents themselves make an even more helpful sermon series.

Swindoll's approach is biblical rather than psychological, not that these are normally incompatible. It is straight from the shoulder. It made me feel like copying certain chapters, giving them to certain people, and saying, "Here, take this prescription three times a day."

However, the weight of biblical material would make the book more helpful to convinced Christians rather than to others.

To each chapter is added a personal study section.

—Richard Lawton

### A PASTORAL REPORT TO THE CHURCHES ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

CASA HOUSE, Centre Against Sexual Assault,  
ROYAL WOMEN'S HOSPITAL, Melbourne.

In collaboration with

The Women, Church and Sexual Violence Project Advisory Group with representatives from the Uniting Church in Australia, the Catholic Church, the Anglican Church, Churches of Christ and the Salvation Army



### Taking Our Cities for God

How To Break Spiritual Strongholds  
by John Dawson (Creation House) \$15.90

Despite our self-image as laconic riders of "the sunlit plains extended", Australians are, in fact, citizens of the most urban of nations. As such we should have special interest in the urban mission and the development of a theology of the city. This book is a step along that path.

The city comprises a network of interrelated systems—social, cultural, ecological and physical. It is to some a "great wen" (Tumour), and to others the ultimate focus of commerce, the arts, religion, sport and research. (The polis—even Canberra—has always been multi-functional!) With the emergence of metropolis, and latterly megalopolis, cities have lost "the human scale". The author correctly identifies this as the cause of the alienation of many present day city dwellers.

John Dawson, an expatriate Kiwi, is director of Youth With A Mission in Los Angeles. He was organiser of the massive evangelical outreach in that city at the time of the 1984 Olympic Games. This period forms the basis of many of the anecdotes in this book. He sees the city as a spiritual battlefield, and the problems of the city as rooted

in spiritual bondage. Dawson states: "Because of massive urbanisation, it is the evangelisation of our cities that holds the key to bringing millions of people to Christ."

At times his analysis is simplistic. Many of the evils he associates with the city have their origin in the underlying values of the consumer society; it is the culture not the container that is at fault. Christians who are anxious about "traffic, air pollution and other petty annoyances" are considered to reveal a critical spirit and unyielding rights. Surely God has given us knees from which to pray and feet on which to take a stand. True wisdom is the ability to discern, through the Holy Spirit, which posture is appropriate in a particular situation.

The author's approach should be compared with that of David Sheppard in *Built as a City*. Both books are valuable contributions to an understanding of the church's role in urban mission.

—Graeme Addicott

### Freeing Your Mind from Memories That Bind

by Fred and Florence Littauer (Word Books) \$11.85

Are you ever tempted to use phrases such as "If only you'd pray more", "If you were really spiritual", "It's not as bad as you think", "It's no big deal", or "Cheer up and smile"? The Littauers correctly write that to the person may be a big deal, and that we need to love them unconditionally, refuse to judge them or think less of them because we know what has happened, and give them hope. The book deals with symptoms such as chronic unexplained physical illnesses, childhood memory gaps, vague and recurring guilt feelings, unexplained anger and frightening flashbacks, and suggest ways to heal these. It deals frankly with child abuse, and particularly with child sexual abuse, and the huge number of problems that it can cause later in life. It points out that people in the church are not exempt from being victims or perpetrators of such abuse.

So far, so good. However, the authors give the impression that almost all women, and many men also, have been victims. To this reviewer they go too far, and this seeming exaggeration undermines much of the good that they might have done in drawing our attention to an important problem in our midst.

—Richard Lawton

# Happenings

In New Zealand the members of the Spring Grove Church of Christ have purchased the empty Wakefield Post Office building. This building is in the centre of the Wakefield shopping area and will be used by the ministry team as offices and as a counselling centre. It will also be used for youth group activities, in particular the Friday night "Coffee Shop" run in the winter. A new "Kidz Klub" program planned for 1991 on Friday afternoons will use the building as a base.

Rev Beryl Turner of the Baptist Church was commissioned to serve as minister with the Church of Christ at Ohehunga, NZ, on a part-time basis for several months. She will continue as an associate minister at Ponsonby Baptist Church.

Camp Banksia, run by the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development, is in need of a freezer. The current freezer has failed and cannot be repaired.

Baptists in Moscow baptised 3 times as many people in 1990 as they did the year before. Throughout the USSR baptisms increased 100%. 20 students have begun studies at the new Baptist seminary. Classes will be held in Odessa for the first two years.

In Victoria the Council for Christian Education in schools reports that its coverage of Christian education in primary schools increased by 2% last year so that 171,662 students were taught—57% of primary school students.

"The Jerusalem Passion", an original Australian modern-classical oratorio, is to be presented in Melbourne at the Concert Hall 10, 11 and 12 May. It is being presented by "Vision One". A 300-voice choir, full orchestra, pipe organ and soloists will be conducted by the composer Murray Wylie. Bookings can be made

through Bass on 11566 (credit card bookings on 11500). Tickets cost from \$22-28 with a \$5 concession for students and pensioners. Group bookings will obtain a discount.

An Australian chapter of the Network of Biblical Storytellers is being set up. The Network has been in existence for several years in the USA and it seeks to approach the gospels and New Testament studies through "storytelling" workshops. The Network has also recently published a journal on biblical storytelling. Details on the Australian chapter from Rex Hunt, 14 Beechwood Parade, Cherrybrook 2126, phone (02) 287 0900 (work) or 484 5499 (AH).

Australians have reacted to the plight of Romanian orphans by donating \$2.1 million to World Vision's long-term orphan rehabilitation program. Named ROSES (Romanian Orphans Social Education Services), the World Vision program is a long-term strategy designed to rehabilitate orphans and train Romanian medical staff.

An estimated 3 million highly qualified professionals have left their native countries, generally in the Third World, to work in developed countries, according to the OECD. India alone has lost more than 750,000 scientists to industrialised countries, and the Philippines 540,000. Almost 80,000 high-level African professionals—engineers, lawyers, doctors and others—currently work in developed countries.

The Gardiner, Vic, Friendship Club is holding a grand Variety Concert and Costume Parade in the Malvern Town Hall on 1 May at 1.30 pm. Tickets cost \$5. Enquiries to Ron Lancashire on (03) 889 7208. The aim of the concert is that by staging a first-class concert and parade of Victorian era costumes they will interest lonely folk in joining

the club and enjoy their regular weekly meetings.

In Victoria the Council for Christian Education in Schools postprimary school chaplains held a 3-day residential conference on "The Living Earth: The Integrity of Creation" before the commencement of the school year. The chaplains gathered for professional development, spiritual renewal and mutual support at Retreat House, Cheltenham. There are currently 35 full-time chaplains in postprimary state schools in Victoria employed by the CCES.

A Korean creationist group plans to build a 3-storey \$15 million creation education complex "the size of Noah's Ark".

The Philippines Department of Labor and Employment reports that there are 7 million children below the age of 15 in the Filipino workforce. 20% gain their sole income by scavenging through garbage.

A youth movement has been created in the Russian Orthodox Church for the first time since the 1917 October Revolution and indeed for the first time in its entire history. It was launched at a conference held in Moscow 25-27 January attended by nearly 200 delegates.

The first educational centre for Buddhists wanting to train as lamas in the Soviet Union was opened some time after 15 February in the grounds of the ancient Buddhist monastery, the Ivolga *datsan*. Around 50 students from the 130 applying will be accepted, coming from various districts of the Buryat, Kalmyk and Tuva autonomous republics, and from the Chita and Irkutsk regions.

Moscow rabbi Adolf Shayevich has estimated that 1 million Soviet Jews are likely to emigrate to Israel by 1995. Many would be willing to emigrate to Germany. He attributes this willingness to

go to Germany to the social assimilation of Soviet Jews, as a result of which many are attracted by the high standard of living in Germany.

The Division of Religious Studies at La Trobe University in Melbourne is holding a one-day lecture/seminar on "Ephesus and the World of St Paul" on 13 April (8.45 am-5.30 pm). Six lectures will be delivered during the day. Details and registration forms from Greg Horsley on (03) 479 1227 or 479 2343. Cost \$25 or \$15 (concession rate).

The 45-year prison sentence of televangelist Jim Bakker for his conviction in 1989 on 24 counts of mail fraud, wire fraud and conspiracy has been thrown out by a federal appeals court in Virginia. Although the court upheld Bakker's conviction, the three judges ruled that he be resentenced.

During February two Baptist churches in Sydney (Minto and Gymer) received bomb threats by people supposedly against Christians.

The evangelical missionary society that has long been known by the initials SIM has given new meaning to the acronym: the letters now stand for Society for International Ministries.

The South has more born-again Christians per capita than do other regions of the US, reports a survey of over 15,000 adults. The Barna Research report reveals the percentages of people in each of these regions who say they are born again: South 44%, South-west 42%, Central Region 36%, Mountain Region 34%, North-east 24%, Pacific 24%.

1990 receipts of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) show a modest increase over 1989. Disciples gave \$20,871,310 in 1990, an increase of 0.78% over 1989. This contrasts with

a 1989 decrease of 0.31%. All offerings reported through the Church Finance Council for mission support showed a 1.61% increase in 1990.

Seminars on "Tentmaking" are to be held in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. Sponsored by the ABMS, Interserve and Aztem the speakers will be Dan and Ruth Bavington from Pakistan and Ian Hawley from the Bible College of Victoria. Seminars will be held at the Unley Park Baptist Church, Adelaide, 6 April 3.30-9.30 pm, cost \$10, details from (08) 332 5346; the Bible College of Victoria, Lilydale, Melbourne, 13 April 9.15 am-3.30 pm, cost \$20, details from (03) 898 5493 or 735 0011, and Morling College, Eastwood, Sydney on 20 April, 9.15 am-3.30 pm, cost \$20, details from (02) 660 3255.

The Polish Catholic Primate Cardinal Glemp has called in a Lenten pastoral letter read out in churches on 17 February for Poles to forgive communists for the injustice done to their fellow countryman. Poland is being torn apart by the struggle between the old regime and democratic forces. Social peace can be built only on the basis of mercy, truth and forgiveness, Glemp wrote.

The Inaugural Kyrie Christian Art Award and exhibition will be open this Easter at St Paul's Lutheran Community Centre, 711 Station Street, Box Hill 24 March-5 April from 10 am to 4 pm. The award, instigated by the Lutheran Church is open to all. It aims to provide a platform which will help expose Christian art in Australia to both Christian and secular communities. Some 30 artists from Victoria and interstate have entered works, ranging through a variety of media. Paintings, sculpture, ceramics, glass, printmaking and textiles have been entered. Most works are for sale. Prices range from \$60 to \$4,500.

## UBS USSR Representative

In a move designed to aid in the development of national Bible Societies in the Soviet Union, the United Bible Societies (UBS) has appointed Deacon Michael G. Roshak as UBS liaison officer for two years.

As Director of the Europe/ USSR office in the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, Mr Roshak is ideally prepared for his work with the UBS.

One of Mr Roshak's first responsibilities will be to establish a liaison office in Moscow through which the UBS can work with churches and Bible organisations in co-ordinating scripture shipments and requests for scriptures.

As a deacon of the Orthodox church in America, Mr Roshak brings to this assignment a solid grounding in Orthodox theology and Russian culture, and is well respected among both Protestant and Orthodox leaders.

One area of service in his new position will be to assist with the flow of information on Bible work in the USSR and Eastern Europe. Communication with the USSR is difficult and church leaders are fully occupied in establishing new programs and expanding church activities.

Yet it is essential that information be provided to Christians world-wide in support of the massive \$58 million Eastern European appeal launched last year by the United Bible Societies.

Since that appeal was launched, 2.5 million copies of the scriptures in 17 languages have been provided for the people of the USSR and central and eastern Europe, with a further gift of paper for the printing of 850,000 scriptures.

"I am both encouraged and concerned," says Bruce Pearce, General Secretary of the Bible Society in Australia. "Encouraged by Australia's contribution of \$800,000 to date, but deeply concerned by present events in the USSR."

## • Two communions meet together in Canada

### Disciples-Roman Catholic Dialogue

Representatives from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Roman Catholic Church "experienced vital dialogue toward unity" in a mid-December meeting in Toronto, Canada, of their International Commission for Dialogue.

During the meeting the commission considered a draft statement, "The Church as Communion in Christ", which summarises major theological beliefs shared by the two communions. The document, to be finalised within the next two years, also includes reflections from the second round of the dialogue in 1983. The first talks resulted in a common report on "Apostolicity and Catholicity".

Addresses on the talks were made by the Rev. Bevis Byfield, a Disciples professor

at United Theological Seminary, Kingston, Jamaica, and the Rev. Jean-Marie Tillard, OP, professor of theology at Dominican College, Ottawa.

Commission members also heard from several Toronto-area Catholics and Disciples who reported on ecumenism in Canada today. Reports on the ecumenical efforts in Canada were given by the Rev. Robert Steffer, executive minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Canada, and the Rev. Jean-Marc Laporte, SJ, Regis College, Toronto.

Worship at historic Hillcrest Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Toronto, highlighted the meeting. Archbishop Samuel Carter, SJ, Kingston, Jamaica, who attended a Disciples Sunday school as a child, conducted the eucharistic

service. The commission, which has met annually since 1977, is co-chaired by Archbishop Carter and the Rev Paul A. Crow Jr, Disciples President of the Council on Christian Unity and general secretary of the worldwide Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council.

Other participating Disciples included Efele Elonda, Mbandaka, Zaire, David Thompson, Cambridge, England, and Dr William Tabbernee.

Roman Catholic dialogue members included Bishop Basil Meeking, Christchurch, New Zealand, and Msgr John Mutiso-Mbinda, Pontifical Council on Christian Unity, Vatican City.

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## Easter at Doncaster

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A Service of Shadows

9 am Good Friday

"The Unkindest Cut"

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## Money Well Spent

After receiving the largest subsidy ever in 1989, Sunshine church achieved self-support in January.

Under Ian Corlett's leadership steady growth continues with fifteen new members in December. Your money has been well spent, but we urgently need more now.

Department of Mission, Education  
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52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000

## Good News in Demanding Days at CCTC



1991 CCTC Garden Party

What a two months it's been since arriving at CCTC.

When I was being farewelled at Brighton, SA, the chairman of the elders commented that at times he and others had had difficulty running to keep up with me.

Let me tell you that it is now I who is needing to run, and fast, to keep up! I'd forgotten somewhat the incredible output of faculty and staff as they meet the multitude of tasks of teaching, pastoring and administering.

If Australia wants to learn productivity, or if a church needs to discover commitment to God and ministry, I can tell them where to go.

Here are a few snippets about what has happened.

### Orientation Camp

12 new students and their families shared with faculty and some returning students their stories of faith, their hopes and anxieties, their commitment to discerning God's will for them. Inspirational.

### Inaugural Service and the Garden Party

These were times of support from so many from the churches, times of dedication and looking ahead in anticipation.

### Presessionals

Each year group studies one subject intensively for three weeks. First years express delight, and some apprehension, as they meet with ministers and faculty and begin to see that their vision of Christ's ministry has been too limited.

Second years find that New Testament Greek can be mastered.

Third years speak quietly about a greater depth to their spirituality through their experiences of meditation, lectures, retreat and reading.

Fourth years feel a little overwhelmed when they return from visits that opened up issues of ministry related to the terminally ill, sexually abused, dispossessed and imprisoned, but then return with joy after their retreat together.

### Enrolment Day

There are 46 full-time students, 79 part-time students and 21 undertaking graduate courses.

### Graduate Diploma in Ministry Students

For a week 13 ministers were on campus, working morning, afternoon and evening as two of the faculty and 15 visiting presenters shared insights

about a whole host of subjects—communicating with children, worship, time management, counselling, team ministries, New Testament themes, motivation, coping with conflict. The interaction between students and experienced ministers over meals and cuppas was stimulating.

### Board Meeting

Difficult decisions were needed because income will be reduced this year due to the recession. Income from trusts and from the hire of facilities will be negligible and much lower respectively.

There will be cuts to support staff in the office and cuts to the salary of faculty. Very difficult, but they will ensure that the quality program of ministerial and theological education will go on.

There is planning for the future to rectify the cuts as soon as possible.

The student community responded magnificently—with personal support to those affected, financial support from meagre incomes and an even greater expression of commitment to the college and to ministry in the name of Christ.

### Letters to the Churches

How difficult it is to express in a few words what is the situation to those responsible

for the work of the college—the churches throughout Australia. On the one hand, a need for income during tough times and on the other hand the faith that has undergirded the college through all its history that God is working and will continue to work mightily through us.

So 1991 has begun so very well in tough times. We're just entering a week of farewells and expressions of appreciation to the outgoing Principal, Dr Bill Tabbernee. What a contribution he has made (and is still making as he writes to the many who have made pledges). But more about that next time.

—Keith Bowes  
(Principal for 1991)

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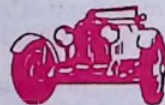
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## People

• A minister—believe it or not

### Who's That "Guy"?

The following article was printed in the Tweed River High School magazine at the end of last year.

Guy, as most people would know by now, is not a teacher but a youth worker who is involved with young people in and around Tweed from Palm Beach to Kingscliff. At Tweed River High, Guy is the school's JSCF Counsellor and spends most lunch times playing handball and talking with different groups around the school. He also helps with Wednesday afternoon sport. Guy is available in and out of



Guy Cooper

school hours for counselling or just a chat. Out of school hours, Guy runs a couple of youth groups, the best known being "Splat" (which doesn't stand for anything), which over 70 year 7 and 8 kids have attended.

Guy is actually a minister—"believe it or not"—which means he can and does perform weddings and funerals, but for the last nine years he has worked full time with young people, which has meant involvement in over 10 primary and high schools, youth refuges, Lifeline telephone counselling and community youth support schemes and running dozens of camps and youth outings.

Guy is married with a six-months-old baby girl, who also goes to youth group!

So the next time you see him around why not say, "Hi!" Guy can be contacted on phone 90 9091.

\* \* \*

"Guy" is Guy Cooper, youth minister at the Tweed Heads, NSW, church, who, with his wife Stephanie, gives a valuable lead in youth activities.

—Richard Oakes

### Occupational Therapist Appointment

Occupational therapy aims to rebuild the dignity and self-worth of people who feel robbed of both due to their dependence on others. As the newly appointed occupational therapist for the Vic-Tas Department of Community Care, Andrea Salmon wants to refocus the attention of nursing home residents from what they can no longer do to what they can do!

Andrea says that people in nursing homes require assistance with the routine of daily living because of cognitive and physical limitations. Most residents cannot think clearly concerning the present but have

clear memories about the past. This means, for example, that many can still have mutually rewarding conversations with others, including children, about life decades ago. Similarly, skills acquired as a young man or woman, and practised during the most of life can be reactivated. Andrea explains this may mean adjusting a little, for example using a card holder to assist in card games or special handles on cooking utensils.

Andrea emphasises the need for professional assessment and program development through appropriate activities. However, there are always oppor-

### Japanese Disciples



Sumio and Fumiyo Kanai with their three boys

In November the Kedron, Qld, church were very happy to welcome a Japanese family to their worship. The family consisted of a mother, father and three small sons. They quickly endeared themselves to the church and after completing the "Christianity Explained" course with minister Noel Baxter, Sumio and Fumiyo Kanai accepted Christ as their Saviour and were baptised on 3 March. Unfortunately their youngest boy was run over by a car and very badly hurt just after Christmas. Sumio and

Fumiyo were very appreciative of the prayers and support given to them by the church. He has now fully recovered.

Because of financial circumstances the family shortly will have to return to Japan. They will be missed by the church that has grown to love them very much.

The Kedron church is excited that a part of the church will be now witnessing for Christ in Tokyo. On their last Sunday at Kedron the Kanai family are to minister to the church in song.

—Shirley Palmer

tunities for volunteers to participate in the activities. Interested people can leave their name and phone number at the Department office, on (03) 662 1411, and Andrea will get in touch.

Andrea has worked with elderly people since her graduation from Lincoln Institute, initially within the Caulfield community and recently with Strathdon Community.

Andrea's appointment reflects the Department's commitment to the well-being of the residents in our residential care facilities.

—Louis van Laar



Andrea Salmon

# Classifieds

## BIRTHS

**CAMAC (DYER)** Colin, Rosemary, Neva and Clinton thank God for the safe arrival of Shannon John on 13.2.91 at QVH, Adelaide.

**CURKPATRICK** Isaac John. For the record, I was born on 11 March, and my family—Stephen and Virginia, Surekha and Samuel are delighted with me.

**HEIER (GRAETZ)** Kym and Lynnette welcome with love Deanne Claire, sister for Renee and Melanie. Born at Launceston 22.2.91.

## RUBY WEDDINGS

**THOMPSON—CHAPPELL** Dick and Elsie, now of Baxter, Vic, were married at The Patch on 10 March 1951, by Keith Jones. They are thankful for 40 good years and for Gregory, Elizabeth, Jane and their families.

## GOLDEN WEDDINGS

**DAVIES—ROBINSON** Fred and Mavis—36 Majorca Rd, Maryborough, Vic—happily celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Married Maryborough Church of Christ by E.P.C. Hollard on 12 April 1941.

**ROPER—PITT** Benleigh. Happily celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary at South Yarra Church of Christ on 19 April 1941 by the late A.W. Claude Candy.

**STEVENS—OLIVER** Harold and Flo, together with their family, Roger and Leonie, Meri and David, grandchildren Brett, Matthew, Jo, Freya, Ryan and Amber, give thanks to God with gratitude and joy, for 50 years of wonderful marriage. Solemnised at Invermay Church of Christ, 15 March 1941. Praise to the Lord for his goodness. Present address: 1/51 Cross St, Newtown 7008.

**WATT—DYER** Ron and Marion of 35 Montpellier Drive, Highton, Vic, happily celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with their family and friends. Married at La Trobe Terrace, Geelong, Church of Christ by the late D.D. Stewart, 10 April 1941. 50 years worshipping at Belmont.

## DEATHS

**BEAN** Harold Francis. On 5 March 1991, loved husband of Agnes (dec.), loving father of Ron and Shirley (Mrs Williams), fond father-in-law of Dawn and Roy. Dear Grandpa of Paul, Mark, Rohan, Craig, Kathryn and Joanne. Forever with the Lord.

**CHALK** Doreen June. 29.3.87. Beautiful memories of a wonderful

wife, mother and grandmother. Forever in our hearts, now in God's care. Lovingly remembered by her family.

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## Church of Christ Hartwell

### 70th Anniversary

21 April 1991

10 am Service

Speaker:

Gordon Stirling

Topic: "It Ain't Necessarily So"

followed by lunch

Enquiries

D. Willing (03) 817 1909

R. Tyler (03) 889 5228

## Henley Beach Church of Christ Centenary Celebrations Sunday, 8 September 1991

Any past members living interstate and in the country areas of SA who would like an invitation sent to them please contact Robert Dodd (08) 356 8036 or Ross Strudwick (08) 356 9347 before 1 June 1991.

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**Mr Alistair Begg—Pastor/Teacher** at "The Chapel" in Cleveland, Ohio, USA

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## People

### • Baptised 50-70 years ago

## Long-time Members Honoured at Maylands

It would be easier with infant baptism to chalk up milestones. With believers' baptism it takes until later in life.

Maylands, SA, church recently honoured a number of people who had been baptised 50, 60, 65 and 70 years ago.

These people were specially welcomed to the morning service.

A commemorative luncheon followed, at which a number of them talked of changes that had happened in the church since their baptisms, and much reminiscing was done.

Muriel Wormald (formerly Crowhurst) was baptised at the then Norwood church 70 years ago, and transferred to Maylands 65 years ago.

Marj Halliday (formerly Dix) was baptised 65 years ago.

Three were present who had been baptised 60 years ago: Doug Holbrook, Regina Hamlyn (now at St



Geoff Heath, Gwen Fatchen, Jean Kennett, Joan Scown, Jean Nicholson, Muriel Wormald, Ron Duhne, Audrey Bowes, Val Hill, Marj Parker, Regina Hamlyn, Noleen Carthew and Doug Holbrook

Peters Baptist church) and Ron Duhne (now living at West Lakes).

Those present celebrating their 50th anniversaries were three sisters, Gwen Fatchen, Val Hill and Joan Scown (all formerly Rodda), Geoff Heath (a board mem-

ber), Audrey Bowes (formerly Duck), now living in Belair, Peter Fopp, now living in West Beach, Noleen Carthew (formerly Beasley) and Jean Kennett (formerly Potter).

Esma Winch (formerly Kennett) would have been

there had she not been holidaying in New Zealand.

One change that those honoured were not sorry to report was that the church today is much less restrictive than it was when they were baptised.

—Richard Lawton

### • Twenty years at Glen Waverley

## Tribute to Senior Minister Ron Elbourne

20 years ago a young couple, Ron and Mavis Elbourne, began a significant ministry for Christ at Glen Waverley, Vic—laying a firm foundation on

which God has continued to build.

During that time many initiatives and events have had a considerable impact on this

church, the wider fellowship of Churches of Christ and the community at large: reintroduction of gospel services, winter "Features at Five", re-appointment of an eldership, "Parson's Pitch" weekly article in local paper over 15 years, re-appraisal of the roles of elders and deacons, three building programs, a powerful teaching ministry (including College for Christians), multiple services to cater for growth, introduction and development of team ministry, high standards for worship experiences, training and enabling of leadership, fellowship groups, welcoming procedures and newcomers' dinners—to name just a few.

During this time Ron has also been Conference President and a member of Conference Executive and Advisory Board, and is continually called on to minister to other churches. He is regarded as one of the states-

men of Churches of Christ. In the business world companies have sought his services as a motivational speaker.

The congregation shares his desire for people untouched by the good news of Christ to hear it, and people throughout the whole community have experienced his care for them as a pastor. The hand of God is in his ministry.

Mavis has been a constant support for Ron, without counting the cost. Her own witness, patience, forbearance and graciousness have been an example to us all.

Your church family honour you both at this significant milestone in your ministry. May we together, as a body of Christ in Glen Waverley, continue to seek the wisdom of his Spirit as we experience the unfolding of his plan for his church. —Elders and congregation, Glen Waverley



Mavis and Ron Elbourne

### • Collateral damage

# Death in the Gulf

by Alan Matheson

As one reporter put it, "As far as the Gulf war is concerned, God is certainly moving in a mysterious way."

How can the ordinary person understand whether the war is holy, just, worthy or plain evil?

And majors and colonels do not help when they speak of "collateral damage" (civilian deaths—now some 20,000), "friendly fire" (the killing of soldiers by their own guns or bombs) or "incontinent ordnance" (Scud missiles which miss targets)!

Or take note how "us" and "them" are described.

The allies have an "army"; the Iraqis have "a war machine". The allies "take out", "neutralise" or "dig in" while the Iraqis "destroy", "kill", or "cover in their foxholes".

The allies launch "first strikes"; they launch "sneak

missile attacks without provocation". Bush is "at peace with himself", Hussein is "demented"; Bush "states-man-like", Hussein "an evil tyrant". And so it goes on.

### Not Everything You Read

Well first, to understand what's happening, don't accept as fact everything you read or hear.

It has often been said that the first casualty of war is truth.

Recognise that both sides censor, direct and control the flow of news. The Americans in particular now recognise that the war in Vietnam was lost because too many voters were witness too many times to death, brutality and terror of battles on primetime television.

Beware of the "Reporter Pool". As one reporter put it, "Journalists have allowed themselves to be duped by the Western authorities, forced ei-

ther to participate in pool reporting under military restrictions or to work independently at the risk of having their accreditation taken away." (*The Age*, 9 February)

Authorities, both government and military, whether allies or Iraqi, will go to extreme lengths to ensure support for any war deemed to be in the "national interest".

One of the more ludicrous has been the decision by the British Broadcasting Commission to ban a number of songs that they believe will upset listeners. Included is John Lennon's anti-war song, "Give Peace a Chance". Banned by the American army are a number of films with peace themes, but *Rambo* and *Rocky* are acceptable.

### Know Your History

Secondly, know your history.

Don't rely on the "Citizens for a Free Kuwait's" \$10 million public relations exercise running out of the luxury al-Hada Sheraton Hotel.

Or the spate of Hollywood films—"Desert Shield", "Desert Storm" and "The Human Shield"—all due to hit the screens in the next few months.

Or the Doncaster Old Paths Christadelphians! ("The Gulf War—Four Weeks On", *The Progress Press* 13 February)

For a responsible Christian response to the Gulf it is important to be aware of the role the allies (Britain in the 1930s and the USA in more recent years) have played in the creation of the situation in the Gulf.

In no way is this to excuse the brutal occupation of Kuwait, but rather a plea to recognise that the causes of the current conflict did not appear overnight.

### • Differing views on our involvement in war

# Pacifism or Justice?

by Bruce Anderson

Our involvement in the Gulf War brought more and more peace protesters onto the streets. In addition we also saw pro-war demonstrations. These opposing groups gave the impression that we have a choice between war and peace, but in reality our only choice is between justice and pacifism.

We had no choice over whether there would be war. It had happened without any consent of the Australian government. Our choice was whether we would join the struggle for peace with justice or passively let injustices spread.

### "Thou Shalt Not Kill"

In one peace rally I noticed a

huge banner with the words "Thou shalt not kill". It is good that people are looking for divine verification of their positions but, if we are serious in that quest, we will find it is not that simple. Modern translations more correctly translate the sixth commandment as "Do not commit murder".

### Sincerely Differing Views

One thing that should be very apparent is that the decision to support or oppose the participation of Australian forces in the Gulf War is a very difficult one.

Our politicians have not found it an easy choice. Some who voted in support of our involvement did so after much

painstaking soul searching. One politician was near to tears as he voiced reluctant support. On the other hand, some who voted against it broke party ranks to do so. Yet the federal opposition is supporting the government's position.

Neither do church leaders find it a simple or easy issue. An Australian Council of Churches spokesperson recently said we had not given sanctions time to work. The implication was that our involvement was wrong. Since then the World Council of Churches has adopted a pacifist position.

Other Christian leaders disagree, saying that praying for peace may not be enough.

Sometimes we have to fight for justice. Yet others, quoting Matthew 24, say the war is a predicted preliminary to the return of Christ. They are excited by what is happening.

### Scrutinise the Pacifist Position

Those who would quote the misleading King James version of the sixth commandment, "Thou shalt not kill", as a basis for pacifism need to consider other Bible portions that make clear this was not a blanket outlawing of any taking of human life.

For example, God commanded the death penalty for various offences, e.g. murder, kidnapping or striking or curs-

## Do Your Theology

The Secretary of the Middle East Council of Churches was asked whose side God was on in the Gulf. He replied that God was on the side of the suffering.

Of all conflicts in recent times never before has it been more important for Christians to do their theology.

Two themes stand out in the theological discussion about the war. First, the debate about what is a "just war". Such a concept was first described by St Augustine, who wrote that "war should be waged only as a necessity, and waged only that God may deliver men from necessity and preserve them in peace". The "just war" doctrine has been refined over the centuries. During the Crusades, for example, three further elements were added: a competent government authority must be involved, the cause must be just and there must be a "right intention" to promote good. Good stuff for sermons or a study group.

And, secondly, "end time" theology. It is said that American television preachers are "making a killing by trumpet-

ing fears that the war in the Gulf will be the final Armageddon". Zondervan, a leading US publisher, has an initial print order of a million copies of the 1974 book, *Armageddon, Oil and the Middle East Crisis*.

Beware of basing your understanding of the Gulf war on either Fatima International, the Christadelphians or some other minority sect. Churches of Christ, of all denominations, appear to be particularly vulnerable to all sorts of peculiar sects, which see the signs of the mysterious "666" under every verse of Revelation or the anti-christ manipulating every crisis in every decade. Were you aware that one suggestion is that the antichrist is gay? Check Daniel 11:37! Elders have a real responsibility to ensure that congregations in their charge have both the resources and opportunities to reflect on the unfolding events of the Middle East. For there is no guarantee that God is on our side!

• Alan Matheson is a member of the Camberwell, Vic, church and Ethnic Liaison Officer with the ACTU.

ing one's parent! (Genesis 9:6; Exodus 21:12-17). God also commanded war and mass destruction of nations on occasions (1 Samuel 15).

The sixth commandment is not a blanket outlawing of the taking of human life, rather it outlaws murder or illegal killing. It does not prohibit either capital punishment or war in appropriate circumstances.

## Was Christ a Pacifist?

Somemight argue that Christ was a pacifist. There are a number of incidents that might suggest this. For example, when Jesus was arrested Peter drew his sword and sliced off the ear of the high priest's servant, but Jesus told him to put his sword away and healed the ear (John 18:10-11).

However we are also told that the time is coming when Jesus is coming to make war on evil (Revelation 17:14; 19:11-16). But he will judge and fight

with justice. Christ is not a pacifist as much as he is patient, giving people time to turn from rejection of God and rebellion against him.

## Respect Those Who Sincerely Hold Different Views

Let's avoid the danger of attacking those who hold different views from our own. It is too easy to just label and pigeonhole people with labels like "pacifist", "war-monger", "gutless", "capitalist", "liberal theologian", "fundamentalist", "stirrer" etc. No one's views can be summed up that simply. We are all different individuals who have formed our opinions after varied life experiences.

Let us listen carefully to the views of those we differ with and try to understand why they believe what they do. We might just learn something.

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

## ◦ No cure for economic woes

# Casinos

by David Brooker

“If we have to have casinos to survive, maybe we ought to go to hell,” concluded an article in *The Christian Century* (17 January 1990) by John D. Wolf, a minister of the United Methodist Church in Indiana. He was quoting from the transcripts of the legislative committee enquiry into the development of casinos in the city of Gary, Indiana (USA). Gary is an economically depressed steel town, with an unemployment rate of about 11%.

Wolf maintains that as the casino industry in the 1970s targeted depressed Atlantic City (New Jersey) as a site for East Coast gambling, so in the 90s it has targeted Gary for the Chicago and Midwest market. In light of the current push for casinos in Victoria, Wolf's argument, summarised below, is salient.

Here, as in Gary, casinos are touted as a solution to the state's economic woes, as a "soft" source of revenue for the government and as an electorally popular alternative to direct taxation. Despite several cautionary reports, the Victorian government, apparently with the "in principle" support of the opposition, seems determined to introduce casinos to the state. But is the utopia promised by the pro-casino lobby credible or even desirable?

One concern highlighted by Wolf, little mentioned in the debate here, is the issue of morality: is it proper for the state to be in the gambling business and dependent upon gambling revenue?

In particular, is it proper for a government to be actively encouraging casinos: not simply accommodating the desire to gamble (an argument dear to the pro-casino lobby), but actually stimulating the desire to gamble! In its thirst for income from gambling, the gov-

ernment is promoting a product whose only virtue is that it generates revenue for the state. Other products fit this description, such as beer and tobacco, but the government does not promote these. Rather than push gambling, our government would do better to use its resources to warn about the potential hazards of gambling just as it has accepted responsibility for warning about the dangers of smoking, drinking and drug abuse.

As for the lure of economic salvation that is touted by the casino lobby, an editorial in the Catholic diocesan newspaper in Gary concluded, "Desperate people see casino gambling as a way of helping the economy. It won't."

This is supported by studies of the casino industry in Atlantic City (Wolf cites Sternlieb and Hughes: *The Atlantic City Gamble*; Hammond: *Casino Gambling, Myth and Reality*; and articles in *Time* and *Newsweek*), which is a case study of an industry striving for legitimacy. Not only does it hold a sorry record for those concerned about crime, welfare, business decline, home ownership, compulsive gambling or community atmosphere, but the Atlantic City casinos have failed to bring economic development. Let us not be hoodwinked into believing the promise of utopia made by the pro-casino lobby.

In short, the gambling craze is evidence of the government's abdication of responsibility for the care and well-being of people; it is an assault upon the poor and uninformed by governments that are being irresponsibly financed. Indeed, it is a movement that deserves to be opposed by churches and all those who care about the future of our people.

• David Brooker is the minister at the Surrey Hills, Vic, church.

## Youth Ministry

• Youth ministry must focus on people, not programs

### Overview

by Gordon Barnes

Lots of churches have found themselves in dire straits because they have ignored youth ministry. A lack of emphasis on youth means a future struggle for survival as numbers and vitality diminish over time. The old saying that "Christianity is one generation from extinction" is as true today as ever. We cannot hold out for that one generation of "revival" because there needs to be a generation-to-generation commitment with the gospel. Every generation needs the gospel, therefore we can never stop and rest with the gospel message.

Youth come into this world with no teaching of the gospel, no innate knowledge of God. A few short years of ignoring a generation of high school kids means that that generation of young people is potentially lost to the gospel. Adolescence is the critical period to share the gospel and train in righteousness so that the knowledge of our saviour will spread throughout our land.

While youth ministry is a relatively specialist position the skills necessary for the execution of a youth ministry are not that lofty. The obvious requirement is a heart for the gospel and young people. The ability to relate well with youth is a skill that can be acquired and refined if you are prepared

to put in the time at the "pit face". A friend of mine lamented that with my interests it was natural to have a good youth ministry. His interests included theology and "not many kids are interested in that". Still, if a person is prepared to be interested in young people then this is the most important qualification. I have always been impressed with my co-workers who genuinely love the students that they work with. They have displayed a "full-on" commitment without losing their own integrity by trying to be something that they are not. They remained genuine and this is important because no one likes a phony. Young people can pick up a phony from a great distance so personal integrity is paramount.

In summary, youth ministry must focus on people, not programs. Even I have been around long enough to realise that yesterday's youth-winning program has become today's anachronism. Programs can serve their purpose for a while but eventually changing times and circumstances put an end to the best ideas. Youth ministry then is never static but dynamic, meeting these changing circumstances and challenges. What remains the same is that youth ministry begins with youth and commitment to them remains the primary focus. I don't believe there are any shortcuts. We have the method and opportunity. All we need to do is go to it.

• Gordon Barnes is the youth minister at the Southport, Qld, church.

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

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## Curkpatrick

### The Greening of the Gospel

In large print on the cover of a popular magazine were the words: "Who can save the world?" The inside article was not about the theological salvation of the world, but the environmental salvation of the earth.

In recent years, we have become familiar with a new phrase in political vocabulary, "The greening of politics", with its ensuing debate over cynical and authentic expressions of "becoming green". During the 1990s we will no doubt see much activity in preserving the environment, as every institution in society becomes increasingly "tinged with green".

However, the best intentions for saving the environment are going to be thwarted when managing the environment comes into conflict with our lifestyle and insatiable consumerism. Salvation in a theological sense will always be necessary if salvation is going to occur in any environmental sense. The Apostle Paul wasn't thinking about the greening of the gospel, when he said that "all creation groans", however creation, including two-thirds of the world's population, will indeed groan while our theological salvation isn't reflected in our lifestyles.

The rate at which we in the developed world consume the earth's resources, does affect the capacity for a large proportion of the world to meet many fundamental human needs, and develop aspects of personal wholeness. There is a well-documented case that argues that environmental mismanagement, through opulence or neglect, impacts considerably on the third world, often with personal suffering and deprivation. Therefore the "greening of the gospel" will be necessary if we are to express the genuine social compassion Jesus expressed, which is inseparable from a lifestyle that has found theological salvation.

—Stephen Curkpatrick

L.M.C.T.  
6549

# Ken Geyer

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• Our praise of God in all situations becomes a covering of faith over us

## You Don't Need To Be Happy To Praise God

by Jim Davidson

**W**e'd think he was acting strangely if a husband went around saying: "Praise my wife, praise my wife." But if he said how good a cook she was, or how well she managed the family budget, then people would know he had a good opinion of her. He would be praising her.

In the same way, praising God is more than just saying: "Praise God!" It may include that, but it goes further. You could even praise God and never use the word "praise".

If you say, "God is wonderful. When I was in despair, he came alongside to encourage and lift me up. He is a great God, for he took my sins and planted faith and love in my heart," then you are praising God.

In Hebrews 13:15, we read that through Jesus, we should offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, continually or always, by our lips giving thanks to his name. That recalls the thanksgiving sacrifices of the Old Testament, and links Christian praise with the thank-offerings of Leviticus 7:13 and Psalm 107:22.

Usually, praise and thank-offering are the outcome of feeling good and particularly grateful.

But some of you may ask the question: "How can I praise or thank God for something bad happening to me—for example, for sickness or bereavement?"

You may then go on to say that praising or thanking God in those circumstances would be hypocritical.

How can we praise and thank God when we don't feel like it?

Hebrews 13 says it is a sacrifice. Praise and thanksgiving may be costly, just as sacrifice is costly. Not in material things,

but of our emotions. So how can we praise God for our troubles?

To answer that question we have to study the word "praise" in the Old Testament. A number of words translated "praise" refer to singing praise and even to the happiness associated with a wedding feast. Those kinds of praise would be difficult in some circumstances when we feel neither happy nor like singing.

But there is another kind of praise in the Old Testament, and we first encounter it in the story of Leah. She was the wife Jacob did not love; he preferred her sister, Rachel. So Leah thought she could win Jacob's love by giving him sons, but that failed.

On the birth of her fourth son, she shifted attention from her husband and decided to praise God instead, so she named her infant "Yadah" or "Praise", and this we know in its more familiar form as "Judah".

"Yadah" means to stretch out or up the hands as a testimony or witness. It's like when people are asked to raise their hands to show whose side they are on. "Yadah" means to witness that you are on God's side.

You don't need to be happy to yadah God. Leah was very sad, yet she praised God

(Genesis 29). David pours out his sadness in the 42nd Psalm, yet twice he says in verses 5 and 11: "I shall again/yet praise or yadah him."

Yadah is not emotional: it is a determination to witness for God regardless of how you feel, for you know he deserves it and he loves you.

There was a time—we read of it in 2 Chronicles 20—when the Moabites and their allies invaded Judah, and Judah's King Jehoshaphat was in despair. But God commanded them to stand still and he would fight for them. So Jehoshaphat gathered his people to sing praises to God in the sight of their enemies.

Perhaps they did not feel particularly happy as they were helpless and unarmed before such a large enemy army, but in verse 21 they were told to "give thanks (yadah) to the Lord, for his loving kindness is everlasting".

If you praise God as the people of Judah did, in the midst of all trouble or persecution, your praise is not meant to reflect how you feel—but what God is.

The wonderful thing is that God honoured their faith and routed their enemies. In the same way, our praise becomes an opportunity for God to work in our circumstances.

Some years ago I was drilling through hard wood when the point broke off the drill. The blunted drill leaped sideways and went through my finger and came out just below the nail on the other side. I was in a state of shock, but when I recovered my wits, I remember saying, "Praise you, Lord."

From that moment, I healed rapidly. The hospital confirmed no bone was broken and the wound never bothered me again. I believe that since I praised God in that situation it gave him opportunity to do his work of healing in me.

By linking Christian praise with thanksgiving—not just having nice thoughts towards God but vocalising our praise—we get fresh insight into those difficult texts in Ephesians 5:20, and 1 Thessalonians 5:18. The first tells us to be always giving thanks for all things, and the second says we should give thanks in everything.

Our thanksgiving and vocal praise of God in all situations becomes a covering of faith over us. It is a divine law that God honours faith, and our faith allows God to work on our behalf.

Picture an empty wagon beneath the closed trapdoor of a grain silo. Praise and thanksgiving open the door and the wheat fills the wagon as God's love and power fill our circumstances. Hebrews 13:15 indicates a sacrifice, but not a hardship. Rather it is a God-given privilege, given for our benefit, that we should praise God continually.

• Jim Davidson is a Scottish author.

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## A Church ABC

**N**ollamara, WA, is centrally located in the City of Stirling, 7 km north of Perth centre, off Waneroo Road, the major northern arterial road. The suburb was developed as a Housing Commission area during the 1950s, however recent developments have changed the area somewhat. Redevelopment is occurring in the older areas with private and public housing subdivisions to the north.

The Nollamara church membership is drawn from suburbs up to 5 km from the church centre.

Five years ago the numbers attending services led to a building program to enable the church to make effective use of its facilities. Two halls were remodelled to form an L-shaped worship auditorium/multipurpose facility that can accommodate 300 people. The previous chapel still includes the baptistry and has become an activities area. Effective air-conditioning and a sound system were included in the wor-

ship auditorium. Adequate parking is available. An administrative area is located 2 km from the church and includes two studies and offices.

The Nollamara church was established in 1958 with key people including Les Thornhill

and "Soul Purpose" for those 16 and over and "Life Line" for the under 16s—childrens church and two community playgroups run by the church. Basketball is also big.

The Nollamara church over the years has been the staging

and taught for a decade and Shirley trained as a nurse at Fremantle before John entered Woolwich Bible College in 1971. Ministries in Victoria and Tasmania followed, most recently at Howrah. John and Shirley have three children—

Gavin, Robyn and grandchildren remain in Tasmania and their youngest son Brett is in WA.

John has only

been minister at Nollamara for two months and has dreams for the future of the church (not yet even discussed with the elders).

He would like to see a consolidation and unifying of the ministry of the church, the setting of evangelistic and church growth directions and approaches, the consolidation of ministry needs and the building of a ministry team, the possible acquisition of property adjacent to the church for counselling, study and administration, the development of strong financial stewardship based on sound spiritual grounds and broadening and strengthening the eldership.

## Focus on Nollamara

and Jack Stewart. Ray Roberts was the first part-time minister and Jack Bond was the first full-time minister. It was an era of tent missions and large Sunday schools. Strengths of the church over the years have been strong evangelistic and missions emphasis, extensive membership participation in Bethel Bible studies and Girls' and Boys' Brigades.

Services are held at 9 am and 7 pm (6.30 in the winter) with approximately 150 attending the morning service and 90 at night. Activities of the church include a weekly Friendship Centre for seniors, "Women-care", cell groups for adults and youth, two youth groups—

and preparation place for a number of people who have entered the full-time ministry. It has had a strong commitment to mission, giving financial, prayer and care support to those involved in mission ministry. There is an annual missionary convention and a faith missionary offering. For 1990-91 the target is \$32,784.

The church has a strong informal, unheralded grass-roots involvement in caring for others. Its weekly Friendship Centre is very effective and highly respected in the community.

John Morrow is minister at Nollamara. John and his wife Shirley were born in WA. John trained as a primary teacher

## Comment

# What Do We Believe?

by N.G. Aubrey

**C**hurches of Christ have traditionally had an aversion to credal statements—"No creed but Christ, no book but the Bible"—a platitude with a touch of arrogance and considerable ignorance. Those who undertake serious study of the New Testament documents will be aware that the primitive Christian communities made much of credal formulas. But apart from New Testament precedent, it is useful to be able to give account to others of "the things most surely believed among us" in an intelligent and ordered fashion. With this in mind, the Taree, NSW, church

has composed and added the following statement of faith to its constitution. The statement is not exhaustive, but expresses the foundations of belief while allowing room for interpretation. It is submitted to *The Australian Christian* in the belief that other churches of our communion may find it a useful summary of their convictions, and an aid in propagating the faith

### Statement of Faith We believe in:

- God as revealed in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

- Jesus Christ as the fullest revelation of God and the things taught of him in the scriptures.
- The Holy Spirit—his person and work.
- The Church—as the company of believing Christians, local and universal.
- Unity—that all Christians should seek to give visible expression to the unity the Holy Spirit gives, by seeking to worship and work together.
- Restoration—that unity can be achieved only when apostolic teaching and practice are respected and observed.
- Evangelism—that it is the

chief task of the church to evangelise the world and that every individual Christian should bear witness to the gospel as the only answer to our human predicament.

- The Holy Scriptures—their inspiration and vitality.
- Ordinances—that believer's baptism by immersion and a weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper is in accord with apostolic practice.
- Ministry—that ministry is the function of the whole church, though some are gifted for special ministries.

• N.G. Aubrey is the minister at the Taree, NSW, church.

# Celebrating a Centenary of Overseas Mission 1891-1991

1902

## Letter from China.

Many thanks for AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN, which we much appreciate.

We are at last settled in our new house. We are very thankful, and feel that we have at last got a real home...

There is a great deal of sickness at present in Shanghai. Scarlet fever is rampant among the Chinese, and several foreign children have also fallen victims to this dread disease. Diphtheria and smallpox are also very prevalent. But the Lord is our keeper...

The court is back again in Peking, and the Empress Dowager is once more in full power. One of her first official acts was to issue an edict urging the people to give up footbinding. She may indeed have a genuine desire for reform, although most people here think that her edict is but a sop to the ladies of the legations, upon whom she has been lavishing her endearments.

There is a good deal of unrest throughout the country, and there are ugly rumors of an organised rebellion along the Yiangtse Valley. At our missionary prayer-meeting, Timothy Richards said there were persistent rumors that Manchuria, Mongolia and Tibet had been surrendered to Russia, and that the eighteen provinces had

been placed under the protection of that power. He said that if this report was true, China was upon the verge of the greatest cataclysm the world had seen for centuries...

On China New Year's Day we had a good service, which was a striking testimony to the surrounding heathen. It was quite in accordance with Chinese custom to have such a service, as when our people were heathen they invariably went to the city temple to make it all right with his Toaist godship for the delinquencies of the past year. Four of our men gave short addresses on "Hope," "Repentance," "Confession," and "Praise." One prayed that God would have mercy upon "the unnumbered multitude of worshippers on their way to the temples," and who had "lost their way." Yesterday being the first Sunday of the month we held our united service, when our pretty little chapel was crowded. On one side sat the men and on the other the women, all in their holiday attire. At the Lord's supper about fifty sat down. Everything in connection with our work is promising, and by God's blessing this year will be the best in our history. Miss Tonkin is hard at work on the language.

JAS. WARE.

—THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN, 27 MARCH 1902.

**OMB**  
Overseas Mission Board

## Ministry Meditation

◦ A team where the drink waiter rates highly

### The Twelfth Man

by Ray Hawkins

**T**o be chosen in the team is a real thrill but it is diminished somewhat if you are made the twelfth man. There isn't much appeal in being the drink waiter and the odd job boy. Nor are there many accounts involving the team's action in which the twelfth man is highlighted. When the team wins the glory any excitement is lessened by the fact that the twelfth man was just a little better than a spectator.

There is a team however where the twelfth man gets a high rating. The captain of that team has mentioned this in one of his policy statements.

It is recorded in Matthew 20:26 that Jesus said, "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant." That word for "servant" is deacon, a drink-waiter, or in our terms, the twelfth man.

The captain does not equate achievement by "runs scored", or "wickets taken" but how well you have served. This is not an academic exercise for him, as he sets the pace and wears the title with distinction as being the best-ever twelfth man.

This is exemplified in the Gospels and most particularly in John 13. In that section he takes the basin and towel and washes the feet of self-opinionated disciples.

What we have is another expression of the Lord's delight in overturning the value system of the world and revealing the estimation of Heaven on approval.

It is servanthood that is highly regarded, not prominent, prestige or power. In fact it is probably fair to say that only a doulos (slave) has a greater acclaim in heaven than a deacon (servant).

There is a need within the church scene to recapture this truth.

For it is apparent that people are being seduced by power

politics within a pagan outlook on life inherent in our society. The appeal to dominate by various forms of authoritarianism, usually disguised by biblical terms but devoid of biblical humility, is seen on a growing scale. This is a dangerous state of affairs.

One of the most marvellous insights into the true appreciation of ministry is given by the Apostle Paul as his life was coming to its dramatic end.

"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service." (1 Timothy 1:12)

Here Paul mentions what he considers the best "cap" he received for being in the team.

He could have mentioned other "caps" such as foremost missionary, apostle, defender of the faith, pioneer preacher/teacher, but the one he revealed in was drink waiter (deacon). Here is revealed the attitude of the heart that is power from a human perspective on successful ministry.

It transforms the meanest task into an offering fit for the master and prevents self-pity and negativism from being spawned in the heart.

To the mind of the world and the heart of a carnal believer there is very little that attracts to the role of being a twelfth man.

They long for the power and the glory, which is fickle and fades as soon as it is bestowed. To those with the mind of Christ there is no greater honour that to know that they have been invested with the uniform of a servant.

The "cap" of the twelfth man is to be worn with honour, and for the praise of the one who has called the person to the team.

◦ Ray Hawkins is minister at the Maitland, NSW, church.

## Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

**Barry, Alma Caroline** (27.11.90) Alma died at her home in Ashtonfield, aged 68 years. With her husband Jack, she was converted in 1959 at Cardiff, NSW, church. Involved in Sunday School and CWF, many would remember her best through her hospitality—her home was always open to visitors. Along with Jack she served voluntarily at Newcastle City Mission for nine years, mostly working seven days a week and long hours, particularly when Jack was Superintendent. Alma had a real concern for the homeless men and Aboriginal folk, some of whom found refuge in her own home. In 1982 Alma and Jack moved to Maitland and became involved with the church, Friendship Group and the Greenhills Retirement Village, where she endeared herself to many

of the residents. Alma and Jack had five children and 15 grandchildren.

**Gericke, Hartley Clarence William** (29.1.91) Born 17.10.09 at Terowie. Moved to Naracoorte, SA, district in the early 1930s and established a carrying and top-dressing business. Joined the Church of Christ in 1951, serving as deacon and assistant treasurer, contributing greatly to the relocation of the church in 1966, and in many other ways a faithful worker for Christ over 40 years. He was a keen Rotarian and host to many Rotary foreign exchange students and a generous contributor to many community facilities in Naracoorte. Through difficulties, including bereavement and illness, his faith in God was supreme, making him a man of courage, dignity and hope to all who knew him and one whose presence among us is greatly missed. —Grant Simpson

## Church News

### ACT

**LYONS** (Kevin Caulton) Kevin involved in WCC Assembly co-ordinating services for disabled ... Lyons' liturgical dance group with Christine Busch as soloist participated in worship time at Assembly ... Sunday evening services featuring John West with series on Jesus' death & resurrection ... Craig Hawkins farewelled after completion of university course ... Angela Ede & Nick Maillakakis also farewelled as they depart for WA ... Church prayer diary recently published.

**BELCONNEN** (Paul and Heather Potter) Church celebrated 17th anniversary, 212 present, including visitors from local Anglican & Uniting churches & WCC Assembly from Australia, overseas ... Elders met with elders from East Belconnen Uniting to discuss possible areas of co-operation ... Evening services involve large number of youth, young adults ... New study commenced for post-Year 12 group ... Church theme "Year of Community" ... Church family camp held under canvas.

### Tas

**MIDWAY POINT** (Craig Humphris) Craig & Carolyn Humphris commenced ministry 14 January ... Induction service held 3 February led by Jeff Weston & Graeme Hush ... A midweek Bible study & prayer group has begun ... Building of church premises is continuing to progress & is almost to lock-up stage ... Church preparing for outreach service on Maundy Thursday.

**LAUNCESTON** (D. Foster, C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) Janet Kerrison showed audio-visual on PNG work at CWF ... World Day of Prayer held in our church on 1 March ... "Mingles" family outing at "Hollybank" & New Gene visited Southern Cross TV station ... Play areas for children being developed at rear of church ... Wilma Dubbeld has left for six-month visit to family in Scotland ... Three young people made decisions recently.



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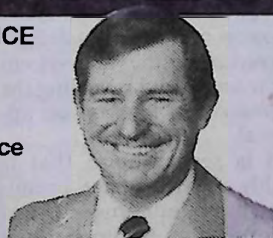
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# Personal

## Baptisms

•Melanie Dicker, Hurstville, NSW  
 •Alec Burden, Lorna O'Connell, Victor Harbor, SA •Miriam Whitten, Happy Valley, SA •David & Debbie Gould, Paul & Khia King, Suzanne Joyce, Martin King, Kalgoorlie, WA •Fumiyo Kanai, Sumio Kanai, Kedron, Qld •Kylie Bradburn, Robert Cumine, David & Felicity Menzies, Marianne Petrusma, Christopher Smith, Carolyn Webster, Kristy Robertson, Howrah, Tas •Jane Anakotta, Kara Reeves, Michelle Wallace, Glen Waverley, Vic •Mrs Fran Deakin, Michael Murray, Samantha Burton-Jones, Jason Stawiariski, Catherine Sutcliffe, Sharon Vicars, Mildura, Vic •Isla Bellotti, Stephanie Stutley, Aaron Dimer, Shondelle Dimer, Carnarvon, WA •Julie-Ann McMannus, Paul Carr, Port Lincoln, SA •Michael Braithwaite, Shane Churchland, Jay Hart, Jonathan Hodgson, John & Rebecca Lillyman, Vicky Lloyd, Kirsty McKie, Rick Mead, Luke Meterall, Robert Nelson, Thomas Norton, Penny Sabudan, Sue Valstar, Thornleigh, NSW •Marian Hardy, Seven Hills, NSW •Phyllis Kozman, Rosemary Amos, Stephen Best, Trevor Vehrey, Bowral, NSW •Chris Rothwell, Launceston, Tas •Zhou Hong Da, Lyons, ACT •Sophie Kerdel, Lionel Jacobs, Sue Jacobs, Jacki Jacobs, Emily McNair, Ben McNair, Kimberly Francis, Warwick Deck, Tim Hull, Heather MacDonald, Tuggeranong, ACT •Joan Pepper, Lisa Karli, Scarborough, WA

## Marriages

•Rosalind Watkin to Rocky Cameron, South Tamworth, NSW  
 •Anita Fleming to Paul Barber, Kalgoorlie, WA •Stephanie Joy

Palmer to Kieron Peter Jarvis, Kedron, Qld •Samantha Burton-Jones to Richard Waters, Mildura, Vic •Licia Goodger to Gary Purdie, Murray Bridge, SA •Mrs Elsie Smith to Max Sawley, Port Lincoln, SA •Kaylyn Winch to Clyde Roe, Thornleigh, NSW •Jenny Dacey to Kevin Bowles, Albion, Qld •Karen Combridge to Greg Peters, Lyons, ACT •Robyn Bradley to Darren Powell, Scarborough, WA

## Deaths

•Rose Tuckwell, Victor Harbor, SA  
 •Mrs Iris Whittaker, Ormond, Vic

## Changes

Queensland Conference: New telephone numbers—

Queensland Conference Office:  
 (07) 378 4600

Department Of Church Development and Education:  
 (07) 378 1988

Kenmore Christian College:  
 (07) 378 7633

Social Service Department:  
 (07) 378 0400 (unchanged)

Brighton: Minister—Alan Fletcher, 52 Male Street, Brighton, Vic 3186. Phone (03) 592 1531.

Midway Point: Minister—Craig and Carolyn Humphris, 3/11-13 Karachi Street, Midway Point, Tas 7171. Phone (002) 65 2376

Maitland: All correspondence to PO Box 88, East Maitland, NSW 2323. Minister—Ray Hawkins, Secretary—Gail Johnston

Murray Bridge: Minister—M. Munyard, 18 Florence Street, Murray Bridge, SA 5253. Phone (085) 32 5804

Nollamara: Minister—J.D. Morrow, 80 Harrison Street, Nollamara, WA 6061. Phone (09) 249 4611

## Maryborough, Queensland, Centenary

The Church of Christ, Maryborough, Qld, will celebrate its centenary in 1992. An invitation is extended to all former ministers and members of Maryborough church to share in this special year with the present membership.

To assist us in our planning, would you please forward, to the address below, your name and address if you would like detailed information of the events planned for 1992. The main celebration will take place during the June holiday weekend in Queensland. If you know of anyone else who may not see this notice, would you also forward their name and address to:

The Centenary Committee  
 Maryborough Church of Christ  
 569 Kent Street  
 Maryborough 4650

We require your names not later than 31 July 1991.

## Wanted—Pastor Normanton Christian Centre (Far North Queensland)

### Churches of Christ in Queensland Aborigines and Islanders Christian Fellowship (QAICF)

#### Requirements:

- Minister—Pastor—Teacher (full church and community program)
- Able to work in cross-cultural situation (majority of population Aboriginal)
- Administrative skills

For further information please contact:

QAICF  
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 Phone (07) 848 9466

Acting on behalf of and in association with the Normanton church

Applications should be received by 30 April 1991

## Padstow Church of Christ

is accepting enquiries for the position of  
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(to commence 1992)

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Mr D. Polyblank  
 34 Walsh Close  
 Illawong 2234

Phone (02) 543 5601

Outline your theological qualifications and ministry experience.

The church has over 80 members and is looking toward continued growth.

## 1992 Calendar Photographs Wanted!

The Federal Literature Department invites readers to forward colour transparencies or slides for possible inclusion in the very popular Churches of Christ calendar.

Photographs are needed from all states and territories of Australia and from PNG and Vanuatu.

Please forward slides to  
 Mrs E.M. Rankine,  
 5 Atkins Avenue, Glen Iris 3146,  
 by 4 April 1991.

Criteria for selection includes photographic excellence, variety of subject matter and the church year.



# Church News

## Vic

### BURWOOD (Peter Wing-Tang)

Board experienced productive time at annual retreat ... 19 young people plus leaders attended successful camp at Launching Place ... CWF held delightful Christmas banquet with items from church members ... Great carol service held 23 December with Korean Church participating & Brian Jacques compere ... Graeme Lakeman appointed deacon ... Church congratulates former member John Sutton Jnr on appointment as first full-time minister at Rowville.

**MAIDSTONE (Wes Rodgers)** At Christmas shared services with Tottenham Baptists ... Special children's breakup ... CWF, LBS, P/BS & Children's Club have resumed regular meetings ... Gift sent to Rockhampton church for flood relief ... Baby Samantha Cooper dedicated ... Well-attended half yearly meeting ... Wes invited for further five years ... Sympathy extended to Hounsell family on homecall of Albert.

**CROYDON (Martin Burgess)** Bill & Joan Green new managers of Tarralla Village ... Number of new families attending is encouraging ... Junior Church meeting during worship with teachers on rotating roster ... Fred Morris & Brad Ferguson helping with Explorers ... Board challenged to plan for growth. Martin shared insights from Woolongong seminar at planning meeting ... Opportunity Shop takings increasing.

**ORMOND (G. Stibbe, M. Adamson)** Combined Ormond churches held Christmas carol service ... Donations from church members to COCOA in excess of \$1,050 ... Bethany Nursery School now more comfortable & has new equipment ... Michael & Melissa Adamson holidaying in Indonesia ... Gearing for fair 23 March ... Attendance at evening services good ... Barbecue held at manse before gospel service ... Bethany Close project commenced ... Harold Bean hospitalised at Box Hill.

**ECHUCA (A. Symes)** Cell worship groups finished the year very well. Opening our Lord's word to many ... The church looks to 1991, the first of the second century of faith at Echuca ... Annual meeting saw us with our minister accepting a further term ... Echuca's outreach now is to seek the Lord's help in this with the Aborigines. Prayers would be very acceptable.

**DAWSON ST, BALLARAT** (Stephen Templeton, Tracey Wickham) Church continues to grow, with growth taking place in

both morning & evening services

... Every week is proving to be an exciting week of worship with new people attending & new talent being used. Church spirits are high as it waits to see what God is going to do next ... Young people took service at Ararat on 24 February. **MILDURA (David Ratten, Doug Clark, Neale Meredith)** Third annual gospel celebration held in Mildura Amphitheatre on 27 January. 280 attended ... am worship services averaging 200+ ... Youth Leadership Training weekend led by Andrew Ball (DMED) & included a Youth Specialties Seminar led by Andrew Ball & Neale Meredith (Mildura internship minister) ... Assistant minister, Doug Clark, spent three weeks of intensive ministry training at CCTC ... 15 invited to recent New Attenders Dinner.

**BENTLEIGH (A. McMillan, D. Rees, N. Hall)** Concerned members met for prayer & Bible study during holidays ... Helen Hall, CWF President, spoke at meeting, also at World Day of Prayer. We were hosts for first time for 20 years ... Membership supports Caulfield evening meetings, also Brotherhood gatherings ... Local speakers during holidays ... Enjoying preaching of David Rees & Norma Hall ... Ladies very active with sewing & knitting also food parcels.

**OAKLEIGH (J. Edwards)** AGM held 3 March. Andrew Brown re-elected secretary & Alison Walpole treasurer ... Working bee brightened church & grounds ... Charity Day at Chadstone raised \$1,417 ... Church looking to advance with Jack Edwards ... CWF honoured Cath Maydom for 18 years as secretary & president. Presentations made by Sylvia Weir, Betty Gillespie & Dorothy Nash at special function.

**GREENSBOROUGH (G. Warren)** George Warren & church members participated in local SUFM Klomp Club ... Members also participated in BBC Songs of Praise taping at Myer Music Bowl ... Social events include beach party held at Shoreham, car rally organised by Kevin Pye & Philip Adams ending at Sugarloaf Reservoir with barbecue, T-group selling hamburgers for lunch after morning service ... Creche for 0-3 year olds available during services.

**THE PATCH (Mike Folland)** Mike Folland interviewed Dr Paul Crow who visited with wife & Patty Case ... World Day of Prayer supported at Kallista ... Educational group for 1991, Jan-June, led by Mike Folland ... 3 March Brian White addressed anniversary. Mrs White & visitors welcomed. 125 present. Luncheon

served ... Geof & Kendra Caldwell welcomed. Church witnessed dedication of baby Breeanna ... Commissioning service at Camp Waterman for Paul & Linda Fry & Geof & Kendra Caldwell.

**REDCLIFFS (G.R. Sharrad)** World Day of Prayer held in our church, Mrs Sharrad leader & speaker. As Kenya did program this year, added interest was a big display of Kenyan crafts & goods ... Kids Club continues to be well attended ... CWF first meeting for year on 14 March. Three members were honoured for their birthdays.

**ESSENDON (Ken Stottard)** Successful Christmas Carol service. Past members joined celebration ... Church in good heart. Bible study, Friendship Group & CWF well attended ... 5 March 34 journeyed to Indented Heads home of Doug & Noreen Harrison for picnic as well as delayed golden wedding anniversary ... Manse renovations begun with church dinners proving good fund raisers ... Elder Neil Hutton celebrated 80th birthday at after-church cuppa 24 February.

**BOX HILL (Peter Hunt, Jim Longbottom, Martina Osswald)** Church has sense of excitement and expectation as Easter approaches ... We mourn the death of Dorrie Sandells ... Will Wigney home from hospital after fall ... Trial rotation of evening service formats working well ... Young Adults group presented innovative evening service based on study and drama on "The Armour of God" ... Peter Hunt preached first sermon. Younger youth groups involved in service

## SA

**VICTOR HARBOR (R. Patterson)** Church garage sale raised \$2,222 towards adjoining property ... Dedication service held for Aaron & Brad Turner ... Wayne Carslake rededicated his life to Christ ... CYF & Sunday School leaders met with Jim Keatch ... Mike & Lyn Leane spoke on serving in Nepal with Interserve ... Sunday School presentation service featured Leigh Newton as speaker ... Friendship Centre held garden party.

**HAPPY VALLEY (Russell Allison)** Earle Martin speaker while Russell on leave ... Miriam Whitten baptised ... 12th anniversary celebrated with shared lunch after service on 10 February ... Home fellowship group attendance encouraging ... Des Riessen appointed Sunday School Superintendent ... Flagstaff Hill Scout group held church parade ... Rock Ministry held training day ... Baby dedications for Mitchell

Browne & Kimberley Jones. **MURRAY BRIDGE (Morrie Munyard)** Ron Roberts, State Minister, led induction ... Munyards settling in well, interested, encouraging all aspects church life ... "Action Stations" doubled numbers in three weeks! Church supportive ... Denis Fisk interviewed evening service about basketball witness Philipines ... Harvest Thanksgiving assisted OARS & church homes ... Jeff Parker healing well after boating accident ... Friendship enjoyed riverside picnic ... Church on main road to Melbourne. Visitors warmly welcome.

**MATILDA ST, PORT LINCOLN (Jim Spiker)** Average church attendances increased to 35 ... Julie-Ann McMannus & Paul Carr have made their decision to follow Christ. Cheryl Sherry & Carmel McMannus made their commitments at the same worship service ... Elsie & Max Sawley, recently married by Jim Spiker, have joined our church family. Elsie is from Melbourne ... Minister Jim Spiker is recovering from recent major ear surgery ... Monthly barbecues provide wonderful family fellowship.

## QLD

**KEDRON (Noel Baxter)** In November we were happy to welcome a beautiful Japanese family. After doing Christianity Explained with minister Noel Baxter, the mother & father, Fumiyo & Sumio gave their lives to Christ. They were baptised 3 March. Unfortunately they have to return to Japan. They will be sadly missed as we had grown to love them very much in their time with us.

**ALBION (Peter Overton)** Peter Overton conducted a memorial service for the men of HMAS *Yarra*, sunk in 1942. Three of the 13 survivors attended ... An ethnic group is meeting in the church hall for Christian worship on most Saturday evenings ... Roger Joy (Australian Army) who served with the US 18th Airborne Division in Saudi Arabia & Iraq has rejoined his family in the US.



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## Church News

### WA

**KALGOORLIE** (L.D. Gibb) Glenn, TerriAnne Rogers & Andrew Kinney returned to Garden City School of Ministries, Brisbane ... Garry Powell entered Tabor College, Adelaide & Richard Reid has gone to work with Jacki Pullinger in Hong Kong ... David Pyne, Conference President, & musical "Friends" from Mildura visited January ... Church board held day retreat on theme "How can I best serve this church in 1991 in my role as..."

**CARNARVON** (Donald Bone) Pahula & Enid Maea travelled from Queensland to join staff of Olive Laird Hostel ... Heather Miller, missionary in Naga, Philippines, shared with youth group, ladies' meeting & Sunday services ... CWF meeting with theme "Beginnings" was led by Criss Jones & Hilda Dimer was speaker ... Junior youth group formed to meet needs of growing numbers ... Special speaker Jeff Littlefair, studying at Adelaide College of Ministry.

**SCARBOROUGH** (Nigel Merrick) Instead of AGMs we now have "Cele-vision", celebrating the blessings of 1990 & catching a vision of what 1991 holds ... "Evangelism Explosion" course underway, also "School of Discovery" ... Sermons on Olivet discourse ... Sheila Merridith ministered with the Genesis team to the Masai people of Kenya ... "Caught in Time" Leprosy Mission film screened.

### NSW

**HURSTVILLE** (Bob & Marilyn Smith) Len McNally completed his official ministry 31.12.90 but continued an interim ministry until 31.1.91. We were greatly blessed by his ministry & thanksgiving lunch held on 27 January. Len, Anne & family staying in membership at Hurstville ... Melanie Dicker baptised on 27 January ... Induction service held for new ministry team of Bob & Marilyn Smith on 3 Feb.

**SOUTH TAMWORTH** (Graeme Barnett) We have been blessed with answered prayer by arrival of Graeme Barnett, Anne & family. Graeme's ministry began 2 February with Colin Bowser officiating at induction service & gave challenge of the gospel to all ... Teenage work has begun with 11 on the first night. The other youth clubs are well attended & the purchase of a bus helps greatly with this work.

**TWEED HEADS** (Richard Oakes, Guy Cooper) Roger Bawden speaker for Mission Sunday February. Offering for support link missionaries, Lyall & Jill Muller, Vanu-

atu ... Because of increasing numbers church experimenting by meeting in Civic Centre for morning worship for some months ... Three young people in Japan as exchange students ... Loved church elder, Kel Thompson, home after major surgery in Brisbane ... All groups made good start in 1991.

**TAREE** (N.G. Aubrey) Pastor, Neville Aubrey, has resigned as from the end of the year ... Church was host for Taree district on 1 March for World Day of Prayer. 120 women present. Leader, Win Murray, assisted by several other women. Wife of federal member, Mrs Bruce

Cowan, present, also Miss Wendy Machin, state member, who took part in service. Following service lunch served in Fellowship Centre ... Henderson family transferred. We will miss them.

**SEVEN HILLS** (T.J. Beaman) Dedication service for Mitchell Hook (five months), grandson of Ros Bell, 24 February. Attendance 45 ... Ron Hewitt, DCDE Director, spoke 10 March. 1991 student Neil Dickinson welcomed. Doug Harrop, Pendle Hill, guest president. Attendance 50. After-church dinner held to welcome Neil & family ... Number of folk sick: Deanne Van Twest,

Joyce Weyman, Wally Malas, Matilde Grunero, Cynthia Smith ... Minister Tom Beaman spent week in Westmead Hospital having pacemaker implanted.

**THORNLEIGH** (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley) Over 200 shared in the final pm service in the chapel at Thornleigh during which four young people were baptised by Stuart Wesley. Franklyn Elliott was the preacher on 3 March ... The first pm service at the Pennant Hills Community Centre on 10 March was well attended ... A number shared in a church picnic after am service on 10 March.

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## Easter Reflections

# The Blank Bubble

by Angelica Mason

Some years ago, Good Friday happened to fall on 1 April, otherwise known as April Fool's Day. At the time I was attending Monash University, an institution this country looks to for knowledge and wisdom.

We used to have a student-produced newspaper that was published weekly. This particular pre-Easter week the newspaper came out with a full-page colour cartoon on the back. The cartoon depicted a grotesque image of Jesus on the cross with the caption underneath: "April Fool".

When I saw it, I felt a stab of pain in my heart. However, as usual, the devil overplayed his hand and God used the situation for the good. Included in the cartoon was a blank bubble pointing to Jesus. The

reader was invited to fill in the caption, send it back to the editor, and the most popular caption was to be displayed for all to see.

The Christians on campus wasted no time. Many, many of the cartoons were sent back to the editor and pinned up around the campus. The words in the caption bubble had already been spoken by Jesus himself: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-30

• Angelica Mason is a member of the Noble Park-Keysborough, Vic, church. This meditation was originally used when presiding at communion.

## Lord Help Us

Dear Lord,  
Please help us to lift the silver papershroud,  
To open the chocolate-coated curtains  
That hide the true meaning of this time.  
Help us to look through the fluffy white  
rabbit  
That blankets the cross.  
Lord help us, please.  
Did Jesus die so long ago  
So that we may feast on chocolate and  
cake?  
Did he give his life on the hard wooden  
cross  
Just so we could enjoy a holiday with our  
families?

Did he die so horribly  
So that greedy shopkeepers could reap  
cheap wealth?  
Please help us Lord,  
To lift our eyes from the ground  
And its many empty gifts,  
Help us gaze towards heaven  
Aid us in the fight against lies.  
Teach us to view the cross and its true  
meaning.  
For Lord, it is the entrance gate to life  
And the only way to you.  
Amen.

—R.N. Stephenson (Adelaide, SA)

# The Last Word

If you quit loving the moment it becomes difficult, you never discover compassion.

—David Augsburg

*These qualifications of a minister were found listed in a foyer of a church in London, England.*

The strength of an ox.  
The tenacity of a bulldog.  
The daring of a lion.  
The patience of a donkey.  
The industry of a beaver.  
The versatility of a chameleon.  
The vision of an eagle.  
The meekness of a lamb.  
The hide of a rhinoceros.  
The disposition of an angel.  
The resignation of an incurable.  
The loyalty of an apostle.  
The heroism of a martyr.  
The faithfulness of a prophet.  
The tenderness of a shepherd.  
The fervency of an evangelist.  
The devotion of a mother.

★★★★★

When the lawyer's stereo stopped working, the lawyer called in a repairer, who simply replaced a fuse. The stereo then worked perfectly.

"That'll be \$75," said the repairer.

"What?" exclaimed the lawyer. "Even I don't charge that much!"

"No," said the repairer, "neither did I when I was a lawyer!"

★★★★★

Harold Howe, former US Commissioner of Education, addressing the National Audio-Visual Association: "In one of the most famous and fateful incidents in the Bible, the Lord summoned Moses to the top of Mount Sinai. There he appeared to Moses in the form of a fiery cloud, and there—to the appropriate accompaniment of thunder and lightning—he presented Moses with the Ten Commandments. That, so far as I know, is the earliest recorded use of audio-visual techniques for mass education."

★★★★★



Oh good. Another volunteer.

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