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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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Photo by courtesy of the Palmerston North Evening Standard.



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Personal Dispatch

To my Sovereign Commander,
The Lord of Hosts,
My Lord,

Things are a bit quiet on the battlefield around here just at the moment. I have taken the opportunity therefore to write my report while sitting on the edge of the trench. As I look out over the field I think I can hear the sound of fighting in the distance. I guess it will be heading my way sometime soon.

Thinking about that does give me cause for concern. I do not seem to be made in the mould of the heroes that I've read about. From the way the enemy has looked at me, they seem to have arrived at the same estimation. Some of my comrades look at me and shake their heads leaving little to the imagination of what they think of my prowess. The only real source of encouragement comes from yourself. You know all about me, and still you have entrusted me with this mission. That really overwhelms me.

In rereading some of my previous dispatches my own worse fears are verified. I've had more failures than victories, more near misses than I really want to think about. Why is it that I seem to have the uncanny ability to "shoot myself in the foot" when trying to impress? Do others do such silly things?

In the past couple of days I've had a couple of scares. I came across a couple of undercover agents the enemy was trying to infiltrate into the section. They even dressed the same and spoke the same words. They were very pleasant and convincing but when I challenged them as to whether they knew you and what was the

"password" they were unmasked. When I drew the sword of the spirit they took fright and flight. Fortunately they only saw your sword and not the trembling knees.

On patrol the other evening I nearly stepped into one of their booby-traps. It was so cleverly concealed that if I had not been warned by your training manual I could have been wounded.

These few menacing moments are about all the drama I've had to face up until now. Sure there have been ever-increasing bombardments of propaganda seeking to undermine morale, and I must admit that some of the shrapnel hurts.

In looking over some of the Army news there are some very difficult sectors. Some of my comrades are under a lot of pressure and paying a high price to hold the ground. I guess only you and they know the full amount involved. May they be encouraged and reinforced by others moving up to participate in the advance of the Cross.

It is time for me to close this report.

I'm not sure if my ears are just imagining things, but I think I hear the sound of artillery moving this way. Some of the older campaigners talk about the thrill of the conflict between truth and error, light and darkness, and the sense of your presence in the fray. I take heart in their comments, but I must admit to being rather nervous.

Thank you for your commission.

Thank you for your trust.

May I prove faithful.

Yours,
R.N. Hawkins



It has come to our attention, Brother Hooper, that you may not be happy with your vow of silence.

• Wyoming has a "Heart-attack"

Way Out—But Wonderful

On 19 May the Wyoming, NSW, church faced something of a culture shock. The church handed over the whole evening to its young people. Instead of the normal type of service, the youth opted for something more contemporary. With seating arrangements changed, a coffee shop atmosphere was created in the hall and people (both young and old) sat around tables. They listened to a local band, "Heart-attack" from Youth for Christ, present the Gospel in music.

Between 180-200 attended the service. Definite numbers were difficult to estimate due to the informal arrangements of the night. People moved around during the service, drank coffee and tea and enjoyed the light snacks provided.

Graham Deaner rap-danced to Christian music and gave his testimony, which moved many. At the end of the evening Ed

McCarthy from Youth for Christ challenged each person to a personal relationship with Christ. This resulted in some initial decisions and re-affirmation of faith.

Although this service was alien to some, it heightened our awareness of how alien some "normal" services must be to those who have no affiliation to church life, and the need to bridge some of these gaps.

The church is ecstatic about how the Lord blessed the whole evening and now look forward to the future where Christianity and culture can meet in an expression of worship.

Thanks to all willing workers: youth leaders David and Lorraine Bishop, youth minister David Peters, Youth for Christ leader Ed McCarthy and band "Heart-attack" and kitchen hands Liz Butt and helpers.

—Jim Newton

• Bellarine Peninsula services

Church on the Move

The Bellarine Peninsula, Vic, church (formerly Ocean Grove) has been in operation for 14 years. Its early services were conducted in the family room of Jean and Les Poole.

After some years in the Poole home the church moved to 11 am services in the Ocean Grove Uniting Church premises. Some logistical problems led to a change to the Senior Citizens Hall, where the church has met for over a year. This arrangement has been satisfactory except for the need for hours of work each Sunday transforming a club into a worship centre and back again, together with carting in the organ, sound system and other equipment.

Now the Uniting Church has again come to the rescue, this time with Newington Church on the Wallington-Ocean Grove Road, just 5 km from Ocean Grove itself. The Uniting Church worships at 9 am,

making it possible for the Church of Christ to meet at 11 am. The premises are in a rural setting and central to the whole peninsula. The renovated buildings are over 100 years old. The Newington church people are delighted to have their premises used by another church and have gone the second mile in generosity over the new arrangements.

Church of Christ services will commence at Newington with the 14th anniversary services on 16 June at 11 am and 6.30 pm.

As the new premises are within easy reach of all major holiday resorts on the Bellarine Peninsula, Churches of Christ visitors are invited to include a Sunday in their stay and to experience contemporary Christian worship in this "church in the valley by the wildwood".

—Gordon Stirling

• Cover story

Brigades' Golden Jubilee



Gordon Stirling

While ministering to the Palmerston North, NZ, church 50 years ago Gordon Stirling looked for organisations that would give a weekday activity for the large number of high school boys and girls in the Sunday School. It seemed that the Boys' and Girls' Brigades would answer the need.

He first approached Merv Dearsly, a young accountant, with a view to going to Wellington for training and then setting up a company of the Boys' Brigade.

He had some difficulty in getting leaders for the girls, but finally approached the two busiest women in the church, Irene Ogier and Clarice Hollows, who each had four young children. They were willing "to give it a go". Merv and Clarice were to become presidents of their respective Brigade Councils in New Zealand.

The present Brigade Companies decided to celebrate the 50 years with a combined Golden Jubilee with Gordon Stirling as their guest.

The church at Palmerston North and its Brigade Companies are thriving. Martin Rees, a College of the Bible graduate, is their minister.

The cover photograph shows Gordon Stirling with four of the original boys of the Palmerston North Boys' Brigade.

On Gordon's left is Ian Ogier, recently retired from the ministry of Churches of Christ.

On his right is Fred Hollows, Professor of Ophthalmology of the University of NSW, recently named "Australian of the Year" for his voluntary work with Aborigines and more recently in Eritrea.



Fred Hollows

• Sound move

"AC" for the Print Handicapped

At *The Australian Christian* we are currently attempting to work out a scheme so that members of Churches of Christ who are print handicapped can read the material in the paper.

We are negotiating with a church in Melbourne that will provide a group of people to read sections of the magazine onto tape. The tapes will be sent on a regular basis.

People in our churches who are interested in such a service or those who know people who would like to receive regular tapes of *The Australian Christian* are asked to contact Chris Ambrose on (03) 379 1219. We would also like to know what material they would like included in such a service and the frequency of the arrival of tapes.

• Resignation of Russell Clinton

Vic-Tas Aborigines News



The welcome corroboree at the Canberra Crusade

The Vic-Tas Aborigines Mission Department has reluctantly accepted the resignation of Russell Clinton after 10 years dedicated and active work with the department. The video, "Towards 2000", now circulating in the churches, is just one of many innovative ideas made by Russell during his time of service. A presentation was made to Russell of the book *One Blood* at the Vic-Tas Conference and flowers to Betty, his wife, unfortunately absent through illness.

Northern Outreach

The churches of Mildura and Swan Hill have asked to be included in the list of churches to come under the advisory and supportive umbrella of the newly formed Northern Aboriginal Outreach Committee. Churches already linked with this arm of the Aborigines Mission are Mooroopna, Shepparton, Echuca, Wodonga and Albury North. At the request of the Mooroopna congregation an extraordinary meeting was convened be-

tween members of the church and the Northern Committee for discussion on the appointment of a minister to that church. The matter is progressing satisfactorily.

Instruments Wanted

Harold Taylor is looking for unwanted musical instruments, with the accent on guitars, for the Mooroopna church. There is a lot of untapped musical talent there. If you have an instrument gathering dust in a cupboard or under the stairs, Harold will be pleased to hear from you on (03) 773 2728.

Canberra Visit

Members of the Albury-Wodonga church, headed by Cec and Laurel Grant, travelled to Canberra for the crusade sponsored by the Canberra Aboriginal Church and held in the Albert Hall. The crusade was a joint witness between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Christians. Speakers were the Rev Lindsay McDowell and Edith Mullins from Canberra, Elvie Walker of Brisbane and Bob Brown of Adelaide. Commitments were made at the crusade, which was seen as a time of blessing, fellowship and challenge. A welcome corroboree at the Canberra Crusade was performed on the stage by Reg Lawrence, Brendan Singh and Darren Williams. The backdrop was painted by Bill Lennon of Port Augusta. —Betty Bantow

• Service

Taree's Anniversary

The Taree, NSW, church celebrated its 128th anniversary on the weekend of 25 and 26 May.

On the Saturday evening over 100 members, past and present, enjoyed a dinner catered for by the church ladies. Following the dinner an inspiration service was held in the chapel. Gordon Moyes was the guest speaker with Ruth Crossman the soloist.

The church was full again on the Sunday morning when Dr Moyes challenged us afresh. Ruth Crossman was again the soloist.

Christopher Eccles and Matthew Donoghue were baptised into Christ by minister Neville Aubrey. Later the boys served at the Lord's Table.

It was an unforgettable weekend.

—L. Drury

• Celebration

Spring Fair

To celebrate 100 years of Overseas Mission the Churches of Christ in the West Morton, Qld, region will be holding a spring fair and thanksgiving service. It will be held in the grounds of the Bundamba church on the weekend of 19 and 20 October. The fair will be held on the Saturday and the thanksgiving service will be held on the Sunday, with all the churches of the region participating.

—Elizabeth Jeffrey

You are invited to the

ORMOND
Church of Christ
cnr North Road and
Arnot Street
66th Anniversary

Sunday, 23 June
10 am

Speaker: Max Carter
(Conference President)

Followed by lunch

Contact B. Cann
(03) 578 1236

TRAINING GUARANTEE LEVY

CCTC CAN HELP!

If your organisation has a payroll of \$200,000 or more, does it anticipate a shortfall in the 1% training levy required by 30 June 1991? If this is the case, CCTC can help.

Your organisation is able to send the shortfall amount as a donation to CCTC and meet the requirements set out by the Australian Taxation Office.

After discussions by CCTC with the National Training Board and the Taxation Office in Canberra. The shortfall amount expended to the College is still tax deductible whereas if you remit the shortfall to the tax office the expenditure is not tax deductible. All that is required with your remittance is a written indication that it is for your training levy and CCTC will send a receipt back appropriately worded. Remember you have to spend the levy by 30 June 1991.

If CCTC can help your organisation,
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People

• Advertising brings results

Earle Answers the Call



Earle Martin

Earle Martin, along with his wife Melva, have commenced part-time ministry at the North Haven, NSW, church.

Earle and Melva have been involved in the Blackwood, SA, church for 25 years and have seen their five children and grandchildren grow up there.

Earle, semi-retired from AMP retirement and financial counselling, with an Associate Diploma in Lay Ministry from the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave (this course involved Earle in studies at three different colleges in Adelaide) wanted to make himself more useful in the church, and answered an advertisement in *The Australian*

Christian for a retired, or soon-to-retire, minister for North Haven.

The Martins have sold their home in Adelaide so that they can now support themselves in North Haven with a view to building up the church into a viable community able to support a younger person in full-time ministry at a later date.

The church has committed itself to providing a manse at Lakewood Village.

The North Haven church began about 20 years ago when a minister came to North Haven to retire, but still wanted to provide a church when he found the Community Hall was available.

The church continued until now with some part-time help and with visiting speakers from Taree and Port Macquarie and they now have a block of land for a chapel.

Earle says ministry in Churches of Christ is for all members with their various gifts and talents. His experience, studies and training are to facilitate others to make the church a functioning entity to continue to grow and realise its mission.

—Story adapted from a report in the *Camden Haven Courier* and used with permission.

• Indescribable joy

Sight Restored

Long-time Christian Blind Mission co-worker, Peter Sumner, recently underwent an operation in which a corneal graft was performed on his right eye. Although the chances of success were fairly low, the initial indications are that the operation has been very successful, with Peter having 40% vision restored to his eye.

It is nearly 30 years since Peter was blinded through an accident, and already he is experiencing something of the indescribable joy a person feels when their sight is restored to them.

Peter has greatly appreciated the many people who have been praying for his sight to be restored.

• Whitebridge ministry

Induction

Helen and Clive Berrick were inducted into the full-time ministry with the Whitebridge, NSW, church earlier this year. They were inducted by the district eldership team with Ron Hewitt from the NSW De-

partment of Church Development and Education conducting the service. Helen and Clive graduated from the Tahlee Bible College and are only the second full-time ministers at the Whitebridge church.



Helen and Clive Berrick being inducted into the ministry at Whitebridge by the district eldership team and Ron Hewitt (partly obscured)

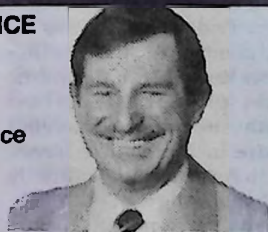
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• 105th Vic-Tas CWF Conference

The Day to Celebrate

Over 300 ladies enjoyed a day of fellowship, friendship, business and worship at the 105th Annual Vic-Tas CWF Conference. President Helen Hall's theme was "This is the day to..."

The morning session commenced with a worship segment led by Eunice Reidy, Australian CWF President.

Cheques totalling \$24,925 were presented to the Overseas Mission Board, Churches of Christ Theological College, Federal Aborigines Board, Dept of Community Care and the Dept. of Mission, Education and Development. Trevor Giles, Community Care, responded on behalf of the departments and introduced Andrea Salmon, Occupational Therapist at the Nursing Home.

A recommendation from Executive, "That for the development of CWF the Conference Commitment Offering for 1992 be allocated to the Resource and

Development Committee", was adopted.

Opening the afternoon session were the Lowanna Singers who, with song and narration, affirmed the role of the church in the world today.

This year's Conference Commitment Offering of \$4,726 (to date) is to assist the Department of Christian Union and Ecumenical Affairs. Trevor Banks received the offering.

The speaker, Ranjini Rabera from Canberra, gave an inspiring address entitled "Covenanting for Community".

The new President, Stella Carter, Footscray, introduced her theme, "God's Women in Action".

Conference concluded with the sharing of communion to the flute accompaniment of Melissa Elliot.

—Annette Palmer

• Covenant for Co-operation

Churches Draw Together

Maylands, SA, Church of Christ, Maylands Uniting Church and Luhrs Road Uniting Church will hold their morning worship together on 30 June at 10.30 am.

The occasion is the launching of a Covenant for Co-operation, under which the churches are agreeing to work together in every way possible.

Already the churches hold one evening service, and one Women's Fellowship. The ministers and other worship leaders exchange periodically, and Good Friday and Christmas Day services are held jointly. The churches are planning jointly to contact new people in the district.

Speaker at the 30 June service will be Roger Brown, co-minister of the Dulwich-Rose Park United Parish, itself an amalgam of the Uniting Church and a Church of Christ.

Robert Leane, President of the SA Churches of Christ Conference, will take part in the service, to be held at the Maylands Uniting Church, and will be followed by a pooled lunch. Ministers of the churches are Richard Lawton (Church of Christ) and Bill Hancock (Uniting Church).

The congregations believe that the move expresses something of the essential unity of the Christian church.

The arrangement is part of a wider healthy co-operation that includes the Payneham Road and Argent Uniting Churches, St Aidan's Anglican Church and Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Payneham. The seven congregations conduct joint services twice a year, and have already combined this year for Bible study at the Catholic church.

—Richard Lawton

• Strong response

"Net Results"

Each month a growing number of Australian subscribers receive their copy of *Net Results* through the Australian Board of Church Development and Education. *Net Results* is published by the Disciples National Evangelistic Association and now reaches readers in some 60 denominations in the United States. Regular contributors include Herb Miller of NEA, Lyle Schaller, the distinguished church consultant, and leaders in the evangelism areas of a number of Christian churches. There is a strong practical emphasis, along with helpful research findings on society and general church life. Recent articles have included comments on church planting, hospitality and welcoming procedures, issues for the smaller church, church finance, experiences in advertising, new resources, lay visitation, pastoral evangelism and

how fear can cripple local church leadership.

Since the Australian Board of Church Development and Education became the Australian distributor subscriptions have risen steadily. The annual subscription is \$30 for a monthly 24-page bulletin. The Board is currently offering 25 sets of three recent back copies (1990-91) for the special price of \$5 including postage. The packs may be obtained now by writing to the Australian Board of Church Development and Education, A'Beckett St Post Office Box 12622, Melbourne 3000, and sending \$5.

The Board has received a strong response to its recent offer of resources through the brochure inserted in *The Australian Christian*. Orders have come from all states and represent a strong upsurge, particularly in the use of new study materials.

• Challenging visit

Barry McMurtrie in Adelaide

Barry McMurtrie had a brief but challenging visit to the South Australian Conference 23-26 May. His visit was sponsored by the Ministers' Association.

Barry addressed 47 ministers at the Friday Church Growth Conference at Dulwich.

A meeting for church leaders on the Friday evening was the first planned for the new Resource Room in the Melbourne Street property. (The new South Australian Conference Centre in Melbourne Street, North Adelaide, was officially opened during the South Australian Conference on the Sunday afternoon 5 May. Over 220 were present at this opening service.)

A Saturday breakfast attracted nearly 100 and Barry presented a video on the new Wollongong church development.

The Saturday night celebration was held in the Marion church and was hosted by Blackwood members.

Barry's messages stimulated the SA churches with church growth strategies and biblical teaching.

—Roger Brown

L. C. F. Higgins

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agapanthus Enterprise

Ian Handy is a nurseryman in Queensland. On a visit to Melbourne he noticed the large numbers of agapanthus growing there—seemingly wild.

He approached his brother-in-law, Ian Albury, and together they developed a novel fund-raising idea for the Bayswater, Vic, church. A group from the church spends Saturday mornings digging up clumps of agapanthus from gardens, with permission, which are placed in a trailer and taken back to the church.

At the church the clumps are cut up into individual bulbs and roots. The good bulbs are prepared for freighting to Queensland by rail.

The Bayswater church has raised \$2,500 in 18 months towards its church building fund

through this activity. Currently they have around 1,000 bulbs to prepare for freighting.

As supplies in the area are becoming exhausted, some of the bulbs and roots have been replanted at Bayswater for future sale.

Queensland wholesaler Greenthumbs Nurseries sells the bulbs to large landscapers who are looking for fast-growing plants for new development projects. They are currently looking for further suppliers and churches interested in this fund-raising project should contact them. (See the advertisement below.)

• Plan now for outreach

Christmas Is Coming!

In his book *Under a Southern Cross*, Anglican minister John Hannaford notes that in his evangelistic ministry with Australians in hotels, Christmas represents a time when Australians are most open to receive the Christian message. He says Christmas, the birth of a baby, then possibly marriage and, sometimes, in the facing of death are periods when Australians are more open to a religious message.

John Hannaford's experience is that at Christmas people seem naturally more open. He claims that at least once a year everyone would like to believe in good will and traditions, kiss the boss and desperately be-

lieve it's all true, that there is a God, that life has meaning and she'll really be right.

The evangelistic implications for local churches are quite important and suggest that every effort should be made to renew links with contacts and new people. The Australian Board of Church Development and Education in its *So This Is Christmas* plan outlines how a local church may use Christmas to good effect. A number of churches using the plan in 1990 reported encouraging experiences. Copies are available from the Board at \$1.50 including postage. The larger *Resources for Effective Evangelism Manuals* are also available at \$10.80, which includes postage and packing.

It is time now to look at how your church can celebrate Christmas in 1991. Carol singing in shopping centres and local streets, nativity scenes, Christmas cards are some additional ways the local church can help share its message. Christmas is coming!

—Don Smith

WANTED

Agapanthus and Clivea Bulbs
We will pay 50c for Agapanthus
bulbs and \$1 for Clivea bulbs
and pay all rail freight costs.

(This is a great church
fund-raising activity.)

Contact: Ian Handy, Greenthumbs
Nursery, Wesley Road, Kallangur,
Qld 4503, Phone (07) 204 4522,
or Ian Albury, 31 Larne Avenue,
Bayswater, Vic 3153,
Phone (03) 729 3506.

• Warragul men serve up a treat

Ladies Night Out



Waiter Graham Martine serving the soup

51 Warragul, Vic, ladies, aged from 14 to 90 years of age, were treated to a "Ladies Night Out" by the men of the church recently.

Keith Pitt and Alan Greaves thought it might be good to have the men wait on the ladies for a change and treat them to a special dinner, complete with entertainment.

The date was set for the night before Mother's Day, the men were given their various tasks—what to cook, shopping lists, punch recipes, what to wear, songs to learn, creche minders etc. One big hiccup in the organisation came when, unfortunately, Alan had to have major surgery just two weeks before the big event. Thankfully he is progressing well, but he did have to miss the occasion.

The ladies, unbeknown to the men, decided to dress up for the occasion. It made the evening a formal occasion, especially with the men all dressed in their waiters' outfits, complete with bow ties.

The tables were beautifully set, complete with the new crockery the CWF had taken delivery of just a few days earlier. The food was prepared and served very professionally and tasted superb (four courses plus dinner mints and coffee).

The entertainment was first class. Solo, duets, quartets,

band, harmonica items and comedy. Chaplain Bruce Waldron recited an Irish poem on Murphy's luck, dressed in bandages from head to toe, hobbling in on borrowed crutches. The singing group gave a rendition of "My Darling Clementine" complete with Clementine (Ray Earl), dressed up for the part.

The ladies were all presented with a spray of flowers after the meal.

The oldest lady present, Flo Lockhart (90), expressed the thanks of all present, followed by one of the youngest, Tania Waring. The night was one that will be always remembered.

—Lyn Earl

Visiting Brisbane?

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8 am Good Friday and
Christmas Day

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Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 100 words

Preaching Lack

To the Editor,

The birth, crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord Jesus are all well preached on, but the blessed hope of the church is hardly ever even touched on. As the old Scotsman said, "We are trying to walk on three legs," yet newspaper headlines and television news are screaming the signs of the Second Coming, which anyone with half an eye can see all around us.

We seem to be almost completely blind not to see prophecy being fulfilled in an amazing way in these days. Warnings of the coming rapture of the church and the tribulation to follow are glaringly absent from today's preaching.

If half the church walked out because of objection to this kind of preaching "what of it?" In Paul's day preachers and followers were thrown to the lions or beheaded. —D. Kirkland (Manifold Heights, Vic)

WCC and Syncretism

To the Editor,

At the end of the Canberra Assembly of the WCC the Assembly message was issued. Clause 8 of that message reads: "God and humankind are reconciled by the cross of Christ, a costly sacrifice. To appropriate this reconciliation is also costly, as we become ministers of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18). We thus become a missionary people, not in the sense of dominating people and nations, which has all too often characterised missionary work, but in the sense of sharing God's own mission of bringing all humanity into communion with God through Christ, sharing our faith and our resources with all people."

Ken Stothard ("AC" 11 May) writes that the commentators he has read seem to be convinced of compromise and syncretism within the WCC, as evident at Canberra. I find it difficult to correlate Ken's sources with the quotation above.

It is true that the subject of contextualisation was a focus of contention at the Canberra Assembly. This debate was triggered by a paper presented by a Korean theologian (Professor Chung) whose presentation was one of many. Neither her paper nor any of the other papers can be made definitive for the WCC. The nearest one could come to stating what the Assembly said is in the four sectional reports and the Assembly Message. I for one would rather seek the mind of the Assembly from those documents than from commentators like Michael Barnard.

—Trevor Banks (Belmont, Vic)

Family and Environment Program

To the Editor,

"Kissing the Dragon?" Yes. But Mother Nature? 1,800 years ago my Druid ancestors forsook "Mother Nature" for the true and living God. Did they know something? My New Age friends would be most comfortable with this program. God is mentioned. But so too is "Mother Nature" and "earth, our mother". Truly!?

Further, I am asked to accept an evolutionary framework, something I rejected years ago, after careful study.

As for facing catastrophes, looking them straight in the eye is good. In Romans 8 we learn catastrophes are the result of our sinfulness, our rebellion toward God.

A noted environmentalist, interviewed by Ray Martin, made an interesting and candid confession. He wanted to protect the environment, yet when the opportunity presented itself he did something that rejected all he stood for. He confessed, "I guess there is a dark side in all of us."

There is, and God calls it rebellion. Our relationship with a creator God is the only solution to our personal problems, to our relational problems and to our ecological problems. True awareness begins with knowing the Creator.

—Ted Bjorem (Fairfield, NSW)

Unity: A Better Way

To the Editor,

Use is not the same as accommodation. Paul used idolatrous beliefs to point to the one true God. His words in Acts 17 clearly demonstrate a rejection of idolatry, not accommodation. So too, with the other examples cited.

From my reading, what the WCC did in Canberra was, indeed, accommodation. While I sympathise with the desire for unity and peace, it cannot be achieved through uncritical accommodation of practices clearly rejected in the Bible. Those who accommodate merely say, I really do not believe strongly. Perhaps a better way of achieving our goal for unity is to acknowledge differences while seeking truth.

As for me, to participate in a ritual with demonic overtones

(as my Aboriginal Christian brothers affirm) or to claim ancestor worship is somehow related to the ministry of the Holy Spirit is not accommodation but capitulation.

While all religions may have a God awareness, not all religions reveal God. Some have greatly distorted even his natural revelation.

—Ted Bjorem (Fairfield, NSW)

National Sovereignty

To the Editor,

We share the concerns of John Clapp for child rights (Guest Editorial, "AC" 11 May).

However, some Christians are concerned that the overriding issue in this debate on UN Conventions concerns our national sovereignty.

It is easy to be polarised by issues such as child rights. What

Letters from Tertius

Technology

To the Editor,

On Sunday a family turned up at our church and it looks as though they are going to stay. New in the community, they phoned the minister of their denomination and left a message on his answering machine. Such machines are one of the marvels of new technology, but the minister, in spite of his extravagant promise to return all calls, didn't get back to them, so now they are with us.

I'm all for modern technology, but it still hasn't worked out how not to keep sending me four identical circulars in separate envelopes in relation to four small investments I have in the same firm. No wonder we are running short of trees.

My mother has problems adjusting to modern technological devices. A very courteous lady, she always answers recorded voices and inquires after their health. The other day she was in a "telephone queue" and when eventually was put through, thanked the people for their courtesy in putting on such nice music for her while she was waiting. But she does expect courtesy in return. Recently she was given a lift in one of the new fangled cars that has substituted a recorded voice for the usual dashboard reminder lights. It said, "Shut the door." Mother was shocked. "Say please and I will," she said.

For good or ill, technology is here to stay. But it is making inroads into our life-styles. We aren't even allowed to punctuate our envelopes any more because the sorting gismo hasn't been programmed in English grammar yet.

I'm thinking of forming an SPCTA, a Society for the Preservation of Courtesy in a Technological Age.

But all is not lost. I have just heard that modern print technology has enabled millions of cheap Bibles to reach Eastern Europe since the restrictions have been lifted.

—Tertius

Letters to the Editor

is required is wisdom to understand all the implications.

Many of us treasure the tremendous heritage that the biblical principles have given to the government and well-being of the English-speaking people, and we are loath to see any erosion of this heritage by humanistic ideologies.

In signing Magna Carta, King John was forced to acknowledge that the king (and those in authority) were subject to the law.

Because of UN conventions, our Federal Government is breaking constitutional law in favour of international law. Therefore, ratifying some UN treaties is white-anting our national sovereignty and allowing a foot in the door for international control outside the democratic will of the people.

As a sovereign nation, the legislative procedures are available for our own self-government. Why not use them?

—Tom Fraser
(Maitland, NSW)

Response to A.B. Withers

To the Editor,

In reply to the letter of A.B. Withers ("AC" 25 May)—in spite of the changes it is good to know that the outcome was No. I do not believe you have believed in vain.

There are so many reasons today why Christians should not be divided on this issue. Alcohol is so destructive, it causes so much human suffering. How can this be acceptable to the Lord?

Those who choose the wider path of moderation are being a little bit self-indulgent. They cannot claim a total commitment to the Lord.

We must be concerned with our example to others, and we must care for the very young. To choose moderation is to open the door to temptation to the young, leading them to believe it is socially acceptable.

See Romans 14:21-23, Romans 12:1 and Matthew 7:13-14.

—R. Tagg
(Chelsea, Vic)

"Motherhood of God"

To the Editor,

A. Barron ("AC" 25 May) has entirely missed the point of Marj Buckingham's poem, "The Motherhood of God" ("AC" 27 April), when he cavils at the excellent concept presented by Marj.

She did not tell us to address God as "Mother". She simply showed that God has some of the attributes commonly associated with motherhood, so there is no need for us to adopt the extreme line of US feminist theologians who want to change the divine gender.

After all, there are many single-parent fathers these days who likewise and of necessity show some of the qualities of motherhood.

—Jack Ludbrook
(Dulwich-Rose Park, SA)

Conference Motions

To the Editor,

I feel a great deal of empathy with Ken Stothard ("AC" 25 May) in his dilemma about Vic-Tas Conference motions, having moved several on behalf of the Boronia church. The current conference structures do not encourage congregations to exercise their constitutional right to present motions for conference consideration. Ken also hints at the inadequacy of the debate process. It is not the most appropriate way for Christians to share their views, and in our conference has often led to clever point scoring and personal attacks. A couple of years ago three churches (mover, seconder, and opposer of one motion) all recognised the need for a better method than debates, and sent a joint letter to the Conference Executive outlining a method of consultation and dialogue. The Conference Executive chose not to explore the suggestion further with the three churches, and simply responded stating that debate was a necessary conference process. There is a better way, and there are many people in our congregations, trained in participatory processes, who I am sure would be willing to assist Conference make this transition if it were

willing to do so. Maybe there is a need for yet another motion!

—Bruce McIntosh
(Boronia, Vic)

[Conference Secretary Ian Allsop has advised us that he is aware of alternative methods of consultation and these will be considered for future Conferences.—Editor]

"Traditional" versus "Contemporary"

To the Editor,

As a regular subscriber to *The Australian Christian* for many years and a member of Churches of Christ for 70 years, sometimes I feel ashamed of the various opinions of some of the contributors to the Letters to the Editor.

But today I write commending Ronald W. Graham for his article "'Traditional' versus 'Contemporary'" ("AC" 25 May). I am now just past my 82nd year and feel much the same as he. Our church at East Ipswich was OK for singing hymns until about 1975, but ever since then have gone more and more into choruses, firstly at night meetings but now they have them in the morning also. We elderly members cannot even see the poor print on the screens and would need binoculars to see it, when our nice hymnbooks are on the shelf. The choruses they sing sound like worn out records stuck in the one track, repeating up to three or four lines.

I am used to good music, having sung in the choir in my younger days, and I also learnt to play the organ with hymns I learnt at Sunday School. When I went to Sunday School, these choruses were only used for young people's meetings such as CE and youth meetings. It appears the young people coming into the church today and then on to the church board and young preachers coming just take over the whole running of the church and gradually push the elderly members out and take over. Both myself and my wife have ceased going to the evening service because of the manner in which they carry on with clapping and jumping up and down. We like everything done

"decently and in order".

It will not be long before we have rock 'n' roll or pop music to please the younger generation and the Bible and its teaching will be thrown to the side as most of the world today.

Keep up the good work Ron Graham.

—A.E. Boettcher
(Ipswich, Qld)

Women's Leadership Role

To the Editor,

As one who has written in favour of a greater leadership role for women, could I offer some kindly advice to some of our ladies who all too frequently resort to emotional blackmail and wrongly criticise men in general for failing to support them. What is wanted is rational argument, not sob stories, even if they are a genuine expression of pain.

Ultimately the real issue is that of authority, and many men who take biblical and ecclesiastical authority seriously, are in a real dilemma, regardless of their personal attitude to women.

Though he apparently accepts the teaching, preaching, praying, prophesying and caring roles of women, Paul lays it down that women should not exercise authority over men. According to a recent scholarly study I read, the kind of teaching he disallows (see 1 Timothy 2) is precisely that which sets up a woman as an official teacher.

In the Churches of Christ we are used to team ministry and the elders at least in theory, "oversee" in concert with the minister. In this situation there is room for a more prominent role for women. In the RC or Anglican Church, however, the "priest" has much more personal authority, and the ordination of women poses acute problems we don't have to face to the same extent.

So, ladies, arguments please, not "women's weapons, water drops" (Shakespeare). I can assure you that you have no monopoly on pain and frustration.

—Ken Stothard
(Essendon, Vic)

Books

Developing the Prophetic Ministry

by Frank Damazio (Word Books) \$13.90

Developing the Prophetic Ministry is volume 1 in "The Leadership Series" by Frank Damazio, who is founder and pastor of the Eugene Christian Fellowship in Eugene, Oregon. He is a respected leader among leaders and a keynote speaker at pastors' conferences throughout the world.

"The purpose of this book is to give an overview of the ministry of the prophet in the Old and New Testaments and some practical guidelines for developing the prophetic ministry, in both its gifts and office in the church today. Prophets are vessels whom Christ chooses to function constantly and accurately in the realm of the word of knowledge, word of wisdom, discernment of spirits, confirmation, revelation, illumination, prophetic utterance, prediction, visions, correction and ministry confirmation."

In Chapter 6 ("Developing the Ministry of Prophecy") these points are of note: (i) the Lord anoints, equips and uses the prophet; (ii) prophecy was a vital part of the early church ministry; (iii) the prophet must release the faith to prophesy; (iv) the prophet must learn how to operate and flow in the anointing of the Holy Spirit and (v) the prophet must learn how to receive a word from the Lord. If you have received the gift of prophecy (1 Corinthians 12:29) then this book should be helpful to you. It is a "how to" manual with lots of practical hints. —KTW

People of the Lie

by M. Scott Peck (Rider)

People of the Lie is a book about human evil. M. Scott Peck is a psychiatrist who has, for many years, specialised in psychotherapy, and during that time has come across a number of people who were evil in the things they did and said. Peck has written this book out of his own experience of a growing realisation that evil is a very real force in the world and one that has been largely unrecognised in the field of psychiatry. Although he is a Christian his book is not a theological treatise; rather it is a book of practical experiences with people who were manifestly evil, hence the title *People of the Lie*. And unlike most books written by professionals it is not full of jargon and long-winded, hard-to-understand sentences. It is very readable and full of personal insights into the lives of people (and incidentally the ways of psychiatrists).

In this book Peck deals with evil in a variety of manifestations. There is the evil that individuals say and do in a number of different situations. There are individuals who are evil in themselves. There is the evil that comes from Satan and there is the evil that is produced by groups.

I found the book very well balanced, especially in its treatment of Satan, Peck steers a middle course between those who deny the existence of Satan and those who see demons behind every bush. Peck's view is that Satan has been defeated and is desperately fighting a losing rearguard action. Peck hypothesises that this limits Satan to attacking only those with a strong potential for holiness. In Peck's experience the bulk of the evil in the world comes from human beings. The evil that comes from Satan is only a small part of the total evil. I suspect that Satan is not bothered with the bulk of humanity since most of us seem to be only too willing to do his work for him.

For me the best section of the book is that which deals with group evil. Peck focuses on the Vietnam war and in particular My Lai. I read this book in January at the height of the Gulf War and there was just so much of what Peck talked about reflected in that situation. His basic thesis can be crudely summed up as group evil is the result of laziness and self-interest. When we consider that Saddam Hussein is primarily a menace because of the greed of one section of the Western world and the laziness of another

section to do anything about the first section we can see how what he was saying in 1983 prophetically fits in with what happened (and perhaps is still happening) in the Middle East. On reading his section on group evil a number of parallels with the way the Gulf War came about instantly leap to mind and you wonder if we human beings ever really learn anything from our past mistakes. If for no other reason, this book is worth reading for its insight into the evil of groups.

I would recommend this book to anyone who has tried to grapple with the problem of evil. It is not a book that attempts a solution but it does offer many insights into the nature of evil and is very helpful in putting Satan in his proper place.

—James Pearce

When a Friend Gets a Divorce What Can You Do?

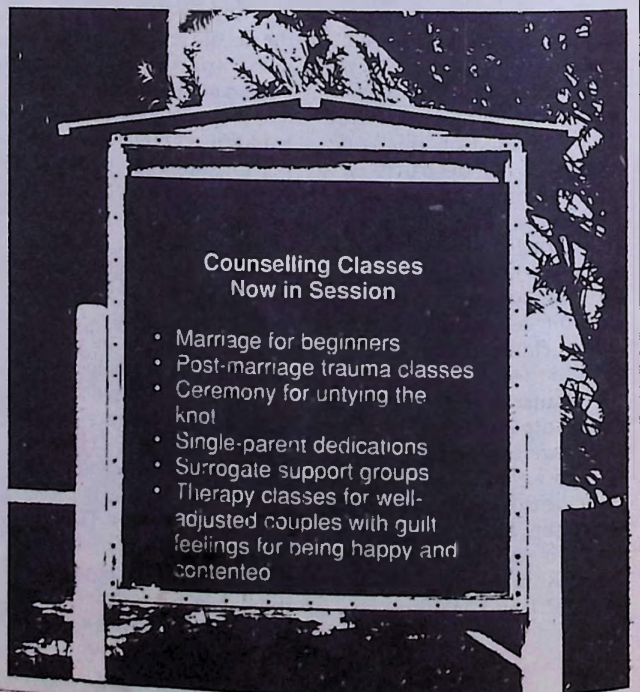
by Sharon G. Marshall (Baker Book House)

Many of us have been aware of the increasing divorce rate in the United States and also in Australia. We have watched this problem of failed marriages steadily increase within the membership of the church as people bury marriages that have died by means of divorce.

We should never think that divorce is ever an easy option in human relationships. It is a time of intense emotional upheaval and pain. Sharon Marshall seeks to set out in the three parts of her book some suggestions as to how we as Christians may offer help to those who are going through divorce and to those who are divorced.

She does this by setting out in part 1 "Understanding the Dynamics of Loss", part 2 "Inner Cries from Your Friends" and part 3 "Tools for the Helper". In the main, I believe, Sharon Marshall achieves her aim, as she writes very short chapters. This book of 128 pages has 29 chapters. What is disappointing is that she tends to be repetitious and probably gives some indication of the personal pain that she felt resulting from her own divorce. The book seems to have the feeling of someone writing as a means to overcome her own personal pain, and for that reason it is a useful book for ministers and church members who care about what is happening to people about them.

—Don E. Stewart



People

• Tribute to principal

Dr Tabbernee Farewelled



Dr Bill Tabbernee receiving the gift of a gold watch from the Chairman of the CCTC Board, Dr John Bailey

On 20 March the Churches of Christ Theological College Board and the National Conference Executive held a dinner at CCTC to farewell Dr Bill Tabbernee. This was one of three functions held over several weeks when Bill was farewelled before taking up his new position as President of the Phillips Graduate Semi-

nary in Enid, Oklahoma, USA. Another function involved people from within the theological education community of Melbourne and the third was for the current college community.

At the dinner representatives from various national and Victorian conference departments paid tribute to Bill's contribution to the work of Churches of Christ over the past 20 years, of which he spent 10 as College Principal. Special tributes were paid by Clive Ward on behalf of National Conference, Max Carter on behalf of the Vic-Tas Conference, Graeme Chapman from the faculty and Mike Folland on behalf of students past and present.

John Bailey thanked Bill for all his work as Principal on behalf of the College Board and then made a presentation to him.

A special feature of the

evening was several items given by Yurana. Kendra Boyd, one of Yurana's members, was Bill's secretary, and she specially dedicated several numbers to Bill.

A presentation was also made to Sandra for her assistance to Bill over the years.

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Happenings

A new group of chaplains within the motor racing area has been formed as part of Sports & Leisure Ministries. The group will be known as Motor Racing Ministries. This ministry will provide a wider fellowship for Christians in motor racing. There will also be seminars on marriage and family for racing personnel. New chaplains will be appointed for every area of motorsports as well as every major race track.

According to reports police stood and watched as a mob of 400 men belonging to Shiv Sena (Shiva's Army), a militant Hindu group, rampaged through a Christian convention at Yavatmal College for Leadership Training in central India. The attack followed the baptism of 41 members of a local tribe.

ELWA Hospital, closed down by Liberia's civil war last July, has reopened its clinic on ELWA property near Monrovia, the capital. The clinic is manned by a skeleton staff headed by former ELWA Hospital doctor Steve Befus, and is expected to grow as conditions permit. Reopening the clinic was made possible in part by the British charitable organisation, TEAR Fund, and by several weeks of work by SIM International personnel who repaired damage and restored electric power and water supply with portable equipment.

In the *Vanuatu Weekly* of 11 May there was a report concerning the training of Ni-Vanuatu pilots. One of the trainees interviewed was Ron Bule, son of Pastor Bill Bule and Janet. If Ron is successful in his studies he may have a commercial pilot's licence by the end of the year.

Featured in the same issue of *Vanuatu Weekly* was Rodney Banga, Conference Secretary of Churches of Christ 1975-84. Rodney now works as Acting Principal Training Officer at the Government Training Cen-

tre in Port Vila. In May he was awarded a Master's degree in Business Administration. It was pointed out in the article that this was quite an achievement for someone who finished school after Grade 8 (at the Churches of Christ school, Londua).

The *Jesus* film has been played on prime-time television in Nicaragua with stunning results. It was estimated that 1.4 million saw the film, which was screened over 3 consecutive evenings. "The response has been amazing," says one pastor. "We have received more than 7,000 telephone calls and many of these people have since accepted Jesus."

Tourette Syndrome is a neurological condition often mistaken for a "psychological" illness. Undiagnosed and untreated it can have devastating effects on sufferers and their families. Some of the symptoms include facial grimaces and involuntary body movements and involuntary vocal sounds. Symptoms vary over time in frequency and severity. Recently support groups have been formed in most states that can provide more details on this medical condition: NSW TSA, Neuropsychiatric Institute, Prince Henry Hospital, Little Bay, Sydney; Qld—Mrs Helen Skilton (Phone (07) 267 6556); SA TSA, Neurological Resource Centre (Phone (08) 268 6222); Vic Tourette Syndrome Association, PO Box 86, Bundoora 3083 (Phone (03) 551 6398), and WA—Mrs Marie Cherudino (Phone (09) 332 6499).

Argentinian evangelist Alberto Mottesel recently led a team in a Crusade in the Mexican State of Tabasco, located in the south-eastern part of the country. The team held crusades in 15 of the 17 cities in the state during 3 weeks in March. 63 public services were held with an accumulative attendance of 202,500 and more than 22,100 public deci-

sions for Jesus Christ. On 5-12 May Alberto Mottesel preached in the capital, Villa Hermosa. In this part of the campaign attendances of 163,700 saw 7,600 go forward to publicly commit their lives to Christ.

David Pickard, a veteran mission administrator, was installed as the 8th General Director of the Overseas Missionary Fellowship on 10 May at the mission's international headquarters in Singapore. He replaces Dr James Hudson Taylor III, great-grandson of Hudson Taylor, who founded the organisation in 1865 as the China Inland Mission.

The Social Security system has failed Britain's young people, with thousands going missing every week, a coalition of charity groups claimed recently. Their report claimed that 150,000 16-19 year-olds experience homelessness every year.

The ACT Conference annual lecture series is being held this year over the period 16-23 June with Dr Athol Gill on "The New Testament Church in Contemporary Society".

Christianity Today in America conducts an annual book award. The 1991 winner was *Dictionary of Christianity in America*, edited by Daniel G. Reid, Robert D. Linder, Bruce L. Shelley and Harry S. Stout (InterVarsity Press). The magazine rated books in 7 categories with a readers' choice and a critics' choice in each of the categories. These winners were: *Biography and History: Comeback* by David Dravecky and Tim Stafford (Zondervan) and *The Democratization of American Christianity* by Nathan O. Hatch (Yale); *Christian Living and Spirituality: The Grace Awakening* by Charles R. Swindoll (Word) and a tie from the critics between *In Search of Happiness* by James Houston (Lion) and *A Quest for Godliness* by J.I. Packer (Crossway); Com-

mentaries: *The Spirit, the Church and the World: The Message of Acts* by John Stott (InterVarsity Press) and *The First Epistle of Peter* by Peter H. Davids (Eerdmans); *Contemporary Issues: the readers had a three-way tie between The Agony of Decelt* edited by Michael Horton (Moody), *The Frog in a Kettle* by George Barna (Regal) and *The God of Stones and Spiders* by Charles Colson (Crossway) with the critics' winner *Gender and Grace* by Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen (InterVarsity); *Fiction: A Symphony in Sand* by Calvin Miller (Word) and *The Breaking of Ezra Riley* by John L. Moore (Lion); Reference: both critics and readers chose the book of the year; *Theology and Biblical Studies: Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*, 3rd edition by Ronald J. Sider (Word) and *After Modernity...What?* by Thomas C. Oden (Zondervan).

A survey of growing Southern Baptist churches in the US indicated 5 common traits that characterise churches with high baptism rates and growing all-age Sunday schools. These are: pastoral vision for growth, high commitment level of leadership, exciting worship, flexibility and innovation and a commitment to evangelism, with the ministers as an active model challenging the laity.

Brian Bakke, artist-in-residence at the Uptown Baptist Church in Chicago, USA, is using graffiti art on large murals to present the gospel to the neighbourhood's street kids. The building where he lives is on a corner on the border between rival gang turfs, and he and a graffiti artist painted a mural on its wall saying in part "peace" and "trust Jesus". He plans to do 4 more murals, including one on an outside wall of the church building.

F. Bernadette Turner, at 87, is possibly the oldest person ever to be ordained into

the Episcopal (Anglican) priesthood in America. Turner, a recently retired psychologist, was ordained in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia to serve the retirement home where she lives and is a chaplain.

References to blasphemy in federal law should be removed, according to the Australian Law Reform Commission. In a new discussion paper on multiculturalism and criminal law, the Commission says so few prosecutions have occurred in Australia for blasphemy that "the precise nature of the offence is uncertain. Its ambit appears to be very narrow." The Commission is seeking responses to the discussion paper. Copies are available from the ALRC, GPO Box 3708, Sydney 2001.

A census said to be the most comprehensive survey of Protestant church life ever undertaken in the world will be conducted across Australian churches in August. More than 600,000 attenders from about 7,000 Protestant congregations, representing 15 denominations, will take part in the survey. Discussions with the Roman Catholic Church about their possible involvement are still proceeding.

15 churches in the heart of Melbourne have formed an association through which they will jointly sponsor a range of ministry and service ventures for the inner city. Melbourne City Churches in Action includes Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Uniting Church, Churches of Christ and the Salvation Army. From its beginnings in the early 1980s as an occasional social lunch for ministers, the group now supports social welfare in the central business district such as a street ministry, joint studies in the Christian faith and promotion of church services among city visitors.

• Childlike faith in a ravaged land

Cambodian Visit

"I had been praying for Indo-China for a long time."

The words come from Carolyn Trinh, 29, who has just returned from Cambodia where she worked as an office administrator for World Vision.

When the opportunity arose last year for her to work in Phnom Penh for an eight-month stint, she jumped at it. The opening was a rare chance to spend time in one of the very countries that had moved her to prayer.

Carolyn soon learned her prayers for Cambodia were sorely needed. The tiny nation has largely been overlooked by the international community. Only now is it beginning to return to what it was just before the dictator Pol Pot began his

genocidal "Operation Zero" campaign in 1975.

Despite the virtual annihilation of the Christian community during the Pol Pot years, the churches today are growing. Most new Christians are in the 15-25-year-old age group. During one weekend, Carolyn saw 146 baptisms carried out in one session!

"The Khmer people have an incredible hunger and thirst for Bible teaching and for God's word," she said. "Bibles are rare in Cambodia, but at least they do have some now."

Carolyn said there was a lack of Christian teaching in Cambodia. This is hardly surprising as there are only two ministers with theological training in the country.

Part of Pol Pot's plan to rapidly increase the population was forced marriages in order to produce as many children as possible. A Christian girl who Carolyn met at a church service told how a husband was chosen for her by the Pol Pot method. Two circles of single people were formed—an inner circle of men and an outer circle of women.

Upon command, one of the circles would begin to march. When the order was given, they would abruptly stop marching and those men and women who faced each other would be be-

During the horrific period between 1975 and 1979 approximately one quarter of Cambodia's eight million people were killed by Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge.

Educated people—doctors, teachers, engineers and the intellectual elite—were targeted for abduction and execution.

Although the population numbers have returned to that of 1975, the level of professional skill and expertise is nowhere near what it was before Pol Pot.

Christianity and other religions were outlawed and practically wiped out as part of a brutal madness called "Operation Zero", which

aimed to totally subjugate the entire populace. In 1974 it is estimated there were over 100,000 Christians in Cambodia. Today there are fewer than 1,000. The banning of Christian and even Buddhist forms of worship was part of Pol Pot's campaign of "no culture, no families, no religion".

In April 1990 the Cambodian government granted permission for Christian churches to meet openly for the first time since 1975. Today, 10 small house churches have registered with the government near Phnom Penh. The largest of them has an attendance of 175 worshippers.



Carolyn Trinh

trothed. This girl prayed that the man who stopped beside her would be a Christian (a tall order in a country whose Christian population was decimated).

When "her" man stopped next to her, she found out from him that he had been attending a Christian church before Pol Pot but was now undecided and confused. She has since been able to affirm the gospel message to him.

"The Cambodians pray for lots of things," said Carolyn.

"They pray for healing, and they believe in the laying on of hands.

"They have a childlike faith and they have results. They are very serious about their Christianity and they approach it from a basic level. For me, this was very inspiring."

She said there was a real threat of new Christians being ostracised from a community mostly made up of Buddhists with some Muslims. Non-Christian Cambodians are proud of their Buddhist heritage, a pride encapsulated in the national adage, "To be Khmer is to be Buddhist."

Despite the difficulties, Christianity is growing.

Among the trials besetting new Christians is the enforced registration of converts' names and addresses (which has generated fear of possible government reprisals) and the abysmal lack of training and Bibles.

"Christianity is growing because it gives the people life, hope and salvation," said Carolyn.

"Buddhism and Islam cannot offer those things."

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• Worldwide effort to help the world's children

Keeping the Promise

The United Nations Children's Fund has called for a worldwide effort to end mass child deaths and child malnutrition by the end of the 20th century. With a quarter of a million children still dying every week from common illnesses and one child in three in the world still stunted by malnutrition, UNICEF admits that such a target will be more difficult than any previously attempted. But the impending success of the 10-year effort to immunise 80% of the developing world's children by the end of 1990 has put new life into the idea of internationally agreed targets.

The first World Summit for Children, in New York last September, which brought together the largest-ever gathering of presidents and prime ministers, adopted more than 20 specific new goals for the year 2000. They include a one-third reduction in child deaths, a halving of child malnutrition, primary school for at least 80% of the poor world's children and several detailed aims such as ending the scandal of the quarter of a million children who go blind each year for the lack of vitamin A capsules costing less than two cents each.

Communications Revolution

The means are now available to relieve millions of children from ill-health, poor growth and early death. In part, the task is one of making today's low-cost technologies available to all—including vaccines, oral rehydration salts, antibiotics, growth charts, iron tablets, vitamin A supplements and family planning services. But it is also a task of using the communications revolution to give all parents today's knowledge about such things as birth spacing, pregnancy and childbirth, breast-feeding, safe ways of weaning, growth promotion, preventing and coping with common illnesses and pre-



venting the spread of AIDS. Most of these techniques and advice can be made available through community health workers, whose training costs as little as \$500 as opposed to more than \$70,000 for a fully qualified doctor.

The Costs

The cost of achieving the year 2000 goals is estimated at around \$20 billion a year—about as much as the world now spends on the military in 10 days.

In practice, the \$20 billion a year might be found by a small reduction in military spending, by debt relief linked to investments in children and by redirecting existing budgets from high-cost services for the few to low-cost services for the many. Foreign aid comes in for similar criticism. At present, only about 3% of the industrialised world's aid is devoted to such basics as primary education, primary health care and

rural water supply. Aid should be linked to a developing country's commitment to improving the lives of the poor majority.

Practical Investment

A 10-year effort to protect the lives and the normal growth of all the world's children is a practical necessity as well as a humanitarian cause. Preventing child deaths would help to slow population growth by giving parents more confidence that their children will survive—an essential factor in the transition to smaller families. Reducing malnutrition improves the development of children and of nations. Basic education for all helps to improve productivity and incomes. A less measurable goal adopted by the summit was the observance, in all countries, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Over 50 nations have signed the convention since it was adopted by the

THE CHILDREN OF THE 1990s

1.2 million children have been born into the world in 1990. Imagine this huge number as just 100 children. This is what will happen to them in the decade ahead. — UNICEF

Industrialized world Developing world

BORN

12 88

SURVIVING TO AGE ONE

12 82

WILL SURVIVE TO AGE FIVE

12 79 of which 28 are malnourished

WILL START PRIMARY SCHOOL

12 73

WILL FINISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

11 44

WILL FINISH SECONDARY SCHOOL

9 23

United Nations just over a year ago. As well as setting standards for the health and education of children, the convention is also concerned about the estimated 80 million children who are exploited in the workplace, the 30 million who are left to fend for themselves on city streets, the uncounted millions whose development is disrupted by war, and the rising numbers of children in the industrialised world who are living with poverty and abuse.

Church of Christ SOUTHPORT

now meets in
Parklands Drive
8.55 am

Worship and Communion
6.30 pm

Gospel Celebration
Minister: Noel Newton
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31 4353 (AH)

• Neale Meredith joins the team

Historic Decisions at Mildura

As the Mildura, Vic, church enters its 101st year of ministry and witness, further historic decisions have recently been made.

At a special meeting held on 15 May, with 97 in attendance, three extremely significant decisions were made concerning ministry:

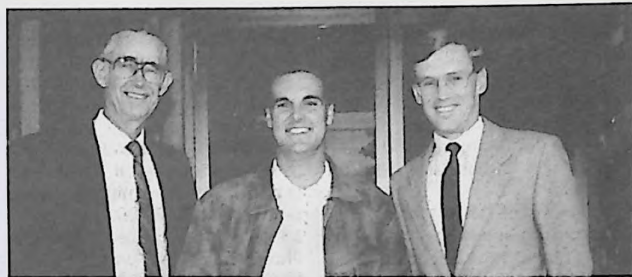
- In recognition of the valuable input to the ministry of part-time (0.6) minister Doug Clark, the church agreed to extend his appointment for a further two years till the end of 1993.

- With the church membership continuing to grow, and attendances at worship services regularly breaking previous bests—averages: am, 220,

communicants, 213 (two services), pm, 160—the need for additional ministry assistance has become an urgent matter. The church strongly supported the proposal that an additional full-time ministry team member be engaged as soon as possible.

- In December 1990 the church became involved in the Internship Program conducted by the Carlingford, NSW, Churches of Christ Theological College.

In this program, a fourth-year student gains first-hand ministry experience by working for 32 weeks full time in a church under the guidance of the minister. Neale Meredith joined the Mildura ministry



The Mildura ministry team: Doug Clark, Neale Meredith and David Ratten

team and brought additional skills to it.

During the period of his internship he has been involved in a wide range of ministry experiences, displayed a many ministry skills, showed commendable growth throughout this special "work experience" and endeared himself to the whole church, with strong positive responses from the young people in particular.

There was a spontaneous acceptance by the church of the recommendation that Neale be invited to the position of additional full-time minister.

Neale has accepted the invitation and he will begin an initial three-year term in January 1992.

A significant feature of the meeting was that each proposal gained unanimous support.

—Doug Beasy

• Life In Focus gives people a "hand up"

Lone Father

Bill—not his real name—is a lone father with three small children aged six, three and 18 months.

He contacted the Lone Fathers' Family Support Service (LFFSS) two days after his wife left the family. He worked full time and needed assistance with childcare, and the organisation of a daily routine. A field worker from the LFFSS assisted in finding childcare and helped him map out a routine so he could manage his work, feeding and bathing the children, washing dishes, nappies, clothes and wet sheets and also make time to hear the eldest child's reading.

The field worker calls regularly to discuss any problems the family may be having, and is assisting as a sounding board and advocate throughout the legal procedures of access and property settlement.

Bill works hard, is constantly tired and in need of the support offered by the LFFSS field worker. He struggles financially with a low income,



Caring With Compassion

childcare, solicitor's fees, a car, a house and the prospect of a personal loan to pay his wife her share of the house so that the children can stay in the home they know.

He frequently states that without the support of the field worker and the companionship of other lone fathers in similar circumstances he would not cope. However, he is happy. His family is together, and he has the satisfaction of knowing that he is doing all he can to provide his children with a stable environment and a happy home.

Just one of the stories from Life in Focus, the welfare work of the Western Australian Conference.



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Classifieds

BIRTHS

ANDREWS (HARTLEY) Carol and John thank God for the safe arrival of Emily Jane on 24 May. A little sister for Catherine and granddaughter for Margaret and John Hartley and Barbara and Howard Andrews.

SARGENT (REES) Kathryn and Ross are proud to announce the arrival of their daughter Michelle Kate, born 20 May 1991. 9 lb 2 oz. A real bundle of joy.

WHITE (GERRAND) Dale and Wendy give thanks to God for the arrival of Joshua Paul, 7 lb 10 oz, born on 21 May 1991. A brother for Christopher. A new grandson for Brian and Joan White (Melbourne) and Pat Gerrand (Caringbah, NSW).

DEATHS

STEVENS Grace Eleanor, aged 78, died on 23.5.91, at Prince Henry's Hospital. Loving wife of Bill (deceased) and mother of Barry, Colin and Glenys. Nana of Sue, Sharon and Leigh. We will miss her greatly but we know she is rejoicing in her new home in heaven.

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AC

Church of Christ Fremantle 100th Anniversary November 1992

Past members or anyone with information or records that might assist with the history writing please phone (09) 339 1286 or (09) 335 8959 or mail to church, 219 High St, Fremantle 6160. Thank you.

A Church ABC

Thornlie is located in the southern area of Perth, WA, part of the City Gosnells. It is a growing and developing residential area. Most of the houses are single-family residences and many people commute to the city to work.

The Church of Christ work began in the area in 1972. After a decade the church had progressed to the point that the present building could be erected virtually debt free. The excellent facilities are designed for the presentation of the gospel; the large auditorium is fan shaped with the rear elevated, and around it there are a hall and offices. The complex includes room for a playgroup and a Christian bookshop.

Thornlie is a large church. There are over 550 members and the three services on Sunday—at 8.30 am, 10.30 am and 6.45 pm—have a combined attendance of more than 750. The services are contemporary, and feature music. The overhead projector is used to present a mixture of old and new, and the many musically talented people in the church provide multi-instrumental accompaniment. This talent is also fully occupied at the moment with

practice for a musical, "Day-break", a large production involving over 70 people from Thornlie, plus other churches, which will be presented at the Churches of Christ Auditorium

Focus on Thornlie

in Perth, 19-22 June. Thousands are expected to attend.

The membership of the church includes many young families and a lot of children. There are two childrens church programs coinciding with the morning services and catering for up to 150 children in Years 1-7. There are also two large Brigade units and two youth groups, one for 18-25 year olds, the other for high school ages.

Thornlie is a seven-day-a-week church, and has a program-active congregation. There are activities every day of the week. Monday is Brigades night, Tuesday the ladies Bible study and the Eirené group, Wednesday a craft group, Thursday is supposed to be a night off but mostly isn't—at the moment it is taken up with rehearsals for the musical—and Friday is the youth

group. At least half the Saturdays are taken up with weddings. The church, which advertises itself as the Thornlie Christian Community Centre, is very popular for these. In

addition there are 12 house fellowships; about a third to three-quarters of the members are involved in some type of small cell group programs. On Sundays the church hardly closes as fellowship continues till late at night.

There is a large personnel team as well, although the senior minister's job is vacant at the moment. John Bond had been the senior minister and he was followed by George Wood. Unfortunately George, an Australian who has lived in the USA for over 20 years, had to return to keep on the right side of the Immigration Service. There are two assistant ministers: David Yardley, with long experience in youth work with Youth for Christ and in Ballarat, Vic, is the youth pastor, and Neville Crooks, a former elder of the church with ministry

training who had his own plumbing business, is the pastoral care pastor. There is also an assistant to the youth minister, two full-time administrative staff, a part-time playgroup facilitator, a large number of part-time volunteers to look after a myriad of tasks from the bookshop to the church newsletter, and a full-time administrator.

This job is capably filled by Les Herron, who came from the USA to be near his grandchildren and was formerly in a management position in the telecommunications industry.

The church at Thornlie has a very strong emphasis on evangelism. This was the hallmark of John Bond's ministry, but Thornlie has always been blessed with men and women of vision and great faith, and conscious of God's greatness and faithfulness to them. The church is still looking for a senior minister, a person with outstanding qualities in preaching and teaching, and a leader of leaders.

Looking to the future the church has a 37-acre property, which could be used for future building or church planting, or both. Thornlie remains a large church with a large vision.

I recently went with my 13-year-old son to buy some new shoes. Those of you who have tried that exercise recently will know that it is a major undertaking. Trying to balance the current tastes in teenage footwear with the parents' budget is not always easy. After walking the city streets and visiting every shoe shop we had almost decided that there wasn't a pair of shoes available that fitted my price range and his style. But at last we found the very pair. Mother was delighted when on paying for the shoes she was told, "They're \$10 off this week." They looked even more attractive than they had before!

In the midst of our hunt that day I said to my son, "Why can't they make just three styles of shoes for children to wear? It

would make it so much easier to choose." "Oh Mum," was the reply, "how boring! You wouldn't want to have the same as everyone else." (Yet I mistakenly thought that this was our problem—trying to find a pair like everyone else was wearing!)

All this got me to thinking about choices in life. Sometimes we wish there were fewer choices we had to make. Why

did God make things so complicated and give us all this freedom to decide things for ourselves? Why can't we have a manual that sets things out in nice, logical steps for us to follow? I realised that the God I worship isn't that kind of God. He knew that we grow by making choices. Sometimes we choose correctly and our growing is less painful, but at other times our choices aren't really

the best ones we could have made. At those times our growth carries with it pain and sorrow.

And all the time our great God is there with us, not making our choices for us, but encouraging us onward.

I love the words in Joshua 24:15 where Joshua challenged the people of Israel, "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

I am glad that I worship God, not as a look-alike, robot Christian, programmed to respond in a certain way, but as one who is free to make choices and grow spiritually as I do so. How about you?

• Colleen Harrison is a member of the Caveside, Tas, church.

Growing Spiritually

Growing through Choices

by Colleen Harrison

• *Knowing God's will*

How Do You Recognise God's Voice?

by *Jim Davidson*

"How do you know when God is speaking to you?"

The questioner was my employer. We were having lunch by a huge fire of branches we had lopped from the trees we were felling in a lonely mountain pass. Over lunch and well into the afternoon I shared what I knew of God's guidance.

25 years later, just before my family and I left the mission field, a group of young Chinese in our church asked the same question. And the answer was my last message to them before we left for our homeland: "How to know God's will for one's life".

The question is the one I have been asked most often by Christians. First of all, it is important to realise that God wants you to know his will more than you want to know it. He loves you.

He has a purpose for you. And he wants you to know that purpose

After all, how can you do God's will consciously if you do not know it?

But if you want to know God's will you must make sure your motive is right. It is possible to seek God's will just because you want a change from your present circumstances. Perhaps you want an easier or more exciting situation.

Perhaps you only wish to change the status quo.

However, if God wants the status quo to continue, he will not tell you to do something different. You may be pestering God for guidance and getting none just because you are already in his will.

Let us assume God wants you to do something different from what you are now doing. He will tell you what it is. You can be sure of that for it is in his nature to communicate with us.

The history of God's dealing with men in the Bible is a history of God taking the initiative to speak to us. Jesus Christ is God's ultimate revelation—the Word of God. And the Bible itself is his inspired revelation.

How then can you recognise when he speaks to you?

God is all-powerful. He is not limited to one method of revelation. But however he first sparks the idea in you by a text, from a sermon or a book, a chance remark or whatever, it is in your mind the idea has to catch fire. And many ideas may come to your mind.

Some ideas will be wishful thinking. Others may be what you would dread doing. Satan will try to confuse you so that you cannot be sure what God's will is. It is essential to identify God's voice amid the confusion of other voices.

36 years ago I started off by writing down what I thought was the voice of God's instruction within me, then obeying it. I made mistakes, but God also used me.

Not long after we first became Christians, my wife and I were invited by a pastor to visit a man who lay dying of a fatal illness. He had often been visited in the preceding weeks by others but still had not opened his heart to Jesus. Since we were young in the faith we stayed in the background while the pastor and older Christians talked and prayed with him. But still he made no response to God's love.

Then as we were leaving the room—I was actually leading the way—I heard a still small voice within me say: "Tell him, that no matter what happens, I love him."

I did so, and the man's eyes filled with tears. He then accepted Jesus as his Lord and Saviour. Two days later he died. I thank God I obeyed that inner voice.

Down through the years God has blessed such obedience. For day-to-day guidance it has proved sufficient. By practice I am better able to recognise it. But a test I have learnt to apply to that inner voice is to get it to confess Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. This is based on 1 John 4:2.

That text was written to warn Christians against men who pretended to have a special knowledge that Jesus had never been a real flesh and blood person, but just a phantasm. John is basing his rule on the belief that people speak by the spirit that is in them.

If that spirit cannot or will not confess Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, then it is not of God, but if it does, then it is of God.

Therefore, if the spirit-voice within me is of God, it should make that confession. If it is not of God, it will not.

I find that the test works for me. But for the important life-changing decisions, there is another type of guidance which lends itself to more lengthy testing, for example when one feels led to enter the ministry or to become a missionary or to choose the partner to marry.

Again, I have to look at my own experience, which I know is also shared by others. The guidance comes first in a growing awareness of what God wants me to do. It may have been by a voice within, but it has a feeling of peace and rightness about it.

I pray about it, talk it over with a mature Christian and get reactions, perhaps have a time of fasting and prayer, test it against the word of God and then, if I continue to have that assurance, I take it as from God.

But through it all I must have within me a sense of peace and rightness about it.

I pray something like: "Lord, I want to do your will. I believe

this is your will and I'm going to do it by faith. If it isn't your will, don't let me progress it. I want to live to your glory."

Then, if I still have that feeling of certainty, I do it.

A final point: whatever guidance you get, it must agree with the teaching of the Bible. But here a word of caution is necessary. In the New Testament we mainly find two words being used for "speech" or "word"—*logos* and *rhema*. The uses of these words fall into two broad categories: *logos* as a word of general significance, and *rhema* referring to a specific situation.

Examples of *logos* are: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words shall not pass away," and the "word" in the parable of the sower.

Examples of *rhema* are when Peter remembered the "word" of the Lord that he would deny him, and again when Jesus told him to let down his net into the sea, and Peter said, "Nevertheless, at thy word..."

We have to be careful not to take as a general instruction or promise from the Bible what was intended for one specific occasion.

In the final analysis, if we wish to live by faith, motivated by love for God, we will step out in obedience. And we have to trust our omnipotent God to over-rule if we choose wrongly.

To summarise, we have to have a feeling of peace and rightness about it, and it must agree with the Bible's teaching. Try it out on a mature Christian, test the inner voice against 1 John 4:2, and be sure you are doing this from love of God and not for any lesser reason.

(References: Matthew 24:35, Matthew 13:19, Matthew 26:75, Luke 5:5)

• *Jim Davidson is a Scottish author.*

Ministers' Workshop

• A ministry for the 1990s

Singles in the Church

by Cheryl Johnson

Adult singles are human, real, sensible and natural beings who the church should have a valid ministry with and for. Singles ministry is as valid as family, youth or childrens ministry.

Singles ministry is one of the most exciting areas of ministry and has the potential of touching the lives of people in the real world of the 1990s.

Unfortunately, the local church has not always found it easy to identify and accept the person who does not fit into the "family" image that the church portrays. Singles are looking for involvement with people who understand and are positive towards personal growth.

I believe our churches are beginning to catch a glimpse of the enormous need in our communities to reach, not only the hurting people, but the people who in the past have felt rejected by the church.

Who Are the Singles?

Singles are people who have never married, are over the age of approximately 25, are separated, divorced or widowed. This definition covers a large proportion of our population in all our communities.

What Has the Church To Offer?

The church can offer an exciting message of acceptance and compassion through the forgiveness of Christ. It is a powerful message of recovery from pain, of hope for the future, of meaning to enable you to put back together the shat-

tered pieces of life. The church can begin to take seriously the message it proclaims, and assess the avenues open to it for this ministry.

What Then?

- Discussion with the singles in your congregation and community.
- What are they looking for? What are their needs?
- Conduct a divorce recovery seminar for your community.
- Research what other singles groups are doing.
- Discuss findings with a core group of interested people.
- Organise a dinner and advertise in local papers.

As one has a "heart" for singles ministry the possibilities are enormous. It is not easy; forget the idea if you only want an easy path to growth. You should at least give it some thought and have a chat with people already working in this exciting, challenging and demanding area of ministry.

The harvest is ripe! Where are the workers?

- Cheryl Johnson is Singles Coordinator for the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development and Serendipity Singles and is minister of the Williamstown, Vic, church.

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

Complicity

Calvary was no solitary event:
The pain was his,
But the shame was ours.
The Cross was his.
But "Crucify" was humankind's collective cry.

Garry Harris

Curkpatrick

Back in Fifteen Minutes

Back in fifteen minutes." You've all seen the sign before, outside a small shop or business, and, more often than not, waited for more than fifteen minutes for someone to return. "Back in fifteen minutes" is in fact an ambiguous message. We don't know if the fifteen minutes has only just begun or has almost elapsed. The same ambiguity exists in relation to the end of the world. We can never be sure whether we have still some time to wait or whether our time has almost elapsed.



There has always been intense debate, some highly perceptive, some bordering on lunacy, about when the end of the world will occur and whether we will see it occur in our own lifetime. But the end of which world? The end of "the" world or the end of "our" world? If we are considering the end of "our" world, then it doesn't matter when the end of the material world occurs. The reality is that we will all experience the end of the world in our lifetime. Death is the end of our world, and that can occur for any of us, at any time. If you are prepared for that, then you are prepared for anything else, no matter how cataclysmic.

Perhaps its better to ask, "What does the end of the world mean for us now, theologically?" Theologically, "the end of the world", whenever that will occur, is a reminder that life isn't cyclical, but is working towards a climax. It is a drama moving towards a finale that has already been summed up, prophetically, in the advent of Jesus Christ. History has a purpose, and God is at the centre of that purpose. His purpose in the world involves his people in mission, social justice, compassion and community building—demonstrating the meaning of the cross and resurrection, as life in the midst of death, hope in the midst of despair.

To choose to be part of that purpose is to be drawn into history as a drama in which we can be positively involved in the redemption of the world no matter how dark the events around us become. That's such an exciting and daunting challenge: who wants to sit around and wait for "the end" just to escape it all? For that reason, despite what the apocalyptic pundits say, I'm hoping, we've still got a long "fifteen minutes".

—Stephen Curkpatrick



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Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Berlin, Edith Eleanor

(8.5.91) Born at Rosewood, Qld, 1900, baptised Brisbane 1917, Edith continued as a faithful member of Ann Street church until her passing. Conscientious as a member of CWF, she attended to preparation of the communion, flowers and church cleaning for many years. She also served as teacher and treasurer of the Bible School. As a member of an ecumenical team she assisted in preparation of breakfasts for distribution to the homeless in Brisbane streets and parks. During the war years she catered a tea each Tuesday night for service personnel, also sharing in the Ann Street hospitality program. Edith is survived by three sisters, Essie, Mabel and Eleanor, by nieces and nephews and other relatives. They and her friends mourned her passing at a service at Ann Street and the Crematorium conducted by Steven England assisting the writer.

—L.G. Armstrong

Inverarity, Alice Florence

(24.5.91) Alice died at Glenrose Nursing Home, SA, where she had served part-time as a housekeeper for seven years. She was born at Middlesborough, England, in 1924 and came to Australia in 1926. Later met and married Colin at Bankstown, NSW, church. They moved to SA and linked up with Flinders Park where she was baptised. They moved to Albert Park, then Hawthorn and finally Colonel Light Gardens. They were both wonderful workers. Alice mothered six children and was grandmother to 13 grandchildren. Her funeral was held at Florey Chapel, Centennial Park, with approximately 150 present. She was a great worker who will be sadly missed by a lot of people. The church at Colonel Light Gardens extends its love and care to the family—Colin, David, Louis, Kevin, Heather, Glenda, Marian and families.

—JBB

Salter, Leslie Alan

(2.5.91) Les was born in Coburg and died in Caritas Christi Hospice, aged 74 years. On 28.6.41 he married Loris Crisp in the Lygon St, Carlton, church. Lived in the family home in Coburg for last 40 years and was baptised at Coburg in September 1953. Most of his working life was with the Board of Works. Les was one of God's humble Christian gentlemen who quietly went about God's work in an unassuming way. A team man, often behind the scenes, supporting, encouraging and enabling others to do things. One of his joys was for him and Loris to share holidays with other close church friends. He had the art of making you feel at ease. An overflowing Coburg church was a testimony to the high esteem in which Les was held by family, church, friends and neighbours.

—Vic Quayle

White, Elsie Lilian

(11.5.91) Born in Lismore, NSW. Frank and Agnes Withers and family moved to Coburg, Vic, when Elsie was nine. Baptised at Moreland, Elsie married Frank White at Coburg in 1930. Sunday School teacher and organist. Frank built the family home in Strathmore and Elsie was soon involved in the worship and life of the Essendon church, often serving in her own quiet way. Delegate to CWF Council for many years and a dedicated hospital visitor. Interested in doing "little" things for her Lord and his people. Found delight and inspiration in Scots Church midday services. Elsie was a gracious and hospitable person who appreciated opportunities of ministering and being ministered to. She is survived by their four children, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and a brother and sister.

—Vic Quayle

Wittick, Beatrice Adeline

(9.5.91) Bea was born at Guildford in 1905 and baptised as a teenager by Mr Patterson at Ascot Vale, Vic, church. She married Les on 30.11.29 also at Ascot Vale and they enjoyed 61 wonderful years together. They had two sons. Bea was an active member of the church and an ardent letter writer. Many people were the recipients of words from Bea. Each Sunday she would make a posy of flowers and give them to someone whom she felt would love them. The service of thanksgiving for her life was held at Ascot Vale with Ian Corlett giving the eulogy. Sympathy is extended to Ken and Ross and their families.

—Ross Bourdon

Celebrating a Centenary of Overseas Mission 1891-1991

1920

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Treasurer: O. V. Mann, 8 Commercial-rd, Hyde Park, S.A.
Secretary: G. T. Walden, 74 Edmund-av., Unley, S.A.

Miss Rosa L. Tonkin, who has arrived in Adelaide from China, will be welcomed at a meeting in Grote-st. The Federal Committee, State Committee, and Grote-st. church are uniting in giving her a right royal welcome.

The Federal Organising Secretary has been visiting the churches in South Australia, and has received assurances of a liberal offering on July 4. The farmers of one church, Long Plains, are trying to arrange a splendid offering. Already 21½ acres of wheat-land have been promised with the almost certain prospect of making the 21½ acres 100 in a few days. We hope that other farming districts will imitate this splendid offering. Praise the Lord!

The Federal Committee believes that Australian churches will give such a response on July 4. that will enable us to overcome all the handicap of the India exchange difficulty, and enable us to continue our work in India without retrenchment.

The Federal Secretary will be helping the Queensland Committee with their F.M. offering, beginning at Brisbane, June 13. Bro. Watson, from India, will visit the Victorian churches during June.

All the State F.M. Committees are working most enthusiastically for the offering on July 4. Bro. Collins, S.A., Bro. Clydesdale, N.S.W., Bro. Len Gole, Queensland, Bro. Prichard, Tasmania, Bro. Mudford, Victoria, and Bro. Ewers' successor in West Australia, with their respective Committees, are making history in their States in behalf of our world-wide mission campaign.

All our missionaries in the front line are praying for and giving their means as well as their lives to the mission work of their Australian brethren.

—THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN, 10 JUNE 1920.

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Personal

Baptisms

•Baden Winchcombe, Darren Sloan, Andrew Reinke, Maya Sengupta, Joy Taylor, Jacki Fredzulnik, Harlaxton, Qld •Carrie Jackson, Kedron, Qld •Jeff & Leigh Brown, Tuggeranong, ACT •Bradley Aldred, Wynnum, Qld •Mrs Molly Preen, Frankston, Vic •Colin Ashby, Michael Cumine, Allison Orr, Howrah, Tas •Brian Sidebottom, Martin Pryor, Dalkeith Rd, WA •Michelle Eastwood, Hamilton, Vic •Brian Campbell, Kim Norris, Raylene le Poidevin, Mildura, Vic •Michael Dicker,

Hurstville, NSW •Sharryn Lacy, Darren Eldridge, Pauline Rivett, Rosemary Hay, Greg Nicholls, Casey Allen, Luke Fowler, Patricia Pilcher, Bendigo, Vic •Duncan Hoggett, Daniel Earl, Hampton St, Vic •Christopher Eccles, Matthew Donoghue, Taree, NSW

Marriages

•Sharon Male to Peter Apsley, Kayleen Hinselwood to Andrew Richards, Harlaxton, Qld •Karen Anderson to John de Paoli, Bundaberg, Qld •Jane Weller to Brent Halls, Suzanne Rogers to Allan

Watts, Michelle Whyte to Greg Salotti, Dalkeith Rd, WA •Lois Phillips to Ken Bjorksten, Warragul, Vic •Cora Dik to Bruce Heid, Mount Clear, Vic •Dorothy Seferth to Vincent Leeder, Boronia, Vic

Deaths

•Mrs Eva Thoday, Henley Beach, SA •Stephen Willis, Swan Hill, Vic •Mrs Jean Daff, Frankston, Vic •Pauline Rivett, Bendigo, Vic •Jean Douglas, Manifold Heights, Vic •Hugh Miller, Boronia, Vic

Changes

North Haven: Minister—Earle Martin, 6 Honeysuckle Ave, Lakewood Village, Laurieton, NSW 2443. Phone (065) 59 6458.
Swan Hill: Church office—182

Beveridge Street, Swan Hill, Vic 3585. All correspondence to: The Secretariat, PO Box 1546, Swan Hill, Vic 3585.

Magill: Minister—John Gilmore, 6 Gava Street, Magill, SA 5072. Phone (08) 364 1389 or (08) 332 6044 (church office).

Sunbury: The church is now meeting at 6.30 pm on Sundays at the Drama Room at Sunbury Secondary College, cnr Racecourse Road and Macedon Street, Sunbury. Information from Milton Oliver on (03) 744 5511.

Bellarine Peninsula (formerly Ocean Grove): Now meeting at 11 am in the Uniting Church building, Wallington—Ocean Grove Road, Newington. Minister—Gordon Stirling, 1/77 Albert Avenue, Boronia, Vic 3155. Phone (03) 762 6404.

Clinical Pastoral Education at Repatriation General Hospital Heidelberg An Equal Opportunity Employer

The Clinical Pastoral Education Unit is inviting people to apply for 12 months training in Pastoral Care in the Specialist Ministry of Oncology and Palliative Care. A stipend is available.

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Applications close on Friday, 13 July 1991.

Enquiries and requests for application forms should be directed to:

The Rev Dr John E. Paver
Director, Pastoral Care Unit
Repatriation General Hospital (Oncology Unit)
Private Bag No. 1
Heidelberg West 3081
Phone: (03) 490 2111 (Page 570)

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Applications/expressions of interest are
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Telephone (08) 332 6592

Applications should be received by 12 July

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for

Brighton Church of Christ

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Commencing September 1991

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Criddle (08) 296 3247, Kate Graham (08) 381 5154
or Barry Slade (08) 277 8650.

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Secretary
65 Sturt Rd, Brighton 5048

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Qualifications include endorsement by an affiliate church of ITIM and extensive pastoral experience and training in pastoral care and counselling will be required.

For details, including Position Statement, please contact Will Knowles on (03) 816 9477. Enquiries close by 21 June 1991.

Church News

NSW

MERRYLANDS (Paul de Wildt) Church enjoying enthusiasm of Paul & fiancée Lynn ... Recently commenced evening services, Friday night youth group & Wednesday evening prayer fellowship ... Alan Fell joins Fred Swann as elder with seven deacons (including five ladies) elected to board ... No new converts yet, but a great feeling of unity & excitement in fellowship ... Recently purchased digital electronic piano has enhanced our worship services.

BATHURST (David Gurney) Sunday night services have been started to serve & encourage an ever-increasing congregation ... A number of young people are involved to provide the music for the praise service ... A formal dinner was attended by 48, provided by a small team to help raise funds for a future

church land purchase to provide for further church growth.

HURSTVILLE (Bob & Marilyn Smith) Many visitors to services ... Michael Dicker baptised by Len McNally on 14 April ... Southside Adult Singles Ministry commenced in April. Good response from the community ... Pot luck dinner evening service with Keith Farmer a great success ... 85 red balloons released on Pentecost Sunday following morning service.

SEVEN HILLS (T.J. Beaman, Neil Dickinson) Pleasant Sunday Afternoon 19 May was demonstration of Passover meal presented by Phyllis Woodhouse & Helen Tupper of David House Fellowship. John & Sylvia Foote, Jenny Hanna & Daniel Fuccin made great Jewish family. Thanks to John Hanna for playing the piano & also for playing at morning services ... Ron Hewitt, Director of DCDE, met with the leaders re the future of Seven Hills.

Qld

HARLAXTON (Daryl Thorpe) Average am attendance up 30 to 234 this year ... Choir commenced under leadership of Tonia Meares, our part-time Director of Music. More items are now coming from within the congregation ... Over 100 attended a men's dinner with Prof Wilson as guest speaker ... Randy Edwards presented messages for the 69th church anniversary.

KEDRON (Noel Baxter) A special Mother's Day gift to Sue Jackson was her daughter Carrie's acceptance of Jesus Christ as her saviour & her baptism. At this service flowers were presented to our oldest mother, Auntie Lou Russell, 93, a constant worshipper ... We are praising God for the way he is working through Noel & bringing people into his Kingdom ... Youth group growing.

WYNNUM (Charles Cole) Ian Flood new student minister. Family settling well ... Ian leading Bible Basics study ... Right hand of fellowship extended to several ... Baptism of Bradley Aldred ... CWF theme for year "Home" ... 16 lunched at Carlyle residence ... Two groups studying Bethel series ... Youth group Bible study preparing for World Vision 40 Hour Famine.

BUNDABERG (Alan Leane) Kenmore's Rod Tippett with Jennifer visited & spoke am service. Joined in Mother's Day lunch ... Gospel Cafe conducted by youth huge success. Talented program ... Bible School/church picnic great Aussie barbecue lunch. Made new contacts ... Ladies enjoyed fun & games night. Devotions by Carol Francis ... Craft mornings prove to be popular ... QCWF President visited. A great day of fellowship ... Minister President-elect Bible Society.

EAST IPSWICH (Norm Flett, Greg Bruggemann) Chapel filled for Good Twins (USA) visit 7 May ... Preparations being made for "Autumn Fair" & opening of 35-bay carpark 25 May ... "Dad's Army"

still busy with voluntary maintenance of property ... 40-plus group meeting for outreach & fellowship ... New Men's Fellowship committee elected & programs prepared ... Sparetime's Group celebrated 15th anniversary 4 June ... Church picnic, organised by Children's Church, held on Anzac Day.

SA

HENLEY BEACH (B. Hill) Church saddened at death of Mrs Eva Thoday ... Church membership gearing up for church centenary 8 September. Hazel Skuce guest speaker morning, Rob Cambridge evening ... Girls' Brigade doing well holding numbers ... Womens Fellowship held Mother's Day luncheon. 36 mothers & daughters attended ... Ladies led Mother's Day worship. Joan Dodd presided & Merle Hill preached. Men supplied morning tea.

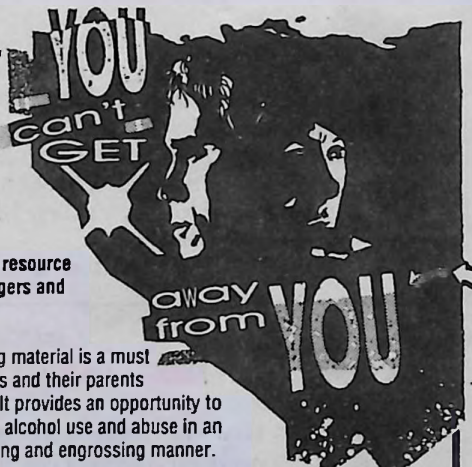
Tas

HOWRAH (Allan Blyth) Celebrate at Six evening service series off to a great start ... Three decisions & two baptismal services ... Three deacons elected & appointed to the Admin Committee ... David Preston re-elected as elder ... Junior & senior youth attended Bicheno camps ... George Green guest speaker at morning service ... Church family luncheons & small groups continuing ... Newly formed mens soccer team performing well.

LAUNCESTON (R. Foster, C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) John Alderton has left to join the Royal Australian Navy ... Chocolate bar drive to raise \$10,000 for church building fund commenced ... Baby sitter list begun to assist young parents ... City Mission Quiet Hour ladies entertained by CWF on 21 May ... Brigades paraded at evening service on 26 May ... Henry Dubbeld elected regional President for Tas of the Gideons.

WA

DALKEITH RD (Barry Ryall, Jenni Ashton) Sacrificial breakfast held to fund associate minister. Aim \$16,000. Raised \$24,500 ... Playgroup 18-20 families involved ... Mid-week Church School attendances 80-90 ... Mixed netball & basketball teams finished season ... Four netball teams ... Open House operating for seniors ... Family camp, Point Peron, studied "Seasons" ... Junior youth camp held with Subiaco ... Board planning retreat held. Rev Dr Bill Loader (UCA) on 1 John.



An educational resource kit about teenagers and alcohol.

This outstanding material is a must for the teenagers and their parents in your church. It provides an opportunity to discuss teenage alcohol use and abuse in an educative, enticing and engrossing manner.

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Vic

SWAN HILL (L.J. Mayes) Church saddened at death, in Sydney, of much-loved associate minister Stephen Willis. Stephen passed away on 4 May following a nine-month battle with cancer. Chapel filled to overflowing when over 200 attended memorial service on 13 May ... Volunteer labour has completed alterations to chapel providing extra seating for 60 ... Sound system updated & chapel carpeted throughout.

RED CLIFFS (G.R. Sharrad) Two "specials" for Mother's Day were posies of flowers & an individual cake for each mother at morning service ... Evening was the commencement of "Sunday, Something Different". Had a good start ... Also now Saturday night social evenings ... Attendances back to normal with nearly all holiday makers returned.

FRANKSTON (Allan Avery, Russell Croxford, Harold Bischoff, David Perkin) Computer group formed. Meeting monthly ... Russell attending lectures for BD degree ... Ray & Josie McKenzie & Colin & Jill Avery left for overseas ... Church pledged to raise \$1,000 for College. Several families gave from \$100 to \$500 ... Four young people made their decisions at Youth Happening. Instruction by Russell continuing ... Emergency Services service held with over 300 present. All emergency services represented together with Police Band.

SURREY HILLS (J. Adam, D. Brooker) Hartwell shared in "Hypothetical" looking at Christian responsibility in decision making ... Members shared Week of Prayer for Christian Unity & ecumenical service at Anglican Church ... John Tudor speaker Explorer service ... Koala Club name given to activities for younger ones ... Playgroup held sale of childrens clothing. Opportunity to raise money & meet mums ... Contacts made & money raised car boot sale in car park.

HAMILTON (Ray Eldridge) Young lady recently baptised ... Ray Philp still receiving therapy after suffering stroke ... New members in Girls' Brigade this year ... Church faced with financial problems as Portland church withdraws subsidy, as Portland calling second minister ... Monthly stall still being well patronised ... Geoff & Norma Beard having two-year trip around Australia, also visiting Borneo ... New morning service format well received.

MILDURA (David Ratten, Doug Clark) 97 attended special meeting 15 May & approved increase in ministry team from 1.6 to 2.6 ... Youth activities greatly enhanced by input from intern minister Neale Meredith ... Missionary Month in May brought input on radio ministry (HCJB) & faith promise giving (Alan Webb) ... Eight babies rocked in cradle on Mother's Day ... Average attendances: am 220, communicants 213, pm 160.

WARRAGUL (David & Debbie

Buesnel) KYB group reaching out to newcomers with a short series on "Christianity Explained" ... Newly formed drama group made debut at evening service ... Sunday School picnic at Mill Valley Ranch with 85 attending ... 51 ladies at dinner prepared by men ... CWF purchased new church crockery ... Alan Greaves & Karen Earl home after surgery ... Encouragement Sunday held ... Church carpark extended.

MOUNT CLEAR (Dale White) Fruitful planned-giving program recently conducted with Ian Tippett. Offerings now averaging over \$1,000 ... 171 attended Good Friday service. Offering raised \$450 for missionaries Bob & Ainslie Boska ... Morning services now averaging over 100 in attendance ... Seven church members are teaching RE at local primary schools ... A new women's group called Lorikeets has been formed recently.

BENDIGO (John Sweetman) Minister's term extended for further five years commencing Jan 1992 ... Onere-dedication, 10 recent confessions of faith. Eight baptisms ... Adult Singles Happening held March long weekend ... S. Johnson spoke at both morning services 10 March ... Children dedication day 3 April ... Phil Davis spoke both am services 21 April, CWF day ... C. Stillwell CTLC recent speaker ... Dennis & Kate Grotto, missionaries in Ecuador, spoke at all services recently.

MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (Max Ball)

Loving sympathy extended to Hec Douglas on death of wife Jean, devoted member, deaconess & worker ... Youth car trial ... More church members becoming Youth Carers ... Guest preachers: CCTC, Paul Bauer World Radio HCJB, David Maindonald & FEBC, David Best Gideons, K. Fuller ... For Mothers' Day ladies took all responsibilities. Speaker Gwen Rae. Sunday School scholars gave out white flowers ... New members join puppet team. **HAMPTON STREET (Peter Pitts)** Duncan Hoggett & Daniel Earl baptised recently ... "Jesus Project" film being shown in members' homes ... Pentecost Sunday service well attended, followed by luncheon & musical afternoon with guests & Alan Payne & family providing entertainment ... Michele Payne appointed secretary ... Gavin & Samantha Gent rejoicing in birth of Edward ... Dedication service held for baby Hayden Brodie ... Group attended oratorio "Jerusalem Passion". 2 from church involved. **BORONIA (Keith Milne, Andrew Henley)** Day Kindergarten has reopened following fire ... CWF led evening service, Helen Hall speaker ... Youth service with Uniting Church, Fusion shared details of their work ... Bev Jeffrey awarded Red Cross Medal ... Busload attended Vic-Tas Conf Gospel Celebration ... Keith Milne elected to Advisory Dept & received Conf Pres encouragement award ... We participated in combined local churches Pentecost celebration.

44th NATIONAL CONFERENCE

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

October 1993

Melbourne

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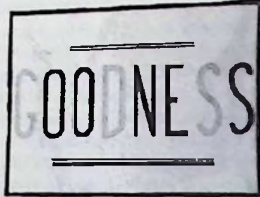
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Ideas

• Fruits of the Spirit

A Pentecost Celebration



This may work for your congregation next Pentecost. The Nunawading, Vic, church had a "party" to celebrate the

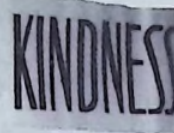
was most successful from two aspects," commented Ted Keating, team leader. "It not only presented the ministry of the Holy Spirit in an entertaining and challenging way but it also involved the many groups that represent the



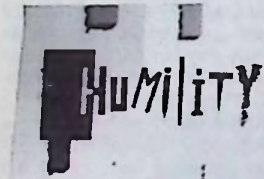
birthday of the church. The function room was set out as for a cabaret. Posters, prepared by artistic individuals in the church, naming the



fruits of the Spirit, were pinned to the curtains. Groups within the church

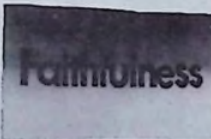


presented a skit, a song or a drama featuring one of the fruits of the Spirit. (The ministry team, appropriately, was allocated "humility".) A larger-than-life puppet figure summed up the Pentecost story and how the Holy Spirit helps us in our relationships.



"The only mistake we made was not to use a bigger venue. We were crowded to overflowing."

are a part of a larger congregation with



a significant contribution to make.

"The only mistake we made was not to use a bigger venue. We were crowded to overflowing."



presented a skit, a song or a drama featuring one of the fruits of the Spirit. (The ministry team, appropriately, was allocated "humility".) A larger-than-life puppet figure summed up the Pentecost story and how the Holy Spirit helps us in our relationships.

The Last Word

Before you can help make the world right, you must be made right within. —John Miller

A definition of an "economy-class" motel is one where the receptionist asks if you mind making your own bed, and when you say no, you don't mind, hands you a hammer and saw.

★★★★★

Adam: "Do you love me, Eve?"
Eve: "Who else?"

★★★★★

Mealtime is that period of the day when the kids sit down to continue eating.

★★★★★

Why did the hedgehog wait until the car passed before crossing the road? He wanted to see his flatmate.

★★★★★

Teacher: I am now going to drop this \$2 coin into a beaker of acid. Will it dissolve?

Student: No.

Teacher: Why not?

Student: Because if it would dissolve you wouldn't drop it in.

★★★★★

Customer: Do you have any crocodile shoes?
Assistant: It all depends. What size does your crocodile wear?

★★★★★

Customer, to butcher: Is killing a pig murder?

Butcher: No. Murder is assault with intent to kill. The other is killing with intent to salt.

★★★★★

The blacksmith was instructing a new apprentice.

"Now I'll take this horseshoe out of the fire and lay it on the anvil. When I nod my head I want you to hit it with the hammer."

They're now looking for a new blacksmith.

★★★★★

The violinist went into a store to buy some violin strings: "I want some E strings."

"Would you mind picking them yourself?" said the assistant. I'm afraid I can't tell the difference between 'es and shes."

★★★★★

MARTHA AND I HAVEN'T CHANGED OUR BELIEF THAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD STICK TO THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE, WE JUST HAVE TO KEEP REDEFINING THE MEANING OF NECESSITY.



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