

National Journal  
of Churches of  
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3 October 1992

# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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Jean Roberts, Mary  
Frost, Nell Schultz  
and Iva Wakefield in  
the Flinders Park, SA,  
kitchen preparing  
lunch for the  
church's 66th  
anniversary—page 3



## Memorable Moments



"Island Breeze"  
entertain at a  
missionary rally  
at Malvern, Vic,  
hosted by the  
Indonesian Praise  
Church  
—page 7

# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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## Guest Editorial

# A Plea for Unity

David Moyes

Readers of the history of Churches of Christ would know that our movement emphasised the unity of churches based on New Testament beliefs and practices. "The Declaration and Address" put it quite clearly in 1809. I had the pleasure to experience Dr Richard Phillips (Milligan College, USA) as my lecturer in "The History of the Churches of Christ". He stressed the plea for unity in the history of our movement. Today there does not seem to be evident that same sense of unity based on New Testament teachings and practices.

Other Australian denominations have united. In 1977 all Methodist, most Congregational and over a half of the Presbyterian churches came together and formed the Uniting Church in Australia. In England, many Churches of Christ have joined the United Reformed Churches. What is the direction of the Australian Churches of Christ? What are our objectives?

Many charismatic and Pentecostal churches have a clear objective of restoring New Testament spirituality. Through these churches, many people have grown in their faith. Likewise, Churches of Christ must have a clear objective and an effective strategy. Over the past year, the New South Wales Conference of Churches of Christ have toiled with this issue of relevancy and effectiveness.

At a special conference held on 5 September, delegates voted for a restructure of the state conference committees and functions. Delegates believe that our Conference of Churches of Christ must have a clear objective and strategies for the future. This is found in the vision statement. The statement (or objective) is:

"Under the direction of God, to be a Christ-honouring, Biblical, relevant, vital, contemporary, Australian church that impacts the community by making disciples.

"This will be achieved through a passion for—

- loving, worshipping and serving God with all our heart;
- an absolute reliance on the saving grace and Lordship of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit;
- a full restoration of New Testament Christianity in faith, practice and unity;
- every member ministering to one another in the love, power and gifts of the Holy Spirit until we all attain to our full maturity in Christ;
- a strong, accountable, participating leadership;

• freedom to vigorously express the Gospel in local contexts;

• reaching people where they are through the Good News of forgiveness through Jesus; and

• caring for people in practical ways that seek to bring justice and express grace."

Nationally, what are our directions and strategies as a movement? What can we say together are our objectives and strategies? Traditionally, we have the objective of being theologically conservative, evangelistic and seeking to meet the needs of people spiritually and socially. Then, to continue the restoration of New Testament teachings and practices our strategies need to include the areas of proclamation, evangelism, welfare and justice. Nationally we need to have clear objectives and strategies so our movement is unified and thus makes an impact in our own community. This was the prayer of Jesus for all believers, "May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." (John 17:23)

In his book *Introducing the Restoration Ideal*, Dr Marshall Leggett writes, "People who believe in the restoration ideal must take some bold steps into the future. They must remember that Christian unity on a Biblical basis remains a primary goal." Each church has a unique style of worship and ministry and this needs to be encouraged. But in this diversity there must be a distinct unity of Churches of Christ that will make an impact in our own community.

Imagine the effect of our evangelism and fellowship if Churches of Christ nationally become unified through a common belief, practice and strategy. We must have a clear, nationwide objective and strategies to move into the 21st century.

• *David Moyes spent the first 12 years of his life at Cheltenham, Vic, church and was baptised there. As a teenager, he attended Wesley Central Mission. Here he learnt of the ministry that was shown to alcoholics, homosexuals, widows, lawyers and politicians. At 17, David entered Carlingford Theological College, where he did the Diploma and Degree course. He had student ministries at North Turramurra, Caringbah, Greenacre and Epping. David was the associate minister at Epping, NSW, church and is now the minister there. His wife, Leisl, shares in every aspect of his ministry. They have a 17-month-old daughter, Brianna.*

## Flinders Park's 66th

Wedding feast



• After the 66th anniversary service at Flinders Park

17 couples who were married at Flinders Park, SA, between 1964 and 1990 celebrated the church's 66th anniversary on 13 September with their families and friends, some travelling from York Peninsular and Gumeracha, although many still attend Flinders Park.

The church was decorated to illustrate the theme, "The Church, the Bride of Christ". Guest speaker John Baker reminisced later with his wife

Gwyneth about the church growing from 35 to 155 members during his time of ministry, 1952-63. He conducted 46 weddings and baptised over 100 (50 directly attributed to the Billy Graham Crusade).

Herb and Mern Prime, also guests, ministered to the church between 1967 and 1978. In that period Herb conducted 160 weddings of church members and local people. He also baptised 80. —Margaret Roberts

## Faith, Vision and Ingenuity

Raising \$1m for famine relief

Raising a million dollars for any organisation is a big task, particularly in a time of recession. Worse if you happen to be located in Australia's worst affected state.

However, hard times are not stopping the Ormond, Vic, church. If anything, it's making them think of more exciting and different ways to raise money.

It started with a late afternoon telephone call to the Director of Simaid, the relief and development arm of the international mission SIM.

Could Simaid handle \$1 million in wheat for famine relief?

Yes was the immediate answer!

From that point, a name was devised—AFRICA (Aid for Famine Relief in Crisis Africa)—then strategies were developed.

The church has set a target of \$250,000 per quarter, and they are already well on the way to their first quarter million.

One of the church's more innovative fund-raising concepts was to produce meal tickets.

Simaid calculated that just \$3 would feed one person a day in the Sudan for a whole month.

Meal tickets are produced in books of 10, so people can buy any amount of \$3 meal tickets.

Another is the age-old street fete, but in addition to the traditional crafts the church is actively sourcing bargains from office liquidations to household garage sales and reselling them on the day at their market.

Praise God for servants like these at the Ormond church, a large percentage of whom are retired, who have a vision that reaches past their own doorstep and halfway around the world.

90% of all funds received for the AFRICA appeal reach the field and all donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.

Donations can be sent to the Ormond Church AFRICA Appeal, PO Box 248, Carnegie 3163.

For further information contact Ormond Church of Christ on (03) 578 2627 or Simaid on (02) 524 4487.

### • Guest Editorial



• David Moyes, this issue's guest editorialist (see opposite)

## Weekend of Memories

Magill celebrates its 40th birthday

40 years of ministry in the Magill, SA, area were celebrated over the weekend of 21-23 August by the Magill church. Magill was originally known as the Koongarra Park church and commenced in 1952 as an offshoot of Maylands.

The weekend celebrations commenced on Friday night with a grand old-style concert. Held in the newly renovated chapel and making good use of the top-quality lighting systems recently installed, the concert brought together the best (and the worst!) of the generations. With a program ranging from the Rolling Stones to Hey Hey It's Saturday, and featuring such artistic resources as an

ethereal Robyn Gilmore (Goldilocks) and David Burrow as a most unlikely Baby Bear, the concert managed to produce something for everybody! Compered with charm, panache and glamour by Kathy Lawton, the concert was climaxed by a ballet presentation. Unfortunately, the ballet group would have to be described as less than graceful, being the first and hopefully, last, performance of the recently established Men's Ballet Group.

A great night was had by all.

On Saturday night a church dinner, complete with reminiscences and a revived Koongarra Park Men's Quartet provided an opportunity for church folk,

old and new, to look back over the past 40 years.

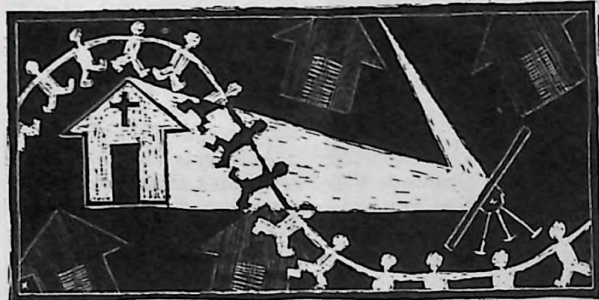
Keith Farmer (Carlingford College) encouraged the group to see the 40-year celebration as a midlife re-assessment and a challenge to meet new experiences head on.

Services on the Sunday were held at 10.30 and 7, with Keith Farmer again being the guest speaker. Morning worship featured the choir and evening worship centred on the New Connexions.

Throughout the weekend the hall became a venue for memories, with photos, memorabilia, continuous slide presentations, video histories and much coffee and chat. —Brian Phelps

## National Church Life Survey

Seminars planned



In 1991 a survey of Protestant church life in Australia was conducted and in all over 300,000 attenders aged over 15 from around 6,500 congregations completed the survey forms. It has been claimed that this was the largest survey of its type in the world. The results of the survey have been sent to participating congregations for them to evaluate.

A book, *First Look in the Mirror*, has been released, which provides a summary of the initial findings and their implications. (A review will appear in a subsequent issue. Summaries of some of the initial findings have been published in the 18 July and 19 September issues of *The Australian Christian*.)

The survey was undertaken because of perceived enormous changes in Australian society that have occurred over the past 20 years. Over 20 Protestant denominations co-operated.

More than 17 million pieces of information from the surveys (over 220 different questions) had to be keyed into computers. The printout for congregations ran to over 100,000 pages and kept several computers and printers working for weeks on end.

Overall those involved with the survey were pleased with signs of health in the church. The first results have shown that the church scene in Australia is very fluid, with denominational loyalty a "myth".

When the results of the church survey are compared to

the 1991 census data available next year some interesting comparisons should help local church leadership plan for future activities.

A series of workshops is being held to assist churches in making the most of the data they have received from their participation. Costs of participation are \$15 per person or \$40 for three or more from a congregation. Dates and cities (plus contact person) for each seminar are: 11 October, Townsville (Bev Blackman (077) 79 5818), 22 October, Sydney (Corylanne Vandyke (02) 261 9500), 23 October, Newcastle (Ian Palmer (049) 26 3733), 27 October, Rockhampton (Bill Ray (079) 27 3188), 29 October, Adelaide (Janine Coad (08) 332 8233), 30 October, Brisbane (Lynette Bodley (07) 377 9810), 4 November, Wollongong (Julie Gibson (042) 29 7911), 6 November, Canberra (Janine Sharwood (06) 248 9311), and 16 November, Melbourne (Greg Jones (03) 653 4220). Other workshops are being planned or can be organised by contacting Marilyn Correy on (02) 261 9500.

Copies of *First Look in the Mirror* or other material available from the survey can be obtained from National Church Life Survey, Uniting Church Board of Mission, PO Box E178, St James 2000 (phone (02) 285 4594, fax (02) 267 7316), or Anglican Home Mission Society, PO Box Q137, Queen Victoria Building, Sydney 2000 (phone (02) 261 9500, fax (02) 261 9599).

## Australia Is a Sober Society

Drinking habits surveyed

The Roy Morgan Research Centre carried out a survey on attitudes towards alcohol in August 1992 that found that 40% of Australians normally do not consume a glass of alcoholic beverage in an average week.

People 50 years of age and over were even less likely to have an alcoholic beverage, with 43.4% replying that in a typical week they did not consume alcohol.

This survey was paid for by Ansvar Australia Insurance Limited. Ansvar has carried out many surveys on drinking habits in the community over the past 30 years and although none of these surveys compare directly with these questions the results indicate a greater degree of sobriety compared to a

result in 1986 that showed that only 13% of a Australian adults were strictly non-drinkers.

Another encouraging figure from the survey is that three-quarters of Australian adults drink less than six glasses of alcoholic beverage in a week with more than half of that large section of the community not drinking at all.

Comparing males and females a similar pattern to earlier surveys emerged with 50% of women not drinking in an average week compared to 28% of men. The same survey showed that 3.6% normally drink more than 20 glasses of alcoholic beverages each week. This indicates that serious alcohol problems in the community tend to arise from a small number of people.

## Southern Bayside Conference

Helping Banmatmat

The annual CWF Southern Bayside Conference was held at Cheltenham, Vic, on 31 August with 55 present from seven churches. Pat Hilbig presided and led the worship segment.

The guest speaker was Jeanine Stewart, who presented a talk on evangelism. She was supported by Fiona (as a clown) who illustrated the theme by dance and demonstration.

The conference continued its support of the Banmatmat Bible College in Vanuatu. \$550 was forwarded for beds for the married quarters and \$40 for sweets for the staff and children at Christmas.

Chelsea accepted the responsibility of hosting the 1993 conference. The project for the year will be to supply a lawnmower for Banmatmat.

—Gloria Barratt

Forthcoming event—

### Church of Christ Camberwell

76th anniversary and get-together fellowship

- Sunday, 15 November, 10 am
- Theme: "A church for these days"
- Speaker: Alan Hirsch
- Music with the Benjamin Sisters

Welcome to all visitors, especially former members  
Light refreshments following the service  
Enquiries: (03) 882 3632

## Field Officer

### Appointment of Colin Smith

The NSW Community Care Department is pleased to announce that Colin Smith has commenced his appointment as Field Officer from the beginning of September.

Colin has had a long association with Churches of Christ and has had ministries in South Australia and Queensland. He was Director of Home Missions in Queensland 1982-87 and comes to the department from a part-time ministry at Boonah, Qld, where he was also involved in chaplaincy to the retirement village.

Colin's specific role is to help encourage and facilitate churches throughout NSW to develop community care pro-



• Colin Smith

grams. He is available to conduct training programs as well as to encourage churches to network with each other in the development of caring ministries. Churches wanting to avail themselves of Colin's services can write to him at P0 Box 140, Carlingford 2118, or phone him on (02) 773 4957.

## World-class Preacher

### Gordon Moyes at East Keilor

The East Keilor, Vic, Church of Christ is holding the fourth in its series "Great Modern Preachers" on 11 October at 10.30 am. Dr Gordon Moyes, Superintendent of Wesley Mission, Sydney, is speaking. Gordon is a world-class preacher and speaker, a man of vision and faith. Under his leadership Wesley Mission is Australia's largest Christian welfare service, employing about 1,250 staff. It conducts 45 services of worship a week, cares for people in 175 centres and has completed a building expansion costing \$80 million. A new mid-city centre in Pitt Street Sydney is in progress at a cost of \$300 million.

As a preacher and speaker, Gordon has preached in a almost every city in Australia and in 20 countries. As an author he has published more than 36 books and booklets, winning

four national book awards. As a film-maker and broadcaster he has scripted 37 half-hour documentary films, made in five countries and sold internationally. He has hosted more than 1,000 TV programs, including the weekly "Turn Around Australia". He also hosts a radio talkback program, "Sunday Night Live with Gordon Moyes", on 2GB.

Married to Beverley for 30 years he has four children, all involved in Christian service.

For further information ring Ron Schepis on (03) 336 2484.



• Gordon Moyes

## Operation Mobilisation at Work

### Mission 92

The Williamstown-Kersbrook circuit in SA sponsored Mission 92 10-20 September. 15 surrounding church congregations throughout the Adelaide Hills district and Barossa Valley were invited to bring their friends and neighbours to share the gospel message.

Operation Mobilisation provided a team of 18 young people to lead in a wide variety of sessions, including a family breakfast, hike and barbecue, studies, home coffee groups, a gospel concert and morning and the evening services on the two Sundays.

Ron McLean, Will Philp, Steve Kitto and Colin Jones were the speakers at Sunday services.

Studies for Mission 92 were led by Mike Hey of OM, and Dr Geoff Bingham from New Creation Ministries.

### Varia Mitchell in Vienna

Varia Mitchell, daughter of Robin and Anne Mitchell of Williamstown, is at present working overseas with Operation Mobilisation and Central European Teams (CET), and is based in Vienna. Varia works both in mission in surrounding countries and as the editor of OM's mission magazine *Filling the Gap*, which has a worldwide distribution. Varia's life changed dramatically after the visit to Port Adelaide of the OM ship MV *Doulos*, and she was aware of, and praying for, Mission 92 in her home town.

Operation Mobilisation is an international, non-denominational group of ordinary young people seeking to serve Christ in mission in today's world. Mission 92 was an extraordinary event for ordinary people wanting to share an extraordinary God. —Lori McDonald



• Varia, centre, with parents Robin and Anne Mitchell

## VIC-TAS DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY CARE ANNUAL FETE

### FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Christian Guest Home and Emmaus  
139 Atherton Road, Oakleigh

Saturday, 7 November 1992  
9.30 am to 1.30 pm

Morning teas and lunches available,  
Paintings, Cakes, Plants, Jams, Pickles, Sweets, Toys, Lucky Dip,  
Face Painting for Children,  
Gifts for Sale

Proceeds to assist Christian Guest Home Building Program

## Churches Together Expo

### First for ecumenism in SA

Major Christian denominations in South Australia took ecumenism to new levels when they united for the first time for an ecumenical expo on 30 August.

250, among them Roman Catholic, Anglican, Uniting, Lutheran, Orthodox, Churches of Christ, Society of Friends, Salvation Army and Baptist, joined in workshops at the expo to discuss aspects of local church co-operation.

The beginning of workshops were heralded by a town crier. Topics discussed included establishing an ecumenical high school chaplaincy, combined doorknock appeals, highlighting special days on the religious calendar in joint worship, forming an inter-church council and common building programs such as that proposed

for the new Seaford development. Dr Malcolm McArthur, executive officer of the SA Council of Churches, said the ecumenical expo, named "Churches Together", was a first for South Australia and visually demonstrated the breaking down of barriers between denominations.

"Churches Together" was held at the Maylands Church of Christ.

Commissioned by the South Australian Heads of Churches, *In God's Way*, the 1993 Lenten study booklet, was also launched at the expo. A working group representing major Christian denominations was involved in its production with the blessing of the South Australian Council of Churches.

—Reprinted with permission from *Church Scene*

## Building Effective Churches

### Consultants trained in church development



• Dr Kennon Callahan (centre) with George Mathieson and Keith Ridge at the advanced consultancy training seminar in Adelaide

For the past four years, Dr Kennon Callahan has been visiting Australia promoting his widely recognised work *12 Keys to an Effective Church*. In conjunction with his visits, he has been training a number of church leaders to serve as consultants with churches who undertake the long-term planning process outlined in his material.

Churches that use the Callahan approach to developing an effective church find it is a very positive way of involving their membership in setting an established course for the future that provides hope, vision and growth. Dr Callahan's mission-based model aims to build "effective" churches out of the God-given strengths and gifts found within a church, and has appli-

cation to all churches, whether they be in city, suburban or rural localities. It is this diversity of application that gives his work appeal.

The South Australian Conference has been working with Dr Callahan over the past four years and has formed the Institute for the Development of Effective Churches (IDEC), SA, with a team of consultants available to lead churches through the process.

Dr Callahan has also written *Effective Church Leadership* and will soon release books on church finance and stewardship. The Churches of Christ Educational Resource Centre at 23 Melbourne St, North Adelaide, has been authorised to act as a distributor to Churches of Christ in Australia for his materials.

## Upper Yarra Outreach

### First anniversary

Members of the fellowship meeting in the Upper Yarra, Vic, celebrated their first anniversary on 13 September with 46 in attendance. Guest speaker for the occasion was John Sharpe, minister at Ringwood, who was involved in the first services last year. John's message was appreciated, as was a solo by Gina Paton.

Greetings were brought from the Vic-Tas Dept of Mission Education and Development and from the churches at Montrose, Boronia and Ringwood. Fellowship was shared over a special morning tea, which included a birthday cake. The Montrose church is still providing oversight and support. —Alan Rackemann



### SWANSTON STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Melbourne

(cnr Swanston & Little Lonsdale Streets)

#### Sunday

9.00 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Worship & Communion Services

7.00 p.m.

Gospel Celebration

#### Wednesday

1.15-1.45 p.m.

Lunchtime Service

For further enquiries, please ring (03) 663 3884

## Allan Male Update

Allan Male, former Youth Director of Churches of Christ in Queensland, member at Pine Rivers, Qld, and founder of Shaftesbury Citizens Centre and Campus, has been hospitalised since 29 July. Allan has pancreatitis, caused by a gallstone obstructing the com-

mon bile duct and pancreatic duct. He remains in the intensive care unit at the Royal Brisbane Hospital. Allan's condition is improving slowly despite many complications. He has been to theatre 19 times. Allan, wife Kath and family continue to need our prayers.

## Island Breeze

Missionary rally fills Malvern



• Island Breeze performing at Malvern

A busload of 30 came from Castlemaine and a dozen other churches were represented. Indonesian Praise Church was the host church, welcoming visitors, leading the opening time of praise, providing an item by their young people and serving refreshments afterwards.

Suresh Chandra, the secretary of the newly established multicultural Vision Church of Christ, gave his testimony—how he came to Christ out of a Hindu background in Fiji.

For over an hour all were inspired by the singing, drama, music and dance by the Island Breeze unit of Youth With A Mission, who are based in Malvern, Vic. This group come from Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Cook Islands and New Zealand. They were dressed in colourful skirts, feathers, amulets and headdresses depicting various Pacific cultures.

They explained how the gospel came to the Pacific Islands and their singing was addressed to the King of Kings. Testimonies from the team helped our own young people who are searching for purpose in their lives. A number came for prayer after the rally concluded.

We look forward to the visit of Pastor Wilson Bebe and Albert Vira to Victoria in October and hope to take them to meet the Islanders.

—Barry Jenkins

### \* Invitation \*

#### Murray Bridge Church of Christ

80th Anniversary

will be celebrated on  
18 October 1992

10.30 am Worship Service  
Fellowship Luncheon

7 pm Service of Thanksgiving  
Guest Speaker

Ian Hunt, Associate Minister,  
Horsham, Vic, Church of Christ

Temple Day Offering will be  
received during the day  
(This is dedicated to assist with  
our relocation plans)

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## Manpower

Moving the nation

What a sight! 950 men packed into the Great Hall of Parliament House, Canberra. Men standing on their feet and praying for the nation. Men lifting their hands and reaffirming their faith. Men surrendering their lives to Jesus Christ.

The occasion? A Christian Men's Network event. The speaker, Dr Ed Cole, author of the book *The Real Man*, stated that real men are like Jesus.

God is using this prophetic ministry to deliver men from homosexuality, incest, pornography and domestic violence, creating new men out of them. Men who recognise and accept their responsibilities, who be-

come real fathers to their children and whole husbands to their wives. Men of integrity! Men of integrity build character into their families, and families of character build strong churches and strong churches build a strong nation.

The church at Tuggeranong, ACT, is witness to this change in its men and is enjoying the fruits of resurrected manhood in the lives of individuals, the family and the church. We are thrilled to be part of this fresh work of the Holy Spirit and a part of a network that encompasses over 3,000 groups of men around the world.

—Don Herbert



• Tuggeranong members at the Christian Men's breakfast

## Spring Conference

Registrations pass 200

Registrations for the forthcoming Spring Conference at Wollongong, NSW, are running well ahead of those received at the same time last year. The interstate response in particular has been most encouraging. A number of churches have planned for groups of leaders to attend and have made special transport arrangements.

The guest presenter will be Dr T. Garrett Benjamin of Indianapolis, USA. Other speakers will be Dr Dean

Drayton, Dr Gordon Moyes, Dr Keith Farmer and Barry McMurtrie.

The Conference will run 17-19 October. Special accommodation arrangements have been made with the Stanwell Tops Centre. Enquiries and bookings should be directed to the Wollongong church office, telephone (042) 26 5022, fax (042) 28 3828.

The conference is being jointly sponsored by the Wollongong church and the ABCDE.

## Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to  
200 words

### Doesn't the Holy Spirit Talk to Theologians?

To the Editor,

Thanks for recent interesting and challenging articles and letters that make me/us rethink our understanding of being Christian. Curkpatrick's articles "Faith Speaking to Faith" and "A Sign for Our Time" were very helpful.

But did Barry McMurtrie have tongue in cheek when writing "Don't Let Theologians Overawe You?" ("AC" 5 September) Or does new material contradict a belief he holds dear? (Forget Barbara Thering and the like.)

His "great college" points—(i) prayer, (ii) Bible as textbook and (iii) teacher the Holy Spirit—are presented as though theologians don't follow those steps.

My experience is that the theologians of our colleges and of the WCC, ACC and VCC are

Christian scholars who counsel together seeking enlightenment from the Holy Spirit. But I feel sure that they accept there is much more material available today for the true student to contemplate—as against even yesterday—which may well be the result of the "Spirit of Truth guiding us into all truth" as John 16:13 indicates from Jesus' words.

Although not so recent, I suggest two books worthy of study are *Archaeology of the Bible* by Magnus Magnusson and *Reasonable Belief* by theologian twins Anthony and Richard Hanson.

I also think that the "lofty church fathers", Campbell, Wesley, Calvin, Luther and Augustine, who Barry OKed, were theologians also rejected by many preachers of their day as Barry seems to do of theologians in this day. Today some people even question Curkpatrick!

—David Allison  
(Hampton Street, Vic)

### A Special Week Needed To the Editor,

In this letter I ask, "How many thousands of silent, suffering children desire so very much to see their mother or father, or both, stop taking drugs, stop sticking needles in themselves, stop their alcohol-addictive lifestyles?"

As a follow-up to my recent letter ("AC" 19 September) about three little girls' drug-addicted parents and one little girl's loss of her father through alcohol, I desire the help of readers to write, see or ring their local state and federal MPs, Paul Keating and state premiers regarding having a week designated for (or dedicated to) all the drug and alcohol affected parents of our most precious resource—children. My suggested title for this week: **Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week** for affected parents of children, the silent sufferers. My suggested motto is **Help Your Kids—Get Help!** I have already written to Paul Keating, and John Fahey,

NSW Premier, and my local state and federal MPs on the urgency of establishing such a special week.

Too many children's parents are dying in front of their own eyes. We must do something now!

Will you join with me in getting this special week going? For all the children of drug-affected parents and for all the children who have lost their fathers (or mothers) through alcohol who need help, my prayer is that many thousands of drug and alcohol affected parents will be helped and be cured.

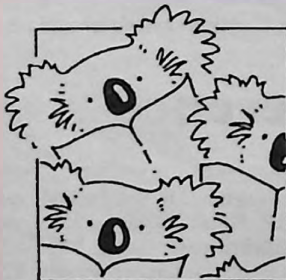
—Dave Vincent  
(Bidwill, NSW)

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## Letters from Tertius

AA

To the Editor,

Bill is a living miracle, through Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). He's always been on to me to go to one of their meetings. So I went. I'm not sure what I expected to find, but I was surprised to see that they looked just like a cross-section of ordinary human beings. Indeed it was just like a church meeting with a buzz of lively conversation only halted when their chairman rose to start the proceedings. In fact it was just like an old-time testimony meeting. Many rose and told of their experiences during the week.

I noticed that each commenced his or her testimony with, "My name is... I am an alcoholic." Only the Christian name was revealed, for they are anonymous. I wondered why each said religiously, "I am an alcoholic," rather than, "I was an alcoholic," for some of them had been dry for ten, fifteen and twenty years. So afterwards I asked Bill. He said, "Every one of us is an alcoholic. The potential for disaster is always there. Let any one of us feel that he has conquered alcohol and it's back on 'the skids'. To say, 'I am an alcoholic,' is to remind ourselves that we are helpless apart from 'the Power outside ourselves' and the support of the fellowship of AA."

I was impressed.

It left me wondering if for similar reasons it might be good for my soul to say sometimes, at least to God, "My name is Tertius. I am a sinner." Perhaps the church is a sort of "Sinners Anonymous", a supporting fellowship of those who but for the grace of God could well be "on the skids".

—Tertius

# Pigs and Axes

Phil Emery

The two brothers waited patiently behind the trees. They'd been waiting all morning, but this was nothing compared to the pain and humiliation he had put them through. As they stood there, they saw him ambling up the trail towards them. They gripped their axes firmly, steadying themselves for what had to be done. Mogona had stolen their pig.

Some week earlier the brothers, Monduwa and Womare, noticed a pig was missing from their pig house. All the evidence pointed to Mogona. They tried to get their pig back through the village court, but that failed. They had found it very difficult to state their case because of their disability. Firstly, Mogona was a good speaker, secondly, and more importantly, Monduwa and Womare were both deaf! (In the Kuman culture, a person with a disability is left alone and no-one will speak up for them.) So, out of total frustration against the verdict, they burnt Mogona's house down and ran off into the bush. They had been hiding in the bush for two weeks now, but this time Mogona would pay for his actions; he would pay the ultimate price!

As Mogona approached the trees, the two men jumped out, one in front and one behind him. Mogona was taken completely off guard. Womare swung his axe and it glanced off Mogona's upraised arm. As he turned to defend himself again, Monduwa's axe dug deep into his armpit, leaving a gash up to his collarbone. He bent to hold his arm as the final blow came across his back. People came running up the trail. Mogona was lying in the dirt, bleeding very badly. The brothers couldn't risk getting caught, so they bolted off into the bush.

Mogona was brought to us on a bush stretcher and we were able to take him into the local

hospital straight away. As the details of the story were unfolded to us, we could sense the frustration the brothers must have felt, but we could also see the vulnerability of Mogona on the trail.

Who was right? Who was wrong? We'll probably never find out! The Kuman people are an aggressive people, quick to show their emotions, quick to lash out when things go wrong for them. Lives can be thrown so quickly into turmoil. We don't know what tomorrow has in store for us. There was no way Mogona could have known that his day was to end up like this. There was no way that Monduwa and Womare could have known that one pig would cause them so many problems.

Mogona did survive the attack. He was stitched up in the hospital and is now recovering. Monduwa and Womare are in gaol awaiting their court case. But the really sad thing about this whole incident is that none of them have any hope. Mogona will recover, the brothers will probably be released, but their lifestyles will remain the same. This fight may happen again and more than likely it will be fatal. The Lord wants to give the Kuman people hope, he wants to show them his way. God's way will offer them freedom from fear and the payback system.

At present, we are learning the Kuman language and hope to share God's Word with the Kuman people once our language study is completed. We realise we need to make every day count as we work towards this goal. Please pray for us and the 80,000 Kuman people here in the Highlands of PNG.

• Phil and Fiona Emery and children are members of the Hawthorn, SA, church and are working with the New Tribes Mission in Papua New Guinea.

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Anglican Department of Evangelism,

Melbourne

"Sharing Faith"

7 pm

"The Music Machine"

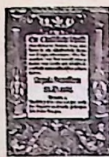
Gospel music presented by the children  
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# Media Review

Women's Creative Role in the Church.



## Papers

**Women's Creative Role in the Church**

by Professor Eileen Byrne (Zadok Papers S57)

Professor Eileen Byrne, Professor of Education

at the University of Queensland, summarises some outstanding examples of women reformers in the history of the Christian church. She looks particularly at the way women were involved in mission and how their activities changed the world. She raises questions regarding the way we see "mission", the way the Holy Spirit works through the experience of people and how the church might have progressed without women constantly changing its perspectives on mission.

Available from the Zadok Institute, Locked Bag 23, Kew Post Office 3101 (phone (03) 816 9367) for \$5.

## Books

**Sail Railers**

by Roy Pond (Albatross Books) \$6.95

An exciting book about a boy named Michael, his friend Kirsty and a prospector. Michael makes his dream come true—to make a cart that runs on rails and is powered by a sail.

On their second run Michael and Kirsty meet up with a mysterious prospector and a willy-willy. They are blown along at breakneck speed and after travelling like this for a long time Michael

waited for the bone-jarring crash which would come at the end of the line. But they kept on going and going and going...

They find out that the prospector is happy to keep on going, because he is looking for something special at the end of the line but in the distance they see a Land-Cruiser. His opponents are after the secret thing—who can get it first?

A great book to read for 9-13 year olds who love adventure stories. Roy Pond, the author, does great job in describing the outback of Australia and really brings a lot of excitement and tension into the story.

—Darren Ware (aged 12)

## Doing What Comes Supernaturally

**Learning to Minister in the Power of the Spirit**

by Peter H. Lawrence (Kingsway Publications) \$12.95

The problem that faces many churches today is that there is a lack of Holy Spirit power in their ministries. Indeed without his presence and power the church is not sufficiently equipped to do what comes supernaturally in Jesus' name.

The foundation for effective ministry in the Holy Spirit for Peter Lawrence is summed up in the sentence, "The best thing a Christian can offer people with problems is to pray, 'Come, Holy Spirit,' with them." (page 141) This small book is packed with practical guidelines to the reception and empowerment of the Holy Spirit for church leaders and for the congregations.

The best evidence of the active working of the Holy Spirit comes from personal experiences, which is the basis of the book. The author, like many Christians, expresses reservations relating to the "typical healing evangelist's model...with its queues of sick people down the aisle," (page 25) and offers a technique that he finds more appropriate to his theological stance and that is available to all believers.

This is a book for those who don't think they can minister in the power of the Holy Spirit but would like to try it. The influence of John Wimber is noted: "I was impressed by the effective preaching of God's Word and the accompanying signs of God's power and grace." (page 12). The Biblical content of the book is accurate and used effectively to communicate answers to the reader's

questions. Peter Lawrence draws on the experiences of people like Bill Subritzky, Dennis Bennett, Richard DeHaan, Michael Harper, Harold Dewberry, Leanne Payne, Francis MacNutt, John and Paula Sandford and David Pytches—names that are familiar with those who have some knowledge of the healing ministry in the church today. The book is divided into three sections—the first five chapters laying a foundation for readers to understand the relevance of ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit, then three chapters focusing on specific healings versus emotional healing, healing of the demonised and physical healing. These chapters bring fresh insights to issues that are relevant for churches to consider now. The last three chapters help to bring about renewal in our congregations, our ministers and our ministries.

Many will find great blessing in reading this book. You may not agree with everything that the author has to say, yet you are sure to gain another perspective on the supernatural nature of our God. Recommended reading.

—Peter Wing Tang

## The Teenage Q & A Book

by Josh McDowell and Bill Jones (Word Books)

\$10.95

This is a book that I believe is a must for every teenager to have on their shelves. It candidly answers some of the toughest questions that teenagers invariably have but are too afraid to ask either their parents or youth workers.

In Josh's relaxed and illustrative style he tackles such subjects as—

- how to deal with and understand your parent's behaviour;
- self worth—how important it is to feel good about yourself;
- the pressures of peer relationships and the effects this can have on dress, dating and doing the right thing;
- friends, love and sex, as well as some straight talk on how to deal with abuse.

Straight talk is the theme of this extremely useful book as relevant issues are tackled from a Biblical perspective. But it's not just for teenagers, parents and youth workers would do well to read it too as it offers a way in to the psyche of young people. Highly recommended.

—Neale Meredith

## The Angelic Verses—Daniel Changer

HEY! I'VE LOST  
14 POUNDS!

I SAID YOU COULD  
ROLL AWAY THE STONE!



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## Warragul's Development

### Building a church

Excitement, enthusiasm and vitality are very much in evidence at Warragul, Vic, as the church moves into a further stage of its development. The continued emphasis upon relevancy and excellence in worship, evangelism and the development and use of ministry gifts has catapulted the church into the most rapid growth experience in its history. Since October 1991 the membership has increased by over 35, 15 by baptism. Average attendances at worship increase month by month, with the evening services, appropriately called "Sunday on the Hill", averaging over 100 attenders.

One of the most exciting features of these night services is that the congregation is a vastly different one to that in the morning, thereby increasing

the church's sphere of influence.

The church is rapidly outgrowing its current facilities and the leadership is investigating the possibilities for future development. Plans are also under way to redesign the recently extended car park to ensure that the maximum amount of car parking is available for Sunday services.

It is clear that Jesus' promise to "build his church" was not just to some churches, but to all who are prepared to pay the price that change demands. It has been wonderful to see that growth manifesting itself at Warragul, changing it from a small country church to a growing, vital and relevant church with the potential to minister to the region. —David and Debbie Buesnel

## Crop of Colours

### Goolwa's 90th youth anniversary

On a recent Saturday night the Goolwa, SA, Sunday youth classes presented the musical play, "A Crop of Colours", as their annual spring celebration.

Effective lighting and colourful costumes helped to set theme for the actors. The childrens chorus was enthusiastically and ably backed by the church's musical group.

The next morning open classes were held when the children displayed their work, ex-



pressing God's presence amongst us.

—Fay Neighbour

## Northfield Outreach Project

### Urban mission experiment



• Roger Brown with Dawn Chivell (Secretary of the Church Development Work Group) and Keith Ridge

"An experiment in urban mission," is how Hampstead Gardens, SA, minister Keith Ridge described the Northfield Outreach Project at its launch on 30 August.

Under the leadership of the church, along with the support of the South Australian Conference Church Development and Education Work Group, this outreach project is to be conducted in 1994 under the direction of Roger Brown when he concludes his ministry with the Dulwich-Rose Park United Parish in December 1993.

Roger Brown will use his 25 years of ministry experience working in a full-time capacity moving amongst residents, offering support, creating groups and conducting local worship activities as a bridge-building link with the church.

By 1994, 1,000 new homes in stage one of the Northfield Inner Urban Housing project will be completed or under construction. Already, urban renewal has been taking place in the neighbouring suburb of Hillcrest, only two kilometres away from the Hampstead Gardens church.

The project is one of faith, with Roger working in the belief that the project will generate its own financial support from the church and other sources. The Hampstead Gardens church has established a special fund for this purpose.

The lessons learnt from this experiment will be of value to other churches considering such projects. —Keith Ridge

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# Happenings

A number of Jews accepted Christ during a month-long Jews for Jesus street witnessing campaign in New York City. 81 Jewish people made decisions, along with 251 Gentiles.

Workers widening a road in Jerusalem's Peace Forest in 1990 uncovered a large burial site, and Israeli archaeologists say it could be the family tomb of Caiaphas, the high priest who delivered Jesus to Pontius Pilate for trial and crucifixion. While positive identification is impossible, inscriptions on the ossuaries (ornate boxes that hold the bones) and the age of the remains point strongly to the Caiaphas' family.

The Church of Sweden is considering a woman for archbishop next spring when the current archbishop retires. The Friendship Association for Women Priests in the diocese of Uppsala proposed that Birgitta Larsson, director of the Church of Sweden mission agency, be the new head of the church, which is the world's largest Lutheran body. Larsson currently is the only candidate for the position.

Over the last several years, church leaders in Korea speculated that the era of mammoth crusades may have passed. But they are changing their minds after the 92 Holy Spirit Explo Crusade. More than 1 million packed the Youido Plaza 15 and 16 August to pray for stability in Korean society, reunification of the Korean peninsula, and spiritual awakening of the church. The turnout was achieved in spite of 15 August being Korean national independence day and the fact that the crusade was held during the typhoon season. All Protestant denominations in Korea participated in this crusade.

Trans World Radio, an international gospel broadcasting network, has reached an agreement to begin broadcasting from

Radio Tirana in the capital city of Albania. The agreement gives TWR exclusive rights for Protestant religious broadcasting on Albania's transmitters formerly used to broadcast Communist propaganda around the world. This is the first contract Radio Tirana has ever signed with an external corporation. The contract gives TWR exclusive use of 3 prime-time hours per day, from 9 pm to midnight, local time.

In the Australian Council of Churches 1992 ecumenical calendar 18-24 October is designated as the Week of Prayer for World Peace. Details and materials are available from Rev J. Baldock on (03) 412 6213.

Amnesty International Week is being held 17-24 October with Candle Day collections on 23 and 24 October. This year's theme is "Children: The Hidden Victims". Readers are asked to do three things: Show their support for human rights by buying and wearing a badge, call AI for a "Children: The Hidden Victims" action kit and use the action kits in their churches. Homeless children die on the streets in South America. Children are killed by government forces in Mauritania because they are the "wrong" colour. They are brutalised in prisons from South Africa to Turkey. They are arrested for their political beliefs in Syria and Romania. Information kits can be obtained from the Amnesty International office in each state capital.

Australian Christians have been asked to pray for an imprisoned pastor in the Sudan, to write letters of support to him, and to lobby for his release. The request comes from Open Doors with Brother Andrew. The pastor's name is Mattaboush. He was arrested in March 1986 in his village of Tabanya, South Kordofan, Sudan. A military court found him "guilty of harbouring four SPLA guerrillas in his home", and

sentenced him to 30 years in prison. The 4 guerrillas have all since been released. He was known for preaching the gospel to everyone and this is alleged to be the reason he is still in prison. If readers are writing on his behalf your letters should not contain anything anti-Islamic or anti-Sudan. Letters can be sent to Pastor Mattaboush, El Obeid Prison, El Obeid, Sudan, or through his local church Pastor Mattaboush, c/o Evangelical Church of El Obeid, PO Box 155, El Obeid, Sudan, or to the President, His Excellency The President of Sudan, General Omar al-Bashir, Presidential Palace, Khartoum, Republic of Sudan.

MAF Australia and New Zealand have a full-time staff of 110 families, operate 52 aircraft (34 single engine and 18 twins), and fly an annual total of 31,600 km. MAF Australia continues to work towards developing a program to serve the people of Cambodia.

The number of missionaries from non-Western countries topped 50,000 last year—37% of all Protestant missionaries. By the year 2000 the number will surpass those going from Western nations.

Christian soldiers from Iraq are being held and tortured in Iran in a bid to convert them to Islam years after their fellow soldiers were released. 10 Christian soldiers are being held in Teheran, according to a group called Christian Advocates for Religious Freedom. The Iraqi prisoners were reported to have been held since 1986, when they were captured in the Iran-Iraq war.

After 6 years of debate, a law permitting the ordination by the Church of England of people who have divorced and remarried or who are married to divorcees is due to pass in Britain later this year.

A new "Martin Luther King" Christian radio station was

dedicated in Calabria, Italy, with the aim of breaking down all ethnic, cultural and racial barriers. It is funded by the Italian Baptist Union, the Waldensian Synod, the Protestant Federation and private donors.

Traditional Aboriginal languages will be wiped out unless urgent action is taken, a parliamentary committee has found. Only about 10% of the 150 original languages spoken in Australia remain and these are mainly spoken by elders.

Churches can now speak to their missionaries in Papua New Guinea during Missionary Conventions or just for birthday greetings by using the Christian Radio Missionary Fellowship's new "phone-patch" system. Most missionaries in remote areas of PNG rely on the CRMF radio network for their communication with the outside world. "Phone-patch" can now extend that contact to the national and international telephone network through CRMF's radio base at Rugli. By prior arrangement CRMF will connect the missionary by radio to a church's telephone, which could then be relayed through the church's sound system. The new initiative costs a \$2 connection fee to CRMF plus the normal phone charges. Details from Robin Cole at CRMF on (03) 890 2338.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea has taken over the financially strained Kristen Redio (Christian Radio), which was dissolved earlier this year by its umbrella organisation, Kristen Media Productions. The Lutheran Church will use the 26-year-old radio service mainly for ministering to the country's illiterate population. Kristen Redio once broadcast up to 120 hours a week over 2 government stations. Although now operated by the Lutheran Church, Kristen Redio will continue to broadcast mate-

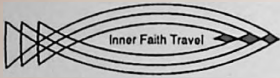
rial supplied by other churches.

A leading member of the Quechua church in Peru, Romulo Saune, was killed by left-wing terrorists on 6 September, in a confrontation that also claimed the lives of 3 other family members. In June, the World Evangelical Fellowship presented Saune with its first-ever Religious Freedom Award, in recognition of the hardship and strife suffered by the Peruvian indigenous church, caught in the midst of an 11-year armed conflict between the government and the revolutionary Shining Path movement.

A 50-year-old law that has provided Christian churches with free air time on Australian commercial radio ends on 1 October, a change that church media groups fear could lead to the rise of an Australian equivalent of the "electronic church" in the USA. A similar provision with respect to commercial television remains in force. The options appear to be that the churches buy time on radio stations or opt for their own stations.

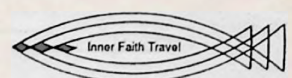
A Uniting Church minister has become Australia's first female army chaplain. Rev Kaye Ronalds has taken up a part-time ministry with the Army Reserve training group based at Wacol, Brisbane. Mrs Ronalds is the second female chaplain in Australia's armed forces—in November 1991 another Uniting Church minister, Rev Wendy Snook, became part-time chaplain at the Pearce RAAF base.

Only 43% of Aborigines' income is from employment. 40% of employed Aboriginal men are in unskilled jobs. Only 14% of the employed men and 17% of women with jobs hold professional or higher administrative positions. General unemployment among Aborigines is 4 times that of other Australians. The average income of those who work is 35% of the national average.



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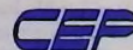
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## Reminiscence

# I Remember the Time...

D.J. Eagling

**W**hen friends and family gather together after a long absence the conversation at some stage will go something like this: "Do you remember the time...?" Good memories come flooding back and so the past is brought to life.

### I remember...

...the name Harold Finger. In my younger days at Woolwich Bible College, NSW, he was mentioned many times in connection with our missions lectures. I also remember praying for Harold and Mary Finger in our Christian Endeavour group at the Taree, NSW, church. Focus on Harold assumed a sense of critical importance during a Federal Conference in Sydney when discussion was held on the possibility of starting a new mission work in Papua New Guinea. Harold Finger was one of the names mentioned (along with Frank Beale) who would go and pioneer a new work in PNG for Churches of Christ.

...well the day when my wife and I greeted Harold on the beach at Duindui (1961). Harold had returned to the island of Aoba (as it was then called) to be special visitor of the Aoban people at the opening of their new chapel. Here was this missionary from the past, "larger than life", sharing with two new recruits to the mission field. We warmed to his convictions, his concern for the people, his wit and humour. Often he would say, "Let me tell you about..." and then we would hear of people and incidents from Harold's earlier days in the Islands (1940s to the 50s). We were always fascinated by his memory skills of placing people and places together. Harold and Mary Finger eventually returned to the New Hebrides (1967) and were located at Ranmawat. Mary was responsible for the medical program for the church on Pentecost. Harold took up his itinerant evangelist and pastoral ministry amongst the people. He was our next-door neighbour, so to speak, a few hours away on foot, closer still by boat.



• Harold and Mary Finger

...the time when Harold went with us on our boat, called "Ivanhoe", to visit the island of Malekula. This was a new venture for us at that time. Late in the afternoon while at anchor in a small bay on North Malekula, Harold decided to make "a cuppa". The primus was lit on the 44-gallon drum of fuel while the crew prepared to "abandon ship".

...Harold working with me to organise the final preparations of the first Jamborette for the Scouts of the New Hebrides at a village called Wali on South Pentecost. This Jamborette, with the theme "Venture in Friendship" attracted nearly 300 scouts from all over the New Hebrides, plus six scouts from New Zealand and one from Australia.

...Harold's contribution to important decisions being made at Field Council meetings. Always discerning, always concerned, always motivated by his love for his Lord and the Word of God.

...the day when a decision was made to send the first New

Hebridean missionaries to Papua New Guinea—August and Maeline Ben. What a day of rejoicing that was, with the realisation that the church was "growing up", in commissioning August and Maeline, not to the work in the New Hebrides but to the comparatively new mission work in PNG.

...the first graduation of the Banmatmat Bible College, in December 1967, a special day in the life of the churches. Many travelled long distances to be there. From Australia, A.W. Stephenson, Federal Conference President at that time, made the journey. Mr and Mrs Harold Long and Ron McLean were also honoured guests. It

was planned that Harold Finger have a significant part in the graduation service in recognition of his long-serving association with the island churches. The class of 1967 all knew Harold—August Ben, John Liu, Samuel Vusi, Simeon Aru, Daniel Bue, Richard Lala, Jacob Tuku, Alec Vuti, James Bangha, James Casper, and each one could sit down and say, "Do you remember when Mr Finger did this or that?" Sometimes there would be a seriousness about the comments, and then they would break out in laughter at some incident involving Harold. There was however, great respect for "their missionary". Samuel Vusi wrote in his BD treatise some of the early achievements of missionaries in the New Hebrides: "They fostered the work of the Kanakas (from Queensland) by baptising their converts, teaching the new converts, encouraging the local teachers and so on. They set up centres which later developed into training centres for training local teachers, which led eventually to the independent church. They set up schools for the education of the young children and future generations. [I remember this as one of Harold's great concerns.] They established medical work for the people's physical healing and the maintenance of their good health. They contributed much to the development of our people spiritually, physically, socially, mentally and economically." Harold was asked to write of his experiences of the war years in the New Hebrides and the decade following. This request



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## 50 Years

### Reunion of FAB workers

The CWF and the Victorian Aborigines Committee recently celebrated 50 years of service in the FAB at a reunion of Federal Aborigines Board workers.

Many memories were shared, highs and lows of missionary service discussed and the primitive conditions of early days disclosed when Jan Hutton, herself in the field in WA in the early sixties, interviewed some of the visitors.

Bill and Alice Berthelson told of the early pioneering days and Lance and Enid Fisher spoke of the successes that were achieved in their days at Carnarvon with the Aboriginal young folk. Many today hold professional roles in the community and still keep in touch with Lance and Enid.

Ngaire Walhout, as a young person, was with Jan Hutton in the field and they showed their appreciation of the care given them as young girls by the Fishers and when Jan was married in Carnarvon. Ngaire and her husband now foster children

just out of Melbourne. Also among those present were Bruce and Joan Johnson, Marie Kramer and May Barnett, who spoke of her early times, both good and bad, at Norseman. Geoff Barnett was unable to attend through illness.

Don and Clare Stevens, from the FAB office, flew in from Perth on Thursday night, but Clare was another casualty as she contracted food poisoning on the plane and was unable to attend Friday's enjoyable get-together of old friends and fellow workers.

Amongst the apologies was one from Ethel Bentley, who opened the first field at Norseman 50 years ago. Her health is not the best these days.

The luncheon picnic, scheduled for the next day in the park at Box Hill, was held instead in the Box Hill church, because of the inclement weather.

Highlights were shared over lunch and until after 4 pm as everyone relived the days of their labour of love to the Aboriginal people. It was a time of reflection and recognition of the foundation laid for the future.

—Betty Bantow

came from the leadership of the Vanuatu church in the early 80s. In his closing words Harold wrote: "Please, do not try to make another fashion for the Gospel, other than the fashion of the Lord who is our master. Do not talk about making another culture like the Western culture because 'born again' believers do not have a Western culture, but only the one which comes to them from God's Holy Word."

...27 September 1991. John Liu and I were visiting Harold Finger in his house at Bribie Island, north of Brisbane. Harold had received an invitation from the Vanuatu churches to attend a special anniversary of the coming of the Gospel to Pentecost Island. The meetings were planned for November. In conversation with Harold on the phone we were told that he was not well, and had doubts that he would be able to travel

to Vanuatu for the anniversary services. John and I planned our visit to share with Harold who should go in his place. We were with him less than an hour when he "departed this life" to be with the Lord. John and I will always remember that occasion. Harold and Mary Finger were missionaries on Maewo Island, where John grew up. John has shared this experience with the people of Vanuatu on many occasions since returning home, and they have responded with "thanksgiving to the Lord" that John should be with Harold, comforting him and praying with him, when he died.

On the eve of the anniversary of his passing, Harold Finger reminds me of a man of faith, a man who gave his life as a "living sacrifice to Christ".

• *D.J. Eagling is the minister at the Redbank Plains, Qld, church.*



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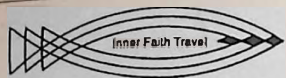
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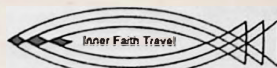
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## Curkpatrick

# Implicating God

In recent weeks we have witnessed nature wreak havoc on those unfortunate enough to be in the path of a hurricane that tore through the Bahamas, Florida and Louisiana, a typhoon in Guam, a tidal wave in Nicaragua, a devastating tropical storm in China and floods in Afghanistan, Pakistan and France—each with tragic loss of life, homes and livelihood. We shouldn't forget the apprehensive feeling of nemesis that exists for people who live with Mt Pinatubo belching again from its subterranean cauldron, the recent earthquake in Kyrgyzstan and Zimbabwe's worst drought in a century. But what does all this mean in the face of some Christian claims that God provisionally controls every detail of life, including the weather?

The belief that everything in life—from benign weather at Sunday School picnics to "providential" availability of parking spaces—is determined by God may seem pious at a personal level. However, a per-

ception that God predetermines every single event in life becomes horrific at the level of large-scale disasters, where hundreds are killed and thousands left homeless, Christian and non-Christian alike. The gospel narrative reminds us that God sends sunshine and rain on the good and evil in a world where the bounty of life and goodness of the earth is indiscriminately, unequivocally given to Christian, Muslim, Hindu and atheist alike. Therefore flood and drought have no punitive dimensions. They are not directed against anyone.

It was the gods of Olympus who were perceived to meddle with the contingencies of nature for the benefit of some—with the inverse implication—that the tragedies of cyclone, earthquake, flood or drought were expressions of whimsical

divine displeasure on others. That would be a truly horrific perception to ascribe to the God of Jesus Christ! Yet for Christians to posit responsibility with God for benign weather at Sunday School picnics and conveniently free parking spaces or any other trivia is to implicate God, even if unwittingly, in causing natural disasters or not preventing accidental tragedies.

In the advent of Jesus Christ—the pre-eminent hermeneutical event for all Christian faith—God entered human life and identified fully with human tragedy, which sometimes occurs out of the indiscriminate chance contingencies of nature. This of course is sheer nonsense to those who insist that nature's contingencies, benign or otherwise, are divinely ordained. If they are, and I refuse to believe they are, then tragic natural disasters—at least in this perception, by implication—must be deserved, even if by the simple default of not believing in or praying to the right God or any god.

In Jesus Christ God rejected the ancient nemesis, that perceived power of the gods to meddle in the contingencies of nature to inflict the tragedies of natural disaster on anyone, godly or atheist. God did so in order to reveal unequivocal compassion for all people. God has identified with human life in Jesus Christ, has chosen to be perceived as God who cares intimately for all human life and continues, through the people of God, to identify with human tragedy—including the

victims of flood and drought, cyclone and earthquake, natural disasters that crush human hopes, livelihood and lives, tragedies that have and will continue to occur, unluckily and indiscriminately to people.\* For Christians to claim they are anything but unlucky and indiscriminate contingencies of nature is to turn God into a truly capricious god with volatile emotions, who either meddles with the contingencies of nature with devastating consequences or doesn't care if they happen. Both possibilities were revoked in Jesus Christ.

—Stephen Curkpatrick

\*I have heard some Christians callously assert, "If people are stupid enough to live in flood-, cyclone- or drought-prone areas, it's their own fault if they experience natural disaster." However, this overlooks the fact that economic marginalisation, especially in the emerging world—which we are implicated in sustaining—has given such people no choice but to live in volatile regions. This is a classic case of blaming the victims for their tragedy.

—SC

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## A Church ABC

**H**amilton Hill is situated 10 km south of Fremantle in WA. The church there draws people from a wide residential area that includes many socioeconomic groupings. The church was established 21 years ago by the Fremantle church.

Shop is open from 10 am to 2 pm on Thursdays and 10 am to 12 noon on Saturdays. It is staffed by people from the church, and has been an important source of community contact, funds for the church and giving to Christian welfare.

to the church. First, that a pastoral care team be set up whose priority would be developing a caring strategy for all the people of the community. Secondly, that planning for worship be strengthened by having the worship leader, president, minister and musician(s)

is Bill Wilson. Bill came from Adelaide and trained at the College of the Bible in Victoria. He is married to Lyn and they have three children. Bill's first ministry was at Morawa, WA, and he has now begun his second five-year term at Hamilton Hill.



## Focus on Hamilton Hill

A tall brick building is situated at the rear of its block of land. It was planned as a multipurpose hall and a chapel that was to have been located in front has never been built. A shed built a dozen years ago is used since as an opportunity shop.

The Hamilton Hill church has its Sunday services at 10 am, and about 50 to 55 attend. During the week there are home groups and a kids club and a youth group meets fortnightly. Outside groups also use the premises, Weightwatchers and a craft group.

The Friendly Opportunity

This year the Hamilton Hill church has been seriously studying Dr Kennon Callahan to make their church more effective. Early in the year a weekend seminar was held to look at Callahan's *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church*. Six people were then elected to a planning committee, which met more for more than 16 weeks on Saturday mornings. The church also invited John Bond to speak on Biblical principles and church growth and had a seminar with Lifestyle Evangelism on building friendships with people.

Arising out of all this three main areas were recommended

meet to plan the next Sunday's service and by looking at the way worship is conducted to develop it further, especially the music. Thirdly, an area identified both by the study of the Callahan material and by John Bond, that a deeper focus be made on youth. There is a huge potential in this area. There is a large (1,000 students) high school nearby, with a chaplain, and many primary schools. It may be that the church has to step out in faith and employ a youth pastor. The recommendations were accepted at a recent church meeting.

The minister at Hamilton Hill

Hamilton Hill is looking forward positively to the future. An immediate occasion for joy is a celebration of the 100th birthday of the church's oldest member, John Vaughan, at the church on 11 October.

The church is keen to build up its identity in the community. Physically, the church needs to be more visible, so some building and signs are required. Then they are going to build on their strengths, developing the work of the opportunity shop, and their work with the elderly in the area, to further meet the needs of their community.

## Growing Spiritually

**I** am encouraged as I read the gospels by the patience Jesus had with his disciples who, in common with most of us, were slow learners of some things.

I'm a slow learner, particularly of lessons in areas where I would really like to do my own thing. Past experience tells me I am wrong but I persist. Jesus very gently and patiently deals with me and brings me to the point where, at last, I begin to listen to him.

At other times I feel there are lessons I have forgotten. Lessons that have some bearing on a situation I am in. He brings them to mind as I seek him in prayer.

There are many lessons I learnt in Papua New Guinea that I find difficult to put into

## Are You a Slow Learner?

*Rosalie Rofe*

practice here in Australia. So often I saw God provide for my own and other people's needs. I saw him work in marvellous ways during the days of the revival. Why then in the concrete jungle in which I now minister do these things seem so distant and inapplicable? Sometimes I tie myself in knots trying to work this out and then I think, "Rosalie, you fool. God taught you many lessons about his provision and the way he

works. You didn't leave him in PNG. He's right here. He hasn't changed. Have you?" I realise then that I need to be on guard against the enemy who would deceive me into thinking those lessons were only for PNG and not for Australia.

I am glad the gospels record things that Jesus said that show his exasperation at the disciples' lack of understanding. How frustrated he must have been at times with those twelve

specially chosen men! Sometimes I feel frustrated by lack of growth in myself and others. Sometimes I feel sad that God's people don't take hold of his promises and act on them as, I believe, he wants us to. Sometimes I'd like to give up—but I don't because in Jesus I see an example of patient love, caring and concern for others and I know he wants me to be like that too. I see in him someone who demands my loyalty and obedience because he is my Lord and Saviour. I thank him for his patience in perfecting this particular saint, little by little because she's a very slow learner.

• *Rosalie Rofe is the associate minister at the Chatswood, NSW, church.*

## 1994

### *International Year of the Family*

The United Nations designates each year as one in which countries and organisations focus on one particular issue. Hence 1993 has been designated as **International Year of Indigenous People**. 1994 will be the **International Year of the Family**.

A monitoring and co-ordinating committee gathered to assist Australian churches respond creatively and responsibly to this year held a briefing

recently. The session shared some of the issues that the Christian church should be considering during 1994, along with the 10 subthemes that the UN has already outlined.

Dr Peter McDonald, the Acting Director of the Australian Institute of Family Studies, asked for a definition of "family". Is this just the nuclear unit or does it include wider biological relations? Did a family include those linked by relationship, emotional closeness, a sense of obligation or even ceremony? The definition of family will greatly influence how the church organi-

tionally and at a local level reacts to and helps different people.

Interestingly in all surveys done in Australia the family is ranked number one as the most important influence on peoples' lives.

Other major issues that need to be considered include unemployment, workers with family responsibilities, the workplace, extended families, the prolonged dependency of young people and of older family members and the growth of sequential families and their effects on children. All these issues should be faced by the

church now—not just in 1994.

As the committee commented: "The IYF in 1994 offers us a fine opportunity to help Christians become more aware of needs, hurts, possibilities, changes and trends in Australian families.

"The year also offers us the opportunity to comment helpfully from a Christian perspective and to focus on values which may be suggested by our faith."

Any comments by readers on our approach as Churches of Christ to this year would be appreciated.

—Chris Ambrose

## Mission Minded

Rather surprisingly the word "missionary" as such is nowhere to be found in our English Bible. The word "missionary" comes from a Latin word that means "to send", which in turn comes from a Greek word that means "to send" in the sense of sending an envoy on a special commission. The Greek word implies that there is an authority beyond the sent one. There is a sender beyond the messenger. The messenger himself is not the authority, he simply represents an authority.

By simplest definition then, a missionary is a sent one, a messenger or an envoy who is sent forth on a special mission. A missionary is not so much one who goes forth, it is one who is sent forth.

In Acts 13 we read the very stirring account of how the first overseas Christian missionaries were sent forth. They were selected by the Holy Spirit, they were set apart by the church and then they were sent forth by the Holy Spirit and the church in co-operation and fellowship! The ultimate sender of course was the Holy Spirit. But it is an important scriptural principle that the Holy Spirit never ever works in isolation to the church.

The Holy Spirit works through the church. The Holy

# Who Sends the Missionary?

Allan Webb

Spirit sends through the church. The Holy Spirit uses the church as his sending agent. There is a very real sense in which the whole church was involved in the sending forth of those first missionaries.

The Holy Spirit said to the church, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." And the response from the church was "that after they had fasted and prayed they placed their hands upon them and they sent them forth". The call did not come initially to the missionaries, it came to the church. The response did not come initially from the missionaries, it came from the church. The whole church was involved in the sending forth of the first missionaries. A missionary then is not so much one who goes forth but one who is sent forth.

This concept of a missionary being a "sent one" calls into question the whole current-day procedure of a missionary "volunteering" for service. The New

Testament knows nothing of the volunteer approach to missionary service. Missionaries are not volunteers, they are conscripts.

They do not volunteer on the basis of some highly subjective sense of call, they are sent on the basis of congregational choice.

On the basis of call, an individual may express willingness to go but ultimately it is the congregation as a whole who must determine the worthiness of the person to go. And so it is not really up to an individual to volunteer, it is up to the whole congregation to conscript and to send.

One does not select the Australian cricket team simply by calling for volunteers. Nor does one select an overseas diplomat or ambassador by calling for volunteers. A church does not select her elders or deacons or pastors by calling for volunteers. Why then should we be any less selective in the calling and sending of prospective missionary candidates?

One of the most important ministries that any local church can exercise is to constantly pray over her congregation to determine who may be fitted for missionary service. If the local church is involved in the selection process then the local church will also be involved in the support of those whom she is instrumental in sending forth.

Who sends the missionary? The ultimate sender of course is the Holy Spirit. But the Holy Spirit works through the church. The Holy Spirit sends through the church. It is the church that sends.

A missionary is not so much one who goes forth but one who is sent forth, not so much one who is sent to, but one who is sent by. In God's economy there is no real difference between a goer and a sender. Both are strategically significant. A sender is not a washed-out missionary or a goer who never makes it. A sender is one who is committed to responsibly supporting those whom God has called. The whole church is to be the sender.

• *This is the final in the series from the Overseas Mission Board on how the local church can become mission minded. Allan Webb is the minister at the Swanston Street, Melbourne, Vic, church.*

## Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

### Barnett, Roy William

(13.8.92) Roy Barnett, Elder Emeritus, Cheltenham, Vic, church, passed away suddenly after a short period of ill health. He was a man deeply loved and respected by all who knew him, especially by his fellow church members. A member for more than 40 years at Cheltenham, he was involved in every aspect of the church's life. Born at Rainbow, he joined the Baptist church in Stawell. He became associated with Churches of Christ at Ballarat through his first wife, Ercil. He moved to Melbourne during the war years to train as a toolmaker and became Sunday school superintendent at Northcote church before moving to Highett and linking with Cheltenham. He worked for Draffin Bros for 30 years. After Ercil's death he married close family friend Vi White 12.9.91. Sympathy and love is expressed to Vi, Roy's five children Yvonne, Elwyn, Margaret, Lorraine and David, and their families, along with Vi's family and grandchildren. A man of deep faith and integrity.

—Gerald Rose

### Drayton, Robert Richard

(13.9.92) Bob died following a long illness that confined him to his home. Bob was converted and baptised in 1948, beginning a life of service for Christ and the church. He spent time in the RAAF during WWII and was a design draftsman at the Ford Motor Co, Geelong, and at Detroit, USA. Bob married June Kirwood and both gave strong active service at the La Trobe Terrace, Geelong, church. They had a daughter Robyn, son-in-law Stephen and two grandchildren, Michael and Cassie. In 1989, three years after June died, Bob married Shirley Moore of the US. When Bob's illness became apparent Shirley lovingly and devotedly cared for him until his home call. During Bob's retirement he gave himself unstintingly to community service through Meals on Wheels, and was a keen traveller. A large overflow service of thanksgiving was held at the La Trobe Terrace church, led by Joe Mackenzie, ably assisted by Laurie Barker and Bert Stevens. Bob was a Christian gentleman whose integrity was manifest in all walks of life.

—CJM

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Raisbeck, Footscray, Vic

## Marriages

•Lorraine Rodger to Darren Tiffett, Maidstone, Vic •Angela Brooks to Justin Rowley, Croydon, SA •Sharyn Cook to David Batt, Bundaberg, Qld •Lisa Northey to Paul Cramp, Townsville, Qld •Libby Reid to Stewart Brunt, Yarrowonga, Vic •Naomi Durdin to Graham Gould, South Perth, WA •Jo-Anne Spurr to Scott Dubbeld, Michelle Butters to Richard Hall, Launceston, Tas

## Deaths

•Ross Kemp, Modbury, SA •Marg Buchbach (nee Chilcott),

Bundaberg, Qld •Moya Finch, Townsville, Qld •Patricia Borella, Peel St, Ballarat, Vic •Netta Twentyman, Northcote, Vic •Robert Drayton, LaTrobe Terr, Geelong, Vic

Mundaring, WA 6073. Phone (09) 295 1774.

Condron: Warren (Chaplain Mornington Secondary College)—1 Parkhurst Street, Mornington, Vic 3931. Phone (059) 75 0686.

Frankston: Associate Minister—Russell Croxford, 13 Jane Court, Langwarrin, Vic 3910. Phone (03) 789 5833.

Wollongong: Associate Minister—A.J. (Allan) Anderson, Wollongong Church of Christ, O'Briens Road, Figtree, NSW 2525. Phone (042) 26 5022. Fax (042) 28 3828.

## Changes

Overseas Mission Board: 180A Gray Street, Adelaide, SA 5000. Phone (08) 212 4446. Fax (08) 212 6388.

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Expressions of interest should address the ways your talents, experience and giftedness will enable you to encompass and extend this vision for young people in Blackwood.

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Chairman of Elders  
Church of Christ  
Blackwood  
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South Australia 5051

Initial telephone enquiries to Mrs Lorraine Lewis on (08) 278 8666.

## Church News

### SA

**MODBURY (Dean Hamilton)** Church farewell to Richard, Linda, Melissa Tolosi for YWAM term to Amsterdam ... Church anniversary: choral group gave support. About 100 at lunch. Viewed historic photos, forward church plans presented ... On show—go cart made by local youth led by Don Perry, Steve Wright ... Church sorrowed by passing of Ross Kemp ... Seven weeks Ephesians studies. Three new

groups met making seven in all. **VICTOR HARBOR (Don Wesley)** With six of seven units sold, church is looking to purchase property next door as church office ... Christian Endeavourers performed at evening service ... 146 enjoyed luncheons in members' homes ... 40+ shared in family camp at Pt Sturt. Jim Keatch led studies on "Winning the Race" while Brian Burbridge & helpers supervised children ... 53 Friendship Centre volunteers attended craft workshop.

**CROYDON (Keith Miller)** Individual letters to the Prime Minister have been sent seeking legislation to prevent the production & sale of pornographic material ... Church open on selected weekdays for personal prayer ... An outreach service for youth planned for 10 October following success of free barbecue for local community ... Keith Miller begins talks to Croydon High School students Wednesday lunchtimes.

**DULWICH-ROSE PARK (R. Brown, R. Williams)** Keith & Jane Alvey from Sussex, UK, celebrated silver anniversary in worship ... Chapel closed for outreach service in hall with puppets, drama & band ... Roger Brown appointed Girls' Brigade State Chaplain ... Neil Bright cheered after giving worship report to church meeting ... Preparing for Grand Prix outreach service 8 Nov ... Kid's Club very rewarding & donated \$500 to outreach causes.

**BERRI (John Schulze)** Sunday School presentation day ... Busy Fingers craft ... Bible studies, KYB ... Church AGM. Three ladies nominated board ... St Catherine Homes replaced manse ... New footpath front of homes & church ... Youth camp looking great ... Treasure market stall raised \$304 ... Riverland Conference held Kingston. Berri provided item. Fellowship service & tea ... CWF meeting & afternoon tea Fernhaven Gardens ... Purchased piano keyboard ... Former members returning ... Attended Barmera anniversary. State President speaker.

### Qld

**BUNDABERG (Alan Leane)** Minister diagnosed suffering chronic blood disorder, considered mild. No treatment this stage ... Missionary Convention rewarding. \$600 channelled COCOA—Somalia ... Nola Reimers transferred from Rockhampton ... Gordon Johnson, youth evangelist, held interest. Ex-

cellent slides Israel ... Bible School anniversary arranged Super Bob Bignill. Excellently presented ... Dr Adrian Nowitzke guest speaker ... Wilson Aitken (89) oldest father Father's Day celebration, Shane Foley youngest ... Randy Edwards speaker KCC day.

**TOWNSVILLE (Greg Muller, Debbi Fulford)** Births—Samuel Cameron to Cameron & Tina Beh, Jessica Jade to Troy & Ingrid Harris ... More houses have been obtained for our community care program ... Our church purpose, "To do the will of God in making disciples who will minister as Christ did in the power of the Holy Spirit in order to reproduce other disciples," reaffirmed at AGM.

### NSW

**MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins)** 5 pm winter services followed by soup & sandwiches excellent. Special guests Chas Osborne (WEC), Howard Green (Tahlee Bible College), Ross Wakely (Lifestyle Evangelism), Rev John Anderson (author *Cry of the Innocent*) ... Joined with two other churches to help YFC present "Aussies Alive" program for Year 10 on school day. Well received.

**THORNLEIGH (F. Elliott, S. Wesley)** Recent special prayer focus was a call to prayer & fasting for evangelism for the lost & future location. Special feature on 13 September was the climax of prayer & fasting at 3 pm, being a combined service of the morning & evening congregations ... Prayer meetings are held now each Sunday morning from 6 to 7.30.

### Tas

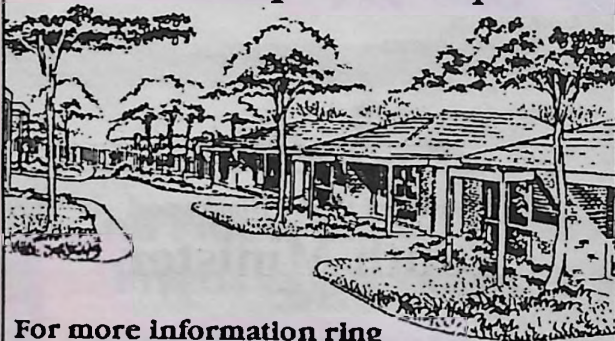
**LAUNCESTON (R. Foster, C. Spaulding, D. Tobler)** Annual Sportsmanship award in Baptist Basketball Association given to one of our women's teams for second consecutive year ... Special services for Faith Promise Sunday on 20 Sept ... 50 attended Asian buffet meal on 20 Sept to aid the bus ministry.

### Vic

**DAWSON ST, BALLARAT (Stephen Templeton, Tracey Wickham)** Father's Day (6 September), Regent Multiplex Theatre, "Bring a Dad!" combined 9.30 & 11 am family service. 320 attended. Offering taken for Somalia \$1,191 ... 20 to attend Spring Conference at Wollongong 17-19 October "Communicating the Gospel in the Nineties" ... Gospel service



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# Church News

13 September featuring "Labyrinth", musical group from Melbourne, 114 attended ... Current active membership 166. 28 baptisms 1992.

**MAIDSTONE (Wes Rodgers)** Friendship Club craft afternoon raised \$150 ... AGM held. Officers elected—elder Arthur Lewis, deacons Ilma Boettcher & Faye Freiberg ... Several members & friends sick, some hospitalised, most are improving ... Sausage sizzle held after Lorraine Rodger & Darren Tiffett's marriage. Church shared afternoon tea with them ... On children's special day Mrs Knell, CCES, spoke, followed by lunch & Kid's Korner program.

**YARRAWONGA (B. Keddie)** All rejoiced in celebrating the wedding of Libby Reid & Stewart Brunt ... Various fellowship times enjoyed together ... FM offering was \$590 ... Ken Clinton was anniversary guest speaker. Thank offering was \$1,026 ... Special evening service & tea were combined once ... In turn most have contributed to a five-minute segment, "My Choice", on Sunday nights.

**MITCHAM (Ron Chapman, Jim Wright)** Board retreats held quarterly ... Growing number joining three weekly study groups ... 507 letters mailed to churches throughout Australia to mobilise joint action against pornography ... Progressive dinner proceeds to Somalia appeal ... Training sessions in pastoral counselling ... Visiting speakers Mark Butler, Dr Ronald

Graham (USA) ... Stewardship program commenced involving time, money, talents, culminating in commitment ... Youth leadership training weekend to develop leadership skills.

**PEEL ST, BALLARAT (Wayne Allen)** Church increasing in numbers since start of ministry this year ... Church adapting well to changes with young adults taking part ... Church looking forward to 1993 with forward planning & greater participation ... Successful men's dinner—Greg Humphreys, Executive Director "Y" Group ... Live & Learn (craft) successful Blumes fashions net profit \$285 handed to church ... Monthly church luncheons & fellowship proving a great success.

**MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (G. Illingworth, Rick Wright)** 67th anniversary made special. Chris Sharpe & Allan Niven speaker at both services & inducted Rick Wright as associate pastor ... Welcomed into membership Peter & Fiona Robertson, Nick Hutton, Steve Sobey, Steven Hills ... YAG (young adult group) meet weekly Lucas home ... Started 12-16-year-old youth group with two couples as leaders ... 90th birthday celebrations for Ethel Jakobi of Mano & Southport.

**NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn)** Special service of commitment conducted by minister for the church board ... Two new deacons Pat Gloyas & Pam McKee ... CWF had Margaret Crossman, special sister

with NET, as the speaker, illustrated with slides ... Pastor Neville Lilley (AEF) speaker at Third Sunday service at 5 pm ... Ill health & operations keeping minister busy with pastoral visiting.

**LA TROBE TERR, GEELONG (Dr C.J. Mackenzie)** Laurie & Ruth Barker farewelled & suitably thanked for their five-month ministry ... Guest speakers have been John Fox of Gideon's International & church elder Allen Carr ... Over 200 packed chapel for funeral of Bob Drayton ... Mackenzies welcomed back after five months holiday ... Youth group raised over \$600 for Bibles during 24-hour bike-a-thon ... Lynette Leach conducted training class for Sunday school teachers.

**FOOTSCRAY (Dan Lundgren)** Minister's resignation received at AGM applicable from 13 March. Lundgrens returning to USA ... Development strategy "Towards 2000" being adopted ... Most travellers have returned, two having attended World Convention ... CWF held successful fundraising luncheon ... Explorers/Good Companions continuing ... Fete planned for November ... Em Waters settling in to Gwennap Hostel ... Mid-week Bible study group using Serendipity material "Facing the Issues".

## WA

**NAREMBEEN (Phil Ballard)** New Tribes Mission choir successful night. Well received at school ...

Quiz night well attended ... Ross & Donna Nancarrow conducted meetings for weekend on evangelism ... RI at school receiving good response. Kids Club well attended ... Bush service & barbecue lunch held Ken & Amy Williamson's farm instead of Wheatbelt Fifth Sunday service, May ... Sadly Phil & Meredith Ballard leaving ministry due to Meredith's health. They are staying in Narembeen, Phil employed as builder/carpenter for shire.

**SCARBOROUGH (Nigel Merrick, Raye & Mike Halseby)** A Marriage Enrichment romantic dessert evening was led by Rob & Joyce Plumb ... Michelle Randall returned to Lincoln Christian College, USA ... Members participated in anti-abortion Life Chain ... Wendy Fraser of CEF in Uganda joins our missionary family ... Special offering taken for Somalia ... Nigel bringing great sermons on Hebrews ... Sarah Randall continues chemotherapy ... Brad & Judy Parker preparing for service in Indonesia.

**SOUTH PERTH (David Stanford)** The church has been heavily involved in the ministry of Kel Willis from NSW. Sessions held on pastoral care, grief, conflict, leadership counselling. CWF held a morning tea inviting other groups. Subject "Women in the Church". Open House arranged special gathering. Topic "Retirement". Young people held a question evening ... Tania Oldenberg left for Queensland ... Eight welcomed into the church.



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Melbourne, 5-11 September 1993

"Christ: The Timeless Resource"

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