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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Easter 1991

*A march of witness
demonstrates the real
meaning of Easter in
Sydney as in other cities
around Australia for
"Easter '91"—
"An Aussie Awakening"*

*—more details of Easter
events on pages 14–15*



Hospice

—page 2



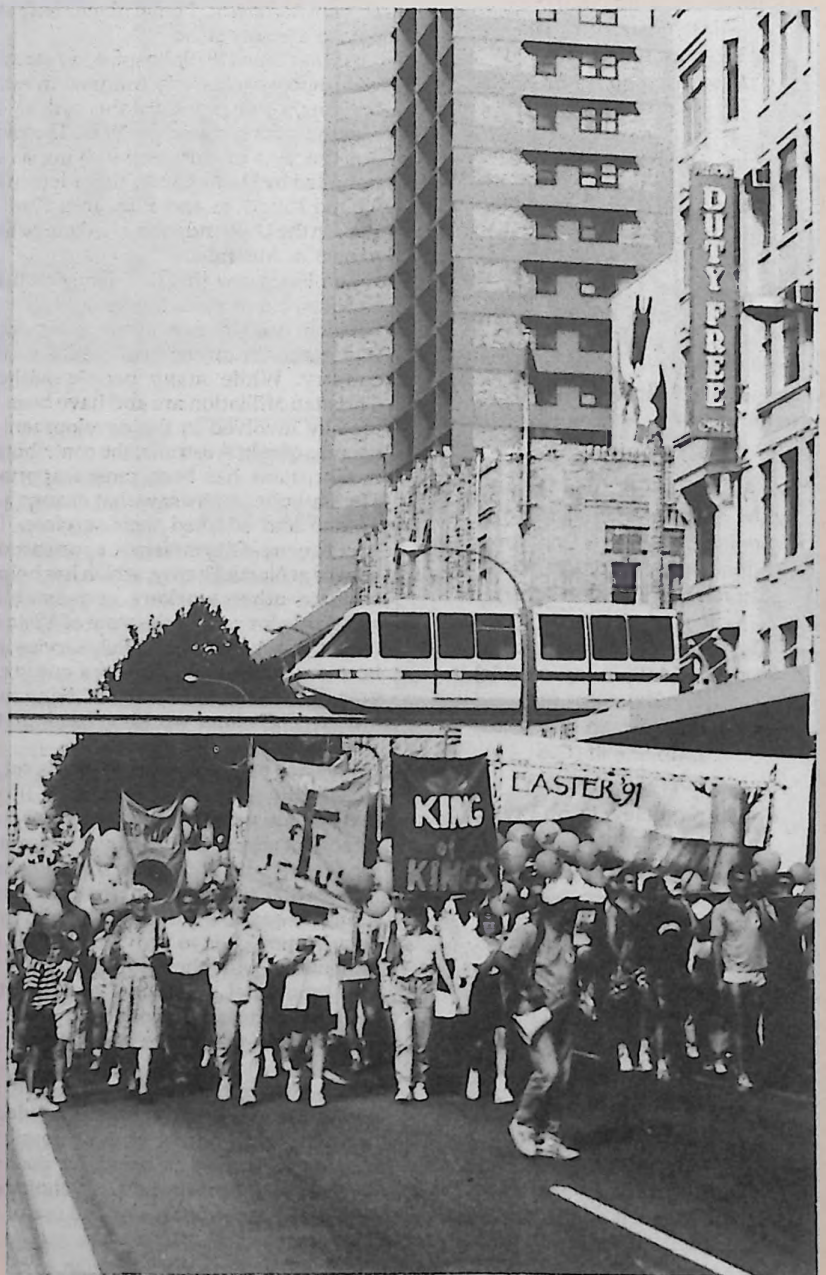
Focus on Pine Rivers

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A College in Need— Learning from History

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Guest Editorial

The aim of a hospice service is to provide care for the patient that will relieve physical, spiritual and emotional symptoms and to offer support to the family both during the patient's illness and in the bereavement period

Hospice

by Trevor Banks

When John Paver was chaplain at the Peter McCallum Clinic, Melbourne, he recommended I should read Sandal Stoddart's book *The Hospice Movement*. I have given that same advice to many since.

At that time (1979) hospice in Australia was almost exclusively confined to establishments run by Catholic orders for nursing care of dying patients. The modern concepts of care of the dying as expounded by Dame Cicely Saunders in the United Kingdom and Elizabeth Kubler-Ross in the USA and others had made little impact in Australia.

The 1980s saw that deficiency rectified and hospice or palliative care (the terms are often used interchangeably) is now an important feature of health care in this country. While many people without Christian affiliation are and have been integrally involved in the development of hospice care in Australia, the contribution of Christians has been most important. The Catholic orders saw that change was needed and adapted their services. The Melbourne Citymission sponsored a service at North Fitzroy, which has helped educate other workers and establish standards for care in the state of Victoria. (Since this was written this service has been forced to close due to a cutting in government funds.) There are many individual Christians working hard in the various services that now exist.

Hospice palliative care service is set up specifically to care for terminally ill patients. This means those patients where treatment aimed at curing the disease is no longer available and the person concerned is not expected to live more than a few months—say six months. The aim of a hospice service is to provide care for the patient that will relieve physical, spiritual and emotional symptoms and to offer support to the family both during the patient's illness and in the bereavement period.

The twin pillars of hospice care are medical care, using the latest knowledge on symptom control and professional nursing care. This is aided by pastoral care, bereavement support, psychological support as appropriate and the use of lay

volunteers in various tasks. The hospice movement has addressed multiple needs in both health care and society. It has taken the dying from the backroom of the hospital ward.

Hospice affirms that dying people and their families are important. A dying person needs to know he or she is wanted. For this reason many hospices offer domiciliary programs enabling people to die in their own homes, if they wish, surrounded by their own paraphernalia of living. In the same way a bereaved person needs to be supported, not avoided or ignored as so often happens.

It is for this reason that hospice is interested in education. Education first of all about terminal illness, especially cancer, so that patients and families can know something of what to expect. Also education of the public is important, so that we can handle serious illness and death amongst family members and friends.

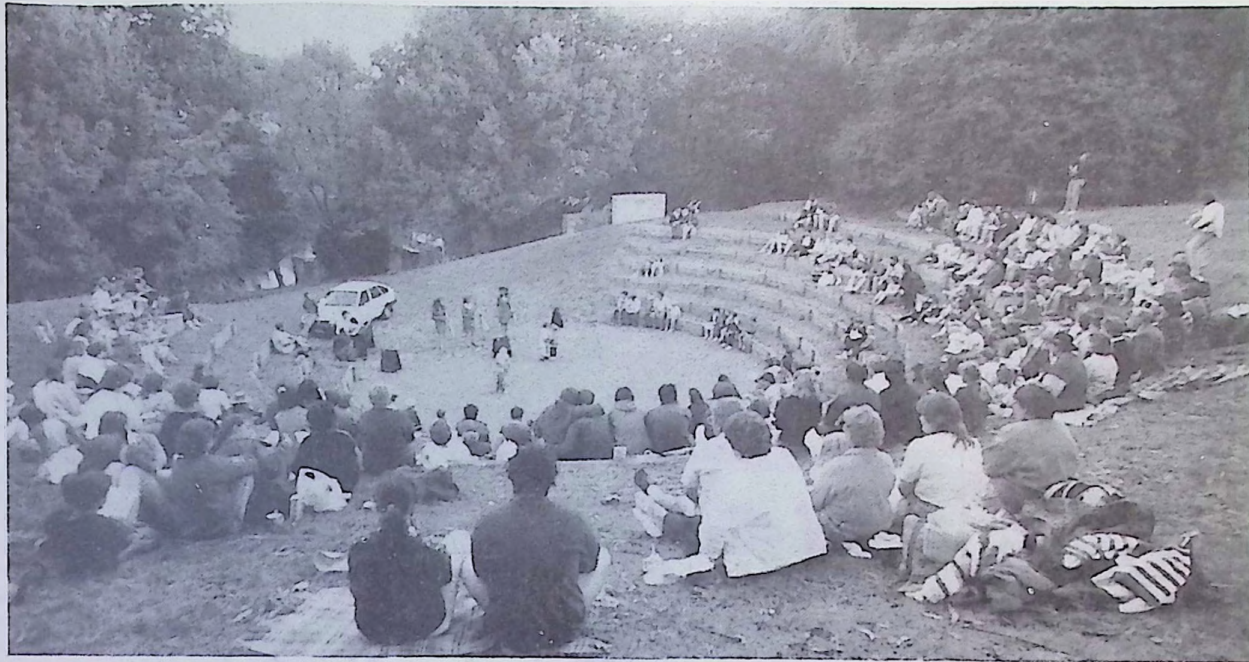
Professional education is also needed. Doctors, nurses, clergy and counsellors need education in care of the dying. At the same time those professionals need to be supported in their caring tasks. Teamwork is an important hospice concept which offers support.

It is good that the church has contributed so much to this important ministry. The church needs to do more. We serve a risen Lord, who has removed the sting of death. Some Christians act as if they still fear death. When I hear people of no faith say quite honestly that they have no fear of being dead, but only the process of dying, I am forced to reflect on Christians who are unable to be so accepting. One of the roles of hospice is to take the fear out of dying. One role of Christian faith is to replace fear with hope. Hospice has enabled me to both express Christian faith and offer support and hope to dying people.

• Trevor Banks is a medical practitioner and is a member of the Belmont, Vic, church. He is employed in hospice palliative care work through the Regional Palliative Care Program in the Western District of Victoria. Trevor is chairman of the Federal Department of Christian Union and moderator of the Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council.

• Puffing Billy journey

Berwick's Annual Pilgrimage to the Dandenongs



The service at the Emerald Lake Park amphitheatre

Once again the members of the Berwick Regional, Vic, church met at the Belgrave Railway Station to board the "Relocation Express", alias Puffing Billy, bound for Emerald. They were also joined by some members from Beaconsfield Baptist

Church and Nunawading Church of Christ.

Anyone who has been on this train knows of the delightful experience of travelling through the peaceful Dandenong Ranges. On arrival at Emerald people were free to enjoy the water slide, paddle boats and walks. At tea time they all gathered at the amphitheatre where Ruth and Ken Baensch and helpers had prepared a spit roast and salads, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

The service that followed was led by Berwick's senior minister Tim Hanna and the guest artists were the group "Yurana" from the Cheltenham, Vic, church.

Prior to returning home, tea, coffee and cake were served. The return journey was quite an experience travelling by moonlight through the hills. A happy tired group of children and adults arrived at Belgrave station all agreeing that it was a wonderful time of fellowship and fun spent together.

—Lesley Fletcher

• Festival variety

Music at Brunswick

The Brunswick City Council in Melbourne, Vic, in recent years has been promoting music as one of the cultural activities of the city. For several years a Brunswick Music Festival has been organised and the city has the distinction of owning its own recording label—probably unique in Australia.

The Brunswick Church of Christ is a small church (average attendance just over 20, with an average age of at least 70) that is attempting to relate to its community. As part of that identification the church has organised for the past three years a night of Christian music as part of the Brunswick Musical Festival and included in the festival program.

The most recent was held was held on 24 March. 60-70 enjoyed an evening's program that included a wide variety of musical styles. The main group featured were "Ecllosion", who

are a four-piece contemporary rock band that is aiming at outreach to youth in the Lilydale/Croydon and eastern suburbs area of Melbourne. They were supported by Roy Neuendorf, a baritone who sang traditional hymns and negro spirituals (Roy is on the administrative staff of the Strathalan Baptist Home for the Aged), and Robert White, a guitarist and singer who attends the Swanston St Church of Christ.

Other entertainers on the program were Keith and Chris Wilson, who play a keyboard and saxophone in a jazz style. They were joined on some numbers by Glenys Bust who supplied vocals. They all attend the Hoppers Crossing Uniting Church.

The musical styles were different but the aim of all the musicians was quite apparent: to praise God.

1990 Index

The 1990 index of *The Australian Christian* has been prepared and posted to those subscribers who have asked for copies in past years. Other subscribers who would like to receive a free copy of the index should contact the "AC" office, PO Box 101, North Essendon 3041, or phone (03) 379 1219.

Correction

In the 13 April issue of *The Australian Christian* we carried an "In Memoriam" notice for George Atwell. Due to a misunderstanding of phone messages his death was recorded as being on 8.11.83. He in fact died on 11 April 1983. We wish to correct this with our readers.

• Planning for growth

New Era for Noarlunga Centre

A new era is dawning at the Noarlunga Centre, SA, church. Situated on the beachfront in the fast-growing southern suburbs of Adelaide, the church is expecting a boom—and it is preparing for it.

The Noarlunga Council area is the fastest growing area in Adelaide. It expects to increase its current residency level of 80,000 to 120,000 within 10 years.

The church is located right in the middle of the area and it, too, is experiencing tremendous growth. Membership has grown by 70% in the past five years to a current level of over 300 members.

It is also a time of change. In November 1990, Morrie Munyard concluded a 14-year ministry at the church. Replacing him as senior minister was Ross Pelling from Pendle Hill, NSW, with support from Graham Mann in a 12-month interim ministry.

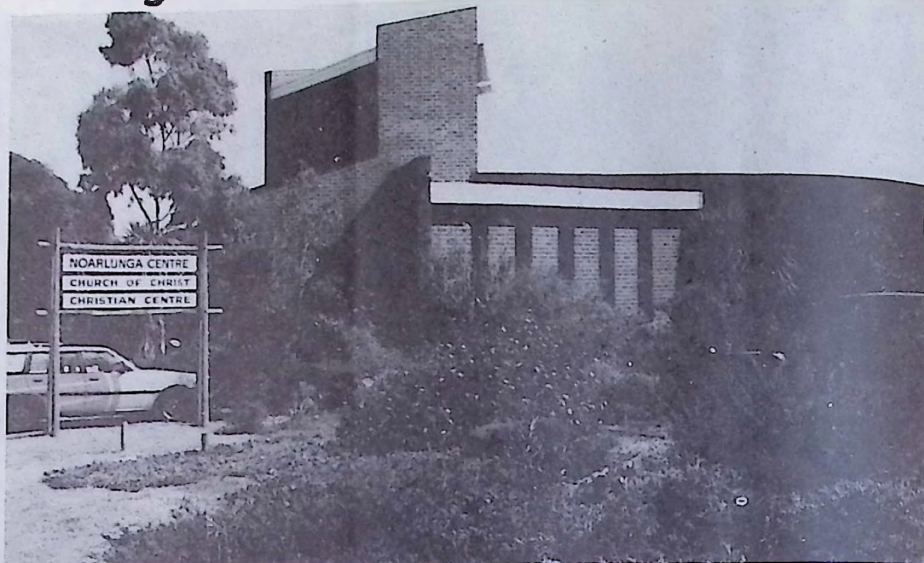
Ross Pelling said the potential for the church was "enormous".

"I think this church has a marvellous opportunity to effectively reach out to the growing community. The church is primed to meet that need. But now is the time for us to do some forward planning.

"The next five years are critical, sorting out ministry teams and leadership structures: not for where we are at the moment, but for growth."

The church is acting now. A long-range planning day led by Keith Horne was held in March to establish the directions the church would be heading in. Concrete goals would be set from there.

Although relatively young



Noarlunga Centre church

(only 27 years old) the church is ready to tackle the "population explosion" head on. It is looking to develop a full-time ministry team of three ministers by January 1992 to cope with the increase.

The church also has an excellent outreach into the community through its welfare department.



Ross Pelling

• New subcommittee for north of the state

Future Outreach to Victorian Aborigines

In the latter half of 1990, Harold Taylor, in his role as secretary of the Vic-Tas Aborigines Mission Department, conducted a survey of facilities available for worship to Aborigines along the Murray River from Dareton to Albury, NSW. This tour showed there is a need for an extension of outreach in these areas.

To assist with future outreach planning a new subcommittee was formed, The Northern Consultative Subcommittee, comprising one representative from each of the Mooroopna, Shepparton, Echuca, Wodonga and Albury North churches.

The purpose of this subcommittee is to recommend to the department areas to be considered for future outreach. This is a move to broaden the Victorian work in the northern part of Victoria and, if successful, other subcommittees may be formed to cover the north-east, south-west and eastern areas of the state. On 9 February, the subcommittee arranged a meeting at Mooroopna, which

Harold Taylor and Lance Fisher attended as representatives of the Aborigines' Mission Department. Thus the Northern Aboriginal Outreach (Advisory and Supportive Committee) came into being.

This new committee will meet bimonthly at Mooroopna and its aims are to advise and support the churches and the department and to promote and participate in bringing unity of purpose by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A letter is to be sent to all involved churches advising them of the existence of the committee and to find out any needs they may have.

The principles of operation of the committee will be to liaise with and ascertain from Aboriginal Christians their needs and future expectations through the churches, to be involved in public relations regarding church growth, planting, Christian service and stewardship and finally to implement all agreed decisions in the mutual ministry.

—Betty Bantow

Moving to Melbourne?

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

People

◦ *Merv Lawrie*

Citizen of the Year

The District Council of Victor Harbor, SA, presented Merv Lawrie with a plaque at the annual Petticoat Lane Fair honouring him as joint winner of Citizen of the Year.

Merv came to Victor Harbor in 1977 after serving in ministry in South Australia and Victoria since 1930.

He serves the community as honorary chaplain at the hospital, holding services at two nursing homes, and is active in the local church as elder, leading Bible study at times, attending the Friendship Centre, and always encouraging others in their roles, especially taking an interest in young people. He helps with practical needs, such as gardening (he is a keen gardener himself) and is a great supporter of community events. He preaches at Mt Compass regularly, and is well respected and loved in the community in general and the church.

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◦ *New Monbulk camp managers*

New Waterman Team Commissioned



Terry McCredden, Dean Phelan (executive committee), Geoff and Kendra Caldwell, Doug Adam and Linda and Paul Fry

Camp Waterman's new management team was commissioned at a special service held in the camp chapel at Monbulk, Vic, on 3 March. The service was led by Doug Adam, the

deputy chairman of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development. David Brooker, chairman of Kidsmin Vic and minister at Surrey Hills, was the preacher.

Commissioned to their new roles as managers were Paul and Linda Fry with Geoff and Kendra Caldwell as assistant managers. Both families are members of The Patch church.

◦ *Jan Christensen*

Farewell from Brisbane to Banmatmat

A small group of friends and colleagues gathered at Brisbane International Airport very early on 17 February to farewell Jan Christensen as she departed

for missionary service at Banmatmat Bible College in Vanuatu. Jan had been a valued member of the Kenmore Christian College faculty for a

number of years and will be greatly missed. The group commended Jan to God in prayer as she embarked on her new venture of service.



Jan Christensen and friends at the airport

The Bible

• Providing Bibles at the lowest possible cost

What's Happening at the World Home Bible League

The World Home Bible League is a Bible printing and distribution organisation that aims to help provide Bibles to individuals at the lowest possible cost. WHBL has been involved in Bible distribution and many special projects and is currently increasingly directing its Bible distribution through local churches. There are theological, practical and logistical reasons for this approach.

The most recent WHBL project was the "To Russia with Love" campaign, which organised the printing of one million Russian New Testaments in Australia and their shipment to the Soviet Union for distribution. The project cost \$1m and the money for that project was almost raised in just seven months. The Russian New Testaments were for distribution outside the Moscow-Leningrad corridor, which is fairly well supplied by other groups. Distribution primarily is through "unregistered churches" with supervision by groups formerly involved in smuggling Bibles into the USSR but now free to operate legally. Steps are being made to ensure that the scriptures are distributed to those who wish to read about God and Jesus and not just stored away. There is a real hunger for God's word in the Soviet Union but the recent rise of conservative forces may block some of the open doors. WHBL receives reports of effective use of the scriptures from this project. One interesting observation was that of an Australian parliamentarian who visited the Soviet Union recently and who saw a prime-time television show called "The Super Book", which includes cartoon stories from the Bible.

Testaments to Brazil

Another project involving WHBL was the supply of over 1.3 million New Testaments to Brazil, a Bicentennial project as

a gift to Brazil by Christians in Australia. It was a part of a world effort to place 25 million copies of the scriptures in Brazil. So far 16 million have been distributed. In addition to the distribution there is a project to teach basic scripture understanding to all schoolchildren over the age of nine for one hour per week for a year.

The distribution program has been very successful, with claims that one in 10 scripture placements has resulted in a commitment to Christ and that 60% of people who have made a tangible conversion to Christ in recent years have made that decision through the distribution and training program.

Cheap New Testaments

The other large program that WHBL was involved in in recent years was the combined scripture distribution program for the Bicentennial. In co-operation with the Bible Society cheap New Testaments were made available to churches for distribution in local communities. Costing just \$1 each, these "Celebration" New Testaments were widely distributed. The print run of 1.3 million copies is claimed to be the biggest print run for one edition of a book in Australian printing history. (The Brazilian scriptures had the same print run.) These "Celebration" New Testaments are still available, at a cost of \$1, in four different covers, and many churches are still using them as an outreach tool. Interestingly WHBL claims a 70% acceptance rate by people who were door-knocked to see if they would like a copy. The experts had predicted an acceptance rate of around 50%.

The World Home Bible League in Australia has agreed to publish any scriptures translated by Australians involved with Wycliffe Bible Translators. To date six scriptures have been published, for Australian Aborigines and for

• Eighteen new translations

The Bible Now Translated into 1,946 Languages

The United Bible Societies has just released the latest **Scripture Language Report**, which shows that the Bible has been translated into 1,946 languages in at least one book. It is estimated there are between 3,000 and 6,000 languages in the world.

Eighteen languages received at least one book of the Bible for the very first time last year. Of these 18 languages, three received complete New Testaments: Ditamari in Benin, Gimira in Ethiopia, and Matal in Cameroon. The latter was published by the International Bible Society.

Complete Bibles were published for the first time in four additional languages: Dusan: Ranau and Kayan, both spoken in Malaysia; Naga: Rongmei (India) and Quichua: Chimborazo (Ecuador). All four were published by Bible Societies. Because these languages already had New Testaments, they are not included in the 18 "new" languages.

Translators with the UBS are currently working in 406 languages in which at least one part of the Bible is being translated for the first time. The UBS is involved in a total of 603 translation projects, some of which are revisions of earlier editions. The excitement of the annual release of these figures

is evident in the words of Dr John D. Erickson, incoming General Secretary of the UBS: "Every year at this time everyone involved in the Bible cause looks forward to the release of these figures because they represent the millions of people who now have, for the first time, the Christian scriptures in their own 'heart' language."

Theoretically, more than 80% of the world's population now have the opportunity to read the Bible or a portion of it in a language they can speak or understand. However, the harsh reality is that such factors as illiteracy, political and social problems, geographical isolation and the difficulty of grasping the meaning in a language that is not a mother tongue are barriers to a full understanding of God's plan of salvation.

The diversity of the Bible Society's work becomes evident as each of these situations is addressed. Helping the illiterate to read, producing scriptures for specific social problems, encouraging distribution into isolated areas and always striving for mother-tongue translations are all aspects of the Bible Society's mandate "to provide the Word of God in a language people can understand and at a price they can afford".

language groups in Papua New Guinea. Often these translations have low print runs that make them uneconomic for many groups to finance.

Material to help people in times of trouble and to various groups in society are also published. The "Friendship Series", which uses scripture readings, photographs and simple explanations, has sold over 500,000 copies in Australia. Steps are being made to Australianise the material and other new material is also being written in Australia.

New Age

WHBL is also developing and printing material about the New Age movement. It has a New Testament specially aimed at looking at the issues raised by this movement, a Bible study booklet relevant to the issues of New Age thinking and a book that examines the issues involved.

Details of material available from the World Home Bible League can be obtained by writing to PO Box 464, Penrith 2751, or by phoning (02) 673 3055.

◦ Trans-Tasman deputation

KCC Team to New Zealand

In mid-March a deputation team departed from Kenmore Christian College for New Zealand to spend three weeks working among Churches of Christ.

The team comprised Graham Warne, Don and Nancy Spencer (accompanied by their children Beth and Caleb), Craig Bossie (second-year student) and Debbi Fulford (recent graduate and a local kiwi!).

The team's primary purpose was the leadership of the Easter camp program at the Bridge Valley Christian Ranch, Nel-

son. However while in the region, they conducted rallies and preaching programs in various churches in Wellington, Nelson and Christchurch.

The Spencer family took the opportunity to spend a few days touring the South Island, and Graham Warne visited Dunedin briefly as part of his program of research into Vanuatu mission history.

The KCC community, in a special time of prayer with the team prior to their departure, covenanted to uphold them in prayer daily.

◦ New move by SLM

US University Agency

Specialised Life-Oriented Ministries Inc, which includes such ministries as Sports and Leisure, Executives, Tourism, Entertainment and Christians in Sport, recently adopted an agreement proposal between SLM and the University of America, based in New Orleans, in which a group of US academics under the leadership of Dr James Benton provide opportunity for higher education for those who are unable to continue their education for financial or on-going career reasons.

In 1984 the group submitted to the State Legislature of Louisiana a proposal to establish "The University of America", whose sole function was to act as an administration base. The legislation permits the university to function as an "off-campus higher education facility" where students may do their work for higher education awards at a location other than on a campus.

The program works with mainstream state university professors who serve as supervisors at agreed contractual financial arrangements. On successful completion of the program, the professor provides a "letter of reference" and the University of America a tran-

script with university seal and a display diploma. The fees are at commercial rates and set depending on the course undertaken. The university offers degrees to PhD level.

Already strong interest has been shown in relation to research dissertation doctoral work by SLM sports chaplains and professional sport personnel. Sydney Kings basketball coach Bob Turner has requested the opportunity to do his long-awaited PhD, on basketball, which he will then have published in book form. The advantage he sees through the University of America is that he is able to do it in his own time, at his own pace and without disruption to his coaching activities.

The Australian agency agreement allows SLM to interview and approve candidates, particularly in research dissertation work where candidates are able to submit their own topics, be it Christian or secular areas of research.

People interested in what the University of America has to offer may contact Dr Mark Tronson, SLM Inc, "The Study", 3 Shelley Road, Wallacia 2745. Phone/Fax (047) 73 8594.

◦ NZ team comes to Australia

Y-One 91 Silent Destroyer Tour



Y-One 91 is big, bright, elaborate and full of surprises. This year with over 10 tonnes of sound and lighting equipment and stage sets, the Y-One 91 team packs a very punchy message, using original drama material, coverage of hot chart songs and original choreography by an amazing dance team.

For the past 10 years Y-One has been touring New Zealand for Youth for Christ, holding programs in high schools during the week and conducting a concert in the local theatre in the weekend.

Last year Y-One came to Australia for the first time for a two-month tour and met with an overwhelming response. They held programs in 54 Sydney high schools to 33,000 students over a five-week period.

Following a large number of requests to return, a new team with a new program that deals with self-esteem and the fact that God sees us as of such great worth that he was prepared to send his Son to die for us has started a tour of Sydney and Melbourne.

Y-One is an interdenominational team of young people aged 17-24 who have been selected from all over New Zealand and who following their year with Y-One will return to the workforce or study.

Their tour commenced on 16 April. Concert rallies will be

held on 4 May at the Christian City Church, Northern Beaches, Sydney, 11 May at Baulkham Hills, 11 May at the Hills Centre, Sutherland, 18 May at Sutherland Entertainment Centre and 24 May at the Bankstown Town Hall.

The team then moves to Melbourne where they will be conducting school programs for four weeks with two rallies (8 and 22 June) in the John Batman Theatre at the World Congress Centre.

Director Jeff Todd commented that the theme of self-esteem is already proving to be incredibly relevant. Many high schools have now introduced special programs to try and build self-esteem in young people. They have lost hope in themselves and the system and are now searching for an identity which Jeff believes can only be found in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

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Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

WCC and Pacifism

To the Editor,

In his article "Pacifism or Justice" ("AC" 23 March), Bruce Anderson said, "...the World Council of Churches has adopted a pacifist position" (on the Gulf War and perhaps any war). That is not so.

The Seventh Assembly's Public Issues Committee prepared a statement on "The Gulf War, the Middle East, and the Threat to World Peace", which was presented to a plenary session. The Assembly first adopted and later rescinded an amendment calling on churches "to give up any theological or moral justification of the use of military power".

The turnabout came as concern was expressed that the action would be misinterpreted as a pacifist position for the Council, and that time did not allow for a thorough debate.

—Ronald Graham
(Johnston, Iowa, USA)

Ministry

To the Editor,

Correspondent Alan Cant ("AC" 13 April) demands a reply. By what spirit is this man thinking? Allow only those with theological training to do a ministry-type job? Acts 8 is clear that the Apostles stayed at Jerusalem, while "they that were scattered abroad everywhere preaching the Word", equals ministry!

Churches of Christ have, from time to time, been subjected to this type of "ecclesiastical snobbery", which is a pity (if not a damning sin), given the successful ministries of many "untrained" men.

On the other side of the ledger, your correspondent well knows the high failure rate of those so theologically trained. Is such failure due to a disbelief in the word of God? Does not he know this? For he should!

The foundation for ministry is "the call of God", and this can by no means whatsoever be equated with so-called

"theological training"! "God is no respecter of persons." (Acts 10:34 and 35)

God bless the churches that have called these "unlearned and ignorant men" (Acts 4:13), and may he grant, repeatedly, evidence of his calling of them in the effectiveness of their ministry. God's blessing is all that matters, whether the servant be "trained" or not.

—L.C. Hughes
(Bayswater, Vic)

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

To the Editor,

I wish to respond to Neil Gilmore's glowing assessment of *A Pastoral Report to the Churches on Sexual Violence against Women and Children of the Church Community* ("AC" 23 March), which concludes that the report is "explicitly Biblical, theological" and "ethical". Let the reader judge for themselves.

The report blames the church for its supposed "complicity in the systematic evil which perpetrates violence" (page 16). The report claims that the church "has both created and endorsed sexist systems, structures and teachings" (page 15) and "through silence and neglect it condones the behaviour of the perpetrator" (page 15).

Worse yet, not only is the church sexist in attitude and behaviour, but so was Jesus Christ! The report claims that Jesus, in speaking to the Canaanite woman (Matthew 15) used "language which may be interpreted as his calling the woman a 'bitch'" (page 24). In a blasphemous statement the report continues, "In this story it is Jesus who provides the hostile saying and the woman whose retort trips him up and corrects him." (page 24). According to the report, it was not Jesus who was testing the woman's faith, but "the woman was testing Jesus' faith." (page 24)

The report attacks the institution of marriage. It claims that

"women and children are obviously most vulnerable to sexual and criminal assault in their own family". (page 20). It asks, "Why does the church continue to uphold the 'sanctity' of marriage instead of laying to rest what has already been declared dead through continuous destruction?" (page 20)

Apparently, anything is preferable to the traditional family. The report complains, "Too often in prayer, song and preaching the image of the ideal patriarchal family is spoken of as an unconditionally preferable to 'households' of many and varied forms that are in fact the norm." (page 21, italics mine).

The answer to domestic violence, which sadly sometimes occurs even within evangelical denominations, is not the eradication, but the strengthening of marriage and family, as taught in scripture. All

apologies to left-wing militant feminists and their supporters, but the God-ordained order for secure and safe families is for wives to willingly submit to their husbands and for husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church.

—Dwight A. Randall
(Kingsley, WA)

Growth

To the Editor,

The Guest Editorial by Ken Baker ("AC" 13 April), poses the question "Why does this church not continue to grow?", and suggests one reason: "the inability to cope with inevitable change".

I dare to suggest one other reason, equally strong, but merely implied more than once in his article. Namely, "reaching out to the community has not always been evident as a motivation" and "groups are not geared towards outreach to the community".

Letters from Tertius

"At a Distance"

To the Editor,

Our radio has been playing over and over the song "God is watching at a distance". It's nice to have a bit of religion on the pop scene for a change, but I'm appalled at the idea of God being represented as being "at a distance". That's not what my Bible says.

But some Christians seem to have the same idea, thinking of God being away up there, "at a distance".

We attended a combined service recently and an earnest young man was leading the singing. He wanted us to raise our hands above our heads. We all did...to please him. We looked like a church full of windmills.

In urging us to raise our hands he said that it was symbolic. We were making the shape of a funnel so that God could pour his grace and power down into us. It's a neat bit of symbolism I agree, but it is still the idea of God being away above us "at a distance".

I get quite disturbed when Sunday School children are encouraged to point up in songs that mention God or Jesus. It is wrong and it gives them the notion that God is "at a distance". No wonder so many of them give God away when they grow up!

Of course God is everywhere throughout his universe, but the reality for me is that he's all around me and in me. Our minister uses the word "omnipresent"—very impressive!

Maybe the symbol makers and action song writers could think up some symbols and gestures that would enable us to approximate the truth more nearly.

I always thought that Jesus was called Emmanuel because God is with us.

—Tertius

Letters to the Editor

A greater emphasis on this aspect as a cause of non-growth might help stimulate some other churches with a similar problem.

—Muriel Stafford
(Frankston, Vic)

WCC Is Biblical

To the Editor,

Recent criticisms of the World Council of Churches regarding "other faiths" have failed to recognise that the WCC encourages and follows the biblical precedent in relating to people of other faiths.

In John 1:1-4 the Logos is the Word of God. Logos is from Greek philosophy and was taken from the indigenous context of the readers of John's Gospel and given a Christ-centred meaning. The Logos is now for us the eternal and creative existence of Jesus Christ. A pre-existing spiritual concept is used and reinterpreted by John to make the Christ known.

In Acts 17:22-31 Paul is speaking to the Athenians. He reinterprets their spiritual understanding of an unknown God so that he becomes known in Jesus Christ!

In Hebrews 5:6 Jesus is seen as a priest for ever in the succession of Melchizedek. In Genesis 14:18 we discover that Melchizedek was King of Salem and also a priest of the most

high God. But Melchizedek was not a Jew. His most High God was from the spirituality and religion of the people of Salem!

The biblical pattern is for Christ to be made known in the terms of the spirituality of the faith and culture of people of other faiths. This is mostly, but not always, Jewish in the New Testament as the indigenous other faith and culture known by the hearers. It is good missionary principle!

At the WCC and in almost every missionary society today, including the most conservative and evangelical, we find known spiritual concepts from indigenous cultures being reinterpreted in the light of the Christ event. (Read *Peace Child* by Don Richardson.)

Professor Chung from South Korea and Australian Aboriginal Christians simply affirmed that the Holy Spirit brings a new and Christian meaning to some of the aspects of their indigenous cultures and faiths.

As a Churches of Christ delegate to the WCC I applauded these biblical and missionary insights within the WCC. It shows that the churches are seeking to come to grips with the missionary mandate of making Christ known and witnessing to him within a world of many faiths and cultures.

—Ian Allsop

WCC Assembly

◦ Pre-Assembly Youth Event

Young People Consider the Assembly Theme

Nearly 300 participants from 90 countries took part in a Pre-Assembly Youth Event (2-5 February)

PAYE was planned to bring young people together to explore the Assembly theme (Come, Holy Spirit—Renew the Whole Creation) in an Australian context, to look at issues that relate to young people, and to examine the Bible and its application.

One PAYE speaker was Anglican Archdeacon Alan Nichols of Melbourne. He told the youth that white Australians are beginning to understand the "Aboriginal sense of belonging to the land".

He also referred to a 1989 report on homelessness in Australia, which calculated that as many as 100,000 Australian children are homeless in the streets, parks or emergency shelters or are sleeping at friends' houses without family support.

As a result, he said, some children get into the cycle of institutional care and become prey to drugs, prostitution and other abuse.

Alan said increased violence and sexual assault among youth is a result, among other things, of the proliferation of discos and night clubs. In Melbourne alone, he reported, out of a population of 3 million, 200,000 youth go to discos weekly.

Among Christian youth, he said, there is evidence of the



importance of peer relationships, and a feeling of powerlessness because of being dependent upon decisions of others. Their image of God is essentially a limited and individual God, who relates to "me".

He said those who belong to a church group tend to have a more moderate, controlled behaviour and are less likely to get pregnant before marriage, get involved with drugs or abuse alcohol.

He noted that more than half the welfare services are delivered by the voluntary sector, for the most part by agencies with a Christian origin or direct church connection.

However, while the church may be better at delivering social services than other agencies, he noted, it often leaves questions of policy advocacy to other groups.

He also observed that because the church depends in many cases on government funding to support its social-service programs, it tends to be conservative about radical policy changes.

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Papers

People-Centred Development

A reading guide in the field of people-centred development has been published by the Zadok Institute for Christianity and Society. Compiled by John Steward of World Vision Australia, this reading guide surveys an impressive range of recent publications on development with a human face.

The author is a Christian professional involved in development worker training and community development. His introduction explores the relationship between people-centred development and Christian mission. This guide will be useful for people who wish to gain a deeper understanding of development issues as well as for those who wish to relate their perspectives on mission to the international development debate.

All publications listed in the guide are readily available in Australia.

People-Centred Development, Zadok Reading Guide R26, is available from the Zadok Institute, Blackall St, Barton 2600 (phone (06) 273 1634) for \$4 plus 90 c postage.

Audio

Sometimes We Scream

Priority Paid \$12

Popular Sydney-based Christian rock band, Priority Paid, recently released a six-song cassette. It is their fourth recording and the six songs are very polished. The songs are "All Guns Blazing", "Counting the Gains", "Shine", "Footsteps in the Sand", "Madame Trousseau" and "Back to the River". All six tracks are repeated on the "B" side of the cassette. The album's title comes from the track "Footsteps in the Sand": "Sometimes we scream: 'Now it's time to make a stand', But the changes must come from the heart."

The music on this cassette is definitely rock music. It is not what is regarded as heavy metal but it is also not Muzak. The sound is good and was enjoyed by the teenagers in our household. The quality would stand up well against most of the material available currently on the charts. The lyrics are interesting and thoughtful.

I enjoyed the cassette and would play it again after I have finished listening to it for review.

The cassette is available for \$12 from Priority Paid Management, PO Box 225, Dee Why 2099. Phone (02) 971 5207, fax (02) 982 7596.

—CRA

Books

Daystarters—Positive Spirituality for Busy People

Collins Dove \$9.95

Popular 2CH Open Line presenter, Jay Bacik, has written his first book. Taken from radio spots heard in Sydney each morning, "daystarters" are better than a dose of caffeine in the morning according to the book's publisher.

The book was launched by Rev Sir Alan Walker, who described Jay as a Christian minister who has successfully communicated to people outside the church through TV and radio.

"As well as being senior minister of the Northside Community Church, Jay has always tried to present Christian values to the wider community. Now with the release of *Daystarters*, Jay will reach many people in the community who have little time in the day to reflect, regroup and recreate."



Garry Eastman (Managing Director, Collins Dove), Jay Bacik and Sir Alan Walker at the book launch of *Daystarters*

The Gospel of Good Giving

Stewardship in Australian Churches

by Daniel McDiarmid (The Joint Board of Christian Education) \$8.95

This book is primarily a history of the development of stewardship (fund-raising) programs in Australia, rather than an examination of the scriptural principles of Christian giving. A variety of ways that churches organised themselves for fund raising apart from offerings are outlined. The prime impetus to stewardship programs in Australia was the arrival of Wells Organisations Pty Ltd, who adopted American stewardship ideas and brought them to Australia in 1954 after becoming one of the largest such groups in America. A large part of this book is devoted to their development and their scheme of operation.

There is one chapter that examines the stewardship methods of various churches in Australia. Churches of Christ are covered in three paragraphs that concentrate on the Victorian experience.

With only 64 pages it is difficult to see this book selling very well.

—CRA

Withit Church of Christ

Open Letter to All Church Members

Dear Pewsters

We are having a membership drive
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- 1 lasso - a good roundup tool
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- 1 set thumbscrews for gentle persuasion
- a book on hypnotism
- a begging bowl to make donors feel good

Choose the ones best suited to your style.
Happy hunting

RNH

• George Warren

Vic-Tas President Elect

George Warren, minister at the Greensborough, Vic, church, has been elected as the president-elect of the Victorian-Tasmanian Conference for 1991-92. He will assume the presidency at the end of the term of Max Carter, who will be inducted in May at the Conference Gospel Celebration.

George has the strong support of churches and ministers. Formerly a teacher, he graduated from the College of the Bible in 1973. His first ministry was in the ACT where he helped establish the Belconnen church. In 1973 George was appointed Field Director for Christian Education and Family Ministry with the Vic-Tas Dept of Mission Education and Development. In 1982-87 he was senior minister at the Eastern Regional Suburban Church in Melbourne. His current ministry began in 1988 and has been marked by a warm pastoral care for people and the strength of the church.

George has been active within Conference as a member of the Advisory Board, Chairman of the Administrative Committee of the Minister to Ministers position, the Department of Christian Union and



George Warren

the executive of the Victorian Council of Churches. For a period he was the ACT proxy member on the Federal Conference Executive.

George's recreational delight is to spend time with his wife Lesley and children Tim, Mark and Naomi relaxing at their holiday home at Anglesea. Those who know George enjoy his relaxed manner and his personal warmth and deep commitment to Christ and the church.

—Ian Allsop

• Discovering more about God

Spirituality for Ministry

I arrived at CCTC feeling rather anxious and wondering how I would cope with being part of College life.

I'm an off-campus student from South Australia who enrolled in a pre-session course.

My first impression on arrival was the attractive appearance of the buildings.

The restful decor inside the building and the lovely cloistered area outside gave a feeling of quiet and peace.

The group I attended was larger than usual, with students drawn from a wide ecumenical spectrum.

It included fellow Christians from the Salvation Army and Roman Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist and Baptist churches, as well as students from Churches of Christ around Australia.

As the days slipped by the interaction between people from such diverse backgrounds was tremendous.

I enjoyed fellowshiping with the students and came away feeling that for a while I had been really part of the student community.

The course was **Spirituality for Ministry** and the lecturer was **Graeme Chapman**. The studies were challenging.

Graeme led us to set out upon an inward journey, to try to understand ourselves, and to realise more fully that we have been created by God and are totally loved by him.

In accepting this we will then be more able to minister to other people in their need.

We shared together in times of prayer and contemplation, which helped to develop our prayer life and to deepen our faith.

The final week was spent at **Camp Waterman**. There, in the lovely Melbourne hills, and in Sherbrooke Forest, we were able to enjoy the beautiful world that God has created and to respond more to him as part of his creation.

Through these experiences I am discovering a more intimate experience with God, and I am sure that this will help me to cope much better with the outward journey of life which I undertake each day.

I feel a deep sense of gratitude that this opportunity was available to me.

—Ruth May

• *Ruth May, secretary of the Victor Harbour, SA, church, is finding theological study exciting and rewarding for faith.*

• Ivy Cartledge

Tribute to One of the Salt of the Earth

Ivy Cartledge has turned 90, although 90 year olds seem younger all the time!

That means that she has been alive since just after federation. She was a teenager during the First World War and saw the Second World War and wars in Korea, Vietnam and the Middle East. She has seen the development of radio and television, changes in transport from the motor car through to the space rocket, and dirt roads and paddocks giving way to busy modern highways through the inner suburbs.

Ivy Chivell was baptised at

Maylands, SA, in 1917. After her marriage to Vic Cartledge she moved to Cummins, but later returned to Maylands, where Vic was treasurer for 22 years.

Ivy has always been one of those salt-of-the-earth, solid members whom the church could not do without. She has always preferred the background to the foreground. At a state level she served on the conference catering committee.

Ivy and Vic had two daughters, Joan (Day) and Muriel (Atwell). Joan spearheaded the Maylands Friendship Centre

until her death. Muriel is now at West Lakes United Parish. One of Ivy's grandsons, Barry Atwell, was also a treasurer at Maylands. Another, Neville Day, is chief sound system monitor at Maylands.

Ivy now lives at Roselin Court, Joslin. She still attends morning worship at Maylands and its Friendship Centre each week. Many of the Maylands congregation attended an open house put on for her 90th birthday to pay tribute to her.

—Richard Lawton

Ivy Cartledge



Happenings

Though projected constitutional changes are still to be made public, many Cuban Christians, especially in the minority of the church that is not Roman Catholic, believe they will allow increased religious activity. At the same time, many Protestant leaders are calling on Christians "to openly participate in the construction of socialism".

It has been reported that Chinese officials have taken strong action against Roman Catholics who remain loyal to the Pope, including raids on their seminaries and convents. The government-recognised and approved group of Catholics in China, numbering several million, ended Vatican ties in the 1950s.

The ACT Conference is organising a weekend Singles Seminar being conducted by Cheryl Johnson 17-19 May. For details contact the Conference office on (06) 247 7214.

Michael Cassidy, founder and team leader of Africa Enterprise is visiting Australia in April and May in conjunction with the publication of his new book *The Politics of Love*. A South African by birth, Michael Cassidy has adopted an uncompromising stance against apartheid. He has placed a high emphasis upon reconciliation as a means of bringing together South African Christians from all races and Christian persuasions in unity and repentance. Public engagements are on 3 May at St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney at 7 pm, 8 May a rally at Turramurra Uniting Church at 8 pm, 9 May a dinner at Ryde Civic Centre at 7 pm, 12 May St Paul's Anglican, Carlingford at 9.30 am and at St Luke's Anglican at 7 pm. In Melbourne he will be at St Hillary's Anglican, Kew, on 5 May at 9 am and on the same day at Blackburn Baptist Church at 6 pm. On 7 May there will be a dinner at Leandra at 6.30 pm. Details from African

Enterprises, 46 Nicholson St, St Leonards 2065, phone (02) 906 1252.

A mob of about 400 Indonesian villagers attacked and destroyed the meeting place of a small Baptist congregation in a Jakarta housing complex on 10 March.

12 of the world's 25 largest churches are in South Korea, according to John Vaughan of the Megachurch Research Centre. The world's top three churches, based on total attendance for worship services are Yoida Full Gospel Church of Seoul, Korea (180,000), Vision de Futuro de Santa Fe, Argentina (80,000) and Deeper Christian Life Ministry in Lagos, Nigeria (70,000). The only American church on the list was First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana (20,000), which was 15th on the list. Vaughan said overseas churches grow larger in part because they are willing to build and rebuild meeting facilities slightly smaller than needed, perpetuating the need for a new, second service that encourages further growth.

"Oz Harvest—A Storm Arising" is a weekend being held to challenge younger Christians in Victoria to discard superficial Christianity and rise up in unrestrained commitment to Christ and his church. The weekend is being held at the Belgrave Heights Convention Centre over the Australia Day weekend (24-27 January 1992). Speakers will include Tom Bathgate and Mal Fletcher with Steve Grace and Bill Hodgson among the seminar leaders. More details from Oz Harvest, PO Box 698, Cranbourne 3977.

The European Council of Mosques has called for the establishment of Islamic radio stations in Western Europe—in Germany, Spain, France, Belgium and Great Britain. The twofold aim would be "to care for the spiritual su-

pervision of the 7.5 million Muslims in the region, and to spread Islam among non-Muslims".

Following the opening of their first studio in Leningrad in June 1990, Trans World Radio dedicated their second USSR studio in Brest on 2 March. Until now TWR's Russian programs were made by Christians who had left the Soviet Union some years ago. Today, however, although the new facilities will remain the property of TWR, they are for the exclusive use of local believers from the autonomous Baptist church to contribute new program material.

The Salvation Army is to open soup kitchens in Leningrad to "provide hundreds of thousands of needy citizens with hot meals", reports the *Moscow News*. 50 kitchens with a staff of over 300 are to be set up immediately. Food is to be supplied by charitable associations in Hamburg.

Only 60% of the British public know that Jesus was crucified on Good Friday according to a recent poll. Only 66% of those questioned knew that Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Day. Nearly a third said they didn't know what Easter Day commemorated. Roman Catholics and non-conformists had a consistently better knowledge of the Easter story than members of the established churches of England, Scotland, Wales or Ireland.

The Indonesian Bible Society has used Bible comics to introduce the Bible to Indonesians. 9 comic titles in the Indonesian language have been produced and up to 30,000 copies were printed at a time. General Secretary, M.A. Supardan, said that people like the Bible comics because of the low price, interesting stories and good quality.

Pentecostal/charismatic churches worldwide have 382 million members, or

one of every 5 Christians, gain 19 million members each year and donate \$34 billion to Christian causes every year. People involved in this movement are, on average, more likely to be urban than rural, female than male, impoverished than affluent, family oriented than individualistic and younger than 18. Two out of every three church members live in the Two-Thirds World.

23 million people, 63% of Zaire's population, live in 70,000 villages that do not have a Christian church.

The number of Christians in India increased by almost 2 million, or 17% during 1971-81. The general population grew faster, however, increasing by 25% over the same decade.

Peter Philp, a Melbourne journalist who has had a long association with the poor in the Third World, has been appointed public relations manager of Melbourne Citymission. Peter was national media director of World Vision for 12 years. In 1989 he was appointed managing director of *The Advocate*, the Roman Catholic newspaper of the Archdiocese of Melbourne and held the position of managing editor on its sudden closure in September last year. He has been President of the Australasian Religious Press Association for several years.

Gleanings for the Hungry is an unusual food aid project in California. The project collects discarded fruit, given free of charge by local growers, then sifts, halves, washes and dehydrates it. After being sealed in plastic bags, the fruit is shipped overseas for missionary teams to distribute. The discarded fruit won't sell in California simply because it doesn't look good enough.

A radio program of hymns old and new will be broadcast every Sunday morning on community

FM radio Southern FM (88.3 on the FM dial) in Melbourne 8-9 am. Choirs, orchestras and soloists from around the world will be featured on this program. The station invites comments on the program on (03) 553 3883 or by writing to PO Box 188, Moorabbin 3189.

One of the most influential house church leaders in southern Vietnam, Rev Dinh Thien Tu, was arrested by government authorities in Ho Chi Minh City on 22 February and is believed to have been sentenced to 3 years hard labour for "abusing religious duties and being involved in social work without permission and with political ambition". Two other house church leaders were also arrested on 25 February.

The Mexican government has moved to crack down on unregistered Protestant evangelical churches throughout the country, beginning with a strict enforcement of registration laws in the central state of Hidalgo, according to Hidalgo State Director of Government. According to Mexican constitutional law, all churches must be registered with the government. After registration they become the property of the state.

In Germany isolation and loneliness is one reason for the growing, country-wide interest in religion, according to Bishop Gerhard Müller of the Protestant-Lutheran Church Union.

Pioneering missionary radio station HCJB is celebrating more than just its 60th anniversary this year. In May the station also marks 30 years of television ministries in Ecuador. HCJB has been involved in TV ever since it established Ecuador's first TV station in 1961.

Interserve reports that in Afghanistan in 1980 there were only 9 known Christians. The number now stands at 350.

New Churches

• Over 200 begin new Indian church

Faith Church



Amar Raj, Chek Chia, Con Halyburton, Ian Allsop (Conference Secretary) and Dr Cliff Warmbrunn (Chairman, Vic-Tas Dept MED)

Melbourne's newest ethnic church, Faith Church, was launched on 3 March at the Glen Waverley Heights Primary School. This church planting venture was sponsored by Grace Church in association with the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development. There were 210 present at the first service. Faith Church has been planned to reach the ever-increasing Indian community of Melbourne. The church is led by two Indian ministers, Con

Halyburton and Amar Raj, both of whom have had theological training in India.

The church plans to affiliate with the Vic-Tas Conference in May.

Chek Chia, senior pastor of Grace Church, has been active in assisting in the preparation and launch of the new church. Chek is also a member of the Department of Mission, Education and Development. Con and Raj were commissioned at Grace Church the preceding Sunday.

• Contemporary worship

Video Church

"What is more contemporary than television and videos?" asks Alan McMillan, minister of Video Church. Alan goes on to describe how natural it is these days for people to sit in front of a television screen in their lounge in the evenings.

Video Church meets in the Malvern, Vic, church lounge, where members are informally able to participate in worship. The videotapes seen drive home important messages that are reinforced through discussion. Members have commented that the fellowship and informality have enabled them to discuss deep issues. This has helped them to grow in understanding and developed their faith. Often the videos can raise sensitive issues that in small

congregations can be hard to do without people feeling the minister is "pointing the finger".

The regional church sees Video Church as an attempt to be contemporary in worship and as an opportunity for outreach to a younger generation. However, its appeal is to people of any age who are not familiar with or interested in church services but are interested in participating and finding out about Jesus Christ and the gospel addressed to contemporary life in Australia.

Video Church has been extended this year to two hours to allow sufficient time for discussion and praise. Video Church commences at 7 pm every Sunday.

• Indonesians at Malvern

Praise Church

Recently the leaders of the Indonesian Praise Church met with the leaders of the Malvern, Vic, church.

The meeting commenced informally in the sharing of a meal hosted by the Indonesians.

This meeting was indicative of the friendly atmosphere of fellowship that has been enjoyed by the two congregations since the sharing of the Malvern building commenced.

This came about because Peter Bradley, minister at Chadstone, Vic, became aware of the Indonesian church's need for a new location as a result of an expanding congregation.

The Malvern church was very happy to allow the Indonesian church to share their buildings.

Peter Bradley preached at the first Indonesian service, which was followed by an Indonesian meal. This was a great occasion.

The new arrangement is seen as a great opportunity for both congregations.

Already it has been necessary to upgrade facilities because of the demands upon the baptismistry.

It is pleasing to see the buildings are now in almost constant use every weekend and we are pleased that the seating capacity of the church is being fully utilised.

With this rather dramatic expansion of activity the Malvern congregation looks forward with a renewed hope for its own potential growth.

—Alan McMillan



Malvern church and Praise church members at a joint leaders meeting

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Advance bookings appreciated

Easter 1991

• Witness walk in East Keilor

Palm Sunday Re-enactment



Andrew Leach, dressed as Jesus, riding the donkey into the Centreway

One lane of busy Milleara Road, East Keilor, Vic, was closed by council workers and police on Palm Sunday for a re-enactment of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The East Keilor church joined with St Mark's Uniting Church, Avondale Heights, to witness to the real meaning of Palm Sunday as the coming of the Prince of Peace.

The two congregations first met at St Mark's to share in a time of singing and praise led by Rev Peter Ralphs and the musical group of St Mark's.

This was followed by the witness walk, when both congregations, many dressed in period costume and carrying palm branches, joined in procession to a park at the Centreway shopping centre. The procession was led by Andrew Leach dressed as Jesus, riding on a donkey. The donkey was kindly supplied by John McDonald Circus.

At the park Ron Schepis preached to about 160 who had gathered. The theme of the sermon was "How the world can find true peace".

At the conclusion of the service a light lunch was held at the East Keilor church.

Koorungal 1991

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For more information contact Ian Crowe (057) 29 8258

• Demonstrating the real meaning of Easter Climax to "Easter 91"

Following a wide range of events "Easter 91" reached its climax in Sydney and Melbourne on Easter Sunday, 31 March, at 3 pm. Thousands marched from different marshalling points to the centres of the cities to form a "human cross", filling intersections. It is estimated that 60,000 took part in "Easter 91" events during March.

The man who had the vision for these events, Mal Garvin, National Co-ordinator of Fusion Australia, was in Melbourne. Through live radio crossovers, he described the scene as Christians gathered at the Kings Domain, Treasury Gardens and Flagstaff Gardens, prior to marching to the intersection of Collins and Swanston Streets.

In Sydney, the marching Christians gathered at Milsons Point, Observatory Hill, Eddy Avenue and Hyde Park. By listening to a local radio station, they heard reporters travelling with each group. On cue they all arrived at Sydney's Town

Hall at exactly the same time. The main aim of the marches was summed up in the theme "An Aussie Awakening"—the real meaning of Easter.

Church leaders from most denominations led in prayers, Bible readings and Easter greetings. Thousands of yellow and green balloons were released bearing the words "Justice—Mercy—Compassion".

A month of "Easter 91" activities led up to this moment. Special events in Canberra, ACT, Toowoomba, Qld, and 25 other cities and towns throughout Australia showed the nation that there is another way of celebrating Easter apart from Easter eggs and public holidays.

As well as the marches of witness there were prayer vigils from 6 pm Good Friday until 6 am Saturday. The locations in Sydney seemed to indicate that the city was surrounded in prayer. In Melbourne the prayer vigil took part in the Myer Music Bowl.

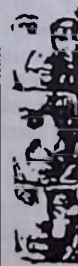
—Ramon Williams

• Belgrave Heights Convention Easter in the Hills

In 1875 there began in Keswick, England, a convention ministry with a message based on the Bible as the inspired and authoritative Word of God, the death and resurrection of Christ as providing entry to God's family, Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, the Holy Spirit's ministry and the consequent Christian life-style and service.

First at Upwey and then at Belgrave Heights this convention ministry has been maintained in Victoria. This year capacity crowds of all ages and denominations gathered in an ecumenical spirit to hear Rev Alistair Begg (Cleveland, Ohio) and Dr Stuart and Mrs Jill Briscoe on topics ranging from 2 Timothy (four Bible studies) to "practical scriptural holiness". Douglas Anderson and

Rev Israel Yohanna spoke of the Christian church in the Middle East and Sudan. The newly elected executive is under the chairmanship of Robert Freeman, with Dr David Price of the Bible College of Victoria and Peter Rowse, a Uniting Church lay preacher from Warragul, vice-chairmen. Rev Bill Brice is the recently appointed executive officer.



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Easter 1991

• "Real" missionary work

Easter in PNG with a VCR and Generator

Those who know us, and know that we have been missionaries in Papua New Guinea for 18 months might be surprised that I am writing of the Easter just passed as a weekend of "real" missionary work. We work with a service mission that is so busy supporting other churches and missions, that we have little time for a ministry to our local people. In technical terms we are "task oriented" rather than "people oriented" missionaries.

This Easter was an opportunity to get involved in some people-orientated, i.e. "real" missionary work. Around our station at Rugli a number of villages have local independent churches springing up, in a mini-revival, drawing their membership mainly from nominal adherents to the large denominational establishment in the area.

It started as a spur-of-the-moment idea but quickly took shape. In consultation with the pastor at our most-local congregation we hurriedly put together a program of church visitation and started praying for a copy of the "Jesus" movie, preferably on video. After a few phone calls to our colleagues at MAF our prayers were answered. With generator, TV and VCR in hand we visited three of these village fellowships, preaching a simple message about Easter and showing the "Jesus" video (in Pidgin). This



Nick and Monica Lock with their two children

was Nick's first experience of preaching in Pidgin.

It was an exciting response with about 800 coming over the three nights. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting some of our Papua New Guinean brothers and sisters and joining in with their worship. The highlight of Nick's weekend was leading an old man to the Lord through an interpreter. The follow-up requests have already started with Nick being booked for another preaching engagement

soon and more requests for film screenings.

—Monica Lock

• Nick and Monica Lock are from the Swanston St, Vic, church. Nick is serving as a communications engineer with Christian Radio Missionary Fellowship, which provides radio and technical services to churches and missions throughout PNG.

• Nowra

Last Supper Re-enacted

On Easter Thursday the Nowra, NSW, church re-enacted the last supper with members taking the parts of the disciples. John Rushton narrated the story and Beth Doyle gave the Jewish view of Easter. The evening was interspersed with singing and followed by thoughts from minister Peter De Wildt. Over 70 attended.

Following the re-enactment communion was shared by all in the four corners of the hall, symbolising the spread of the gospel to the four corners of the world. After leaving in quietness most people went to the home of elder Jim and Barbara Clelland, where Daniel O'Dempsey was baptised in the pool. —Clinton Wardle



Daniel O'Dempsey baptised



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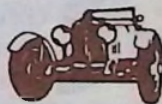
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• Expansion at Goolwa

Lifting the Roof Off



Have you heard a song leader urge a congregation to "sing with all your heart and voice till you lift the roof"?

Well, at Goolwa, SA, this must have happened! No, seriously, they had to actually remove the roof, because there was no wall to hold it up! The church building is expanding widthways to accommodate an increase in attendance.

A great band of volunteers are helping the contractors (no strikes or disputes) and a wonderful feeling of working together has emerged.

"To God Be the Glory" for these talents in our church helpers and we hope to soon be back in our "wider" church building to broaden our outreach in the community.

—Fay Neighbour

• 30 years at East Keilor

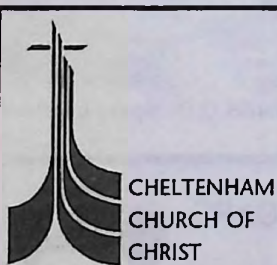
Anniversary Celebrations

The East Keilor, Vic, church recently celebrated its 30th anniversary with a variety concert and thanksgiving service. Former members and friends came from Anglesea, Cairns, Warrambool, Gisborne and North Essendon churches to

help celebrate and recognise 30 years of ministry to the community of East Keilor.

Don Langley of the Gisborne church, speaking during the variety concert reminded those present that the Gisborne church and the new Sunbury church had both grown out of the East Keilor Church. The concert featured the Piano Man, Scott White, and local artists, including the debut of the "No Name Jazz Band".

During the Sunday thanksgiving service, Alf White recalled the vision of establishing a church at East Keilor and the commitment of a number of families from the North Essendon church to move out to East Keilor church.



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• New study disproves view that alcohol protects from ill-health

Drinking Unhealthy

Professor A.G. Shaper of the Royal Free Hospital, London, has published findings from a major British Heart Foundation and Institute for Alcohol Studies study into alcohol and mortality.

Professor Shaper reports, "There is now no reason whatsoever to publicise the widely upheld, socially acceptable concept of alcohol as protecting from ill health—particularly in a society in which alcohol intake is already often excessive."

The study, which has been published in the British *Journal of Addiction*, states, "The evidence shows that the myth of protection has arisen because surveys have included non-drinkers, 70% of whom are ex-drinkers."

Professor Shaper's five-year study involved 773 men aged 40-59 from 25 towns in the United Kingdom.

The study found that ex-drinkers have the highest rate of coronary heart disease. The report shows that over a five-year period men who were diagnosed as having heart disease, had multiple diagnosis or were put on regular medication had an increased likelihood of becoming non-drinkers or occasional drinkers.

Dr Gerald Shaper examined the 13 major studies that are so often quoted by the wine industry and other spokespersons in support of the view that moderate drinkers are the healthiest group in society. All studies are heavily dependent

on non-drinkers as a baseline (non-drinkers including the large percentage who had given up drinking because of ill health).

Studies reviewed include communities in Honolulu, USA, Finland, Yugoslavia, Japan and Western Australia.

Professor Shaper notes that researchers Room and Way in their report to the US Congress in 1974 stated that lifelong abstainers had the lowest mortality rates, about half that of recent abstainers (those who had been drinkers but were now abstainers) or moderate drinkers. Heavy drinkers had a mortality rate four times that of lifelong abstainers.

Professor Shaper concludes by saying, "The protective role of alcohol in cardiovascular disease in general and in coronary heart disease in particular is almost certainly a myth, despite the many rational arguments brought forward to support the hypothesis."

Increasing evidence on the link between alcohol and cancer is being obtained, with the World Health Organisation publishing a report on alcohol carcinogenic risk to humans. From Britain the Imperial Cancer Research Fund have found that heavy beer drinkers have three times the risk of cancer of the pancreas than non-drinkers.

The British Medical Association is asking that alcoholic beverages should carry health warnings similar to those on cigarette packs.

—Graeme Rule

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News

• *Aborigines training week*

Course at Roelands

As part of the program of the Federal Aborigines Board a week of training was conducted recently for Aborigines involved in the leadership of their local churches. The course was held at Roelands Village, south of Perth.

This was the culmination of much prayerful consultation and planning by Don Butler, Frank Johnson, Peter Spence and Avon Moyle. The subjects covered were those requested by the people, and included sessions on various aspects of church life—how to conduct Bible study, prayer meetings, song services, sermon preparation, a communion service, counselling and even how to conduct a funeral service. Each



Participants at the training course

evening was given to personal testimonies. The highlight of the week was a very lively question and answer session at which Rev John Kernahan was in the "hot seat". Difficult areas of Christianity and culture were addressed. Evaluation of the course indicated the need for

longer, regionalised courses addressing ministry to men, women and, particularly, to young people within Aboriginal communities. More question times as well as teaching of doctrine, the matter of tithing and opportunities for leadership skills development were

also requested. These are early days, but a beginning has been made. The FAB hopes to conduct three or four such courses each year. Such training will make a significant contribution to leadership development within the Aboriginal church.

—Avon Moyle

• *Church seating*

Preparing for Growth

With this decade being forecast as a time when Australia will discover the power of the gospel and return to the church and some churches already reporting over 30% growth during 1990 it is exciting for church leaders to prepare for

this growth. Having adequate and comfortable seating is one important factor that can be overlooked.

A.F. Gason Pty Ltd is a name known throughout Australia as a manufacturer of high-quality farm equipment. Before that the

Gason name was associated with personalised caravans, body trimming and upholstery. In recent years the Gason plant at Ararat, Vic, has been producing a wide range of products, including solid fuel heaters and a sports car. After recognising a specific need for a durable, attractive but comfortable, multiple seating product, Gasons have released

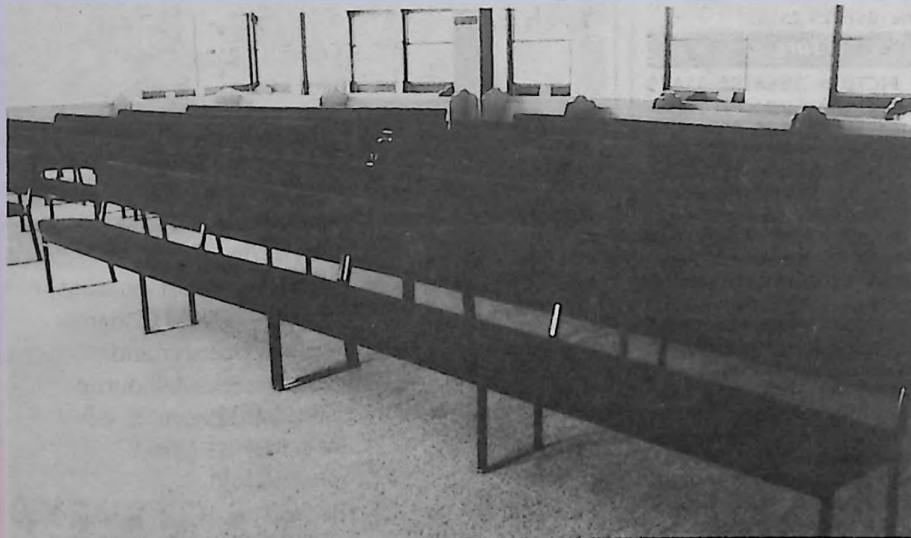
seating that will be of interest to churches. Much of our current church seating was designed in an age when the word "ergonomic" was unknown. There is a need for good ergonomic seating conducive to good worship and Gasons are attempting to supply this need.

George Mathieson (phone (08) 271 9894) is representing Gasons in Adelaide and others interested can contact Rob Brown in Ballarat (Phone (053) 39 1367) is also an agent for the Eastern states.

The designers and manufacturers, A.F. Gason Pty Ltd, can be contacted on (053) 52 2151 or through PO Box 268, Ararat 3377. Frank Gason, one of the directors of the company, is a past Vic-Tas conference president.

"ConFORMity Seating" is available in six lengths, from 0.45 m to 2.7 m in length. This means that from one to six people can be seated. It is also fitted with carpet slippers to allow it to be used on carpeted areas.

ConFORMity seating at the Montrose, Vic, chapel



Classifieds

BIRTHS

McCLOUD (WALLER) Brenda and Philip are delighted to announce the arrival of Andrew Luke on 1 April. 7 lb 13 oz. A brother for Courtney and Timothy.

RUBY WEDDINGS

DIX—THOMAS Malcolm and Myrtle, married at Church of Christ Subiaco on 28 April 1951 by Roy Raymond, are thankful for 40 wonderful years and blessed with two daughters, Barbara and Annette, son-in-laws Bruce and Glenn and six grandchildren. Present address: 6 Hovea Crescent, Walliston, WA 6076.

DEATHS

GEDYE Ethel Rose, on 12 April at Westhaven Nursing Home. Mother of Lesley and Vic (Quayle). Grandmother of Rosemary and Jeff (Weston), Jenny and Laurie (Wilkes), Len and Chris (Quayle). Great grandmother of Michelle and Matthew (Weston), Robert and Jacqueline (Wilkes) and Jessica, Steven and Michael (Quayle).

HUMPHREYS (nee MACKLEY) Esther Alice passed away peacefully 13 April 1991. Loving wife of Norm. beloved Mum of Don and Ann, Alison, Jenny and Sam. Loved friend of Charlie and Bob. Dear Nan of Kelly, Daniel, Ben and Adam. Always in our thoughts.

WATT J.D. (Dave). Passed to be with his Lord 13 April. A dedicated member of the Christian Men's Fellowship and Travel Club. Rest in peace.

IN MEMORIAM

SCOTT, Bob 1.5.89. We speak your name with love and pride, Smile through tears we try to hide, Thank you Bob for the years we shared, The love you gave and the way you cared. If once in a lifetime a dream could come true, That wish would be to still have you. Your loving wife Betty and family.

TOURS

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Youth Event Saturday, 4 May, 7.30 pm
La Trobe Theatre, World
Congress Centre, cnr Spencer
and Flinders Streets, Melbourne
Speaker: Brian White

Conference Gospel Celebration
Sunday, 5 May, 7 pm
at Melbourne's most exciting
new venue—World Congress
Centre, cnr Spencer and
Flinders Streets, Melbourne
Speaker: Jeff May
Guest artists
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* * * * *

People

• Marj Buckingham

Recognition

A fitting recognition for her years of service and ministry was provided at a special function for Marj Buckingham.

Marj had been a pioneer in the setting up of the South Eastern Suburban Regional Church of Christ in 1984 as a deacon at the Bambra Road congregation.

Subsequently Marj became a student at the College of the Bible and a student minister at the Malvern-North Caulfield congregation. Upon graduation in 1987 Marj became full-time minister to the three congregations comprising the region (Malvern, Bambra Road and Bentleigh).

Marj endeared herself to people through her love of the Lord revealed in the energetic, compassionate and spirited ways she did things. Although

starting with a pastoral concern for elderly people (such as in the Chatterbox group), Marj also led her people in diverse specific concerns such as ecology (planting trees) and Third World poverty (Trade Winds tea). Late in 1991 Marj started a Mothers and Babies group, which seems to be an appropriate way to express the full-circle, all-encompassing nature of Marj's ministry.

With Marj relinquishing her ministry, the regional church saw the end of the first period of regional ministry. The members of the region paid tribute to the love and esteem in which they hold Marj and prayed the Lord's continued blessing upon her.

—Alan McMillan

[A poem by Marj Buckingham appears on page 28.]



Marj Buckingham with Alan McMillan, the ministry team in the South Eastern Suburban Regional Church, 1986-1990

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• Chaplain to riders

At the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix



Geoff and Jan Glass

Rev Geoff Glass, Sports and Leisure Ministry's Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix chaplain, based in Melbourne, spent four days of ministry at the Eastern Creek circuit in Sydney 4-8 April.

His ministry included talking with riders, pit crews and administrators, visiting injured riders in hospital and serving all those involved in some way with the organisation and race meetings.

"I met with a number of riders whom I spent time with at last year's Grand Prix at Phillip Island. This continuity of ministry I believe will have a lasting effect as the years progress," Geoff said.

The first three days riders were testing both the new track circuit and their bikes and establishing times for the starter's grid.

This gave Geoff ample opportunity to renew those contacts and make new ones. Jan Glass was guest of the administration, and spent time speaking with the wives of administrators and riders.

A number of riders were hospitalised, with the result that Geoff and Bev Glass were visiting three hospitals in western Sydney after each of the four days meet—Westmead, Fairfield and

Nepean (Penrith). They were hosted by Mark and Delma Tronson, the National Ministry Co-ordinator and Founder of Specialised Life-Orientated Ministries Inc., of which Sports and Leisure Ministries is a part.

One senior rider and his wife, with whom Geoff established a relationship at last year's Grand Prix, this year asked Geoff for a Bible each, with the specific request "in a version we can understand".

The administration provided Geoff and Jan with Grand Prix passes that allowed them access to the riders and pit crews and provided wonderful hospitality. Geoff worked closely with the medical staff and next year Geoff is hopeful of establishing a chapel service early on the Sunday morning.

In other SLM sports ministry news, new chaplaincy appointments are Rev Graham Crew to St George Rugby League, Rev Rick Lewis to Parramatta Rugby League, Rev Jack Normand to Sydney Swans and Rev Paul Creasy to Bushrangers Baseball Team.

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A Church ABC

The Shire of Pine Rivers begins at the northern boundary of the City of Brisbane, Qld, on the main highway north to the Sunshine Coast. There are three Churches of Christ in the shire, which has a population of about 70,000, and the Pine Rivers church's ministry area covers about 30,000 of them. Situated in Kallangur, the church serves

people in such areas as Dakabin, Petrie, Lawnton, Strathpine and Mango Hill. It is a rapidly developing area, with new homes being built and large numbers of young families, children and young people. There are many schools; three high schools within minutes of each other are among the largest in the state. There is a low percentage of retired people. Some in Pine Rivers commute to Brisbane, others find work in the area, which has much light industry and also a pulp mill.

The work in Pine Rivers began in 1975 when Alan Male was running for parliament. In Alan's political door-knocking he came across many Churches of Christ people. The Home Missions Department found there were enough to start a church in the area. At first the members met in a hall and employed Kenmore students. Growth has meant a number of moves, to "The Upper Room", when they met upstairs in a shopping centre, to "Ye Olde Bakehouse", a community hall. When the Social Services Department bought eight acres in Kallangur, two were allocated to the church. On this land has been built a multi-functional chapel and a youth hall. Now this is not meeting the church's needs so there are plans to extend the chapel to hold 250. It is hoped to begin the building program next August. The remaining six acres the Social Services has for future development already has operating an all-day child care centre staffed by Christian personnel.

At present the membership is over 100. About 140 attend

the 10 am service and nearly 70 the 6.30 pm service. Members come from all walks of life. It includes professional, business and trades people. It is mainly a congregation of young families, children and young people. An all-age Bible teaching

Focus on Pine Rivers

program at 9 am caters for people from three years old to adult. The worship is not traditional and there is much flexibility in the very interesting services, which can include puppets, mime and the participation of children.

To raise the money for the extensions to the chapel, Pine Rivers thought up "Project X", designing, building and selling a house on an estate that was formerly a strawberry farm owned by members. The good news is that the house has been sold recently for \$250,000, giving the church a nice profit. Other fund-raising activities include distributing phone books and making 400 dozen lamingtons four or five times a year.

Regular programs of the church include Sunday School, a playgroup that meets on Wednesday mornings, youth work (there are three groups, for primary and high school age groups, and Smash—singles, marrieds and senior high), Lifelighters for seniors, which is a good contact with the community, and the women's work, which as well as making lamingtons, has weekly studies and activities plus evening programs. Bethlehem markets help the churches of the district.

The ministry team at Pine Rivers includes Neale Proellocks and Ian Todd. Neale's home church is Margaret Street, Toowoomba, Qld, and he trained at Woolwich. His wife Kerry is from Hurstville, NSW, and they have four children, three girls and a boy. Following ministries in Georgetown in Newcastle, NSW, Grote Street in

Adelaide and Mile End, SA, they came to Pine Rivers in 1981. After six years Neale took a break for three years, becoming an ambulance officer but retaining his membership with the church, before being invited back. He is now in his second

ministry portfolio and also works with youth. 1991 is the second year of his first ministry.

Pine Rivers' latest scheme is "Seed Your Patch". In this scheme 12 to 13 teams go out monthly and drop Christian literature in letter boxes together with an invitation to a coming special activity at the church.

The church also

writes and pays for an article in each issue of the local paper and the response to this has been rewarding.

The Pine Rivers church is growing and is being blessed by people coming to the Lord.

year the second time around.

Born in Ireland, Ian Todd came from Collie, WA. He and his wife, Dianne, both trained at Kenmore. They have two children, Benjamin and baby Joshua. Ian holds the pastoral

Curkpatrick

Prayer and "Saying Prayers"

Prayer is most often thought of as "saying prayers". However, saying prayers is not always prayer, or the essential expression of true prayer. John Newton read his Bible and said his prayers in the comfortable cabin of his slave trading ship, while human beings, chained to one another, were packed below in the putrid suffocating hold. Whatever words John Newton was uttering to God in the guise of prayer, at that time of his life, could hardly be described, at least biblically, as prayer.

Jesus frequently scorned a similar abuse of prayer when those who made a lot of "saying prayers", were not living the content of true prayer. In fact, such "saying of prayers" has terrible consequences—"Not every one who says to me Lord, Lord will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but whoever does the will of my Father". True prayer encompasses an attitude that is lived out, not just articulated. It is the life context in which any prayer is uttered, not just the saying of prayers, which is important.

Ultimately, prayer is wrestling with God, and the most intense wrestling is one we can't always articulate. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "We don't even know how we ought to pray, but through our inarticulate groans the Spirit himself is pleading for us, and God who searches our innermost being knows what the Spirit means, because he pleads for us as God himself wills".

For example, Jacob wrestling with God is essentially Jacob wrestling with himself, his actions and life in relationship with God. This is true prayer.

Wrestling intensely with the will of God in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was wrestling with God at a depth of being which was barely articulated, except for the astonishingly simple but profound words—"Not my will, but they will be done". This too gives us a glimpse into what is essential and fundamental about prayer—that is, wrestling with God with our innermost being. Anything less, may be just "saying prayers".

—Stephen Curkpatrick

Celebrating a Centenary of Overseas Mission 1891-1991

1905

FOREIGN MISSION NIGHT.

Saturday evening was Foreign Mission Night, and after a song service conducted by E. W. Pittman, the President took the chair, and the meeting was opened by singing "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," and prayer by H. G. Harward.

The secretary, F. M. Ludbrook, gave a verbal report of some of the work done by the missionaries laboring under the Conference. He said that with the exception of Bro. James, none of the missionaries were present, so that they could not present the same array of workers as our Home Mission friends. He would say, God bless the work among the Chinese. What we were doing here gave us some idea of what the work was like in China. The work, too, in connection with the Kanakas was progressing. The reports were very favorable. Bro. Thompson was indomitable in his work, and seem determined, in spite of malaria, to go back to the Islands. The work in China was moving on, and Miss Tonkin said that now was a favorable time for good work. As for Japan he would not say much, as Bro. Davey was expected to be with us soon and would give an account of what was being done there. He bespoke for Bro. Davey a real Australian welcome. In connection with India, he would mention first Miss Thompson, our first worker

in the mission field. She was doing a grand work. So was Bro. Stubbin. He came in contact with large audiences, and was sowing seed that would by-and-by be reaped bountifully. In South Africa, at Bulawayo, our Australian brother—Bro. Sheriff—had taken early possession of the field, and everyone spoke highly of what he was doing there. He was glad to say that all the States were now in line, and that we are now a united Australasian Foreign Mission.

The great feature of the evening was the illustrated lecture given by J. Inglis Wright on the mission fields of the world. It has seldom, if ever, been the lot of a Melbourne audience to have presented to them so comprehensive a survey of the dark places of earth and their need for evangelisation. For over two hours, Bro. Wright presented to his large audience a vast array of diagrams in various foreign fields throughout the world. Both by the living tongue and the silent picture, he graphically set before his audience the immense disproportion between the work done and that which still remained to be done. The lecture was eloquent and educational, and forcibly brought home to the brethren the claims which the foreign field has upon them.

—THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN, 27 April 1905

OMB
Overseas Mission Board

Growing Spiritually

• *Life in all its fullness*

No Regrets

by Larry Gibb

When you stop to think about life, you soon realise that our time on this earth is limited. Life is too short to be wasted.

One area of life that seems to keep confronting me lately is regrets. During our lifetime we say and do things that we regret.

We regret not saying and doing certain things. Regret causes pain because failed relationships, unattained ambitions and unspoken feelings very often lead to bitterness or guilt.

The old saying "don't cry over spilled milk" is true about one thing. Crying will not change or right a wrong situation. But wiping up the spilled milk is another thing! We can change a wrong situation by apologising, repenting or forgiving a person or persons for things that have caused hurt.

Life is too short to be wasted on guilt, bitterness and unforgiveness because one was too stubborn or "too hurt" to attempt to right the wrong.

Most people leave it until it's too late. When someone has died you hear the family or friends say "if only I had said sorry or hadn't done this or told them I loved them". Regrets at this point are a wasted exercise.

The other situation is when a person has locked themselves into a relationship or lifestyle or ambition and then discovered that it wasn't right. The regret comes and often builds into resentment towards the other person. I think, before making major decisions it is essential to think through every aspect, thus allowing no room for major regrets later on.

Can I encourage you to make sure that you have told those you love that very fact? To make amends and mend broken friendships. Don't force people into saying and doing things you and/or they will regret.

Jesus taught a lot about repentance, which means to have a change of heart. A change of heart is a sure way to having no regrets.

Jesus came that we might have a right relationship with God and with our fellow humans. This is the one essential area where we cannot afford any regrets.

Jesus said "I have come that you may have life in all its fullness".

A life free of regret is part of that fullness and most times we need the love of Jesus to help us not have any regrets.

• *Larry Gibb is the minister at the Kalgoorlie, WA, church.*

A Farmer's Prayer

A modern paraphrase of Habakkuk 3:17-19

¹⁷ Though the wheat harvest is sold for half its value and there be no profit to meet the bills, though the value of our land be halved and our interest bill doubled, though there are abundant sheep in the pen that brings no price in the yards,

and though the floor price of our wool disappears, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour. ¹⁹ The sovereign LORD is my strength; for man's manipulation will not rob me of my hope in God my redeemer.

—Sonny Pillay

(Written for the harvest thanksgiving service at the Bordertown, SA, church on 24 February.)

• A college in need

Learning from History

by Peter Burnham

In recent weeks we have been made aware of the financial difficulties facing our national college at Mulgrave, Vic. While we may acknowledge that the present predicament has something to do with the current recession there are other factors that ought to concern us as well.

Some of these factors are embedded in our history, and perhaps it is time to remind ourselves about them, to see what insights we can gain for the present situation.

Hegel had a rather cynical view of history when he wrote, "What experience and history teach is this—that people and governments never have learned anything from history, or acted on principles deduced from it." Hopefully, we can learn from our history.

Our early leaders clearly recognised that if our churches were to grow, then they needed a trained and educated ministry. So once we were over the early itinerant evangelist stage of establishing churches, churches started to engage preachers for a preaching and teaching ministry.

D.A. Ewers wrote in 1896, "More preachers are needed to give their whole time to the work...The churches are learning what other churches had to learn, namely, that they must have an able and educated ministry..."

In *The Australian Christian* in 1899 A.B. Maston wrote, "If we as a people are to occupy a position in Australia commensurate with the importance of the plea we present, we must have as leaders men of culture and ability."

Later in the same issue he wrote, "It is becoming increasingly evident that an educated ministry is indispensable to lasting prosperity."

In 1902 he asked a question in an article, "Where are our preachers to come from?" The

attitude of many of our churches at the time was that there was an inexhaustible supply of evangelists in America just waiting to be invited to Australia. He answered by saying, "We must train our own young men and the sooner our churches realise this the better it will be for the future prospects in Australia of the cause we love."

College Opened

Through the enthusiastic support of many people who had worked for many years to convince the Brotherhood of the need for a college, it was finally opened, with its inaugural meeting held in the Lygon Street chapel on 12 February 1907. W.C. Craigie, the college treasurer, indicated that £4,000 had been collected in cash and promises to endow the college for five years.

Jas Johnston spoke about the college being possible because of the co-operation of the whole Australian Brotherhood in response to the universal need for such an institution.

The college report of that year indicated the high aim and expectation of our churches, "...its students ought to emerge from its walls the best equipped for evangelistic and pastoral work of any student for the ministry of any college in the land."

A.B. Maston also highlighted the relationship between the growth of our churches and an educated ministry in *The Australian Christian*, "...no movement can hope to succeed that is indifferent to the claims of education."

The establishment of the college alleviated a number of concerns:

- Churches now had access to preachers who were trained in Australia. These churches were in need of the preaching/teaching/pastoral ministry of college graduates. Some leaders tied the growth of Victorian

churches to the ministry provided by students in their weekend pastorates.

- The flood of young men who would have sought training overseas, particularly in the United States, was stemmed somewhat. In the 15–20 years prior to 1906, 50 Australians went to study at American colleges. Of these 50, 36 remained in America, three died, one was a missionary in Japan, two returned to New Zealand and only eight returned to Australia.

- As ministers were trained and qualified through our own college, churches were protected from unscrupulous preachers who swooped on unsuspecting churches and in some circumstances wreaked great havoc in the congregation.

Glen Iris

The early facilities of the college in Carlton soon proved inadequate, and in the 1908 college issue of *The Australian Christian* the College Board of Management announced the purchase of a property from R.C. Edwards at Glen Iris for the sum of £1,500.

The contribution that college graduates were making to the spread of the gospel was readily acknowledged and praised. In 1915 it was reported, "It is a sheer impossibility to rightly estimate the value of an institution which in the short space of nine years has produced so many valuable men." Yet despite a dedicated, committed, and scholarly faculty under the principleship of A.R. Main, and despite the praise and thankfulness of the Australian Brotherhood, the churches were not contributing enough financially to cover the cost of running the college. By the end of the 1920s total income was about £2,600, and expenditure £3,200.

On the occasion of the college's 21st birthday in 1927, it

was pointed out by A.R. Main that 348 students had been enrolled. In 1929 the call for more money for maintenance and equipment was made in the context of the college being the hope of our Australian churches.

Throughout the depression years of the 1930s many churches struggled to stay afloat and preachers had to find alternative or supplementary employment as churches could not afford to pay them. The college also struggled financially to meet its commitments. The many deprivations suffered by college students and the poverty experienced by the faculty are some of the inspirational sacrifices made by people during this era to keep the college open and functioning.

In 1938 the incoming principal T.H. Scambler wrote an article "Triumphs and Trials of the College". He indicated that the college had been in operation for 24 years and then he lamented, "Yet we cannot but acknowledge an uneasy feeling that in some way brotherhood interest in the college was at its peak about that time, and since definitely declined."

During the difficult days of World War II, Principal Scambler appealed again to the churches about the financial constraints facing the college. "It takes money to run the college and to do this work. It always did, and today the college makes an even larger demand upon the sacrificial generosity of its supporters."

Apparently nothing had changed much for again in 1948 Principal E.L. Williams felt the need to spell out in quite specific terms the cost of training students for ministry. From an active giving membership of approximately 15,000 the highest annual offering for the college was £1,700. This meant that each member gave 2s. 3d.

Comment

• *Be alert to deception*

Aboriginal Ceremony?

by Flo Grant

The recent Assembly of the World Council of Churches held in Canberra opened with an Aboriginal ceremony of "smoke purification". This, along with the rainbow serpent, is seen by many people throughout Australia and the world as Aboriginal spirituality. And it is mistakenly identified as Aboriginal Christian worship because it was organised by Aboriginal people within the church and those involved in the revival of Aboriginal spirituality.

Many urban Aboriginal people go into the tribal lands to find their spiritual roots and get involved in the ceremonies.

They then bring back their ideology and talk about it to young Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. This, like most things, then becomes generalised as all-Aboriginal ideology.

There are many warnings to Christians to be alert to deception. Matthew 24 is especially relevant today—even those who say they love the Lord will be deceived. Is the blind acceptance of the cultural revival and spirituality cult a classic example?

• *Flo Grant is a member of our Canberra churches, and an Aboriginal. This article is reprinted from the April 1991 issue of Today.*

• *Learning from History (cont.)*

It cost each student £277.10.0 a year for his training. "In one year 40 students sacrifice for their college training £11,100 while 15,000 members, for the same purpose, sacrifice £1,700." The inequity of such a situation was blatantly obvious.

The college currently costs many hundreds of thousands of dollars to operate each year. The churches' contribution runs to something like \$60,000 per year.

Today

So what does our history teach us? Perhaps it is close to what Hegel said. It would seem that we have not learned from the past. Our method of funding our colleges is often inhumane, and therefore un-Christlike.

I received a letter this week from one of my colleagues in the ministry, seeking financial help for our college.

Of course I will help in a financial way because I believe passionately in theological education. I will help because

our churches need trained, competent and spiritually alive men and women who can provide the leadership our churches require. I will help because as a minister I need access to continuing education that will keep me alive and fresh in my ministry. I will help because we have a facility at Mulgrave of which we all can be proud.

I will help because we have a faculty that is scholarly, committed to providing the best in theological education and out of their own commitment to Christ inspire me in my Christian life.

And finally, I will help because of the students who have given up so much and answered the call of Christ in their own hearts to follow him, wherever he may lead.

Our churches have just got to shoulder more of the responsibility for training men and women for ministry.

• *Peter Burnham is the chaplain at Toorak College and is a graduate of the College of the Bible (now CCTC).*

• *Youth Ministry*

by John Rees

Menu

Beware of Salted Menus and Butter Knives

Picture the scene. You take the woman you love to an exclusive restaurant. The lights are low, the conversation is easy and the atmosphere is just right. You both peruse the menu, commenting on the delicacies that are written before you. Then, as you smile at each other casually across the table, you both sprinkle salt over the menu and begin to eat it!

Thinking the night to be a great success, you leave the restaurant convinced that you are nourished, and that your life has been enriched for the experience.

Sounds bizarre? Sounds like it could never happen? Well unfortunately it does. It has happened to me, but not in an exclusive restaurant. (I can't afford it!) It has happened in church. I wonder if it has been your experience as well.

In our churches on a Sunday, we open up the Bible and address the truths within it. On Friday nights we meet as youth groups and hear devotions that centre on the message of scripture. We may even attend midweek Bible studies that allow us to delve deeper into God's word. We attend conferences, concerts and camps that take the Bible's message and inspire us to change the world (at least for a while).

Yes indeed, we have built for ourselves a wonderful world. To go back to the restaurant, the atmosphere is just right, the company is good and the menu is inspiring. But something is terribly wrong.

The environment of the restaurant has only given us the illusion that we have done what we came to do, that is, eat together. The fact is, we have not done that, we aren't nourished, and if we continued to eat menus instead of food we will eventually die of malnutrition. Many of us are under the

illusion that because we see and talk about the Bible a lot (or at least respect it in some patronizingly mystical sense), that we are actually applying it to our lives. Such an illusion is very dangerous because it gives us a "religious" appearance, which can too easily be a substitute for a relationship with God.

Hebrews 4:12 says the word of God is "living and active" and "a double-edged sword". The value of a sword is seen in its application, not simply in its appearance. The Bible, being the word of God, is a sword more valuable than any other. In John 5:39 Jesus taught that the scriptures point us to himself. The Bible isn't a dead book. God is not calling us to simply read it, but to instead live our lives by it. The Bible is a sword, but too often we treat it like a butter knife, throwing it in with all the other cutlery. In doing this we make it to be "but one great book among many". We theorise about the Jesus on the page, rather than allowing the scriptures to introduce us to him personally. The first is simple "religion", the second is "relationship". The difference is seen in our lives. We could know the Bible in five languages, yet still fail to follow the Christ that the Bible is showing us.

Food is essential to life. The word of God is eternal food that transforms our life and our lifestyle. The Bible points us to Jesus, and not to eat of him is to die. Let that be a warning to us all the next time we feel the urge to sprinkle salt on the menu.

• *John Rees is a staff member at the Institute for Contemporary Church Leadership, Wollongong. Edited by Andrew Ball, Field Director of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development and the Australian Board of Church Development and Education*

Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words.

Burt, Clem

(16.3.91) Born in Tumbay Bay, SA. Clem grew up in Boort in the Victorian Mallee. He committed his life to Jesus as a young lad and was active in his faith all his life. He moved to Tasmania in his early 20s and married Lucy in 1941. He served the church in Devonport as their secretary, was active in the work of the state-wide church and served a term as President of the State Conference. Steeped in the Word, a respected lay preacher, this graceful Christian died peacefully in the Mersy General Hospital, Devonport.

—Tom Edge

Daff (Gillespie), Leslie Jean (3.4.91) Died aged 83, after many years of suffering. Born Burnley 14.5.07. Life-long association with Churches of Christ began at Avonsleigh 1913–20. With husband Allan (married 1932) served our Lord well with long associations with churches at Cheltenham, Springvale, Frankston, Oakleigh. Baptised at Cheltenham at 15 years. Active in Sunday School teaching, Girls' Club, Christian Endeavour, women's work ... Life revolved around family, church and supporting Allan in market gardening. Four children: Bob, Mardie, Barbara and Dorothy. Loved growing flowers despite arthritis. A devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother and a beautiful Christian. Sympathy extended to Allan, family and friends.

—Jack Edwards

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WA

MAYLANDS (David Jolly) Carol Hale begins training program with Life in Focus ... World Day of Prayer held at Maylands ... Planning a Family Church seminar led by D. Jolly ... CWF meeting led by C. Eaves commenced 1991 ... Maundy Thursday agape meal celebrated with excellence thanks to Connie & helpers ... Good Friday service led by David & Sharyn Jolly ... Easter Sunday welcomed many visitors ... Young adults attended Easter camp Roelands.

WARWICK (G.B. Carslake, B.A. Eagles, R.L. Mason) More than 40 involved in Morawa & Roelands Easter camps as participants & leaders ... Jill Briscoe preached to large Sunday night meeting ... Barry McMurtrie recent speaker ... Sport a very large outreach ministry with 27 basketball & seven netball teams for winter. New Warwick Leisure Centre providing excellent opportunities for growth ... Proposed extensions to building being considered ... David Pyne just concluded his year as Conference President.

DIANELLA (John Spencer) A time of blessing & uplift experienced by those sharing weekend family camp ... Church held a "bring a friend or neighbour" banquet following Easter ... Covenant Players enriched morning service ... Congratulations to Glenys & Rex Grey, married in March ... Youth group growing in strength under leadership of Mark & Judy Anderson.

MAYLANDS (David Jolly) Carol Hale joins the missionary committee as the rep for Life in Focus ... Welcome back to Nancy Simpson following her visit to Scotland ... The church celebrated the baptism of Mrs Evelyn Paul 14 April.

FREMANTLE (D. Good) Members attended State Conference meetings. Church closed pm service to attend closing Conference Rally ... Letter box drop with Easter Bible

Church News

Society leaflets ... Easter services well attended ... Colin & Dorothy Olds congratulated on their 60th wedding anniversary ... Lloyd Lawson, former radio & TV personality, shared his experiences & gave thoughts on present-day media, also shared message on 23rd Psalm.

NORTHAM (Graham Butler) Paul & Lyn Cannon now in second year as chaplains at the Northam High School ... Church services have started again at the High School Hostel ... Girls' Brigade parade. 15 enrolments ... Many young people blessed at Easter camps.

GERALDTON (Rohan Burcham) Passover breakfast enjoyed by 65 on Good Friday ... Additional ministry in April from Ross Nancarrow (New Tribes Mission) & Phil & Loraine Sheedy (Mobile Missionary Maintenance) ... Appointment of two new elders Tony van Keule & Graeme Gibbons & two new deacons Frank Sindelar & Geoff Norman, joining elders Clem Johnston, George Edland & George Matchett on board ... 50 involved in Bible studies this year ... Young people presented special evening service in March involving music, drama, video & spoken word presentations.

BRIDGETOWN (Errol Kirk) Family camp held at Busselton. Peter Moyle led studies on 1 Thessalonians ... 80 packed church for Easter morning service ... Young people had overnight stay on farm ... Youth group attracting youth from town. One decision ... Men's Fellowship & Homemakers group active in outreach ... CWCI coffee & slice evening held Town Hall ... Stephen Bolton returned after completing trade certificate in cabinet making ... World Day of Prayer held Catholic Church.

Tas

NUBEENA (G. Henderson) Ian Parker & Darcey Williams elected

elders ... World Day of Prayer held ... Marlene Bloomfield & Scott Nichols married ... Don Smith & Colin Orr visited to speak to board ... Greg Jacobson gone to New Life School, NSW, before going to India on mission work ... Maureen Priest holidaying in South Africa & attending wedding of son ... Surprise party given by church to minister for 60th birthday.

DEVONPORT (B. Butler) Church using Resource OHP transparencies with new screen ... Name tags with church logo purchased ... Two baptisms with others inquiring ... Youth leadership reinforced with arrival of Peter & Marion Bertram from SA ... Youth group, ladies' & men's Bible study groups growing. Ladies studying *Surviving Life in the Fast Lane* & men *Can the Pastor Do It Alone?* ... Harman's & Bannon's bush hut crowded for Easter Sunday night service.

HUON (S. Warwick, K. Rochester) Rochester family welcomed ... Kathy prepared choir for combined Good Friday service at Huonville ... Youth group led Huonville family service in April ... Huonville's Harvest Thanksgiving produce to City Mission. Geeveston's to Eldercare ... Geeveston's Second Sunday's specials going well. Greg Foot spoke for World Vision special. An international luncheon followed ... Dover's Bible study prepared an outdoor music celebration for Easter Sunday afternoon.

CAVESIDE (John & Colleen Harrison) Midweek meeting with Don Smith 12 March ... Participated in combined churches Palm Sunday service & procession, Deloraine. Commenced at Gospel Chapel then procession, led by donkey, to Anglican Church. J. Harrison preached. Tea following ... Church combined with Mole Creek Uniting for Good Friday service ... Good attendance Easter Sunday. Sunday School children taking part ... Good fun at Easter Monday picnic despite weather.

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Personal

Baptisms

•Terry Collins, Glenis Collins, Devonport, Tas •Barbara Klaver, Cec Brown, Matthew Batten, Swan Hill, Vic •Vera Taylor, Maria Cassar, Shayne Naismith, Oakleigh, Vic •Arthur & Sylvia Barratt, Val Barratt, Jan Denney, Rayma Farrell, Natalie Beard, Jim & Robyn Job, Warwick, WA •Bruce McDonough, Glen Suttor, Mrs Shirley Suttor, Bayswater, Vic •Jenny Tillie, Dandenong, Vic •Tania Phillips, Courtney Rogers, Yarrowonga, Vic •Kathy Bennett, Magill, SA •Lenna Chenn, Northcote, Vic •Mrs Evelyn Paul, Maylands, WA •Wendy McAllister, Fiona Hopgood, Boronia, Vic •Sam Thompson, Chatswood, NSW •Jenny Templeton, Dawson St, Ballarat, Vic •Samantha Elliott, Neal Fowler, Centenary, Qld •Lesley Schulz, Roger Chapman, Balaklava, SA •Jane Bloomfield, Meredith Andrews, Nallsouth, SA •Chrissie Hart, Chinchilla/Hopeland, Qld •Daniel O'Dempsey, Nowra, NSW

Marriages

•Marlene Bloomfield to Scott Nichols, Nubeena, Tas •Alison Scott to Bevan Looney, Swan Hill, Vic •Jane Bloomfield to Paul Deer, Nallsouth, SA

Deaths

•Albert Fox, Marge Walters, North Essendon, Vic •Mrs Jean Daff, Oakleigh, Vic •Kevin Saviile, Warwick, WA •Ethel Smith, Dandenong, Vic •Mrs Elsi Poland, Maylands, WA •Ethel Judd, Boronia, Vic •Miss Irene Gitsham,



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Church News

Qld

LOWOOD (Ian Richer) Attendances have increased ... Video service. "A Thief in the Night" shown ... Arthur & Lil Groffith in membership ... Sheree & Kev Heise share music ministry now with Annette & Craig Vogler ... Lowood will share in circuit mission with David Mansell in Sept.

MARBURG (Ian Richer) Attendances increasing again ... Trevor & Maureen Sargent (SA) in fellowship ... Great service with Rangeview (Toowoomba), Ma Ma Creek & Gatton 7 April ... New piano, upgrade of gardens, PA system ... Congregation gave Easter gift to all in children's group (60) ... 60 children in Hey! Hey! It's Friday group with Polly Richer ... Sunday School growing ... Preparations for mission with David Mansell (15-22 Sept) ... Expansion Shiloh Aged Care Home nearing completion.

CENTENARY (Reg Charles) Church experiencing problem & joy of rapid growth. 10 welcomed by baptism or transfer. Attendance averages 110 ... Church growth principles gained from Kennan Callahan seminar & 1990 Federal Conference heavily influencing council planning strategies. Focus on quality of worship & visitation ... New piano purchased. Multiple instrumentalists ... Strong support of elders, council & key lay persons ... New shrub planted for each new baptism.

CHINCHILLA/HOPELAND (Rod Feldhahn) Visit from Janet Tainton, 13 Feb, representing SUM Nigeria ... Travelled to Kingaroy for Western Districts Fellowship March ... Family camp 16-17 March, 99 in attendance. Study leader Ron Sansome ... Rejoicing with Chrissie Hart on her commitment to Christ & baptism Easter Sunday ... Crusade with Maurie Pieper, 12-19 May. Meetings include family dinner & youth barbecue ... Return youth exchange with Harlaxton, Toowoomba, 12-14 April.

Vic

NORTH ESSENDON (Graham & Bev Burgan) February increase in attendances & offerings ... Burgan family have moved into manse. 45 attended "mansewarming" barbecue ... Youth group attended YFC Youth Happening Belgrave Heights ... CWF visited Gwen Mason & Dot Dowling at Ballarat ... Palm Sunday service at Keilor Road Uniting Church ... Congregation saddened at deaths of Albert Fox & Marge Walters ... Early morning bowlers'

services have commenced ... Crazy whist continuing.

HARTWELL (G. Rogerson) School of Christian Living conducted over three weeks teaching for SS teachers & pastoral care team ... Church sponsored World Day of Prayer service ... Fund-raising film night at CCTC raised \$500 for college ... Harvest Thanksgiving service ... Recognition & dedication of elders & deacons ... Family service featured Yurana Singers & SS scholars ... Lenten studies ... Easter settings & role playing ... Church choir music contributed to inspirational Easter worship.

SWAN HILL (L.J. Mayes, S.J. Willis) Three baptised at evening service on Easter Sunday ... Church financially supporting work of August & Maeline Ben in Vanuatu ... Senior minister has purchased a home in Swan Hill leaving manse available for associate minister. Old manse adjacent to chapel to be used for church offices & counselling centre ... Four KYB & five home groups operating.

OAKLEIGH (J. Edwards) Church encouraged by three baptisms, the first for many years ... Elsie Tulloch, minister's mother-in-law received in by transfer ... Vera Taylor, Maria Cassar, Shayne Naismith received in after baptisms ... Church sympathises with Alan Daff on death of his wife ... Nell Neville presided over CWF meeting that arranged syllabus for year ... Table tennis club commenced ... Harvest Festival held. Proceeds to CCTC & needy families.

CHADSTONE (C. & P. Bradley) Presentation to Howard Whittaker for over 30 years dedicated service ... 22 attended Maundy Thursday & Passover meal ... \$1,080 raised at garage sale, \$540 donated to Kensington Christian Network ... Helen Cole appointed deacon at AGM ... Church delighted at number of young families in active membership ... Peter & Cathy appointed for further three years of ministry (end of 1994) including one year for Peter as chaplain to nursing homes on full-time basis.

BAYSWATER (R.C. Combridge) Resumption of Sunday School shows a majority of children from nonchurch homes, the result of direct outreach activities ... Other outreach groups also being effective with adults ... Three baptisms March ... Indonesian missionaries Neville & Dorothy Munyard speakers at 24 March service ... Mike Lee now youth leader ... Monica Brownbill congratulated on receipt of Gold Medal IDP.

RICHMOND (J. Schulze) Church working towards combining the

Chinese- & English-speaking congregations. First service most successful. Greg Elsdon speaker. More than 50 present ... Playgroup, craft group & CWF working well ... Sunday School recommenced with 12 scholars ... Vietnamese congregation continues to grow with six recent baptisms.

MAIDSTONE (Wes Rodgers) Members Jean Cooper, Arthur Lewis & Brian Smith took services while Wes on holidays ... Well-attended WVCC coffee morning enjoyed ... Thanks to organisers of after-church picnic to Brimbank Park, Maribyrnong River ... Combined Good Friday service with Tottenham Baptists ... Conference President Brian White visited ... Ulster choir gave harmonious performance ... Several members hospitalised recently ... Baby Matthew welcomed by Debbie, Mark, Samantha Rodgers.

THE PATCH (Mike Folland) Bev & Ian Beasley welcomed ... Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday dawn service & fish breakfast in Monbulk Park & 10.30 celebration well attended ... New board. Elders V. Berry & P. Perry. Deacons Bev Beasley (sec), G. Fisher (worship), C. Jones (evangelism), K. Jones (small groups), J. Renner (training & evangelism), W. Treloar (treasurer), S. McNeil (pastoral care) D. Phelan (communications), E. Stevens (property) ... Market stall raised \$1,879 & \$800 sale compost bins.

DANDENONG (Graeme Foon, Mark Butler) Church fair held, which was a great success. Over \$3,000 raised ... Speaker from TEAR Fund ... Special rugged cross made & painting of open tomb done for Easter services ... Praise service held at pm services ... David Christianson, critically hurt in a car accident 15 December, now making steady progress after continued prayer. Praise to our God.

NUMURKAH (David Atkinson) Starting early 1991 we have David & Heather Atkinson (our student minister) & their two daughters spending the weekend with us once a month when we have Bible study, morning service & Pleasant Sunday Afternoon ... Church preparing for Op Shop in April ... Church picnic planned for May ... Church has purchased overhead transparencies, also installed air-conditioning in hall.

YARRAWONGA (B. Keddie) At annual meeting two ladies were elected to board for the first time. Elected as deacons were Mrs Jean Starr, Mrs Fan Taylor & David Starr. Trevor Jones elected as elder ... Good Friday morning was shared

with Presbyterian Church ... Easter Sunday two were baptised ... Bi-monthly the YP make a vital & interesting contribution to evening service. Last service focused on the resurrection.

NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn) Inter-Church Council Palm Sunday service held in chapel, also Good Friday service combined with Baptists ... Tongans who use our buildings for services invited members to a couple of their feasts ... Church services well attended though a number have been away sick ... Win Timmins has had knee replacement ... Ondina Sleeth, a married woman, made her decision at recent morning service.

BORONIA (Keith Milne, Andrew Henley) Rebuilding has commenced following fire. We meet at 10 am in RC Church School hall, at 7 pm in Uniting Church, Day Care groups & Explorers at Anglican Church, Good Companions at Salvation Army, Play Group in Guide Hall, homes used for smaller groups ... 70th anniversary organised & held despite difficulties ... Members joined with other churches for Lenten studies.

DAWSON ST, BALLARAT (Stephen Templeton, Tracey Wickham) During service led by Tim Clark, young people who attended Halls Gap camp or Belgrave Heights convention related experiences ... Memories stirred at CWF & Senior Members' Fellowship, by visit of W.W. Saunders, whose ministry spanned war years 1939-45. Mr Saunders included a résumé of his life's story ... Church saddened by passing of Miss Irene Gitsham ... Attendances continually increasing.

REDCLIFFS (G.R. Sharrad) Good services over Easter with many visitors present ... Easter Sunday night Mr & Mrs Sharrad showed slides & gave a commentary on visit to Passion Play at Oberammergau ... CWF reports increased membership ... Kid's Club maintaining high interest.

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Church News

ACT

AINSLIE (Peter Nelson) Ainslie choir sang at both Palm Sunday & Easter Sunday services ... Heather Jauncey performed drama "No Room" Easter Sunday service ... Peter Nelson assisted organisation of Easter 91 in Canberra ... Neil Gilmore led moving Good Friday service. Cross carried to stations around Corroboree Park ... Ainslie "Munch for Mulgrave" raised \$1,000 ... Creative Living Centre celebrated Senior Citizens Week at morning service 8 April.

NSW

CHATSWOOD (Ian Alves, Rosalie Rofe) 77th anniversary celebrated with speaker Ron Hewitt ... Combined service with Chinese Good Friday ... Palm Sunday service, Willoughby Town Hall, with community churches ... Five welcomed into fellowship ... "Focus on the Family" film series Saturday nights May-June. Pamphlets distributed 2,500 homes ... 7 am Monday open prayer meetings commenced ... Missionary weekend planned for June ... Men's breakfasts continue ... Ian Alves commences college lecturing.

SEVEN HILLS (T.J. Beaman) Conference President Dr Keith Farmer spoke on 7 April. Our monthly special "A Very Pleasant Sunday Afternoon" was fairly well supported with 48 present. The Toongabbie Baptist singing group "Dove" took the program with Dr Keith Farmer as the speaker, the ladies providing a nice afternoon tea.

SA

VICTOR HARBOR (Don Wesley) Don Wesley inducted into ministry &, along with wife June & family, welcomed into fellowship ... Farewell to Ray & Wilma Patterson after 12 months ministry ... Friendship Centre recommenced with over 100 attending weekly. Offer of use of house next door appreciated ... Sunday School & CYF recommenced with good attendances ... Church AGM held following elections held previously ... 122 enjoyed luncheons in members' homes.

BORDERTOWN (S. Pillay) Family film night & tea featured film "Golden Dolphin" ... Annual Bible School & church picnic held under ideal conditions ... Commissioning service for Roslyn Bagshaw before departing overseas for mission work. Retiring offering \$623 ... 70

primary school children attended Sunshine Club held at school ... Peg & Stan Milne recovering from foot & leg surgery ... Harvest thanksgiving & monthly prayer meetings held ... Josie Guy joined sister Karen in Adelaide for studies. **MAGILL** (John Gilmore, David Marr) In early February the congregation welcomed John & Robyn Gilmore into ministry at Magill with a family luncheon ... Large attendance & positive forward looking spirit at the AGM in March ... Committee established to look at a property enhancement program ... Lenten studies conducted leading

up to nightly Holy Week meditations & a Maundy Thursday meal attended by over 80 family & friends.

BALAKLAVA (Graham Lawrie) Graham Lawrie happy to return from long service leave, now working on CCTC Diploma of Ministry course ... Youth concert in Town Hall well attended ... Aboriginal Mission deputation presented bright evening program of news & testimonies ... Young people have excellent outreach work among basketballers of the district ... House groups, youth work & women's organisations well into

1991 programs ... Grief seminar held in March.

NAILSWORTH (Daryll Telfer) Combined services with Enfield/Prospect Churches of Christ, Berean Aboriginal & Baptist churches ... Mobile Mission Maintenance directed manse repairs ... Prospect Fair stall raised \$400 for Kids' Club freezer ... Major Ian Thomas of Capernwray Missionary Fellowship a special speaker ... Rosemary Telfer, Kelly Wilson, Tamra Maddox conducted youth service ... Rejoicing with two baptisms ... Fellowship at church picnic & Sunday lunches in five homes (100 present).

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A Father is indeed.

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Is this, and even more—
For I lean upon his shoulder
When my heart is sick and sore;
And when I trip and stumble,
With my bruised and bleeding knees—
How I come to him for comfort
All my misery he sees,
And holds me in his loving arms
Till my distresses cease,
And heals my wounded spirit
With his own sweet kiss of peace...

Just like our mothers used to,
When we were weak and small;
They carried all our burdens
As no other could, at all!
For mothers are quite special
Since they, in travail torn,
Experience all the anguish
Through which new life is born;
And in their hearts they carry,
A love that cannot die,
For in their own life-giving,
They bring the Lord God nigh.

So God, our loving Father,
Becomes our Mother, too,
In the agony he suffered

To give us life anew;
And his heart of love is yearning
With a mother's tenderness,
To nourish our frail spirits,
To comfort and to bless.

Now the bond of father-mother,
Is the core of family,
For both are truly needed
In joy—or tragedy;
So in the realm of Spirit
We crave the dual role
Of God, our Father-Mother,
To nurture body, soul...
For while we call him "Father"
And bow beneath the rod,
Our hearts deep down are yearning
For the "motherhood" of God!

His majesty o'erwhelms us,
Before his power we quake;
But in the still night-watches,
When alone we lie awake—
How we long for God, our Mother,
With a loving, gentle hand
To soothe our fevered spirit
And to say, "I understand!"

For life is all lopsided,
When we fail to comprehend
That God, our great Creator,
The gender role transcends:
So, call him Father, Mother—
Whatever else you please,
The God revealed in Jesus,
Supersedes—yes, all of these!

—Marj Buckingham (Caulfield, Vic)



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The Last Word

A man's mind plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.

—Proverbs 16:9

The magazine of an Anglican church in England announced: We shall be meeting on Wednesday, when the subject will be "Heaven: How do we get there?" Transport is available at 7.55 from the bus stop opposite the Harewood Arms.

★★★★★

Extracts from School Essays

Herrings go about the sea in shawls.

The chief clause of the Magna Carta was that no free man could be put to death or imprisoned without his own consent.

Henry had an abess on his knee, which made walking difficult.

Some cows are dangerous—especially the bulls.

A sure-footed animal is one that when it kicks it never misses.

Some instruments used in the orchestra are viles, cellars, hornets, baboons, old boys and bubble bases.

Respiration is composed of two acts: inspiration and expeoration.

★★★★★

Singing Teacher: That note was "me". What comes before it?

Pupil: "Ray".

Teacher: Right! Now what comes before "ray"?

Pupil: "Hoo"!

★★★★★

Prisoner: How long are you in for?

Cellmate: 99 years. How about you?

Prisoner: 75.

Cellmate: OK. You take the bed nearest the door. You're getting out first.

★★★★★

The irate customer burst into the complaints department of the store and said, "Listen to me. I bought this electric fan here last week, and this morning my cat got its tail caught in the blades. I insist you do something about it."

"Certainly," was the reply. "The retail department is on the third floor."

★★★★★

At nine o'clock each morning the telephone operator got a call from a person asking what time it was. The operator would glance out the window and reply, "Exactly nine o'clock."

After this had gone on for about three weeks, the operator finally asked, "Why do you always want to know the time?"

"Well," said the caller, "I'm the person responsible for the town hall clock, and I want to be sure it's showing the right time."

"Oh, no," said the operator. "I get my time from the town hall clock."