

National Journal  
of Churches of  
Christ in Australia

Vol. 95 • No. 16

19 September 1992

Registered by Australia Post  
Publication No. VAR 0761

# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

## Explorers in Action

Montrose, Vic, Explorer David  
Pritchard cycling in his club's  
dusk-to-dawn bike-a-thon—story  
page 5

## A Service for Christian Unity

—page 11

## East European Special

—pages 6 and 7



Ukrainian Pastor  
Yuri Vodalahsky,  
his wife Luba and  
their children  
Vlad, Andrei,  
Marina, Oscaná  
and Daniel



# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Vol. 95 No. 16  
19 September 1992

Managing Editor: Chris Ambrose  
Assistant: Geoff Alves

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| Issue      | Deadline     |
| 3 October  | 25 September |
| 17 October | 9 October    |
| 7 November | 30 October   |

Address for All Correspondence  
(including all subscription payments)  
PO Box 101

North Essendon 3041  
Telephone (03) 379 1219  
Fax (03) 379 0015



Member  
publication of the  
Australasian  
Religious Press  
Association



National logo of  
Churches of Christ  
in Australia

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

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

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

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

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

#### Copyright Permission

Provided acknowledgement is made of  
the source, permission is granted to  
reproduce material in "The Australian  
Christian" (other than cartoons) without  
the need to gain approval

#### Advertising Rates

Displayed: \$5 per column  
centimetre

Classifieds: \$12 for the first 25 words  
and 20c for each additional word

## Guest Editorial

# Alone with God

Rhonda Luttrell

**R**ecently, our two small congregations conducted a planning and consolidation day, reflecting on the current church activities and setting new goals. This resulted in a comprehensive action plan, to take place over the next two years. Amid the anticipation of a new growth in the church, there comes a warning. It is easy to be involved in activities, and become doers, but we need to be aware that the most important work of any Christian is to be with God.

Amid the clamour of activity, time spent in prayer and meditation seems to be unproductive, taking time from the more important tasks that are needed to run the church and achieve the goals. But without this time, our fervent hopes cannot be achieved. I am reminded of the people of Israel who were once again caught in a bind when they arrived at the Red Sea. I can imagine the panic that was taking place, some wishing to surrender and go back to the way things were, some wanting to fight the army at whatever the cost. There would have been some too frightened to even think of anything, just waiting passively for their fate. Out of this chaos came the voice of Moses, "The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be still." (Exodus 14:14). What an amazing revelation for the Israelites, where, shortly after this they were to witness the miracle of the crossing of the Red Sea. These words stand true today—while we are wondering what to do next, God is waiting for us to be still enough and wait on him to do the fighting.

The stresses of modern living are revealed by the countless newspaper advertisements and adult learning centre activities that promote seminars and workshops on meditation and coping with stress. The increase in stress-related illness is alarming, and this when there appears to be an increase in leisure time. It seems that even our leisure time must be filled with activity. And the same is true of our church membership—so many activities take place that there seems little time to enjoy the

pleasures of exploring our relationship with God and for prayer and meditation on the Word.

During my pastoral contact with people I am constantly confronted by those who are tired—tired of the stress of seeking to be a productive church member as well as achieving their family, work and social goals. It is with caution that I approach a new church activity. Because these stresses are prevalent, the church needs to show the way to peace. Jesus urged his disciples to rest after they had returned from their ministry: "Come away by yourselves to a

lonely place, and rest a while." (Mark 6:31) This is not underestimating the importance of the mission of each Christian in spreading the gospel, rather it is emphasizing the importance of the individual's relationship with God and their spiritual refreshment.

The challenge for the church is to confront this modern-day stress. To offer within its pastoral nurture the peace and

rest that must take place if a person is not to become burnt out. It may seem impossible in the busyness of life. The young mother with small children seeking an enriching Christian experience finds herself caught up in a round of women's activities in the church, making life even busier. Those in the workplace, who have little time to spare, find themselves involved in church activities, busy with board, worship or Bible studies, leaving little time for themselves and their family. People need to be given leave from the activity of the church so they can spend time being alone with God.

We live in a visual and fast-moving world. Our worship styles tend to reflect this—there is constant activity. It is a challenge for us to reflect on the life of the church, and to ask the question: "Are we spending enough time alone with God, resting in his Spirit?" In the stillness we can hear God's voice, we can find the sense of our mission. Regular rest and reflection time needs to be structured into the life of the church.



## "Towards 2000"

### West Morton Regional Convention

The 14 churches of the West Moreton, Qld, Region held their inaugural convention recently (15 and 16 August) at Ipswich.

Chairman of the organising committee, Greg Lobegeiger (Ma Ma Creek), welcomed the participating churches. Barry Benz (Gatton) spoke and challenged everyone present so the much-prayed-about convention got off to a great start. At this initial meeting a banner was presented portraying in patchwork style most of the participating churches. The Gatton ladies organised its making. It highlighted the unity and oneness of the region.

Workshops were then conducted on "Visitation/Shepherding" by Ian Neumann (elder of Ipswich), "Worship" by Don Streten (Director of Spirit and Truth Ministries), "Greeting the Newcomer and Hospitality" by Norm Flett (minister of East Ipswich), "Disciplining New Christians" by Greg Bruggemann (associate minister at East Ipswich), "Home Fellowships" by Graeme Warne (Vice Principal Kenmore Christian College), "Developing Spirituality in the Church" by Alan Herman (DCDE), "Churches of Christ—Where to Now?" by Randy Edwards (lecturer, Kenmore

College) and "Christians and Sexuality" by Cyril Muller (chaplain at University of Qld). During this time a childrens program was conducted by Alanah Fisher (DCDE).

Then came the first of three rallies. The Saturday night rally saw the "Sing 'n' Celebrate" choir from East Ipswich present the musical "The Boy Who Believed". Then the guest speaker, Bob Hobson from Phoenix, Arizona, and presently conducting an interim ministry at the Nambour church, spoke on the theme "Towards 2000". His humour and forthright preaching held the attention of people of all ages even though he spoke for up to one hour.

Bob spoke to packed congregations Sunday morning, Sunday afternoon and Sunday night. Excellent items were presented at all meetings.

Another highlight was the Bible quiz conducted by quiz master, Rod Tippett, Principal of Kenmore Christian College. The team from Mt Walker triumphed and were presented with a shield that becomes the perpetual trophy for future Bible quizzes. An interesting side-light to the win was the fact that one of the team of two was blind. Ruth must certainly study her Braille Bible well!

As church attendances have been falling, at a sometimes alarming rate, we must seek to understand what people are really seeking for their lives. If God is offering us a fuller, more fruitful life, there must be an opportunity to enjoy it.

As I reflected on my own need for time with God, I reviewed my diary. It was a shock to find it so full, that I had not allowed myself any time for this refreshment of the spirit. We must all take up this challenge and allow our churches to become the place of peace and rest for all people. The search for a cure for stress can stop with us.

• *Rhonda Luttrell is married to Kevin, and they have five children. After graduating from the College of the Bible (now CCTC) in 1987, she served at the Strathmore, Vic, church, and in 1989 moved to the Warracknabeal and Brim congregations with Kevin (where they are still serving). Rhonda has been actively involved in RE in primary schools, and has worked to encourage ministry involvement in the Warracknabeal Secondary College. She and Kevin have also established the Warracknabeal Youth Services, which will provide supported accommodation and counselling to rural youth.*

## Vanuatu Visitors

### News from the Pacific



• Wilson Bebe

During September–November members from Vanuatu churches are visiting Australia.

A group of 37 young people from the Sarabetu church in Vila are leaving for Queensland on 30 September and returning to Vanuatu on 14 October. The main reason for their coming to Queensland is to be involved in the Queensland Conference. The young people have an excellent choir and several members will be also sharing testimonies and preaching. The Queensland tour is being organised by David Eagling, on (07) 848 7163.

After these meetings Pastor Wilson Bebe and Albert Vira (an elder at the Sarabetu church) are spending two weeks in Melbourne (14–26 October) and then two weeks in Sydney (26 October–4 November) sharing with churches (contacts in Sydney for details are Kay Williams on (02) 694 1034 (AH) or Gloria Callister on (02) 758 2246). During their visit to Melbourne they will speak at the Overseas Mission Annual Rally on 18 October at 2.45 pm at the Lygon Street chapel (details from Dorothy Geyer on (03) 853 8558).

Wilson Bebe wrote recently on some of his activities: "I have just returned from a tour to

Malekula, Santo and Pentecost. I was invited to Malekula to open the new church and performed three marriages, baptised 17, dedicated three children and dedicated one elder. These are the people who broke away from the Presbyterian Church and practise water baptism and operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Presbyterians no longer want to work with them.

There are five villages involved. Lombewin, which has over 300 people and where over 100 were baptised, has one lay pastor, four elders and four deacons. Milip village has over 200 people and there 87 were baptised. It has one elder and two deacons and this is where I opened the new church.

While I was in Milip for the opening of the new church the chief from Tomman (an island which has over 100 people) came and met me and asked me to visit them on my next tour. Caroline Bay and White Sands have also invited me to visit them on my next tour, which is due in March 1993. I am planning to stay with them for a month."

God opened these doors to my ministry and I believe that more of the other areas will be open."

## Serving the Community

Survey brings encouraging news

Researchers of the National Church Life Survey (NCLS) have been pleasantly surprised by the number of Protestant churchgoers who are actively involved in community life.

According to the latest results of the NCLS, 28% (85,000) of the 305,000 who were questioned in August last year are engaged in community service or social action groups not connected to their church.

When you also consider the vast numbers of full-time workers and volunteers in our major Christian charities (Wesley Mission, Anglican Home Mission Society, City Missions, Brotherhood of St Lawrence, Salvation Army) we soon begin to realise the enormous contribution that Protestant churchgoers make to the health and welfare of Australia.

In addition more than 100,000 respondents, or one in three of those surveyed, were involved in their congregation's community service, social care, justice or evangelistic activities.

Survey co-ordinator, Dr Peter Kaldor, said the survey challenged many stereotypes of church life.

"Rather than taking people out of the world, churches appear to be encouraging people to become involved in the concerns and issues of everyday life," he said. "The involvement of churches in our society is often ignored by social commentators and the media alike."

A matter of concern is that church attenders are more likely to be older—of people aged 15 years and over 33% are more than 60 years, compared to 19% in the general community.

There are more Protestant women going to church (62%) than men (38%).

The NCLS suggests that one in eight Protestants seek opportunities to discuss Christianity with others. Another 43% are happy to discuss their faith if it arises.

Perhaps of concern for the

churches is that one-quarter of attenders found it difficult to discuss their faith in relevant language.

The latest results are currently being distributed to participating congregations.

And if you expected Protestants to be rednecked and ignorant, think again—the bulk of those surveyed came from families where the major breadwinner was a professional (29%) or a manager (15%).

Only 8% came from families where the major breadwinner was a labourer or manual worker. Some 12% came from families where a tradesperson was the prime breadwinner.

Some 17% of Protestants have a university degree, compared to the general community (6%).

Protestant churchgoers are on the move. Their faith is dynamic and developing.

More than 225,000, or 75% of those surveyed, said that their faith grew stronger during the previous year, while 21% made major changes to their actions and priorities and 46% made smaller changes as a result of their Christian faith.

That means that faith was put into action—the theological rubber hit the road.

"Church involvement is often portrayed as cold and lifeless, with attenders as silent observers of clergy performing quaint rituals," researcher, Merilyn Correy said. "While this may be true in some cases, the survey suggests that participation impacts quite strongly on other aspects of their lives. Faith can make a significant impact on directions in everyday life."

Those completing the NCLS were attenders over 15 years of age. All respondents completed a 50-question survey form from a pool of around 220 possible questions. More than 17 million pieces of information have been processed.

(The first results of the NCLS were reported in the 18 July issue of *The Australian Christian*.)

## Australian Churches to "Sing a New Song"

New music resource

A worship publication recently arriving in Christian bookstores is already attracting interest from churches seeking new thematic music in their worship.

Entitled *Sing a New Song* and distributed by the Bible Society, the book contains 59 original songs from the pen of Australian songwriter Peter Mangold. It is distinctive in that it follows the Sunday-to-Sunday themes of the lectionary calendar used by many churches.

Peter was initially encouraged to write such a book after struggling to link church music with the biblical themes being used in worship.

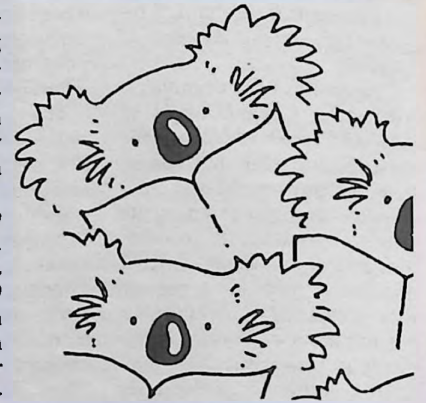
"I felt it would be a great encouragement if I knew that there was a book that contained at least one song each week that drew its inspiration from the relevant scripture readings. When I couldn't find such a book I decided that the next step was to write one."

Twelve months later *Sing a New Song* has grown to include a range of related products, including overhead projection transparency masters, backing track cassettes and MIDI disks.

However, as Peter is quick to point out, the book's release is only intended to be a beginning for *Sing a New Song* Publications.

"I am fiercely proud of the fact that this is an all-Australian publication and having recently visited the United States, I am keen to begin exporting the book as soon as possible. I have also begun writing the second and third books in the series to cover the remaining two years of the three-year lectionary cycle."

This book is intended to have a wide appeal. Complete with a Bible reference index, *Sing a New Song* is fast being regarded



as a valuable resource for churches seeking new Australian worship music with its basis in scripture.


Peter is an active member of The Patch, Vic, church in the Dandenongs, where he often assists with the worship leadership.

The readings on the Churches of Christ calendar basically follow the common lectionary and thus Peter's material is relevant to worship in our churches.

The *Sing a New Song* book is available for \$19.95. A church pack that includes a copy of the book, two cassette backing tapes and the overhead projection transparency masters and the appropriate copyright clearance will be shortly available for \$100. Orders and information are available from "Sing a New Song", Private Bag 6500, The Bible Society (Vic), Burwood 3125. Phone orders can be made on (03) 888 8422 or by fax to (03) 888 7227.

### Kitchen Designer

Winner of all major awards  
HIA & HGF Housing Guarantee  
Free design and quote in your home or visit our showroom

Discount for church members   
Contact Stephen on (03) 879 4660 or 018 36 8899 (car phone)

## Aboriginal Convention

*Will you be in Perth?*

To celebrate 50 years of Churches of Christ ministry to Aboriginal people throughout Australia, an Aboriginal Convention is being held 2-4 October at the SDA Campsite, 345 Kalamunda Rd, Maida Vale. Meeting times are 10.30 am and 7.30 pm each day with a gospel concert at 7 pm on the Saturday night. Frank Johnson, Denzil Humphries and Bruce Smoker are the speakers.

Aboriginal Christians from across Western Australia have been invited and are looking forward to a great time of blessing together.

If you can't come, will you please pray?

—WA Aborigines Committee

### FRANKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST



GREENWAYS

RETIREMENT VILLAGE  
330-356 FRANKSTON-DANDENONG ROAD,  
SEAFORD 3198

1 & 2 BR Villas

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

LMCT  
6549

# Ken Geyer

SELECT USED CARS

49 Bond Street, Ringwood 3134  
Telephone (03) 879 4004

Contact Ken if you are looking for  
a used car or need to rent one

## Five New Translations

*Record year for Aboriginal publications*

1992 will go down in the history of the Bible Society in Australia as a record year for Aboriginal scripture publications.

In all, it is expected that there will be five new publications in 1992. If the Ngaanyatjarra New Testament, which was dedicated in December 1991 is added, it is indeed an historic 12-month period.

The Warlpiri and Anindilyakwa mini-Bibles have already been dedicated and the Djamarpyungu mini-Bible was dedicated on 7-9 August. Further publications are planned for the Nungubuyu people of Numbulwar on 27 September, and for the Kunwinjku people of Oenpelli on 1 November.

Dr Carl Gross, translation consultant, gives an example of how the Word of God speaks to people in their own language. He said, "During a checking session of the Pitjantjatjara Bible Project, we were discussing the early chapters of Romans. When we reached Romans 6:23 ('The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life') there was an animated discussion in Pitjantjatjara about the translation. It seemed that they had never really understood the full import of the verse before. As the discussion drew to a close, one of the men excitedly said, 'I book being the first to preach on this verse!'"

## Ready for Action

*Boys pedal all night*



• Explorer David Pritchard in action

The Montrose, Vic, Explorer Boys' Club held a successful dusk-to-dawn bike-a-thon recently. Local sponsors provided food for the event and Word Bookstore lent films to entertain the participants.

A street wall map was used to mark the progress of the boys as they pedalled their way through the night. Each boy

rode for 30 minutes every two and a half hours. The 13 club members rode a total distance of 850 kilometres (without moving), and raised \$675, which will be given to the Kidsmin 1992 Service Project. This project is to furnish a Vic-Tas Department of Community Care accommodation house in Dandenong.

## WA Women's Retreat

*Working and walking with God*

"Women: Working and Walking with God" was the theme of the annual WA Ladies' Retreat held at Lake Coolingup campsite.

With 80 attending from metropolitan and country churches, the retreat was rich in fellowship and learning.

Eira Clapp from Wembley Downs was study leader, and led us through the Bible, looking specifically at women God used to further his work.

The music ministry was led by the ladies from the Northam church. Soloists included

Sharon Michael, Dorothy Clayton and Robyn Kelly.

Saturday afternoon we were privileged to have Rose Farrow speak, when we were moved from tears to joy as she shared her testimony and challenged us to value our marriage.

When we gathered for communion Joyce Bolton from Collie continued the challenge with a call for sacrifice.

The offering will go towards ceiling fans for the new Port Hedland church.

—B. McIlwraith (Secretary)

# Bulgarian Revival



• A revival meeting in Yambol, Bulgaria

**W**hen people hear the Balkans mentioned today they immediately associate it with civil war, killings, atrocities and

human suffering. Not many realise that only a few hundred kilometres from those places of horror God has visited Bulgaria with a mighty outpouring of

his Spirit in a revival of unprecedented proportions.

In 1991 alone 1 million heard the Gospel preached to them by indigenous evangelists. Hundreds of thousands were saved.

Extraordinary manifestations of God's Spirit were evidenced in more than 200 mass meetings. Apart from Bulgarians, Muslim Turks, of whom there are 500,000 in the country, are being converted to the Lord. Gypsies receive new life through the Gospel. Whole villages and towns turn to Christ.

It is an amazing display of God's grace and power in our days. Using original material, the mission organisation Voice of Peace has prepared a video report "Bulgaria in Revival". It traces the historical back-

ground of the Bulgarian people up to the present, and then presents the incredible scenes of the massive revival sweeping Bulgaria. The report captures the vision of God's people concerning his strategy of bringing the liberating Gospel message to the Muslim masses of the Middle East.

Voice of Peace offers the use of the video to churches and fellowships.

Ministers and church leaders are invited to book "Bulgaria in Revival" by writing to Voice of Peace, PO Box 339, Cronulla 2230, or phoning (02) 527 2387.

People may also purchase a copy of the video for \$40. All proceeds from the sale are sent to the Mission for Christian Uprising in Bulgaria.

## Every Home for Christ

**L**ast April I had the privilege to help lead a seminar for pastors in Kiev, Ukraine, formerly part of the Soviet Union.

I was invited to go with Every Home for Christ (EHC), a missionary group with the goal of taking a gospel booklet to every home in the world. Three ministers from the US were invited to lead this seminar for 120 pastors from across the Ukraine: Don Coble, a Baptist from Alaska, David Chamberlain, Assemblies of God from New York, and myself.

In the Commonwealth of Independent States you are Russian Orthodox, Baptist or Pentecostal if you are a Christian (so the Christian Church/Churches of Christ goes under the brand Pentecostal). Often, there is a lack of trust and co-operation among the various groups (sounds like the US). They wanted us to show the oneness in Christ.

The first thing I noticed about the people was a personal protectionism. On the streets peo-

ple did not talk much, they did not look in the eyes of others. They just did their thing and ignored everyone else. I assumed the years of KGB activity had caused this. Even the pastors were very reserved. By the second day of the seminar they loosened up. Paul Ilyin, the director of EHC for the CIS, and our translator, portrayed a great sense of humour. His leading gave the pastors the certainty that we had come to share with them what the Lord has taught us.

The seminars dealt primarily with prayer, evangelism, follow-up, discipleship and general church development. At the conclusion of the seminar each participant received a library of 22 books, translated into Russian. None of these men and women could afford even one of these books. The average wage is \$15-20 a month. That was in April-May 1992. On 1 July the rouble was to float on the world market, so inflation is going to eat into this value.

It is refreshing to see their ravenous hunger for the gospel. If you offer them a Bible, it's gone before you can blink.

Anything about Jesus is gladly received. If there are some who do not seem interested, you can tell them this is literature the Communists would not let them read, and they will take it. All Russians read but there is little literature available or affordable. As the literature is distributed door-to-door, they are avidly read and many wish to receive Christ. The inquirers mail in a card included in the booklet and receive a Bible study course along with a New Testament. If there is a local church, they are referred to it, or small home groups are begun. In the Ukraine, a new church could be started each day if there was the leadership.

EHC has commenced three Bible colleges to begin training leaders. Presently they are taught by pastors from America, who go to teach one subject for two weeks. The min-

ister pays his way and gives \$2,000 to the college to teach. This money keeps the schools going and provides the education, housing and a stipend for those training for the ministry.

It was exciting being part of the foundation of the gospel in the Ukraine. It was like being in the book of Acts. God is performing miracles similar to those in the book of Acts.

We spoke at two churches, one in Kiev and one in Moscow. The average service runs two to three hours with some singing and three or four sermons. People stay and fellowship visit after the service to learn more. The Sunday morning in Kiev included four sermons, one of which was mine.

We visited a church in Korostan, a town 60 miles from Chernobyl. The pastor, Nicoli, had been imprisoned for six years for his faith and then three additional years under house arrest. There is the only church in the town. 1,000 attended on Easter Sunday, over 300 being children.

## Eastern Europe

# Visiting the Ukraine

**W**hile visiting the Ukraine in January 1992 with a team of six from Melbourne (Russell and Judy Gray, Rod and Rita Jolly and Kay Studd) we had the opportunity to work with a Baptist Church from Kharkov.

We shared the gospel with children in an orphanage, in nursery schools and in primary schools. Adults working in these places listened to our presentation and were intent and interested to hear about our personal faith. Their openness in seeking to know how God has been real in our lives was a real encouragement.

We also visited adult English classes. The people there spoke fluent English and it was great opportunity to share in our own language. Most of our

work however was done through interpreters. We had a group of six Christians from the English Department of the Kharkov University.

There has been an increase in the number of people attending church in the Ukraine over the past two years. We saw churches full. Many Christians had a depth of spiritual maturity and wisdom that they had gained from years of spiritual suffocation. They knew that if they were caught by the KGB it would mean some type of punishment. A Christian family had a church meeting in their home and the KGB discovered this meeting so the wife had money deducted from her wages. So it was a dream come true for this family to have Christians from the West in



• Kay Studd and Lyn Pentland sharing the Christmas story with the staff of a nursery school with the aid of an interpreter

Observing that their children's program was so good, the public schools invited them to teach all the classes in the town (90,000) with whatever literature they wanted. The church did not have enough people to teach the entire curriculum, but they are able to teach classes on Christianity in all schools.

The town has been hit hard by radiation. When Chernobyl exploded, everyone in the town went outside to see the beautiful lights in the night sky. Five days later the government told them to stay inside. Nicol's cat had been lying outside. The following day, the top of the cat had no hair. As you may guess, the people there do not enjoy the best of health.

We arrived in Kiev the day following Easter. This was the first time in 73 years Easter had been celebrated. Bells in the churches that had not been destroyed by the Communists were rung.

For the first time in decades, Lenin's birthday was not celebrated. The people are sure of what they don't have, but are not sure of what they do have. In Moscow, two banners hung

across the street that leads to the Kremlin. One said, "He is risen. He is risen indeed." The second said, "Celebrating the Resurrection of Christ."

At the moment the struggle is with ideologies and beliefs. The countries are wide open for the gospel. In a short period of time, as the society opens to the rest of the world, the things they see around them will catch their attention.

I have been asked to return to teach at the Bible College in Kiev or to lead another pastors' seminar. Also, in Kolomia, we have a sister-church that has invited me to visit. I have a desire to do this, but only if this is the Lord's plan. The total cost is uncertain, as the rouble is floating on the world market.

—Wally Chapman

(Wally Chapman studied at Kenmore Christian College 1965-68 and has just finished 20 years as minister of the Park Hills Christian Church in El Paso, Texas. Wally married Faye Chislett of the Red Cliffs, Vic, church and his parents-in-law have just returned from the US with this report.)

their home without the KGB listening to the conversation.

Now the Ukrainians have spiritual freedom. There is no need to have Christian literature hidden. It can now be freely distributed. Where once there was a great shortage of Christian material because it was denied to them, now now not enough literature can be sent.

Since perestroika there has been freedom of religious activities. This not only means freedom for traditional evangelical churches but it also means freedom for all types of cults and movements such as the New Age Movement, Jehovah's Witnesses, Hare Krishnas and Mormons. Christian leaders now need information and teaching on cults. These cults pose a danger for new believers who do not know the difference between biblical and false doctrines. It also creates confusion for the unbelievers who are seeking to know the truth and to make a personal commitment to Christ.

Despite the shortages of commodities that we take for granted in the West and the uncertainty about their political future, Christians have a

positive spiritual outlook for their future. They are meeting freely during the week and for worship on Sundays (two- or three-hour church services). Christians are now sharing their faith openly with others in their country.

The pastor at the Baptist church, who is involved in a mission called *Light of the Gospel*, has three main visions:

- To obtain financial support for pastors and full-time church workers so they don't need to have a separate job. To support a pastor currently costs about \$45.
- To build a larger, more appropriate church close to public transport nearer the centre of Kharkov. To purchase a block of land for a new church would cost around \$1,300.
- To establish a farm where Christians could work alongside unbelievers and produce much-needed food.

We need to continue praying for our brothers and sisters in the Ukraine. —Lyn Pentland (Berwick, Vic, Regional church)

## Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to  
200 words

### Submission

To the Editor,

In his letter about "Manhood" ("AC" 1 August) Peter Dixon argued against equality as a 20th century Western value and for submission, contending that this is "the pattern which Jesus gave us" and which therefore Paul preached. I am responding to the submission claim.

• When did Jesus demand that the Eleven submit to Peter, or his followers to the Twelve, or Mary Magdalene to John, or a wife to her husband? The submission he called for was to the will of God.

• What Paul learned from Jesus are these: "In Christ Jesus there is neither male nor female," (Galatians 3:28), "in the Lord" the relationship between a man and a woman is not hierarchical but interdependency (1 Corinthians 11:11, correcting verses 8-9) and unqualified mutuality should characterise husband and wife in their most intimate relations (1 Corinthians 7:1-5).

To be sure, in Ephesians Paul (?) says that a wife should be "subject" to her husband, but note what follows: "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church," and what precedes, "Be subject to one another out of reverence to Christ." (Ephesians 5:22, 25, 21)

—Ronald W. Graham  
(Johnston, Iowa, USA)

### Plea to Parents

To the Editor,

If only the mothers and fathers of our precious children knew what suffering, what tears they cause their children.

You might ask, "What are you talking about?"

Maybe this written "prayer to God" which I received during a children's club night just recently (13 August) will answer your question (the names have been altered): "Please pray for my friend Susan and me Jane, for our parents taking drugs. Please pray for Nicole's mum to be well and to stop taking needles."

Three girls, one so very young, all so very precious, sweet and pretty, all have that one major hurt in their lives—their parents hooked on drugs. One of these girls came to me in tears last year and told me she is still going through untold trauma because of the evil of drugs and needles.

Then there are those parents who are prisoners to alcohol and whose children also suffer deep inside—like Cathy whose father's drinking made life miserable for her. This precious little girl now has no father—he is dead—cause: alcohol!

May I plead with all parents who are killing themselves by drink and who are tormenting and causing so much trauma, fear and many, many tears to their very own children—please stop taking drugs, stop drinking yourselves to death. **Get help!** Do something, but please stop now.

Just think of all the many thousands of happy children again. Just think of all the thousands of tears which would cease coming from these thousands of beautiful children's eyes.

If this letter stops one mother or stops one father from taking drugs or drinking alcohol, therefore stopping the tears, the fear, the trauma in just one little child's life, then it will be worth it.

—Dave Vincent  
(Scripture teacher, parent helper, children's worker (voluntary) and children's club leader)

### Disapproval

To the Editor,

I write to express my deep regret and strong disapproval that the article "An Epistle to Paul" has been printed in the 1 August issue of *The Australian Christian*. I was shocked, not by the contents of the article, but rather by the fact that it was allowed to appear in our Churches of Christ magazine.

Perhaps the intention of the author was to stir believers to a serious examination of the foundations of their professed faith and to be ready to answer those who would challenge them on these issues. If indeed

this was the intention of the author an explanation of such should have been included. But as it stands the article may well become a stumbling block to new and struggling Christians as well as to unbelievers.

The article as it is printed does not encourage the healthy practice of honest questioning. Rather it promotes views of those who oppose the gospel and attacks the very foundations of the Christian faith. The author makes the clear inference that insistence on the belief in the Messiahship of Jesus, his virgin birth and his bodily resurrection is bigoted fundamentalism. Jesus himself taught a narrow way which leads to life. (Matthew 7:14) What are we to believe if not the claims of Jesus Christ and the writers of the New Testament as they point us to the fulfilment of

Old Testament prophecies and set forth the elementary truths of the Christian faith?

Whatever the intention of the author in writing the article, it disturbs me greatly that the serious doubts expressed should be attributed to Timothy, the departed saint whom the Apostle Paul held in high regard. This article dishonours the name of a man who is unable to defend himself.

The question I ask is why was the article printed without the name of the author? In fact why was it printed at all?

—Greg Lobegeiger,  
(Ma Ma Creek, Qld)

### The Fall of Man

To the Editor,

We put far too much emphasis on the "fall of man". Paul used it as a theological argument for Jesus doing away with

## Letters from Tertius

### "Inarticulate Groans"

To the Editor,

"Inarticulate groans"—that's what the New English Bible calls our prayers. It's a pretty accurate description of mine. I've never been very successful in saying my prayers. I want to say something real but I never seem to be able to get the right words. I find myself saying, "Why am I telling God all this when he knows it better than I do?" Or I think that God must have heard all this so often that he is bored, which of course he isn't because God isn't like that. But I've stuck to praying because Jesus put it right up amongst the top priorities. But that doesn't improve my praying much.

Then the other day we were using the New English Bible for our reading and I came across a text that helped me. It says, "We do not even know how we ought to pray, but through our inarticulate groans the Spirit himself is pleading for us, and God who searches our inmost being knows what the Spirit means, because he pleads for God's people in God's own way."

I'm not sure that I know what it all means. For instance I'm not sure how God as Spirit can plead with himself as Father. My wife says, "Why can't you read the Bible and enjoy it instead of asking all these awkward questions?" She's right of course, but the questions just won't go away.

However I think that this verse means that it doesn't matter how bad a job we do of praying, the Holy Spirit edits our prayers so that God hears what we would like to say and really mean to say. And the logical conclusion of that seems to be that God, in answering our prayers, doesn't necessarily give us what we ask for but rather what he sees we really need.

I don't think I am praying any better, but I'm feeling a lot better about it.

Hoping you are the same,

—Tertius

## Letters

sin and death. But nowhere else is the matter mentioned except in the original story in Genesis and it is contrary to our Lord's own teaching that only those things which come out of a man corrupt him. We seem to be in error too in what we mean when we read that God gave Adam "dominion" over the beasts of the field etc. If the views usually taken of this are correct then why doesn't my refractory sheep know about it? We also miss the point of a man leaving his mother and father and cleaving to his wife (Genesis 2:24).

In my idle moments I read anthropology. That phrase means that when a man marries he enters his wife's family. Genesis goes on to tell how this changed and a woman entered the man's family, but this only happened in societies which herded cattle and no others. We remain, backward chappies that we are, in the edenic society where a man joins his wife's family on marriage. Most people find this hard to take but this is because they don't understand how their own society works. Hence all talk of "patriarchal" terms in our language can only come from a massive inferiority complex—one of the things from which the Lord came to save us. It is regrettable that some letters written to the Editor are couched in the jargon of a political movement battenning on that inferiority complex.

—John J. Alderson  
(Havelock, Vic)

### Theologians

To The Editor:

Hats off to Barry McMurtrie for encouraging us not to be afraid of theologians ("AC" 5 September), for it is true each

one of us is a "theologian" when we talk about God. The task of reflecting upon our faith and seeking to express it in the most relevant and meaningful way possible for our unique culture is a commission given to every believer and not a specialised few.

While never advocating the formation of elite theologians as a norm for Christians, I must express the enormous benefit I gained from attending a theological college and completing a Bachelor of Theology and Diploma of Ministry (CCTC 1987-89). The most influential field of my course was New Testament studies, which opened the scriptures in a refreshing and liberating light. Responsible tools of biblical reflection, many developed only in recent decades, have enabled me as a local church minister to bring the scriptures to life in exciting and challenging ways. These same tools of reflection and research I use in the development of our mission and evangelistic goals. Insights into cultural norms, behaviour patterns and beliefs are applied equally to interpreting and preaching from the Bible and to marketing principles in our local church.

From my experience the baby boomer generation is hungry for the skills to bring the Bible alive for them, and not be fed pious, devotional material from past centuries. Never neglecting the Spirit's involvement in prayer, we should likewise allow the Spirit to guide us through responsible scholarship.

—Mike Folland  
(The Patch, Vic)

## News

### Alpine Trek '93

#### Climbing mountains

Alpine Trek '93 is an eight-day backpacking adventure across the high plains in the Victorian Alps.

The high plains offer spectacular mountain scenery and challenging bushwalking in an area rich in history and many natural features. Alpine Trek '93 (9-16 January 1993) will involve conquering some of Victoria's highest peaks, namely Mt Feathertop (1922 m) and Mt Bogong (1986 m).

The trek will also provide opportunity for people to de-

velop and grow in Christian living as they share in this adventurous and challenging outdoor activity together.

This trek is organised by the Vic Churches of Christ Adventure Committee and is for people 14 years of age or over.

For more information or an application form, contact the Department of Mission, Education and Development on (03)326 8900 during office hours, or Tony Twining (Trek organiser) on (03)870 0974 after hours.

## ALPINE TREK 1993



Saturday, <sup>9</sup><sub>10</sub> January

Saturday, 16 January

### Victorian Alps

(See story above)

Application forms from DMED (03) 326 8900 (BH)  
or from Tony Twining (03) 870 0984 (AH)



Organised by the Adventure Committee of the Department of Mission, Education and Development of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania

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

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

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

### BICHENO, TASMANIA Seaview Camp

Units for hire  
Powered sites  
Group camping  
Tennis court  
An area of great scenic attraction

**Manager:**

**Phone (003) 75 1247**

Vic-Tas Department of  
Mission, Education and  
Development

### Day of Prayer 9 am-5 pm Show Day, Thursday, 24 September

at Burwood Church of Christ  
280 Highbury Road, Burwood

BYO Lunch 12.30 pm-1.30 pm

Bring your youth group/cell group/prayer warriors

**Come on the hour**

**Stay as long as you can**

## Papers



### The Visual Arts

by Dawn Mendham (Zadok Reading Guide R28)

The Zadok Institute for Christianity and Society has produced a series of reading guides on issues of importance to Christians in Australia. In this guide on visual arts Dawn Mendham provides a short introductory essay on the relationship of modern art to religious belief. She then lists (with very brief notes) a number of books in various areas on the subject. Dawn Mendham has provided a very wide-ranging list from a background that includes writing a book on the art and ideas of 16 Australian contemporary visual artists (*The Refining Fire*). She is currently continuing MA studies in Australian painting.

Available from the Zadok Institute, Locked Bag 23, Kew Post Office 3101, for \$4. —CRA

## Books



### So Long, Farewell and Thanks for the Church

by Morris Stuart (Hodder & Stoughton) \$15.95

This thought-provoking book tackles the dilemma facing many dedicated, self-sacrificing Christians who find themselves disillusioned and abandoned in the church they have served in for so long. Morris Stuart calls on all Christians to reassess what discipleship is. Trapped within a church culture with its outworn traditions and institutions, he challenges the complacency of those who claim to follow Christ with a balanced and yet provocative analysis of our call to "costly compassion and practising justice".

Jesus calls on his followers to side with the poor and oppressed, to seek justice, love and kindness and to walk humbly with God. In this very biblically referenced work, Morris outlines discipleship as including the recognition and confrontation of the "powers and principalities" that operate within all human structures and organisations, including the church. It means working towards a community in which justice and mutual responsibility take precedence, and the motivation is "faithfulness, not triumph".

Easy to read and practical in its challenge, this book is for those who love the church of Jesus Christ, and who desire its liberation from conformity to the world, before they join the ever-increasing group of refugees who no longer find a place for themselves in the established church today.

—Ross Pelling

### Pastoral Transitions

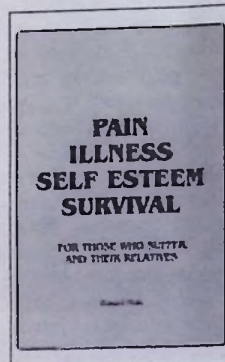
by W.B. Phillips (Alban Institute) \$13.95

*Pastoral Transitions* is an attempt to assist ministers who are completing a ministry with one church and moving to a new

appointment. The author discusses issues relating to the decision-making process in deciding to leave a congregation. Emotional and rational factors are analysed helpfully. In the new appointment Phillips discusses matters such as coping with a sense of loss in moving from the previous congregation, assessing the new situation, finding new directions, exploring the history of the new church and developing a vision for the future. The material has a good balance of the reflective and the practical.

Available from the Department of Mission, Education and Development, 77 Capel Street, West Melbourne 3003, for \$13.95 plus postage.

—Don Smith



### Pain, Illness, Self-esteem, Survival

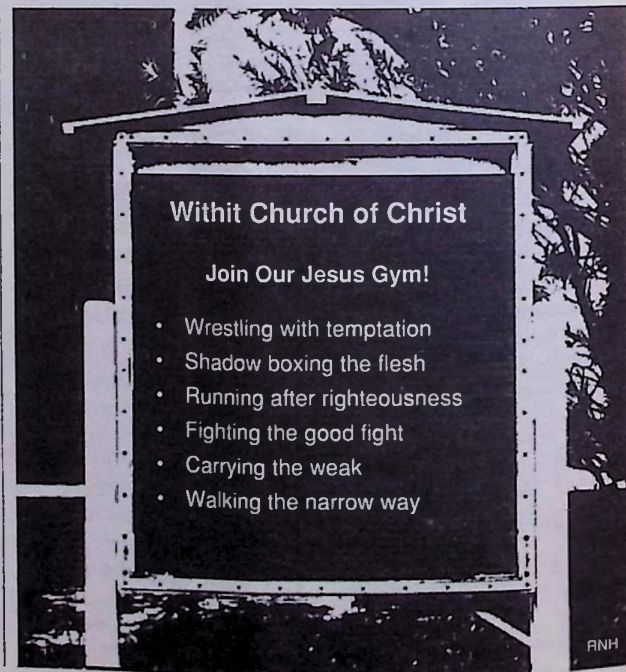
(For those who suffer and their relatives)

by Howard Peak (From CMS Bookshops or from the author, 16 Getting Crescent, Campbell 2601, for \$3.50 posted)

Howard Peak is a heart specialist who has suffered serious illness himself, as well as coping with serious illness in his family. He is a Christian. So he has had the experience, in relation to pain, of being a Christian professional, a Christian patient and an

anxious Christian parent. This little book is written to give help to professionals, sufferers and the relatives and friends of sufferers, including the church. The first part of the book concerns "understanding pain". The longer second part looks at illness, what it does to the sufferer, how those close to the sufferer react and what may be done about it. It not only gives suggestions, but as it opens up and airs the subject it is also helpful in dispelling ignorance and fear, which are often more damaging than the illness itself. It is an easily readable book, but amazing that such a fine manuscript should be so poorly proofread.

—GRS



# A Service for Christian Unity

The following service has been prepared on behalf of the Department of Christian Union with the recommendation that it be used in celebrating World Communion Sunday on 4 October.

## Preparation

- A simple banner placed behind the communion table may be used to heighten focus—perhaps a tall slim cross on a coloured background, and the words, "That They May Be One"—or anything depicting communion or unity in Christ.
- Items chosen from any suggested in childrens story segment
- Four readers.

## Welcome/Announcements

### Call to Worship

May be read responsively.

We come to worship in the welcome and warmth of God's love. Let us gather in the joy of our unity in Christ; Let us gather in the power of the Spirit; Let us listen to the voice of God in our midst, That our minds may be attuned to his purposes, That our worship may strengthen the bonds of our fellowship, That our desire may increase to attain the kind of unity which will let the world see the body of Christ, Though different in its parts, Moving and working with purpose and oneness, All: Towards the reign of God's righteousness on earth.

### Hymn

310: All praise to Our Redeeming Lord  
During the last two verses, if possible, arrange for children to be involved, carrying a large lighted candle, a Bible, a triangle (such as that used on pool tables) and a cross—all to be brought from the back of the congregation and handed to four people waiting to receive them in front of the communion table. Children remain at the front and they and the congregation are seated following prayer of invocation at end of hymn.

### Prayer of Invocation

First person raises candle and says: A candle symbolises the pure light of God, the Creator and father of all life. Darkness speaks of chaos in which things are driven apart; Light banishes darkness, so it speaks of God, in whom all things hold together. Second person raises Bible and says: The Bible bears witness to God's intention that all the peoples of the

world be joyfully one within the universal and eternal reign of Christ. Third person raises triangle and says: A triangle may symbolise the three persons of God, as Father, Son and Spirit, each distinct and yet all one, in perfect unity.

Fourth person raises cross and says: The cross lifts our eyes to the profound love of God, poured out in sacrifice that all people might believe, and be healed and made wholly at one with their Creator and with each other.

### Song

We are One in the Bond of Love (23 in "Praise and Worship", 134 in "Scripture in Song")

Symbols are placed on communion table while song is sung.

Children are gathered for story segment while song continues to be played.

Thank children for helping to bring the articles now on the communion table:

They are there to remind the grown-ups that God wants his people in every church to work together so that all the people of the world will come to know that God is real and that he is working with his people so that the bad things in the world will be changed to good things. And we have a few other things here, children, especially for you to look at.

#### Suggestions:

- A pile of sticks of similar thickness (or matches) used to demonstrate how easily children may break a stick singly, and how strong the sticks are when placed together.
- Several ropes tied to a solid object such as a chair to demonstrate that pulling in different directions is counterproductive. Pulling together works!
- A pew full of people cannot be moved even by a number of children, until the people rise to co-operate with the movement.
- A picture of an ant to illustrate the biblical suggestion of watching how the ants work, to learn how we can be bold enough to attempt great tasks—and know that they will be achieved when mouse joins their efforts with ours.

or

Tell the fable of "The Lion and the Mouse" (Lion amused when mouse he has caught begs not to be eaten, promising to help lion when needed! Lion eventually trapped in hunter's net, acknowledges our need of each other when mouse gnaws through ropes to free him!)

### Childrens Song

Chorus of the "Body Song" (CCES)  
Oh, I can't do without you  
And you can't do without me,

'Cos each little member has a special work to do

To make the body grow!

Children move to Sunday school or to places with activity sheets while Body Song is played.

### Offering and Prayer

The calendar theme for today is "Our Duty To Be Faithful" and there is a sense in which this fits well with our Churches of Christ understanding of Christ's call to unity, that his joy may be fulfilled in us, and that the world may believe his message of hope.

### Readings

Luke 17:5-10  
Ephesians 4:1-7

### Hymn of Unity

(Tune: St Denio—"Immortal, Invisible")

Eternal Creator, in smallness we stand  
To broaden our vision, discerning your hand  
Not only in ages now passed into lore,  
But present in history, today as before.

We pray for renewal, transforming of heart,  
Confessing our weakness as Christians apart;  
Confessing our need to grasp hands without fear,  
And trust to these hands the works we hold so dear.

Alone, we have struggled with fields of our own;  
Alone, we have failed to reap harvests full grown.  
Forgive us, and help us to lift up our eyes  
To see the world's hunger, and answer its cries.

As one, we must work with the truth that we know  
While tilling a strange land where swift waters flow.  
To sing the Lord's song with a voice to be heard,  
The mountains must echo one music, one word.

Lord, give us the will to transform into deed  
The vision that sees the full fruit of the seed;  
Assured that our labour bears out your command;  
One Lord and one people redeeming our land.

(Used with permission)

### Proclamation of the Word

Brief sermon, ideally leading directly

into communion, by focusing towards the end, on the essential communal nature of the feast, then reading Colossians 1:15-20 before inviting people to a period of silent meditation.

### Prayer for Unity and for Confession

Lord,  
We cannot come to your table of love thinking only of ourselves. Yet we remember with shame how this very table has been used to exclude and to separate Christian from Christian and church from church. With mistaken zeal to preserve a purity of faith, we have allowed our practices and liturgies to become barriers rather than facilitators. And in our own churches, even the stress on simplicity and lay involvement has sometimes bred a cold rejection of the prescribed liturgy of others. Help us all, as members of your one family, to repent and seek forgiveness from you, our Lord, and from each other.

Pause in silence.

Christ, the giver of life and hope to the world, as darkness cannot dwell with light, so we cannot be perfectly at one with you while sin remains within us. Draw us again to the cross that we may open ourselves afresh to the source of our healing and forgiveness. As we eat and drink the symbols of your death, we are reminded of the righteousness which is not our own, but which becomes ours as we share in your life.

Thank you, Lord.

May we breathe deep within us the spirit of your love as we hear again your words from the eve of your crucifixion and self-giving.  
Amen.

### Communion

President uses appropriate words, e.g. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 to introduce communion and offer brief prayers of thanks for the emblems.  
President: May God who has reconciled us to himself in love, restore us to right relationship with one another and with others from whom we have been separated.  
People: Amen!

### Hymn

456: God of Grace and God of Glory

### Benediction

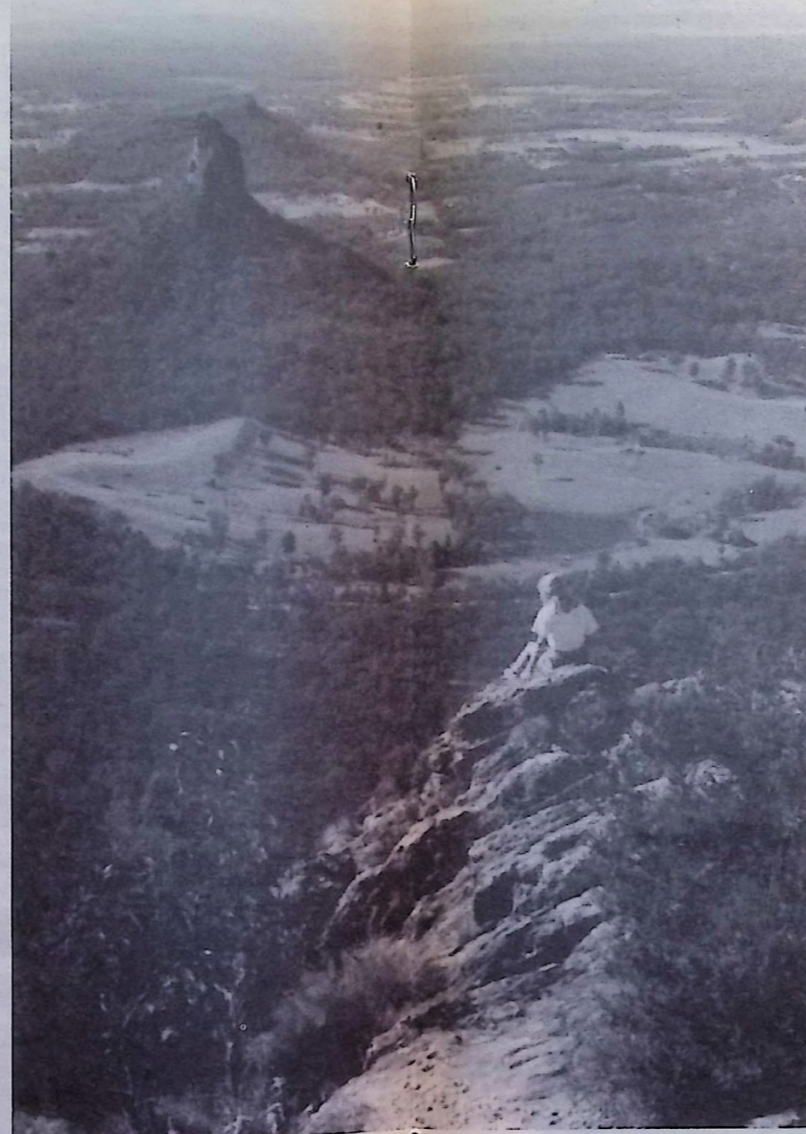
Symbols on the table are either indicated or held during benediction.  
Go in peace and forgiveness,  
Held fast in the love of the cross,  
Liberated by father, Son and Spirit,  
Guided by the Living Word,  
Illuminated by the light of eternity.  
People sing three-fold Amen.

# CHALLENGES BRING REWARDS!



"My studies gave me a greater understanding of the Bible and more self-confidence in preparing and presenting a message from God's Word. I grew in my faith and commitment to God and was often challenged by new concepts and new perspectives."

*Denise Powell, Arana Hills, Qld*



"My time at Kenmore Christian College was a time of developing new friendships and of acquiring the skills necessary to do the job for which God had called me, that of a pastor and minister of the Gospel."

*Grant Spangenberg, Kenmore, Qld*



"My time at Kenmore Christian College gave me a foundation on which it was possible to build theological and care concepts. I often find myself thinking back to the precepts that were taught in those days."

*Donald E. Stewart, AM  
Director, Qld Social Service Dept*



My four years with Kenmore Christian College proved to be an important period of personal development in preparation for ministry on the local mission field. The combination of college studies, interaction with fellow students and staff members, the rigours of student ministries and the struggle to raise a young family, all combined to strengthen my faith and equip me for ministry. I happily recommend the college to anyone wishing to serve our Lord in a more effective manner."

*Graeme Foon, Dandenong, Vic*



"How can someone born and bred in one state minister to people in another? Kenmore Christian College played a major role in helping me come to understand people, their differences and their needs. By helping me to develop my relationship with Christ, it enabled me to see people as Christ sees them."

*John Adermann, Paddington, NSW*

Discipline and integrity are vital in full-time ministry. Kenmore, through its emphasis on assignment work and church involvement during training, helped prepare me for the demands of ministry."

*Steve Fahey, Withcott, Qld*



## KENMORE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

**Committed to excellence in theological training for ministry.**

41 Brookfield Road (PO Box 55), Kenmore, Qld 4069. Phone (07) 378 7633.

# Happenings

The head of the largest black Baptist denomination in the USA, the National Baptist Convention USA, has been indicted for perjury. The Rev T.J. Jemison is accused of lying when he denied offering up to \$1 million in hush money to silence a woman who said she had been raped by boxer Mike Tyson.

Namibia's three Lutheran churches, two made up primarily of black members and one of white members, have decided to merge into one Lutheran church. The decision was made during a June consultation. The churches are the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (formerly the German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia).

Dr Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ and writer of the tract "The Four Spiritual Laws" is visiting Sydney for the 25th anniversary of Life Ministries in Australia (formerly Lay Institute for Evangelism). He will be speaking on "Helping Reach the World for Christ" on 28 October at 7.30 pm at the Wesley Central Mission, 220 Pitt St, Sydney. Further information from Life Ministries on (02) 746 1099.

London Transport removed 650 poster advertisements sponsored by Jews for Jesus less than a week before the ads first appeared on its trains. The move came after protests from the Board of Directors of British Jews and the Council of Christians and Jews in Great Britain.

The Australian Institute of Archaeology in Melbourne presents regular lectures on archaeological items of interest to Christians. Their next lecture will be held on 18 October and will be presented by Piers Crocker on "Pompeii and Herculaneum". The lecture will be held at Ancient Times House, 116 Little Bourke St,

Melbourne, at 3 pm, at a cost of \$3 for adults. Details on (03) 650 3477.

The Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah) is being celebrated this year 28-29 September. Two other important dates on the Jewish calendar occur in October. The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) is on 7 October and the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkoth) is celebrated 12-18 October.

Ethiopia's government has threatened a crackdown on Christians and Muslims following reports of spreading religious clashes in which some people have been "massacred" in the East African country.

Vietnamese authorities denied ordination to 23 Catholic seminarians from a Ho Chi Minh City seminary on 29 June because they did not meet the government's political criteria, claim Catholic sources in southern Vietnam. Only 20 candidates were permitted consecration as priests.

Konrad Raiser has been appointed as the new general secretary of the World Council of Churches. He will succeed Emilio Castro as chief executive officer. Raiser is an ordained Lutheran pastor and professor of systematic theology and ecumenics in the Protestant theological faculty of the Ruhr University, Bochum, Germany.

The Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES) in Victoria is holding its 1992 annual dinner on 17 October at the Camberwell Salvation Army Hall. The speaker will be Rev Graham Cole, Principal of Ridley College, on "The Evangelicals Set Free". Enquiries and bookings to Ray Cox on (03) 809 1286 by 9 October.

A seminar "Beyond Compassion: Christian Response to HIV/AIDS and Development" is being held in Sydney 1-2 October at the YWCA, Whitlam Square, on

key issues and challenges for church and Christian-based development agencies working in the area of HIV/AIDS in the context of international development co-operation. The cost is \$40 (including Thursday evening dinner). Registration ACFOA HIV/AIDS & Development Program, Private Bag 3, Deakin 2600.

The Victorian Explorers Canoe Club is holding a weekend paddling camp 10 and 11 October on the Mitchell River. Rafts are available and those involved will camp out on the river overnight. Details available from Chris Wharton on (03) 848 8097.

The Far Eastern Broadcasting Company (FEB) reports that construction has started on new studio facilities for Arab broadcast production in Cyprus. By June 1992, 446 letters had been received from Arab listeners—indicating a 50% improvement on last year's total. Many writers are deeply searching for a personal experience of knowing God.

15 years ago there were 5,000 evangelical churches in the Philippines. Today there are over 25,000. Sadly, however, there are not enough trained pastors to staff all these churches—nor the new ones that are planted every month. So, the Philippine church has set a goal of training 18,000 lay ministers by the year 2000—one pastor for each municipal district in the country.

Nearly half of the 4,000 congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have 100 participating members or fewer, according to data compiled by the church's office of research from the 1992 Year Book and Directory figures. One third of the church's local units have between 101 and 250 members. There are 220 congregations with more than 500 members, 25 of which number more than 1,000

participants. About 62% of the congregations report an average of less than 100 in worship attendance. Nearly 90% average under 100 in church school.

Alfred T. Degroot, who co-wrote one of the definitive histories of the Disciples of Christ, died in America recently. The book, "The Disciples of Christ: A History", which was used for many years in Australian colleges, was written in 1948 with W.E. Garrison. For almost 30 years it was the standard history of the Campbell-Stone movement.

The Anglican Archbishop of Perth, Rev Peter Carnley, ordained Australia's first openly homosexual priest, Rev David McAuliffe, on 20 August.

The percentage of Australians marrying in the Anglican church has dropped from 27% in 1965 to 13% in 1990, when civil celebrants conducted 42% of weddings. From 1980 to 1990 the number of baptisms in Anglican churches dropped by at least one-sixth and the number of confirmations by 50%.

In what is believed to be an Australian first, the Aberdeen St Baptist Church in Geelong, Vic, is advertising in the local cinema.

Communist candidates won 90% of the seats in Mongolia's parliamentary elections on 28 June. Observers see the result as a reaction to the shock of moving to a market economy, which has created shortages of food and consumer products and an inflation rate of 130%. Some fear that the country's new constitution, signed into law in January, which guaranteed freedom of religion for the first time in 70 years, could be at risk.

HANDD Ministries, an interdenominational organisation working amongst the hearing impaired has just shot a "Celebrate Christ-

mas" video for the deaf. The whole show will be interpreted in Australian Sign Language. Accompanying a 55-voice choir on the video will be a 25-voice childrens choir, a 25-piece orchestra and an 11-member bell choir. Almost 200 volunteers have been involved in putting the show together, including many non-Christians, and their help means that the video that would normally have cost about \$50,000 will only cost around \$11,000. The purpose of the video is to give deaf people the opportunity to "listen" to their favourite Christmas music at any time they choose, in a medium (sign language) that is culturally appropriate for them. The video should be available in mid-October after production is completed.

Turkey presents a great challenge to the church today. Due to spiritual neglect, Turkish Muslims have had little opportunity to know of Christ. Missionaries are not officially allowed in the country and those who become Christians often face bitter persecution. To raise awareness of Turkey's spiritual needs, Friends of Turkey has declared 1 November "Turkey Sunday". Churches are asked to set aside 15 minutes to learn more about the needs of Turkey, to pray for Turkey and for each member to mail a gospel letter into Turkey. A kit is available from Friends of Turkey, PO Box 10154, Adelaide St, Brisbane 4000. Phone (07) 300 6140.

20,319 visitors to the "Pavilion of Promise" at the Expo 92 world fair in Seville, Spain, have registered decisions for Christ. Christians from all over the world combined to sponsor the Pavilion of Promise, a \$4-million, high-tech presentation of biblical teaching. By 18 August more than 146,000 visitors had walked through the pavilion and workers had distributed more than 49,000 New Testaments.

# No Food, No Crops ... No people!

As the world focuses on the crisis in Somalia, the need of the people in Southern Sudan continues. They too are without food, without crops and in some cases, without clothes ... but you can do something positive to help. **Just \$3 will buy a person a meal a day for a month!**

Buy a single ticket, sell a book of 10, or your group could sell a complete book pack (of 3). Any way you choose, your money will buy meal tickets for people in need of food in Africa.

Complete your details below, and send for AFfRICA meal tickets today!

**AFfRICA**  
AID FOR FAMINE RELIEF IN CRISIS AFRICA

Name .....  
Address .....  
..... P/Code .....

Amount \$ .....  
Date .....

Signed .....  
For SIMAID Treasurer

AFfRICA is a joint project between SIMAID (Sudan Interior Mission Aid Fund) and Ormond Church of Christ. Donations \$2.00 and over are tax deductible.

Enquiries to: Ormond Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 248  
Carnegie Vic 3163

**SIMAID**  
5 Court Street  
P.O. Box 206  
Box Hill 3128

**FEED A STARVED PERSON A MEAL A DAY FOR A MONTH FOR ONLY \$3.00**

NAME .....

GROUP .....

ADDRESS .....

..... P/CODE ..... PH .....

I enclose \$ ..... for ..... Meal Ticket/s (specify number).

I require ..... Meal Books (specify number).

## SIMAID



Mail to:  
Ormond Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 248, Carnegie Vic. 3163  
Tel: (03) 578 2627 or (02) 524 4487

AFfRICA (Aid For Famine Relief in Crisis Africa) is a joint project between the Ormond Church of Christ, and SIMAID, 5 Court Street, Box Hill 3128. All donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.

## Classifieds

### 80TH BIRTHDAY

**KNIGHT** Ruth H.V., previously Tilley, daughter of the late H.A. and J.E. Thomas, and sister of Alan, Donald and the late Colin, will be 80 years old on 3 October 1992. Now living at 9 Bright Tce, Gawler East, SA 5118. Phone (08) 522 4619.

### GOLDEN WEDDINGS

**CLINTON** Russell and Betty give thanks to God for 50 years of happy marriage and companionship, and for the love of a devoted family, Roger (dec), Heather and David and nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Married by Charles Young at Penders Grove Methodist Church on 26 September 1942.

**LAWSON (HOLYOAK)** Frank and Rita announce with pleasure and gratitude the 50th anniversary of their wedding, conducted by W.T. Atkin at the Northcote Church of Christ on 19 September 1942. We give thanks for Margery, Robyn, Neil and Janice and their families. Present address: 5 Oakburn Rd, Croydton 3136.

### IN MEMORIAM

**COLE** In loving memory of our dear family who passed to be with the Lord in the same order as he gave them to the world: Sarah (Mrs Chappell), 83 years, Nov 1978; George (an ANZAC), 91 years, April 1987; Ernie, 91 years, May 1989; Harry, 90 years, August 1990; and Violet (Dolly) (Matron), 90th year, July 1991. All legends in "their" own time. Lives freely given to Christ. On behalf of the remaining five—Louisa Clark (Cole).

**ROBERTS** Rita Ellen. Passed into Jesus' arms 24.9.90. You, in all the world were true, Aunt. I set my sails by your life. I know I shall arrive safely Home, with our Lord Jesus, at the end of the day. Love Betty.

### ELECTRICIAN

**ALLELECTRICALSERVICES** including industrial, commercial and domestic. Installation, maintenance and repairs. Safety switches, smoke detectors, lighting and security systems. All work guaranteed. Free quotes. 24-hour service to all suburbs. Call Phil Clayden on 018 368 801 or (03) 315 2684. REC 4460.

### BUILDERS

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

**IAN & L.A. McDONALD** Carpenters and builders. Renovations, new houses, units or alterations. All jobs large and small. For free quotes please ring (03) 557 1257. 41 Somers St, Bentleigh.

### HOLIDAYS

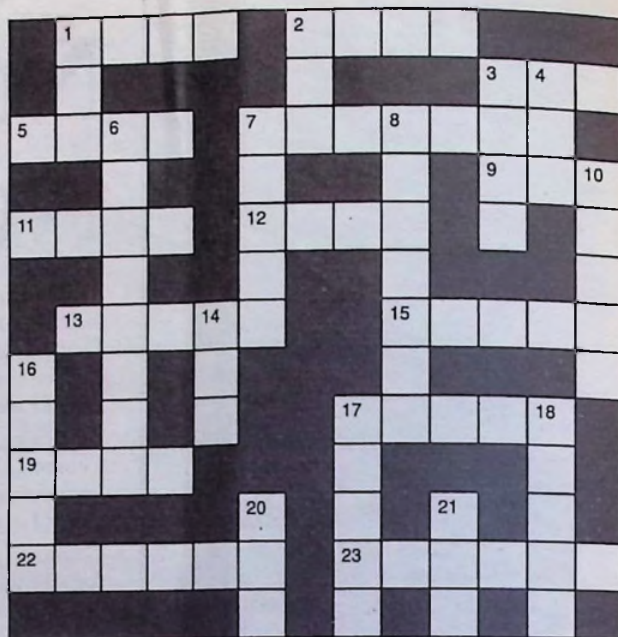
**GRAMPIANS SUNRISE HOLIDAY UNITS** Modern FSC 2-BR units at Pomonal. Superb views, peaceful farm setting. Bertram family resident owners. Phone (053) 56 6300.

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

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

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

## Crossword



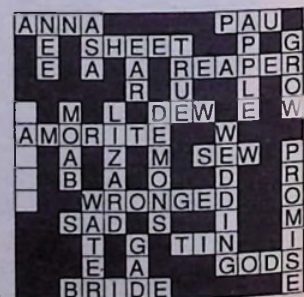
### Across

- City mentioned in Bible (Matthew 11:21)
- Early boat builder
- One of 12 tribes
- Jesus Christ is our --- (1 Timothy 1:1)
- Bird of the Bible (Psalm 84:3)
- In Mark 15:43 Joseph was ---ing for the Kingdom.
- Timber for the Temple (2 Chronicles)
- Mary and Joseph fled here
- Hymn
- I am a --- of Sharon (Song of Songs 2:1)
- Early prophet
- Jesus betrayed for 30 pieces

### Down

- Large enough group for Christ to be in the midst
- life
- Wise men brought this gift to Jesus
- Appropriate response to object of worship
- Book of the Bible
- Jesus told a story about one (Mark 4)
- Paul wrote many
- Everyone is the friend of a man who gives ---- (Proverbs 19:6)
- The --- of the Lord
- Number of months young Moses was hidden (Exodus 2:2)
- Word used in KJV for a person who was a paralytic
- Leader of Israel
- Timely substitute for Isaac (Genesis 22)
- High priest

### August Solution



## SWANSTON STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Melbourne

(cnr Swanston & Little Lonsdale Streets)

### Sunday

9.00 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Worship & Communion Services  
Gospel Celebration

7.00 p.m.

### Wednesday

1.15-1.45 p.m.

Lunchtime Service

For further enquiries, please ring (03) 663 3884

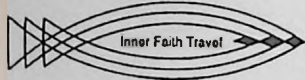
## STRACK REMOVALS

Removals—Storage—  
Packing—Planos  
All Suburbs—Country—  
Interstate

**David Strack**  
(Proprietor)

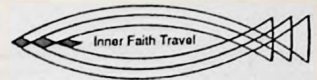
Office and Store  
45 McIntosh Street  
Airport West 3042  
Telephone (03) 370 3737  
(03) 330 2211  
Fax (03) 330 3039  
AH (054) 27 0472

"Service since 1907"



**INNER FAITH TRAVEL PTY LTD**

*Our Christian Travel Agency*



**TOLL FREE 008 074 426**

Old National Office PO Box 377, Ashmore 4214 Phone (075) 97 2577 Toll Free 008 074 426 Fax (075) 97 1577  
Victoria Office 356 Boundary Road, Dingley 3172 Phone (03) 551 7732 Toll Free 008 339 539 Fax (03) 551 7506  
SA Office PO Box 777, Glenside 5065 Phone (08) 364 3877 Toll Free 008 182 195 Fax (08) 364 3846

ACN 010 649 316 Lic No 261



## Curkpatrick

# Does God Play by Our Rules?

One of the most astonishing assumptions we tend to make about God is that "God plays by our rules". Astonishing, because this is an incredible assumption we should make, even if unwittingly. By "playing by our rules" I am referring to the traditional, ritual, theological rules we establish in our churches, which we, for some strange reason, assume will keep God happy and ministries blessed. As many young people, newcomers to church community and ministers know, these "rules" are very real and at times most intransigent. But as John Crossan reminds us, "God does not play by our rules." Crossan was speaking in the context of Jesus' parables. The parables, perhaps better than any other literary genre in the gospel narratives, show us what the presence of the Kingdom is like, often in the most subversive ways.

God refuses to play by our rules of tradition, ritual or even "normality". The parables of Jesus constantly subvert the way we think things are or should be. That has devastating implications for Christian faith and spirituality—if we take their shocking subversion of "normality" seriously! Whether the person listening to the parables—then or to-

day—is prepared to accept the subversive world revealed in them is another matter. Spiritual awakening to the life and presence of the Kingdom is contingent on recognising that our own perceptions and consequent rules of normality are subverted by the parables.

In the parables, the "rules" are constantly broken. When a prodigal son gets to kill the fatted calf, powerful cultural norms of obedience and reward are turned on their head. A Samaritan, who couldn't possibly enter a Jewish narrative except as the villain of the story, turns out to be the compassionate protagonist in a shock reversal of expectation for the listeners. At a grand feast, the invited guests are absent, while the "uninvited" are present, to reverse expectations as to who are the appropriate guests in the banquet of the Kingdom. A publican is declared righteous, which negates the criteria by which the "righteous" are regarded righteous. Those who work for one hour in a vineyard are paid the same as those who work all day, which sub-

verts the predictability of getting our just desserts. The security of prosperity theology—where "wealth is a sign of righteousness"—is undercut when the neglect of a poor beggar "receiving his just desserts" becomes the determinative factor in a rich man's miserably comic destiny. There is more. The Kingdom is described as leaven, a symbol of corruption, signalling a termination of insider-outsider categories for the Kingdom, which is, ironically, recognised and received by "the corrupt"—those who, according to the rules of prominent Jewish orthodoxies, were branded as outcasts and social pariahs. In discontinuity with the metaphorical image of the magnificent cedars of Lebanon, the Kingdom is described as a "mustard seed" that undercuts the hope of a glorious Kingdom where enemies are vanquished and the righteous vindicated.

But the sheer unpredictability of the parables—where the "rules" are flouted and convention is subverted—reveals a world where wholeness and

grace can be experienced. Such parables are imbued with astonishing reversals of expectation, in which social destinies and religious values are turned upside down and where predictable rewards for the "deserving" are inverted to become unpredictable, extravagant expressions of grace for the "undeserving". In Luke the parables of reversal are intrinsic to an ironic spirituality where the rejected are accepted and celebrate the gracious presence of the Kingdom, while those who anticipate security in a theology of just desserts unwittingly miss the very presence of the Kingdom.

The parables of reversal are parables of grace. They are characterised by a surprise turn of events in the narrative in which those characters in the story who expect to get their just desserts according to the "rules" of traditional orthodoxies are frustrated by the unusual, unexpected outcome. In contrast to those who expect their just desserts, the narrative's denouement has the least-acceptable character experience unexpected, serendipitous grace. Such parables show us that God does not play by our rules—social or religious. The parables are so weighted with grace for the prodigal, outcast and lost, they literally crush the rules—official or "orthodox". In fact the breaking of such rules to bring compassion, acceptance and new beginnings is frequently accompanied with celebration and banquets!

There is an essentially "comic" dimension to God's interaction with human life, especially when we assume God must play by our rules. God has a habit of "breaking our rules"—for the sake of mission, grace, and the life of the Kingdom—but do we?

## Les Lawlor says...

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

**LAWLORS PTY. LTD.**

**THE PEST CONTROL PEOPLE**

**6-10 Henley St., Torrensville**

**Phone (08) 43 9636**



# "An Epistle to Paul"

In the 1 August issue of *The Australian Christian* I allowed "An Epistle to Paul" to be printed in the regular "Growing Spiritually" column. The article was written (not by me) to stimulate discussion on some issues of belief that each generation of Christians have to face and work through. It certainly raised a great deal of protest, mostly related to actually publishing the material in the first place but also for the form of the article itself (as a letter from Timothy to Paul). Very little has been said about some of the very significant issues of faith that were raised in the letter.

In Churches of Christ we strive to share with the rest of

the church two main issues: the unity of all Christians and the restoration of New Testament Christianity. To achieve these twin goals we have been concerned that people come into God's kingdom and have tried not to allow creeds or statements of theology to separate us. In fact one of our slogans (almost a creed of our movement) has been "No Creed but Christ". We have endeavoured to help each other grow in faith and understanding of God, his Son Jesus, the Spirit, God's purpose for the world and our place in God's Kingdom.

At times Churches of Christ have written and published articles, pamphlets and books on aspects of our understanding of faith and theology. These have been debated and discussed but have not been made a point of division amongst us.

When I was in America recently one historian who spoke to our group laid emphasis on the authority of scripture as one of our distinctive features. He talked of this area rather than that of restoration of New Testament Christianity. We have been concerned as a movement over the years about the authority of scripture and the place this has in our church

government and in the way we live as individuals seeking to grow more Christ-like.

The "Epistle to Paul" raises questions of biblical authority and other major issues of faith that need to be faced by each generation of Christians. We need to develop an understanding of the authority of scripture that speaks to each new generation. Perhaps some good debate on matters raised by "Timothy" will help us restate the truths of God.

What are some of the issues I see "Timothy" raising? First is the whole issue of the authority of scripture and how it is interpreted. This essential understanding has to be clear from the beginning or else we will be speaking at cross-purposes. Then we need to look seriously at what we understand by the Messiahship of Jesus. (This has implications for how we see Jesus himself and his place in God's purpose for the world. It also means we should be looking at restating our position on the nature of God's Kingdom, our expectations for its full revelation and the effect this might have on the way we live as Christians.)

The two other issues that "Timothy" raises are the virgin

birth and the bodily resurrection. He questions the authority and treatment of scripture in raising both these issues. How we regard scripture and how we grasp spiritual truth from God's revelation to us are vital issues we need to discuss as each generation works out their own salvation.

I would welcome good articles on any or all of these issues for *The Australian Christian* so that we in Churches of Christ today can be confident in what we hold as the essentials of the faith and what we see as opinion and thus open for disagreement in Christian love with one another.

—Chris Ambrose

(I guess I should acknowledge that I do not have the questions that Timothy does. I believe that God revealed himself to us in his word (the Bible) and in his Son (Jesus Christ). I must say that to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah means that I have to look very closely at some of my actions and thoughts and find that they are not what God would have them to be. We all need to grow to be more Christ-like and it is only God's Spirit working in us as we let it that will result in our Christian growth.)

Have you thought of helping  
"The Australian Christian"  
in its ministry among  
Churches of Christ?

Why not include us in your will?  
The following wording could be used  
in your will:

I give and bequeath \$ ..... (or a  
percentage of the total estate) to  
"The Australian Christian", the national  
journal of Churches of Christ  
in Australia, absolutely for the use  
and benefit of the organisation free  
from all debts, funeral and testam-  
entary expenses.

## IVANHOE

75th Anniversary  
10.30 am 25 October

Speaker—Jim Wright  
Soloist—Nina Corlett

12.15 pm Luncheon  
2.30 pm PSA

Salvation Army Songsters

Please accept this notice as  
your personal invitation

RSVP 5 October

Sec: Roy L'Green  
84 Williamsons Road  
Doncaster 3108  
Phone (03) 848 2969  
Manse (03) 499 4155

# You now have a choice when it comes to insurance



Rev Dr Gordon Moyes, AM  
Superintendent of Wesley  
Mission, Sydney

## ANSVAR

FOR NON-DRINKERS ONLY

VIC (03) 650 9711  
QLD (07) 221 8449  
WA (09) 321 6291

## AWARE

INSURANCE FOR CHURCH PEOPLE

Car, home, church and  
commercial insurance

NSW (02) 683 4166  
SA (08) 232 1272  
TAS (03) 650 9711

ANSVAR AUSTRALIA INSURANCE LIMITED ACN 007 216 506

# Paul to Timothy

To Timothy my beloved son, grace mercy and peace from God our Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I can understand your wrestlings with matters of faith. With your sort of questing mind this is inevitable. My counsel is, "Do not assume that you have arrived at a final position on any of these matters."

You are right about the importance of honest doubt, but remember that honest doubting implies doubting your doubts as well. So keep thinking and questing with an open mind and truth will become clear.

Now a word on the matters of which you wrote to me. Our brother Peter, supported by some of the others who were there, affirms that Jesus made no objection to his exclamation on the road to Caesarea Philippi, "You are the Messiah!" In fact he suggested to Peter that his was a God-given insight. Peter and the others staked their lives on this Messiahship, boldly proclaiming to those who would have cheerfully murdered them "that this Jesus whom you crucified God has made both Lord and Messiah".

Whether or not our scriptures

refer to a Messiah crucified by Gentiles, the fact is that the Messiah, the promised one, the Christ, was crucified by Gentiles—and Jews. And it is not surprising that our brothers and sisters see the parallel with Israel in the "suffering servant songs".

I can understand your frustrated feeling that the Messianic Kingdom could not have arrived because there is still so much suffering and injustice in the world. But let me reassure you that the Kingdom has indeed arrived. Every day I see it in renewed lives of people who have accepted the reality of the living Messiah who reigns in them and indeed will go on reigning until all things are brought into subjection under him. It is our fellow Jews who have the idea of sudden perfection as soon as the Messiah comes. They find it hard to accept a crucified Messiah, as you seem to do, but they find it even harder to accept a patient Messiah who would sooner establish the Kingdom by changing hearts than smashing heads.

Concerning the virgin birth story, I hear that Luke in his patient and meticulous research spent a lot of time with

Mary the mother of Jesus. She would be the only one who would know. But let me put this to you: Can you think of a better way for God to break through to humanity in order to be truly human and at the same time to reveal in himself the Divine?

I think that you are a bit rough on "the early brothers". But I suppose it is typical of youth to think of everyone over fifty as an "old die-hard". I used to think the same of some of the Sanhedrin "oldies" when I first joined it. But I knew some of the "early brothers" very well and some are still with us. From the beginning they lived with the sword over their heads. They were not the sort to make up sensational stories to bolster their faith and that of others. They knew what they saw and they stuck to it in spite of the risks involved. Sure the eyewitness accounts of the resurrection differ as eyewitness accounts will, but if our leaders wanted to be a bit dishonest in the interests of acceptance they would have reconciled them long ago. But they are not that sort.

After all, you have known many of the early brothers yourself. Do you honestly be-

lieve that the many tellings of their stories have produced fantasies that have distorted the facts?

I do not "accuse you of being unorthodox". We followers of our Lord are all unorthodox. I have been accused of turning the world upside down. Perhaps some time in the future some people will try to work out what you call "creeds". In the light of so many misunderstandings of the facts spoken of by the Apostles I sometimes feel like writing a creed myself. But I have resisted the temptation.

You speak of "bigoted fundamentalism". I have never heard the term "fundamentalism" before. Did you coin it? I know of bigoted Pharisees and bigoted Judaisers and bigoted attackers of the intelligence and integrity of those who don't agree with them. But fundamentalists?

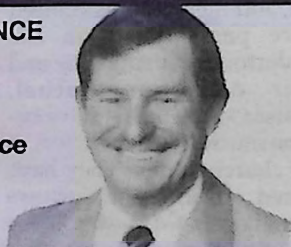
Keep your preaching positive—and interesting. Keep up your visitation. And grace be with you. —Paul

## FOR A NEW HOLDEN SEE MURRAY ECKERT

OVER 21 YEARS EXPERIENCE as a master sales consultant.

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

Member of Blackwood Church of Christ.



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

## Claridge Holden

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

THE  
LEPROSY  
MISSION  
(AUSTRALIA)



South Australia  
Rally '92

Modbury Church of Christ  
955 North East Road  
Saturday, 24 October  
from 1 pm

Trading Tables Open  
Gifts, crafts, cakes

+  
TLM

Books & Christmas cards  
from 1.30 pm  
Prayer Sessions & Video  
Rally 2.30 pm

Speaker: Martin Pogson  
Physio. for Indonesia  
Great program and fellowship  
assured

Tea/coffee will be served.  
Please bring a "plate"

Enquiries: Phone (08) 379 4282

## Ink'n'Image

Small Offset Printing  
Laser Typesetting  
Specialising in small jobs  
Newsletters Leaflets  
Doug & Marg Goddard  
3 Tennyson Street  
Mitcham 3132  
Phone and Fax:  
(03) 874 8101

## L. C. F. Higgins

Chartered  
Accountant

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

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

## A Church ABC

**G**ilgandra, NSW, situated 476 km north-west of Sydney, has a population of 2,700 in the town and 5,000 in the shire. The surrounding areas support sheep, wheat and cattle farming, and the town thrives on the tourist trade. Situated on the junction of three highways and five destinations midway between Melbourne and Brisbane, there are four hotels, four caravan parks and eight motels for travellers. The Gilgandra Church of Christ wishes to make it known that visitors are always most welcome.

The Gilgandra church commenced in 1913 in the home of D.J. Butler and then was held in homes (the Butlers and the Mudfords), a woolshed, a school and the IOOF hall before finally settling down into its own building in Warren Road. There were a number of missions in those days to build up the church. A Sunday school hall was built in 1931 and a new chapel was opened in 1971.

Looking outward Gilgandra has helped commence (and recommence) churches at Dubbo

and Balladoran and establish a Sunday School at Eumungerie. In turn Dubbo helped Gilgandra when they were without a minister, and they also have received help from conference. The church has had many ministers over the years

and 7 pm (10-20). There is a Sunday school with 10 to 20 in attendance. A service is also held once a month at the elderly citizen's home, Cooee Lodge. (The name Cooee commemorates the famous recruiting march from Gilgandra to

Western Australia and trained at the College of the Bible in Victoria. He has had ministries in WA, Vic and now NSW. He claims to have studied, taught and ministered in all three states. He was a Christian school principal in Busselton, WA, and Gunnedah, NSW. His position with the church is part time, and so he also works as a

casual teacher in schools within a 100 km radius.

He is at present president of the ministers fraternal, which represents eight of the 12 churches in the town.

Phillip's work also involves RE in schools, assisting with the chaplaincy program in the high school and as a duty chaplain at the Dubbo hospital.

The Gilgandra church is a closely knit group of people who are very encouraging and supportive of others. Many of its members are well known in the community for the work they do.

They look forward to the future of the church as they know there are still many people in the area who do not know of the love of Jesus Christ.



## Focus on Gilgandra

and young people who have gone on to wider service. The church continues to work closely with the Australian Inland Mission with combined services and socials at Balladoran.

Numbers are small at present (23 members) but the church owns its own buildings, manse and spare block, and has its own minister, albeit part time. There is a wide range of ages, including young marrieds with small children and older people, but not many young people, who, as is common with most country towns, leave for study or work. Services were once held in the afternoon and evening to cater for a farming membership, but now meetings are held at 11 am (about 20-30)

Sydney in World War I.) During the week Bible study is offered in fellowship groups. Some people travel 50 km each way to attend these.

A social committee organises monthly outings and a ladies coffee morning is also held monthly.

Recently the church had a weekend with Ross Wakeley, field officer with the DCDE who led a board retreat and also a seminar for the whole church on using spiritual gifts, and the church has plans to implement ideas of outreach to the community.

The minister at Gilgandra is Phillip Anderson, who is married to Dorothy and has a five-year-old son, Lachlan. Phillip is a teacher who came from

## People

### SA Circuit Changes Ministry Team

#### *Bordertown, Mundulla and Keith*

**Bordertown Circuit, SA**, incorporates both the **Mundulla** and **Keith** churches with the **Bordertown** church. As Churches of Christ in the circuit we share an active, caring, serving ministry as we proclaim the Gospel under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and we share, also, the inspiration of a faithful and dedicated Christian heritage in this area.

**Ken Wray**, who had been serving the **Keith** and **Mundulla** churches for the past seven years, is now continuing his ministry with the **Fullarton** church in **Adelaide**. An interim

ministry has been taken up by **Ron and Alice Saunders**, who spend four days each week in pastoral care to the **Mundulla** and **Keith** churches, residing in the **Keith** manse while in the district and travelling back and forth to their home in **Adelaide**. We greatly appreciate their ministry and fellowship amongst us.

**Sonny and Wendy Pillay** are ministering to the circuit and live in the manse at **Bordertown**. They are very actively involved in pastoral ministry, preaching and numerous outreach ventures in the Cir-

cuit, and their work is centred more particularly on the **Bordertown** church. They and their daughters **Rachel**, **Melissa** and **Jennifer** have become much-loved members of our church family. They have shared our joys and sorrows over the last 11-12 years. Every new situation is our opportunity to serve him in an even greater way through the power of the Holy Spirit, so we praise God that they have heeded the call to minister to the church at **Loxton**, though we are very reluctant to say goodbye!

We have so much to praise

God for, however, as he leads **Noel and Sandra Baxter** and family to take up ministry at **Bordertown** in the new year. **Noel and Sandra**, with their children **Peter**, **Samuel** and **Emma**, will be coming to us from **Queensland**, and we look forward with great expectation to what God has in store for us as we continue to step out in faith. We continue to seek God's guidance in the calling of a minister to take up the work at **Keith** (also ministering to **Mundulla** church) in the new year on a full-time basis.

—Mervyn V. Dungey

## Personal

### Baptisms

•John Whitehouse, Brooklyn Park, SA •Debbie Barnes, Linda Howell, Elizabeth Hennessey, Michael Makin, Marie Magaric, Scott McKie, Clare Melbourne, Antoinette Potter, Kate Plummer, Monika Rogers, Emily Wright, Thornleigh, NSW •Toby Clarke, Alan McGaughey, Anne-Marie Vance, Dianne Linton, Andrew Vance, Wayne Daniell, Karen McGaughey, Brigitte Purtill, Shirley Amy, Kim Revell,

Castlemaine, Vic •Brenda Kortz, Jill & Malcolm McFarlane, Swan Hill, Vic •Ron Andrew, Wendy Andrew, Dalby, Qld •Lisa Sansom, Berwick, Vic

### Marriages

•Janey Dinow to David Kitching, Brooklyn Park, SA •Debbie Tylee to Geoff Bryan, Maylands, WA •Samantha Sleeth to Adam Nugent, Greensborough, Vic •Karen Handley to Paul Chasteauneuf,

Croydon, Vic

### Deaths

•Gordon Young, Alan Ferguson, Brooklyn Park, SA •Jamie Dingo, Carnarvon, WA •Geoff Batten, Swan Hill, Vic •Frank Burnham, Boronia, Vic •Bert de Lange, Ber-

wick, Vic •Phyllis Lacey, Irene Smith, Croydon, Vic

### Changes

Norling, Alan: 27 Lyndon Way, Beecroft, NSW 2119. Phone (02) 481 0267 (Returning to rebuilt home seven months after fire.)

### PADSTOW CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Our church is situated in the South Western suburbs of Sydney.*

*We are seeking a full-time minister. He would be a married man in the age range 35-55 years. He will be a committed person, with well-developed communication skills and established leadership qualities.*

*All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.*

Enquiries to Mr David Polyblank  
Church Secretary  
34 Walsh Close  
Illawong 2234  
Phone (02) 543 5601 (H)  
(02) 534 5455 (W)

### Christian RE Teacher/Youth Worker

Required for full-time interdenominational work in state high school commencing 1993

Application details: Secretary  
REAL  
PO Box 311  
Lismore 2480  
Phone (066) 21 3888

Closing date 30 September 1992

### Minister Required

Church of Christ, Fairfield, NSW

We are seeking expressions of interest for a part/full-time minister to work in a suburban multicultural community

Enquiries: Zoran Suvakov      Geoff Goninon  
49 Melbourne Road      5 Theresa Street  
St Johns Park 2176      Smithfield 2164  
(02) 610 1587      (02) 724 5317

### Visiting Canberra?

#### Stay with a Church Family

A number of Canberra church families offer accommodation in their homes at basic bed and breakfast rates to help raise funds for "Home Mission" extensions in the ACT

*If you would like to enjoy friendly "one of the family" hospitality in Canberra write for particulars to:*

Lyn Swift  
34 Yiman Street,  
Waramanga 2611  
Phone (062) 88 2050

Barbara Kennedy  
6 Sharp Place,  
Melba 2615  
Phone (062) 58 1360

*Advance bookings appreciated*

## Church News

### NSW

**THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley)** Special feature of recent Pastorate Home Group meetings made up of four or five home groups held monthly have been baptisms. One was baptised on 12 August & nine on 26 August at which 115 were present. A teenage girl was baptised at the Sunday evening service on 23 August, attended by 165.

### Tas

**NUBEENA (C.G. Henderson)** Four attended Wes Beavis workshop ... Sunday School special break-up with items by children ... Father's Day evening service. Ladies & children took part ... Minister's term extended to end 1995 ... Plans for Church Fair on 26 September ... Annual meeting to be held 27 September ... Greg Jacobson joins a Christian outreach group leaving for India on 11 September for three months.

**LAUNCESTON (R. Foster, C. Spaulding, D. Tobler)** Girls' Brigade & Boys' Club paraded on 16 August ... Church fellowship luncheon on 30 August opportunity for

two congregations to mingle ... Approx \$2,000 raised from World Vision 40 Hour Famine ... Orrs & Pearts back from World Convention ... Bess Birtwistle now residing at "Aldersgate" ... CWF annual visit to Caveside on 8 September.

### Qld

**DALBY (N.F. Neville, S.L. Colyer)** AGM held. Rick Whittle appointed to eldership ... Ron Roberts visited church & had helpful discussions ... Movie night well attended, as was ladies rally day ... Combined service held with Bongeem at Dalby ... Dalby well represented at Western District Fellowship at Bongeem ... Grace Gray, John Crofts & Steve Follent welcomed into membership ... Janelle Coleman new Sunday School Superintendent ... Recent speakers from Cornerstone.

### SA

**BROOKLYN PARK (P. Webber)** Major increase in offerings (July \$1,222 pw) after program by Ron Roberts ... Admin assistant to be appointed to minister ... Two new small groups for Bible study ... 10 attended small group seminar

(Dick Pearce) ... Church voted 6 September on major co-operative program with Flinders Park & Henley Beach with possible future formation regional church in western area.

**VICTOR HARBOR (Don Wesley)** Chaplains from school, prison, army & police force spoke at evening services ... Kerygma Bible studies commenced ... Friendship Centre celebrated seventh birthday with cake & barbecue lunch ... Social a great success. Soup & party tea raised \$230 for World Vision ... "Home Builder" film series shown over six nights ... New activity group for 6-8 year olds running after school Wednesdays.

**PROSPECT (S. Schmaal)** At AGM Phyl Thompson elected president ... Thanksgiving offering 20 Sept to coincide with church anniversary. Proceeds mission field ... New window installed in prayer room ... Working bee to paint prayer room ... Church anniversary, breakfast, celebration service ... Picnic Prospect Estate Reserve ... Garage sale September ... Quest list for centenary next year. Contacts are necessary. No addresses available of old members ... Camera Club seeking more members.

### WA

**MAYLANDS (Robert Drown)** Ron & Margaret Jones & Brett Whitworth back from overseas trips. Wendy Whitworth & Eveleen Caddy expected home from UK ... Rene Janssens & Flo Bawden returned to fellowship after illness ... Reception area provided to enable office to be used solely for counselling by minister. Many have availed themselves of this service as church opened daily ... WCWF visiting Jarrah Mines site to see forest rehabilitation.

**CARNARVON (Don Bone)** Church meeting agreed to changes to constitution ... Decided to hold monthly "Time Out for Women" meeting as first one well attended. Craft work demonstrated ... Don Bone gave gospel message over local radio 6LN ... Ex-Carnarvon missionaries, Hugh & Noeleen Roose, made flying visit to see old friends ... Mary Bell was speaker at CWF, where ladies designed their own coat of arms.

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

# A C C O U N T A N T

## The Properties Corporation of the Churches of Christ invites applications to the position of accountant

**Duties:** Administrate the financial accounting of the Properties Corporation and other administrative duties.

**Qualifications:** Graduate in Accounting.

**Remuneration:** An appropriate remuneration package will be available.

Applications in writing with curriculum vitae to:

Executive Officer

The Properties Corporation of the Churches of Christ

77 Capel Street

West Melbourne, Vic 3003

Telephone (03) 326 8900

## Vic

**HARTWELL** (G. Rogerson, M. Blair) Members of Christian Blind Mission shared in morning service. Church luncheon followed ... Youth group very active. Weekly attendance 25-30 with 50 contacts ... Men's prayer breakfasts held weekly ... National Bible Sunday guest speaker Brian Good, State Secretary of Bible Society ... Hospitality Sundays provided opportunity for fellowship in members' homes ... Series of 5 pm services featured the video "Where the River Flows".

**REDCLIFFS** Children did a good job at special Kid's Club service, all taking part ... Annual meetings of women's groups: "Care N Share" pres S. Griffen, sec G. Davy, treas R. Duffield, co-ordinator J. Cameron, CWF pres P. Sharrad, vice-pres L. Milne, sec G. French, treas V. Milne ... Manse now repaired & painted out by men's working bees. CWF supplying curtains & "Care N Share" carpet.

**CASTLEMAINE** (P. Haylock) Land purchased & building committee formed for church relocation ... Church to farewell Furlong family ... Counselling & preaching training sessions commenced ... Successful youth camp at Lake Mountain. Several young people made decisions ... Central & Northern District Conference held. Young people ministered.

**SWAN HILL** (Lindsay Mayes, Tim Green) Cheryl Johnson, Dept MED, conducted Separation & Divorce Workshop on 28-29 August & was speaker at morning services on 30 August ... Three baptisms during August ... Congregational Coffee & Dessert night shared ideas on church's future ministry & accommodation needs ... Church saddened at passing of Geoff Batten after long battle with cancer.

**GREENSBOROUGH** (George Warren) Gracevale Community building commenced. Plans for completion by Christmas ... Scotts, Bushes & Gwen Rhodes attend World Convention ... Mostly Music night of entertainment well attended ... Joy & Graham Blackeby return from UC work party to Alice Springs ... Special prayers in service for parents of stillborn baby ... Paul Sherriff & Rachel Lewis announce engagement ... Paul & Michelle Andrews brought Elise for dedication.

**BORONIA** (Keith Milne, Andrew Henley) Successful planned giving program conducted by Ian Tippet, Dept MED ... Book stall & library in foyer proving popular ... Sunday evening services at 6 pm being tried ... Church Expo & Spring Fes-

tival over weekend 5-6 Sept opened church & activities to community & drew good response ... "Hope" series of Billy Graham films screening Sunday evenings in Sept ... Young Adults group led recent evening service.

**GARDINER** (Paul Creasey) Church celebrated 78th anniversary 6 September. Many past members attending ... Friendship Club had yearly visit daffodil picking Gilmour property, Hoddles Creek ... After-church get-together Damier's Restaurant enjoyed by 32 ... 90th birthday of Freda Fergeus was a happy occasion ... The passing of Dorothy


Daff, Glad Heer, Syd Mudie & former member Helen Beale recalled long & happy memories of fellowship & service.

**BERWICK** (Tim Hanna, Andrew Ball) Guest speaker Geoff Morrow Wycliffe Bible Translators ... Church luncheon to launch "A Vision for Youth Ministry" ... Delightful musical group from Russia called "New Melodies" ... Students Winter Gig ... Old style hymn sing-a-long ... Children's day at Fountain Gate ... Weekly grocery contribution to local welfare agency ... Ladies retreat ... Volleyball extravaganza involving other churches ... Lyn Pentland

spoke of experiences in Russia. **CROYDON** (Martin Burgess, Isobel Marshall) AGM 11 August ... Sue Heylan & Ray Baker newly elected deacons ... "Seven Laws of the Learner" series led Rob Coyle excellent ... Tranzformers Group growing ... Several men meeting for breakfast & sharing Fridays ... Rod Collier, Elsie Bolwell & Brad Ferguson helped Martin Burgess & Richard Gordon in Croydon SC program ... Combined worship South Croydon Anglican & East Ringwood Family Church 6 Sept ... Joel Hammen at New Tribes Bible College Sydney.

# COCOA

## is involved in education in countries overseas. Be a caring partner!



**Send your cheque to Churches of Christ  
Overseas Aid, PO Box 320, Unley 5061.**  
*(Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.)*

Name .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

Amount for COCOA \$ .....

## Growing Spiritually

# Who Am I?

*Ian Morris*

**O**ur family has just been through the process of obtaining passports and therefore having to prove our existence as Australian citizens and to prove we are who we say we are. Birth and marriage certificates were found, photos taken and signed by our minister (would he recognise us in those awful photos?) and then off to the passport office.

This procedure of proving my identity to enable me to travel out and then allow me back into Australia set me thinking—who am I? A little booklet may prove my name, date and place of birth, but is that the real me? That is the outer shell that anyone can see, but it doesn't tell anyone what my personality is, what my characteristics and beliefs are, what good or evil I have done, what my thoughts are. Yet these are the things that make up the real Ian Morris.

God is not a customs officer—he is not interested in what I look like or when and where I was born. He cares about my heart and soul and mind, the person within the body described in the passport.

Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do people say I am?"

"Some say that you are John the Baptist," they answered, "others say that you are Elijah, while others say that you are one of the prophets."

"What about you?" he asked them. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah." (Mark 8:27-29)

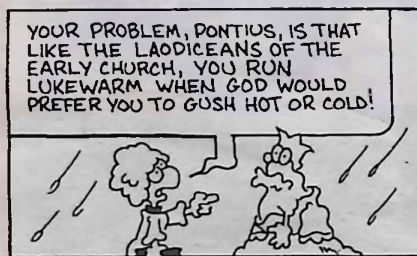
God asks me, "Who do people say you are?" "Some say I am a librarian," I answer, "some say I'm their father, others say I am church secretary, others look at my passport to see who I am."

"Ah, but what about you?" God asks me. "Who do you say you are? What are you really like?"

That is the question that demands I search my soul before I answer. Yet, despite the answer I have to give God, he still loves me.

Who am I? My passport proves my identity, but God knows who I really am.

• *Ian Morris is Vice-President of the ACT Conference.*



# The Last Word

**Doing the will of God leaves me no time for disputing about his plans.**  
—George MacDonald

★★★★

When you consult an expert, you get five problems:

1. The original problem.
2. Understanding the advice.
3. Implementing the advice.
4. The new problems that result from implementing the advice.
5. The staggering bill.

★★★★

"Did you say the hunter was shot in the woods, doctor?"

"No, I said the hunter was shot in the lumbar region."

★★★★

When the sermon finally finished, there was a great awakening.

★★★★

Wise parent, handing out pocket money: "Now remember, a fool and his money are soon parted."

Child: "Yes, but thanks for parting with it anyway."

★★★★

### Definitions

Map: A piece of paper to help you get lost.  
Traffic Jam: Where you sit in your car and watch pedestrians whizzing by.

Desk: A wastepaper basket with drawers.

Babysitter: Someone you employ to watch your television set.

Diet: A triumph of mind over platter.

★★★★

"Tough luck," said the egg in the monastery. "Out of the frying-pan and into the friar."

★★★★



**I'm sorry, they're very busy right now.**



## SUBSCRIPTION FORM

PO Box 101, North Essendon 3041

Name .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

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

Renewal     New Subscription

Payment can be made by Bankcard, Visa or MasterCard

Donation: \$ .....

Please charge my—

\$25 Full Year     \$7 Rest of Year

Bankcard     Visa     MasterCard

\$5 Rest of year if recommended by a current subscriber

Card number

Expiry date .....

Subscriber: .....

Signature .....