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Miss Bently at home—Norseman



Early baptism—Norseman

Girls at Carnarvon, 1948



Offering for Aborigines Work
15 March 1992



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Comment

Recession: Crisis or Opportunity?

Owen Clark

We are constantly being bombarded with the recession: the disappointment, the despair, the fear, the political hype, the drama in the media, the horror stories, the suicides, the bankruptcies. The depressed atmosphere often hangs like smog over the city. However, I never cease to be amazed at the ingenuity and creativity of some people.

On a cold Melbourne day, a number of people were queued at Port Melbourne for an opportunity to see inside a submarine. Along came an enterprising person with his specially designed cart in which were warm drinks and food, which he sold to those who were waiting. When supplies ran low, he replenished them from a parked van. One organisation in Box Hill invited the unemployed to a group to search for ways of assisting them. Few attended. A number said they were unable to come because they were too busy studying and attending courses.

Freedom

While some bounce from crisis to crisis, others are establishing a base from which life will go on and be the richer. A crisis for one person is seized as a life-giving opportunity by others.

Someone who was retrenched said, "While I had work, I was tied down every day: now I am retrenched, I am freed to think about a lot more possibilities for my life. I have to learn to cope with the freedom."

I understand there are more people offering to do voluntary work at the present time. In a recent copy of the *Melbourne Age*, it stated that the number of people enrolling for woodwork courses increased dramatically.

In some companies where retrenchments are expected, a number of people aren't waiting around miserably for the axe to fall.

They have made very careful plans that will be in place if the inevitable happens. They recognise the difficulties they will face, but they feel they have more of a sense of control over their own destinies, and as a result they have a different attitude to their work.

The recession helps people to think. It challenges at a basic level of our lives. We ask questions of who and what we can trust. Values and things we trust in are

tested and we can see those values that aren't good enough or strong enough to support us through life's difficult times.

Vision

It is very easy to give the responsibility of our lives to others: the government, the company, the economy, the world situation. While the economy around us does need changing, we do ourselves a disservice if we take on a poor victim position that puts it all on government policies or recession mentality. If enough of us have a vision and work hard, things can be changed.

Difficult times challenge us to believe in ourselves and our own resources and to develop them. We could come to see that to work is a privilege, and inactivity and aimlessness is demoralising and deadening, no matter what the economic situation. We are not just earning a pay packet. We are building the sort of world we would like to live in. The time of recession is an opportune time to start.

We are all in this difficulty together. The challenge comes to us to stick together and help each other. True, there is greater competition for less business but does that mean we forget we need each other? If we all encourage each other, then we have the atmosphere that will see us through the recession and will be the basis for a better community and world.

Recession can mean that we are involved in a vital process of change. People and businesses are pressured to change. We often don't manage change well. Some suicide rather than change. The challenge is to be prepared to change and live with something different, and yet maintain a belief that even though we may lose many things we had in the past, we are still OK, albeit on a different level.

This recession hurts, but if we can believe in ourselves, plan well, use all the resources at our disposal, work together on the vision of a better community, and open ourselves to new possibilities, we could look back on this recession not just as "the recession we had to have" but the opportunity we were waiting for.

How do you see the recession? As a crisis—or an opportunity?

• Owen Clark, a chaplain with the Box Hill Chaplaincy project, wrote this article for their newsletter.

Mountain Odyssey

18 hikers venture deep into the heart of "The Man From Snowy River" country

"We're not lost—we're just geographically misplaced," declared our brave and fearless leader. We were all instantly consoled of course—after all, who would doubt the word of a man wearing shorts over his tracksuit pants and sporting a cap with the words, "I'm their leader—which way did they go?" printed on it? Certainly not us. So we settled down to lunch by the side of the road, confident that we would soon be geographically replaced. And as it turned out, our faith was well-founded—the hut we were seeking was a mere 250 metres up the hill!

Such were the joys of the latest Vic-Tas Churches of Christ Adventure Committee Trek, which took place 4-11 January through the Wonnangatta-Moroka National Park. The 18 intrepid hikers spent the week combating the great dangers of wild risky river crossings, plagues of leeches, Antarctic weather conditions (the wet-



• Picture postcard scenery on the adventure trek in the high country

test January on record) and, the most fearful of all, undercooked apple dumplings.

We were sustained along the way by heart-warming and creative renditions of the songs "The Ants Go Marching 5,358,062 by 5,358,062" and "Mr Clickety Cane". And we lived in a state of perpetual hope that the cloud might lift and allow us to actually see the supposedly spectacular views around us. On the few occasions when the sun was momentarily sighted, the catch-cry could be heard: "There's the sun! Quick, break out the 15 plus!" And, at

last, on the final Saturday, the clouds completely dispersed and we were treated to 360 degrees of picture-postcard scenery—an endless vista of mountains beyond mountains. What a backdrop for a communion service! This was the country in which *The Man from Snowy River* was filmed, and it was more stunning in real life than any cinematographic techniques could make it.

The rewards of the trek, however, extended far beyond the sights we saw and the sense of achievement at the end of each

day. For most of us, the most memorable aspect was the fellowship, both within the group (which included people aged between 14 and 65) and with other travellers encountered along the way. What with Stewie's puns and the Twining brothers' jokes (?), there was never a dull moment. If you're ever up on Mount Speculation and you hear a distant echo of laughter it's just your deranged imagination, so take two Panadol and go to bed. But don't miss the next Adventure Committee activity!

—Leanne Handasyde

Kenmore Graduation

Four students complete studies

On 15 November over 200 gathered at the Baptist City Taber-

nacle for the annual Graduation Service of Kenmore Chris-



• Stephanie Jarvis, Pam Hine, Gary Hine and Tony Gibson

tian College. Four students graduated on this occasion.

Tony Gibson graduated with a four-year Diploma of Ministry and will commence as full-time youth minister with the Nambour, Qld, church.

Stephanie Jarvis also graduated with the four-year Diploma of Ministry.

Gary and Pam Hine each graduated with a one-year certificate, with a particular specialisation in mission. They have been appointed to serve in PNG and took up their new work in January.

Prizes presented were: Harlaxton Church Prize for Best Student in First Year Greek—Neil O'Hare, Harlaxton Church Prize for Best Diploma Student in New Testament (English)—Bill Moore, A. & W. Finger Scholarship (non-exit

student) for college life, academic achievement and human relationships—Craig Bossie, Christian Women's Fellowship Prize for Best Diploma Lady Student—Stephanie Jarvis, Historical Committee Prize for best profile of a missionary—Pam Hine, High Road Australia Leadership Prize—Geoff Greenaway, College Dux—Stephanie Jarvis.

The congregation was encouraged by the ministry of the college choir, under the leadership of John and Berneice Hicks, and by the message, "The Marks of Ministry", brought by Maurie Pieper, founding secretary of the college board.

The service was followed by a supper, at which a special graduation cake bearing the graduates' names was cut.

Youth Strategy

Youth Vision launched in Western Australia

Over the past 12 months, the Youth Ministry Committee in WA, under the leadership of Dr Neale Fong, has been developing a strategic plan to guide ministry to young people in Western Australian churches into the year 2000.



On 22 November, 140 ministers, church leaders and interested people gathered for a dinner at the Warwick Leisure Centre to hear the unveiling of the Youth Vision strategy. Youth ministry in WA will take on the name of its counterpart in Victoria. The following morning, 70 youth leaders met for a breakfast where the strategy and the calendar for 1992 were introduced. On the following Sunday, presentations were made in church services introducing Youth Vision to all members throughout the state. Following the momentum gained over this weekend, the enthusiasm and support for ministry to young people through WA churches has been very exciting.

The overall direction for future ministry to young people in Western Australia is reflected in its mission statement: "Youth Vision exists to impart vision and direction for our churches in ministry to young people and to provide resources to see that happen. In co-operation with the local church, we accept the challenge of equipping, nurturing and supporting leaders to minister to young people."

Youth Vision (WA) will see a new double emphasis in ministering to young people. The first will be the priority of seeing the local church motivated, equipped and supported in its ministry to young people. The second emphasis will be the development of current and

future leaders, which will see not only immediate value in ministry to young people, but also long-term investment in building leaders for future ministry in the Kingdom.

Youth Vision strategy will revolve around five priority areas: leadership development and training, local church consultation and development, statewide events, network of ministers to youth, support and administrative network.

Central to the strategy is Youth Vision enlisting the support of churches' leadership in recognising the need for a whole-church approach to youth ministry. As part of this, church leaders will be involved in intentionally targeting potential leaders, who will be nurtured and equipped for ministry.

As part of the leadership development strategy, a Foundations for Youth Ministry training course will begin in March, using an experienced faculty of youth ministers. A Mentor Scheme is also being organised, which will call upon the resources of senior and mature members within the churches to provide an intentional mentoring relationship to enhance overall development of each of the young leaders.

A consultation process modelled along the lines of those already being used in the Victorian churches is being piloted at the Nollamara church and again will emphasise a long-term commitment to seeing effective youth ministry occur in the local church. Youth Vision will also seek to recruit youth pastors to join the growing profile youth ministry is receiving in WA.

Launceston Camp

Challenged and refreshed after a very full weekend

The November long weekend again and 120 from babies to grandparents made their way to Camp Clayton, Ulverstone, Tas, for the annual Launceston, Tas, church family camp.

The studies were led by Paul Burnham, a former minister of the Ulverstone church and currently the minister of the North Balwyn, Vic, church. Paul is also chaplain of the Melbourne Football Club and a police chaplain.

The studies were "In Re-creation" (fun and fellowship), "In Re-defining Our Vision" (possibility thinking—Moses), "In Re-newal" (prayer and worship—Moses and Elisha), "In Restoration" (recharging old batteries—Elisha), "In Repentance" (Paul's journey inward and outward) and "In Revitalising Faith" (God will if you can).

While the parents were attending the study and discussion sessions, the children were being catered for within their different age groups doing their own studies and activities on the theme. The children presented their achievements to the adults at the end of camp and as a result three murals are now hanging in the church.

The culmination of the weekend was a communion service on the Sunday night after the children had gone to bed. At the end of the service, Paul gave his testimony and several people made dedications and re-dedications and some came for prayer in a very special time of worship.

Saturday afternoon we all met at the Ulverstone beach for a beach regatta run by Sharon and Darryl Tobler. The afternoon involved aerobics,

games, races and a sandcastle-building competition.

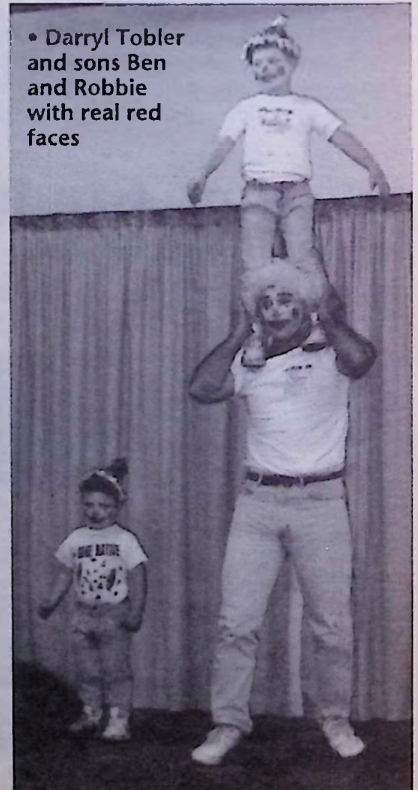
After tea Saturday night we had a "Red Faces" in which many people took part. This made the evening one full of fun and laughter.

Sunday afternoon we all broke up into groups for the different electives such as patchwork Christmas decorations, card-making, glass etching and sharing by Paul on witnessing to a sporting community.

Just before tea Sunday night, we all broke up into family groups for a scavenger hunt for 13 fluoro-coloured golf balls that had been hidden around the camp grounds.

Following the last study and discussion group session on Monday morning, it was time to pack up, clean the units, say goodbye and return home, tired but challenged and refreshed from a very full weekend.

—Julie Powell



• Darryl Tobler and sons Ben and Robbie with real red faces

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People

Four Times Two Equals Many

Two nearby churches in Sydney's west with four-generation families



• Jean Dwyer, Ethel Wladysiuk and Stephen and Meri Wladysiuk with daughters Rena and Kristy

Jean Dwyer and her daughter Ethel Wladysiuk have been in the Fairfield, NSW, church for most of its existence, joining during and just after the Hinrichsen Mission of 1944 respectively.

A chapel was built in a day in Ware Street by almost 100 men. A National bank now stands on the property, as the building was moved to Nelson Street and is used as a hall for the church.

Ethel is the church organist and minute secretary. Stephen, her son, and his wife Meri take an active part in all sections of the church life.

Stephen has used his talents as an electrician and in caring for the property.

Bible Study groups have benefited by Stephen and Meri's leadership.

Jean still helps prepare and care for the communion articles and for over 45 years has supported and attended the CWF, and as secretary for over 10 years did a sterling job.

Jean, now 84, came out from Robert Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland, on the SS *Millineus*, arriving in Sydney on 28 January 1928, and still has an Irish accent, calling tennis shoes "mutton dummies".

Marj Kemple is a great-great-granddaughter of William Stimson, an early founder of the Church of Christ in the Fairfield area. The group first met in a house on Woodville Road (a bullock-cart track) and the area was called Bethany. It is surmised it was called Bethany because some of the early preachers went to Bethany, West Virginia, USA to train for the ministry.

When beautiful Cambridge House was built near Fairfield station in the 1870s by W. Stimson many early converts were baptised in a pond in the garden fed from a short creek that ran into Prospect Creek—a wide river even today. Meetings were held in Cambridge House for several years. A block of land was given in Lidcombe

and a chapel built. Most of the Stimson grandchildren remained in Fairfield—Canley Vale area on farms, orchards, vineyards and dairies and their grandchildren today are still here.

Marj has been treasurer and organist of the Canley Heights, NSW, church for 25 and 30 years respectively and is still treasurer of the CWF. She spends Saturday afternoons arranging church flowers. She was publicity officer for State CWF for several years. Her daughter Merilyn has been on the church board for 20 years, secretary for six years and actively involved in CWF for 15 years.

Merilyn's daughter Allison and son-in-law Michael, a school teacher, are in all church activities, especially Bible school work and leading a church band. Allison plays the flute.



• Michael Nott with daughter Eliza, Allison Nott, Merilyn James with grandson Jonathan, and Marj Kemple

Goolwa Farewells the Ritchie Family

Moving to the west

The Goolwa, SA, church farewell minister Graeme Ritchie and Anne, Paul, Stephen and Kathryn on 12 January. A barbecue lunch was held after the morning service, attended by people from all the churches in Goolwa, and from Victor Harbor, Strathalbyn and Milang.

Cathy Barr and Geoff Hogg were baptised during the communion service, and in December Graeme baptised his two teenage sons, Paul and Stephen,

also Gina Hunt and Jasmine Scott.

Anne and Graeme have both contributed so much to the work of the church, youth classes and the Goolwa community, working with enthusiasm and concern. Anne was also director of the combined churches' bookshop.

The love and prayers of the church go with them as they move to their new church, Busselton, WA.

—Fay Neighbour

Ortiz Preaching Tour

Itinerary now being organised

The Mackay, Qld, church wishes to organise a preaching tour of Australia by Juan Carlos Ortiz in 1993. The organisers wish to start to firm up the schedule and any churches or regions that would like to be included in the itinerary should contact Gabriel Babare, Mackay Church of

Christ, PO Box 37, Mackay 4740.

Juan Carlos Ortiz has written many very well accepted books on Christian discipleship. He communicates God's word in a prophetic and humorous way. Currently he is involved in the Hispanic ministry of the Crystal Cathedral.

Restoration Movement

Rejuvenation and renewal come out of the ruins

Following the fire that extensively damaged the chapel and destroyed the halls in March last year, the Boronia, Vic, church is now worshipping again in a restored chapel with new seating, carpets and lighting, a hearing loop and improved heating/cooling and acoustics.

It is anticipated that work will commence shortly on the rebuilding of the halls and other facilities.

Since returning "home" again, 20 people have been welcomed into membership and new people moving into the area are deciding to make the Boronia church their home.

Co-ministers Keith Milne and Andrew Henley have recently had their terms of ministry extended until 1998, each receiving an overwhelming endorsement (99%+) as they respond to God's call to lead the Boronia church into what may well be its most exciting phase of development and outreach. Both ministers enjoy the freedom that their mutual and equal ministry offers, and are encouraged by the commitment, enthusiasm and ability of so many others who share the leadership at Boronia.

Kennon Callahan's *12 Keys to an Effective Church* are being used as guidelines for future ministry and development.



• Andrew Henley and Keith Milne in the ruins

Twilight Carols

Berwick's carols attract thousands

Over 12,000 people enjoyed the traditional Carols by Twilight on Christmas Eve on the Civic Centre lawns in Narre Warren, Vic. The carols are organised by the Berwick City Council and have had the active support and participation of the Berwick Regional church since their inception in 1976.

With candles glittering in the dark, and the bright pink sunset matching the backdrops depicting the ancient town of Bethlehem, the huge crowd were treated to a great night of entertainment and reflection. Guest singers for the night were Merelyn Watson, Victoria's answer to Amy Grant, and members of the group "Invoice", The sixty singers of the Maroondah Singers thrilled everyone with the "Hallelujah Chorus", accompanied by the Dandenong City Band, who also provided the music for all the carols. Malcolm Gray was compere once again. Malcolm

is well known in the area for the radio programs he presents on behalf of the Berwick church for local radio station 3SER at Fountain Gate.

The singing was led by local identity John Marshall, musical director and producer of the carols, who has worked with carols organiser Cr Bob Wilson, since 1976.

A live dramatisation of the Christmas story, put on by the Berwick church, is a highlight of the carols. The sight of the wise men arriving on camels always provides a spectacular sight. Tim Hanna, minister at Berwick, gave a short message.

Councillor Wilson said he was pleased with the tremendous response from the community. He thanked the many volunteers and the businesses who sponsor the event. He also noted the unseen work put in by Kerrie Boyd and Len Davis and many others from the church.

Region Closes

Brunswick, Coburg and Pascoe Vale go it alone

The Brunswick and Coburg Regional church, Vic, which has been operating as a regional church for many years, was officially disbanded on 31 December 1991. This does not mean that there are no longer Churches of Christ in the two cities. The three existing congregations (Brunswick, Coburg and Pascoe Vale) are all still in existence and are now looking at witnessing to their area in the most suitable manner.

Louis Clun, who was ministering full-time within the region, will commence a full-time ministry with the Maryborough and St Arnaud, Vic, churches in March. Vic Quayle is now conducting a part-time ministry with the Brunswick church.

The Brunswick church is conducting discussions with the Swanston St church on closer

co-operation.

Don Milne has commenced a part-time lay ministry with the Coburg church.

The Pascoe Vale church is now meeting at 10 am on the first Sunday of the month. On other Sundays they are holding a Bible study at 4.30 pm followed by a service at 5 pm. James Pearce, minister of the Strathmore church, is undertaking pastoral oversight and worship leadership.

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Youth Ministry Appointment

Paul Creasy new field director at Vic-Tas DMED



• Paul Creasy

Paul Creasy has accepted a part-time appointment as the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development field director for youth

ministry in 1992. He succeeds Andrew Ball, who has moved to Berwick church. Paul's appointment has been negotiated by the Department with the Gardiner church.

Paul has a background in youth services through 10 years work with Fusion, involvement in street theatre, coffee shop ministry and outreach to non-churched youth.

Paul has also worked professionally in youth welfare services with disadvantaged youth and for a time was a municipal consultant and advisor in youth and family program planning.

Paul will be available to work with churches and youth leaders and may be contacted through the department office.

Geoff Crossman

Appreciation of a chaplain

At the meeting of the Federal United Churches Chaplaincy Board on 10 December a minute of appreciation was approved to mark the final meeting with the board of Geoff Crossman, who has retired as chairman.

Geoff has been a member of the board since 14 March 1967 and he became its chairman and a member of the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services on 22 July 1985.

Geoff was commissioned as a RAAF chaplain (4th class) in April 1953 and saw service at RAAF Base Richmond. He became a full-time chaplain, serving at RAAF Base Laverton and

No 1 Stores Depot Tottenham, Vic. In October 1962 he was appointed at the Australian Regular Army as a chaplain and posted to the 1st Armoured Regiment, Puckapunyal.

Recalled to the RAAF, he was appointed Principal Air Chaplain for Other Protestant Denominations with the rank of Air Commodore in January 1967. He was appointed secretary of the Board of Chaplains and his final posting was Command Chaplain—Headquarters Support Command from 1983 until his retirement in June 1985.

In the Queen's Birthday Honours of 1982 Geoff was awarded a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE).

Geoff was honoured for his sound administration with an eye to detail. It was noted that he has served his Lord and the churches with distinction.

Geoff Crossman is a member of the Greensborough, Vic, church.

—Rev David Griffiths

Diamond Wedding

Les and Dot Yelds celebrate a 60-year partnership



• Les and Dot Yelds

A 60-year partnership in Churches of Christ will be celebrated on 27 February. Les and Dot Yelds were married by the late Dan Wakeley at South Kensington (now Kingsford) church in 1932, having met on a church harbour cruise.

During the years they have been actively involved in local churches, at a state level and for many years were regular

attenders at Federal Conferences, which has resulted in many friendships throughout the country.

Their daughter Dorothy and son-in-law Noel Elliot attend Caringbah and Stanwell Tops and their son Robert attends Gulgong Presbyterian.

Les and Dot still reside in their own home at 65 Coreney St, Bexley North 2207.

Music Director Wanted at Maylands

Karla Hoffman completes term

Karla Hoffman has completed 15 months as part-time music director with the Maylands, SA, church.

Karla is an accomplished pianist, flautist, guitarist and singer. She comes from Washington, DC, and has been in Australia for about five years with her husband, David, and their five children.

During her time at Maylands Karla commenced a choir, arranged special music (soloists and instrumentalists) for the church, organised the music part of Sunday morning worship and played for some of the services. She encouraged a

number of the church's fringe musicians and singers. She also took a turn at telling children's stories.

The appointment was made possible by a couple of substantial donations and is not part of the church's normal budget.

Because of full-time study demands, Karla is not able to continue in this ministry, and the church is actively seeking a new music co-ordinator. Enquiries can be made to the church's minister, Richard Lawton, at 16 Appelbee Crescent, Norwood. 5067 Phone (08) 363 2536.

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Letters to the Editor

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Sincere Thanks

To the Editor,

The students of CCTC would like publicly to extend our sincere thanks to the ladies of Vic-Tas CWF and all the churches who assisted students in 1992. We would like the people of Australia to know of the wonderful contribution they made to our students in a very practical way.

Each CWF group and some churches collected and forwarded to college boxes of groceries. This helped the students tremendously in these stringent economic times. Their support

extends from the spiritual support to a very practical support. Thank you ladies, once again you have shown the love of the Lord.

—Tony Armstrong
(Student Secretary, CCTC)

Music Wanted

To the Editor,

The Pine Rivers, Qld, church is keen to obtain the musical arrangement for a children's tape called *The Story of Little Tree* put out by Candle Music.

Any assistance in this matter should be sent to Paul and Janine O'Rourke, Church of Christ, c/o 1 Orion Ave, Eatons Hill 4037. Phone (07) 264 3805.

—Paul O'Rourke

Vision and Strategy Group

To the Editor,

I believe Harold Hayward's recent letter concerning the Vision and Strategy Group set up by the NSW Conference Executive is misleading

There is clear and widespread dissatisfaction with the present structure of Conference evidenced by unambiguous statements from a significant sample of church leaders coupled with results of a survey of all NSW ministers. In constant dollars, Conference giving per head of membership has more than halved over the last ten years.

While most of the Vision and Strategy Group are not involved in Conference, some have been over many years. It is very significant that 14 people with quite diverse backgrounds found total unity in terms of a central vision statement and the general kind of structure that would best facilitate it. There is no intention to "sell" preconceived ideas to

the churches. A series of seminars is being held so that everyone can hear and understand all the issues and offer their suggestions before a recommendation to Conference is finalised. The first seminar was attended by 74 of our ministers, which is some indication of their interest. An overwhelming majority of this group supported the proposals presented.

Harold's reference to "a centralised oligarchic structure" is particularly misleading. It is proposed that the future Vision and Strategy Group will be elected by Conference and the current functions of Conference departments will be radically decentralised to provide flexible networks of support and facilitation. The present static and hierarchical structure of Conference is no longer working. To attempt to maintain the status quo or put a few more patches on the old wineskin is not a valid option.

—Laurie Larcombe
(Epping, NSW)

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Letters from Tertius

A Matter of Hours

To the Editor,

We had a visiting preacher for the church anniversary. He said that he spends one hour in sermon preparation for every minute in the pulpit. It sounded as though he needed to! If our minister spent that much time in preparation of his two sermons a Sunday it would take about 30 or 40 hours a week.

I mentioned this to him. He was interested and told me that Kennon Callahan (apparently the latest how-to-make-churches-move guru) says that the minister should put in an hour of visitation for every minute in the pulpit. Our minister is short on sermons and long on visiting, so he passes that test. But again that is another 30 or 40 hours a week.

Someone is bound to come up with the bright idea that ministers should put in an hour of administration for every 10 church members, which in our case would be another 20 hours a week.

Then there's 12 hours on Sunday and I suppose another 12 hours a week for weddings, funerals, meetings and other functions.

And we expect our minister to take a day off each week, which works out at 24 hours a week, and to have four weeks annual leave which is another 13 hours a week spread over the year. And he deserves an hour in bed for every two out of it.

All that works out to about 200 hours a week—and there are only 168 hours in the average week.

No wonder our minister has been looking a bit tired lately!

—Tertius

War, Sex, Dissension

"Christian Century" picks the top ten religious stories of 1991

Each year the American magazine *The Christian Century* looks at the major news stories for the year from a Christian perspective.

1. The 1991 top story was judged to be the religious dimensions of the Gulf War. For religious people especially the war and the long prelude to it fostered an intense debate over some large moral questions. The Kuwaiti crisis presented questions about Christian-Jew-Muslim relations, about justice and peace between Jews and Arabs, about the place of Islam in the modern world and—far from least—about the morality of war.

2. Sexual ethics. Differences on issues of sexuality, particularly the status of homosexuals, confronted virtually every mainline denomination. In some cases the divisions seriously threatened the unity of the denominations. Included in

comment under this heading was the rejection of Michael Kinnamon's nomination as President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) partly because he looked favourably on ordaining homosexuals.

3. Religious ferment in Eastern Europe. Epochal political events continued to transform religious life in former Eastern-bloc countries. Less desirable elements also began to emerge. Anti-Semitic activity was reported on the rise in several Eastern European countries. In Yugoslavia, long-suppressed religious animosity between Orthodox and Roman Catholic Christians contributed to the Serb-Croat conflict.

4. Right to die. The best-seller status of Derek Humphry's suicide manual *Final Exit* dramatised a widespread interest in choosing how and when to die.

5. Mideast breakthrough. The Mideast peace talks did not generate much momentum, but drawing Israel, Syria, Lebanon and a partnership of Palestinians and Jordanians to the tables for preliminary agreements on future negotiations was a major breakthrough.

6. Orthodox vexed by NCC and WCC. Relations between Orthodox churches and the (US) National Council of Churches reached a new low, threatening the unity of the ecumenical body. Five Orthodox denominations suspended relations with the NCC. At issue is the council's stance on such topics as ordaining women and homosexuals.

7. SBC conflicts. While the Southern Baptist Convention's annual convention proceeded amiably for the first time in over a decade, tensions between fundamentalists and moderates continued at state conventions and at denominational seminaries and colleges.

8. The ouster of Aristide. After enduring a series of brutal dictatorships for more than

200 years, Haiti finally got its first freely elected president when priest-scholar Jean-Bertrand Aristide, an exponent of liberation theology, was elected by a landslide in December 1990. The new president's attention to the poor did not sit well with the island's wealthy elite, and his crack-down on the narcotics traffic angered corrupt military officers allied with drug dealers.

9. Dead Sea Scrolls furore. Discovered in 1947, the Dead Sea Scrolls are a goldmine of information about the world out of which Christianity and modern Judaism emerged. Two scholars unhappy about the snail-paced publication of some scrolls materials on the part of experts in charge of the archives at the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem, made ingenious use of computer-generated text to produce an unauthorised volume of some of the documents.

10. A god dies. Soviet communism, the god that was said to have failed over four decades ago, finally met its end in 1991.

Christmas Celebration

Central Pentecost marks 10 years of revival

To mark the 10 years of revival in the Central Pentecost Churches of Christ, we had nine days of Christmas Celebration, which started on 24 December and ended on 1 January. The theme was "Where Is Jesus Born To Be the King?" We started with a march of witness.

There were many different activities during the day and night: Christmas carol singing, "Bon Anne" (groups going from house to house singing carols and choruses to the residents and wishing them Merry Christmas and Happy New Year), worship services, choir and Bible drama competitions, concerts and Father Christmas visiting kids, old men and women, widows etc.

On Christmas Day after the preaching, it was good to see that all the leaders rededicated their lives to the Lord. Due to

political differences two of the seven villages in the area have had little fellowship with the rest for over 10 years. They have not been having Sunday services either. We were pleased that people from these villages joined in all the program. After the celebrations, the people of Lemenlegge decided that they would rededicate their chapel and begin worship again starting on 12 January. Several young people will be baptised at the same time.

There were many more interesting things that took place during this time. There were comments coming from the people saying that they haven't seen any Christmas celebration like this.

As 1991 Christmas Celebration co-ordinator, I thank God for the knowledge and wisdom he gives me so that I can co-ordinate something like this.



• The march of witness that began the Christmas celebration

—Joseph Tabirap
(Treasurer, Conference of Churches of Christ in Vanuatu)

Books

Women, Religion and Sexuality

Studies on the Impact of Religious Teachings on Women
 Edited by Jeanne Becher (WCC Publications)

This book impacted on me, a male reader. It demonstrates clearly the way the scriptures and traditions of the world's main religions have been interpreted to support men's control over women and their bodies. This control determines the relationship between men and women, particularly within marriage and family life, usually at the expense of women's well-being.

Eleven essays examine Jewish, Hindu, Islamic, Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Anglican faith perspectives. The writers are female practising believers of the religion they focus on. Each analyses the theological practice towards women's sexuality within her faith. For the Jewish and Christian traditions another writer responds to this analysis. These responses challenge the more conciliatory approaches of the main essays. A twelfth essay is written by a Gandhian-based researcher who examines the Akan (a large ethnic group in Ghana) attitudes to women.

The essays show how a basic theological principle within a religion develops practices that disadvantage half the human race—women. Because of the practical advantages to men, the practices remain even when the principle is questioned. The key concept that occurs within the self-understanding of the major faiths focuses on women as inferior to men and therefore subservient to them. Each of the writers demonstrates that the sacred texts and traditions of her faith allows for a different, egalitarian understanding of women. Ironically, even though women are perceived as morally inferior, being seen as temptresses, all faiths give them a pivotal role in "maintaining the physical, emotional, moral and spiritual well-being of the Ummah (community)". (page 98, "An Islamic Perspective")

The essays offer fascinating reading, providing broad historical surveys with valuable specific information about women, their family and religious life within the non-Christian religions. The Christian writers provide detailed descriptions of canonical law and worship practices to demonstrate male control over husband-wife relationships, sexual activity, birth control, menstruation and other details of women's existence as physical beings. The orthodox writer, Anca-Lucia Manolache, sums up well my own response with a quote from Georges Bernanos: "We, the believers, possess a wonderful message of liberation. What a pity that almost always it is put into practise by others." (page 175)
 —Louis van Laar

Shopping for a God

Fringe Religions Today
 by John Allan (Inter-Varsity Press)

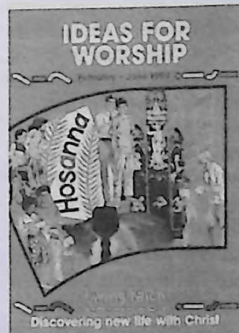
This book was published in 1986 and so some of the observations about the activities of some of the sects are dated but it contains some excellent material that should be read by anyone interested in or in contact with any sect. John Allan analyses the factors that characterise cults and looks at the historical context in which they seem to flourish. This book is not an examination of sects such as Mormons, the Unification Church, Bahai, Jehovah's Witnesses, Scientology, the Family of Love (Children of God) etc. Rather it is a careful examination of factors that make up a cult and the techniques that they employ. John Allan makes good use of examples from many of the cults to illustrate his points. The last section on the way Christians can respond to cults should be read by all Christians. He offers very practical advice without causing the reader to be guilty because they have not "witnessed" to cult members they have crossed paths with. Very readable and highly recommended.
 —CRA

Leading Lawyers Look at the Resurrection

by Ross Clifford (Albatross Books) \$7.95

For too long the reliability of the Gospels has been the province of the academic theologian, not the lawyers whose everyday professional task is to appraise evidence. In this unique, hardheaded book, the author—a former solicitor, now Christian apologist—takes the verbal testimony of internationally renowned legal experts and lets them apply their legal skills to the New Testament. This book is the summary of their findings.

LEADING LAWYERS
 LOOK AT THE
 Resurrection



Ideas for Worship

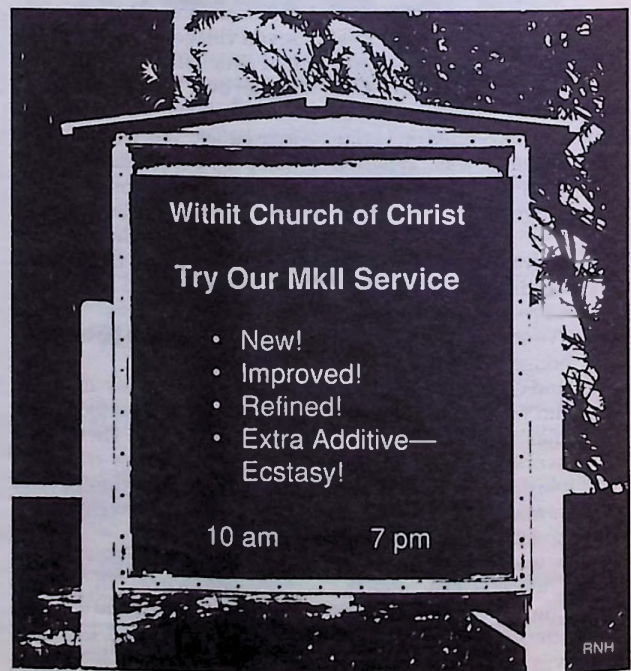
February–June 1992
 Living Faith (The Joint Board of Christian Education)

This book is designed to be used with the Joint Board Living Faith Primary and Youth Planbooks curriculum for Sunday schools. While designed for a particular Sunday school curriculum there are many excellent ideas that could be used to enhance the worship in many of our churches. As the common lectionary is used as the basis for the curriculum it relates

closely to the recommended readings on the Churches of Christ calendar. The ideas are related to helping the whole church worship God better by providing added aids that relate to the Bible readings. Permission to photocopy the material for church bulletins is given and copyright permissions are included in the first page of explanation.

Churches would do well to look at purchasing a copy because there would be at least one idea provided each week that could be used to improve worship and help people grow in their faith.

If your local Christian bookshop does not have copies the Joint Board of Christian Education can be contacted at Second Floor, 10 Queen St, Melbourne 3000. Phone (03) 629 5076.



Reaching Street Kids

Grote Street's mission to bring in the lost

The Grote Street, Adelaide, SA, church has been greatly concerned about the huge number of homeless street kids converging on and living in the streets and alleys of Adelaide; Australia's lost and lonely young, living in danger, poverty and abject misery.

A small team has been drawn together to present themselves and pray for this work. A large hall, accessible by a side alley, has been made available for a youth centre, and a three-stage plan has been prepared for a large-scale street ministry.

Stage 1: The Front Line

The proposal includes:

A Mobile Information Unit: A Toyota Coaster community bus, fitted out as a mobile lounge is available and it is proposed that it will tour the streets at night. Team members will then talk with the kids and invite them to the centre.

A Food Van: This was offered a while ago for the purpose of driving around the streets at night giving out food for the hungry.

Gospel Rallies: Both outdoor and indoor. The City Square and the youth centre are proposed, involving singers, testimonies, films and youth talks. This will also provide central combined youth rallies for other church youth.

Stage 2: The Youth Centre

The large hall is being prepared as a combined, multi-functional hall, with a homely,

yet club-like atmosphere. It is to be equipped with video facilities, coffee tables and lounge suites. A pool table and table tennis table are also needed.

Different Adelaide suburban churches are invited to form their own team to operate the centre for a particular night, with the guidance and training of experienced leaders. This is a golden opportunity for suburban youth groups to grow and to get involved in a meaningful outreach ministry.

Stage 3: The Follow-Up

A follow-up class will be conducted by an experienced youth evangelist to ensure that the new converts are deeply and firmly grounded in the Word of God. It is hoped that some country Christians may "adopt" a new young convert for a few weeks to help them share in a family life out in God's nature, and away from the city drug pushers and other influences.

If your church or youth group would like to join this outreach, help is needed of all ages. The program needs sponsorship, handypersons, technicians, artists, singers, youth workers, equipment and materials. In particular a pool table and table tennis table is needed.

Street Kids really love a granny or grandpa to love them, so the centre especially needs them.

For further information phone the Grote Street minister Ian Adams on (08) 231 9559 or John Haycox on (08) 344 7716.

Early Church

"Old-time religion" popular at Black Forest



• Old-time dresses at Black Forest

Following its popular winter video series, the Black Forest church in Adelaide, SA, have commenced their summer meetings, titled "The Early Church". The emphasis for these meetings is displayed in the title, where the early Christian church is used as an example. Held monthly and beginning early—5 pm—the play on words is appreciated, with different members opening their homes for these meetings.

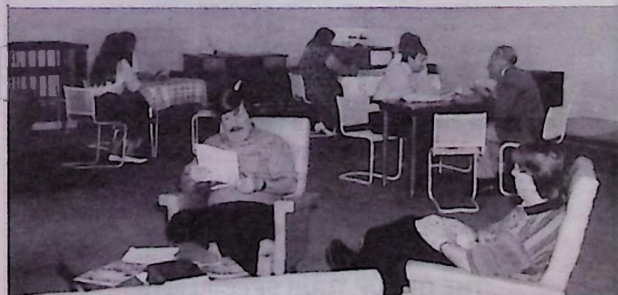
The evenings commence with an "old-time religion" sing-a-long, a sharing time with inspiring testimonies and a short message. The home environment gives a comfortable intimacy, and many have invited friends and neighbours to share. The service is followed by a time of fellowship and a meal, with the catering shared by church members.

The opening "early church" meeting inspired some ladies to dress in "old-time" tradi-

tional dress, giving an appreciated touch to the evening, which was held in the home of the minister and his wife.

The attendance at these meetings far exceeds the normal gospel services.

—Allan Lochhead



• The youth centre at Grote Street, Adelaide

You are invited to attend the
**Church of Christ
Warragul
111th Anniversary**

5 April 1992

10.30 am

Thanksgiving Service
Speaker: Malcolm Gray

Luncheon to follow

RSVP 28 March

Mr R. Earl

PO Box 128

Warragul 3820

(056) 23 2881

Happenings

Two months after taking over as head of state, Zambian President Frederick Chiluba provoked scathing press criticism and shook up some of his Cabinet ministers and Muslim leaders by declaring his nation a "Christian country". Chiluba, a "born again" Christian won over long-time President Kenneth Kaunda in multiparty elections in October.

A new Australian Broadcast Services Bill, before Federal Cabinet now, deletes the free broadcast time for religious bodies. Since 1942, churches have had one hour per week on each radio station under Section 103 of the old Broadcasting and Television Act. The churches have used the free time for radio counselling, spot ads and programs prepared through the Christian Television Association in each state and church communications departments. The new bill, due to come before Parliament in either April or March, still allows free time on television but drops it from radio.

A Soviet foundry that used to produce heavy artillery is now producing items in great demand after 70 years of communism—church bells.

The man who led the Japanese aircraft raid on Pearl Harbor 50 years ago, who cried, "Tora, tora, tora," to signal its success, is now a Presbyterian pastor. Mitsuo Fuchida came to Christ in 1949 after reading the testimony of an American prisoner of war.

"Bike for Bibles" cyclist Prue Reynolds, who is visually handicapped, has been selected to represent Australia at the Barcelona Para Olympics in September. Riding tandem with Prue will be Tim Harris, who has also participated in the Bible Society's "Bike for Bibles" program for the last 4 years. The two Western Australian cyclists won 2 gold medals and one silver in the Australian Para Road titles held in Adelaide in January.

Greg Chappell, one of Australia's greatest test cricketers, will host SLM's Cricketers' Dinner on 17

March at North Balwyn. The dinner, which commemorates the World Cup of Cricket, is being organised by SLM, which started in 1984 with chaplaincy to the Australian cricket team. ABC radio journalist, Rowan Forster, will tell of his work, his love of sport and the relevance of his faith in Christ. Australian test team members will be interviewed by Barrie Sutton, Victorian Sheffield Shield chaplain. Tickets are available from Noel Mitaxa, SLM Victoria, 98 Barrabool Rd, Highton 3216, phone (052) 44 2464 for \$35 a single or \$60 a double with concessions for table bookings, which must be made before 10 March.

This year the Nurses Christian Fellowship in NSW celebrates 70 years of ministry to nurses and students in nursing. The work in NSW commenced in 1922, several years after the formation of the first committee of the Nurses Christian Movement in Victoria. The national movement is now known as Nurses Christian

Fellowship Australia. A number of special projects and events are planned, including a nurses service, a professional dinner, an anniversary luncheon, a day of prayer for nurses and nursing and a video production. Details from Nurses Christian Fellowship, PO Box 303, Willoughby 2068. Phone (02) 958 5313.

Steve Philpotts, Sports Master at Brisbane Boys College, has accepted the position of Christians in Sport (CIS) National Co-ordinator. Steve represented Australia in rugby in the Australian Schoolboys team tour of Europe in 1981-82, the Australian Under 21 team 1983-84 and the Queensland seniors 1985-86 including their New Zealand and European tours. Steve can be contacted at Brisbane Boys College, Kensington Terrace, Toowong 4065. Phone (07) 371 9311 or fax (07) 371 2679.

Almost every capital city in Australia will have a march to reclaim Easter in 1992. 28 cities and towns took

part in Easter '91 and already there are 26 areas in Victoria alone that are organising marches and other events. Traditionally, the events will start with a march through the centre of Canberra on Palm Sunday. Most centres will have their march, or other event, on Easter Sunday, other areas will have it on Good Friday. A special National Easter information line has been established (00555 2152). It gives weekly updates on all events regarding Easter '92 and how to make contact with local committees.

Jesus, the first Western film to be translated into Mongolian, has been premiered in Ulan Bator. Mongolia, which is 98% Buddhist, is allowing it to be shown daily. The film is scheduled to be shown in 200 places in the country in 1992.

A new Bible society has been set up in Lithuania, the third to be established in the Baltic countries recently. The Latvian society began in late 1989 and the Estonian one at the end of 1991.

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Personally escorted by Noel and Tricia Newton
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Federal Aborigines Board: Celebrating Fifty Years of Service

Looking Back

1991 marks the fiftieth year of the work of the Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Board.

The Federal Conference held during 1941 in Adelaide moved to establish a board to foster work among Aborigines—initially on the Western Australian goldfields around Norseman, and then at Carnarvon in the state's north west.

In the late 1930s two single ladies—Miss Edie and Miss Bentley first went to Norseman to minister in whatever ways they could on the town's reserve.

The 1941 Conference decision meant Federal Churches of Christ backing for the Norseman work. Subsequently the late Dr and Mrs Hammer left a pastoral ministry in South Australia and moved to Carnarvon to survey the needs and establish a work among the people of the town.

The story of those early beginnings ranks with any in the history of the modern missionary movement.

The next forty years saw the development of—

- **Childcare** in Norseman, Carnarvon, Eidsvold, Esperance and Roelands
- **Christian Centre Work** in several centres
- **Outreach** into tribal areas
- **Church Planting** in all states from Normanton in Queensland's Gulf Country to Esperance in the south east of Western Australia, from Mooroopna in Victoria to Looma, 100 km east of Derby

Child Care was embraced by the Australian churches in a wonderful way. Ladies groups sewed, men participated in the big building drives of the late 1940s and 1950s, when building materials were so scarce.

Sunday schools, youth groups and Christian Endeavour societies provided finance that enabled our work to become one of the largest of any church group in Australia.

Government policy changes in WA forced the closure of the child care homes in the early 1980s. Yet the child care opened doors to reaching adults in communities around the state.



Ruth and John Saulo—Tamworth

Pastor and elders—Port Hedland

Dennis and Wilma Jetta—Mooroopna

In looking back there is much to thank God for

But before us is the challenge of the 90s

The ministry of the past fifty years has paved the way for ministry in this decade—and beyond.

- There are churches to encourage in—

Tamworth

Port Lincoln

Marble Bar

Wagga Wagga

Esperance

Albury

Mooroopna

Norseman

Port Hedland

- There is the **Aged Care Hostel** in Carnarvon.
- There is the **Outreach** program from Perth.
- There are the **Camping Facilities** at Roelands and Busselton.
- There is the outreach and training program based at Roelands from where **Frank and Rose Johnson** will be conducting training programs for church leaders, sending out teaching materials, cassettes and videos and travelling extensively among the many Aboriginal churches currently without a pastor.

The Federal Board depends on our Australian churches for the **Finance** and **Prayer Support** in order to build on the foundations of the past fifty years and so to **Take Up the Challenges of the 90s**.

Your Support is Vital Remember the Aborigines Work—Annual Offering 15 March 1991

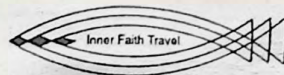
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News

ACT News

End-of-year activities in Canberra churches

Ainslie Church "Movathon"

During October the Ainslie, ACT, church organised a "Movathon" to raise money for a TV and video for use by various groups in the church. About 40-50 participated, raising approximately \$570. Those who did not care to walk or ride a bike rode in a horse and sulky.

Winding Up at Creative Living

The Creative Living Centre finished the year with a Christmas party. 45 attended, and 30 performers from the Woden Senior Singers entertained with carols ancient and traditional. The members of Creative Living also sang for the



• Horse and sulky at Ainslie's "Movathon"

end-of-the-year party the Pensioners' Club.

Twilight Walks

From January to March, Joy Wiltshire from Creative Living has organised a series of twilight walks, leading into many interesting and not very familiar beauty spots of Canberra. It is a great time to walk and talk together.

Christmas Cantata

Singers from Ainslie, with help from some Belconnen and Lyons folk, together with a group of children, performed the Christmas Cantata "Life, Light and Love" early in December.

—Beth Butler



• The Creative Living Centre's Christmas party

Woolwich/Carlingford College Golden Jubilee Open Day and Garden Party

Saturday, 7 March 1992

You are invited to join in celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the NSW Theological College at the Open Day and Garden Party on Saturday, 7 March 1992.

A Thanksgiving Service will be held in the College Chapel at 3 pm.

As part of the celebrations the recently refurbished accommodation building will be opened.

Come and rejoice with us!

The Wild Geese

How a Bible study group brings encouragement to a big goose

To finalise the year's Bible study, a group of teenagers led the evening worship service at the Kadina, SA, church. In the service they sang three songs and were introduced as the "The Wild Geese".

Why you ask? SA State Minister Ron Roberts visited Kadina earlier in the year and shared the following story: "It seems scientists have discovered that the North American wild geese flying in their customary 'V' formation fly much faster and further in a day than does a single goose. This greatly increases their survival rate on their migration south during the Arctic winter. Not all geese take the lead, but they all 'honk' encouragement to the leader."

The singing group sees this as "free, but choosing to be together". The group motto is from Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 10:25: "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage (honk) one another." The North American wild geese know this truth, "You have to be together to hear the honks or, as Paul says, 'encouragement'."

The young people are learning this truth as well. They too will receive encouragement from each other, thus making their daily walk with the Lord easier and more rewarding.

I have come to see it as a good description of the church: "Free but choosing to be together."

Let me tell you how the group started. They came and asked if I would lead a Bible study for them, no other activity, just Bible study. That is just what has happened for the past 12 months. We have been meeting weekly for Bible study. In all my years in the church it is the first timesuch a thing has happened. Other groups I have been involved with have been where we have "fun" together and then tack on devotions. Not so with this group. They have fun together as they study God's Word.

A saint of our church said, "You are doing a wonderful job with that young group." My answer, without thinking and I truly believe from the Lord, was, "Yes but just look at what they doing for me." An example of how encouragement works. Recently the youth group of the church organised a navigational car trial. Adults do the driving and the young people do the navigating by following the instructions. Well it so happened that part of the Wild Geese group were navigators for my car. They started to sing, "By the Light of the



• Big Goose, Brian Roberts, with Matthew Whitbread, Craig Swan, Paula Kitto, Tamara Aylesbury, Cathy Gloyn, Amy Bennier, Robynne Kitto and Natalie Russack

Silvery Moon". I sang along with them as it was a song of my era. When I stopped one (a music student, who has passed grade 5 music) said, "Don't stop, Big Goose, it sounds beaut when you are singing too." She knows, and I know, that it sounds very croaky, but en-

couragement was given spontaneously to hang in with the group.

This group have been an encouragement to me in these very difficult economic times. They have been God's special ministers to me.

—"Big Goose"

Grote Street in Action

Adelaide church's 145th birthday

It is over 145 years since the commencement of the witness in Adelaide, SA, of Churches of Christ. The Grote Street church family celebrated the birthday with a special Sunday worship with several past members attending. A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon was held with a musical group, duets, soloist and a young group of violinists and

concluded with a rendering of the "Getting Ready" play by combined group. The program was arranged by Lesley Thompson and the Pipe Organ Committee, with proceeds to the organ project. Grote Street is in the midst of preparing the installation of the pipe organ previously used in Norwood and Hindmarsh churches. The gallery area has been prepared for the installation of framework to commence soon.



Melbourne Citymission

Become a Community Visitor

If you have some time and joy to share contact Melbourne Citymission. Through Melbourne Citymission, a community visitor goes to nursing homes to talk, reminisce or take a resident on outings. Find out more about the community visitors program by phoning Wendy Lane on 480 5677.

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Mission, Education and
Development

Penman Centre in the West Bank

Palestinian building named after Australian churchman



• Graeme Irvine (World Vision International president), Jean Penman, Bishop Kafity and the Archbishop of Canterbury

The Archbishop of Canterbury dedicated a building in Israel during January in memory of Melbourne's former Archbishop, David Penman.

The building, a community centre and health clinic, will serve 100,000 people from the village of Zababdeh and surrounding districts in the occupied West Bank.

At the service of dedication, the Bishop of Jerusalem, Samir Kafity, a good friend of David and his widow Jean, described the late archbishop as a "friend of the friendless Palestinian people".

The Bishop said David Penman was being used as an instrument of hope and love for the village of Zababdeh. A former missionary to the Middle East, Archbishop Penman was a strong advocate for Palestinian rights. He had expressed his support for the community centre.

Jean Penman said her late husband's commitment to and love for the people of the Occupied Territories was total. "He put his feet where his heart was, his hands to join with yours in the struggle for peace and justice and his voice to share your story with the church around the world," she told worshippers at the little Zababdehan church.

The suffering of the Palestin-

ians in this region is indeed great. The availability of health care is restricted, with 22,000 in the village itself reliant on one health centre. As a result infant mortality is much higher than in Israel.

One of the vital services the Penman Centre will perform is as an ancillary health clinic to the Zababdeh Health Care Centre.

The people suffer in many other ways as well. In the Jenin region, of which Zababdeh is a part, only 55% of the community have access to piped water and less than 5% have a piped sewerage system. Electricity is constantly cut off and, as of December, night-time curfews and a roadside ban have inhibited the movement of most of the Palestinian population of the West Bank after 5 pm.

Since Mrs Penman's visit YMCA staff on the West Bank have been arrested and their houses damaged, the Birzeit University has been attacked and professors have been harassed and a curfew has been declared at the nearby St Luke's Anglican Hospital in Nablus.

Jean Penman said, "It was a particularly moving service, and the children's singing seemed to come from the very depths of their souls. I just loved being there."

The Penman Centre was built

by the community of Zababdeh with the joint support and aid of World Vision and the Anglican dioceses of Melbourne and Jerusalem.

It is a two-storey building adjacent to St Matthew's Episcopal Church. The multipurpose centre will be used as a library, a Sunday school, a meeting hall, a women's centre and, of course, as support for the nearby health clinic.

Under the pastor, Rev Bilal Habiby, the St Matthew's Sunday

School has grown from nothing several years ago to a regular attendance of 100 children so the Penman Centre will be well inhabited!

In addition to funding the Penman Centre World Vision

To

My Churches of the Years

Ivanhoe	West Preston
Maryborough	Northcote
Kaniva	Wangaratta
Brighton	Ivanhoe

Interim Ministries

Launceston	Mount Gambier
Kaniva	Greensborough
Footscray	Essendon
Balwyn	Surrey Hills

Student Churches

Red Hill	Moreland
Blackburn	

The church at Lismore, NSW, where I first heard the gospel, and North Balwyn, now my church.

To all those people also, in church and Conference, whom it was impossible to have at my recent special birthday, I acknowledge what you have been to me, together with the goodness and mercy of God. I have you in my heart.

A.B. Withers

is providing nearly \$US1 million of assistance to 36 childcare, relief and development projects in the West Bank. The agency has been involved in the area since 1975.

—Penny Mulvey

Visiting Canberra?
Stay with a Church Family

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

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

<p>Lyn Swift 34 Yiman Street, Waramanga 2611 Phone (062) 88 2050</p>	<p>Barbara Kennedy 6 Sharp Place, Melba 2615 Phone (062) 58 1360</p>
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Advance bookings appreciated

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GOLDEN WEDDINGS

CLAPP—KNIGHT (28th February 1942) Congratulations Mum and Dad for 50 years of adventuring together. Through good times and bad God has been your strength and guide and you showed us what it means to build each other up in love. We salute you and thank God for the example you have been to us. Bethel, Barry and Matthew; David, Glenda and Ryan; Joy, Tim and Penny; and John, Eira, Laura and Ben. Present address 15/179 Goollelal Drive, Kingsley, WA 6026.

DIAMOND WEDDINGS

YELDS—ELLIOT celebrating 60 years together in marriage Leslie Yelds and Harriett (Dot Elliot) at South Kensington, 27th February, 1932. Present address 65 Coveney St, Bexley North. God bless you.

DEATHS

STEVENS Vincent Duff (formerly of Launceston) on 29 January, 1992 at Coff's Harbour. Dearly loved husband of Nola, loving father of Suzanne and Carol. Beloved eldest son of the late Harold V. and Margaret M. Stevens. Dearly loved brother of Peter (Nowra), Elaine (Mrs M. Wilson, Glenbrook) and Helen (Mrs B. Jones, Burnie).

IN MEMORIAM

SIMMONS (LUNN) Helen (15.2.85) "Softly the leaves of memory fall, / Gently we gather and treasure them all, / Today, tomorrow, our whole life through / We will always love and remember you."—Mum, Dad and Judith.

APPRECIATION

HASKELL The family of the late Arthur Haskell thank everybody who gave their love and support through cards phone calls and prayers during the weeks Dad was so ill and then in his passing. A special thanks to Cheryl Johnson, Clive Ward and members of the Williamstown church.

EMPLOYMENT WANTED

A woman, 19 years, wants employment in floristry. She has completed a floristry course and had some experience in a florist shop. Lives in Murrumbidgee area. Phone (03) 557 1257 or 585 0080.

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People

Ministry Team Expands

Two new ministers at Horsham



Andrew L'Almont, Harvey Clark, Keith Bowes, Ian Hunt (associate minister), Peter Finlayson

On 8 December 1991 the Horsham, Vic, church expanded its ministry team to include two additional ministers, Peter Finlayson and Andrew L'Almont.

Senior minister Harvey Clark conducted services of dedication for Peter as church administrator and Andrew as worship, music and drama minister. Dr Keith Bowes, Principal of CCTC, was the speaker.

Peter Finlayson has been a member of the Horsham church all his adult life and has served as elder and church secretary on a number of occasions. Early retirement from his employment with the SEC has enabled Peter's obvious gifts in the area of administration to be recognised by the church. His appointment as part-time administrator is a voluntary one.

Andrew L'Almont came to

Horsham as manager of the Wool Factory, a highly successful sheltered workshop project. Andrew will continue this role as well as his new role as voluntary minister in the area of worship and music. The appointment recognises Andrew's gifts, especially as they have been used in developing the 9 am worship service.

Although at present voluntary ministries, the recognition of Peter and Andrew reflects the growth of church attendance and member involvement. Since beginning two morning worship services in 1990 average morning attendances have risen from 180 to 260. Among other factors contributing to a healthy climate in the church are the care and share groups, and the prayer ministry.

—Elizabeth Clark



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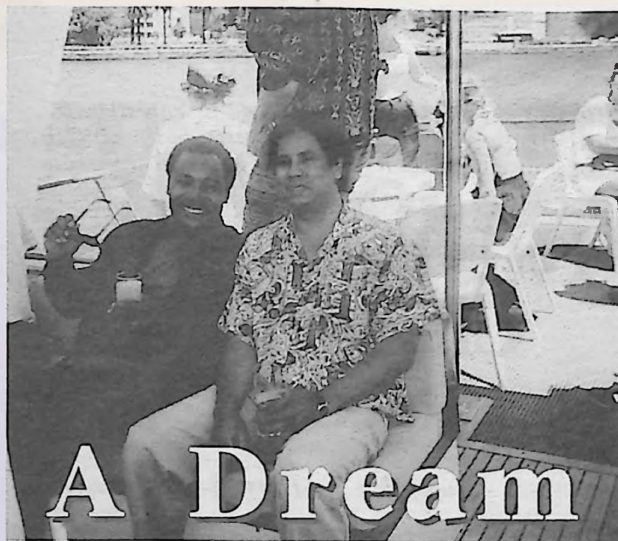
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Life can be hard sometimes. It can be downright dreadful and depressing with very few good times to separate the constantly encroaching bad. Yet, despite all this, there's always a dream in mind, a goal worth striving for. Sometimes though, a dream may be so far fetched it's simply in the realm of pure fantasy, but it's still a dream, it's still something that can make the gloomy days seem just a little brighter. For the most part though, we don't expect these fantasies to come true. We never really expect them to become reality and to actually enter into our lives. I mean, these sort of dreams never come true, do they? They're just parts of our mind, not of our life—aren't they?

That's how a man named Ivor Gilhoolley and his family once thought. 1991 was a very, very bad year for them. As the recession deepened Ivor found it increasingly difficult to obtain employment. He was unemployed for almost seven months. It was one of the hardest and most depressing times of his life—he even fell to the depths of sorrow where suicide is thought of. Things were just so bad. And things became even worse when a hero of his, a man he had admired for over 20 years, came into town. **George Benson**, the world's leading jazz guitarist, came to Australia in mid-December for a series of shows in several cities including Sydney. Ivor couldn't believe it, the first chance he has ever had of seeing his hero, and he's completely broke, totally unable to afford the \$125 ticket.

For over 20 years Ivor had followed the music of George Benson, buying all his albums and listening to them constantly—to the complete annoyance of his family! Posters line his walls and a photo of Benson from one of his album covers can be found in Ivor's family album! Ivor's admiration for George Benson can be clearly seen in the fact that before he married his wife Debbie, he told her that the only thing that would stop him



A Dream Comes True

Neil Marsden

being there on the wedding day to marry her would be if George Benson came into town! A George Benson concert would be the only thing to keep him away! It seemed to Ivor, as he looked at the concert poster in December 1991, that the already terrible year was going to end on a very, very sour note indeed. His dream had always been to see his hero in concert. Now he had his first chance and there seemed no way he could make it—until he made a trip to the city and the world of fantasy joined the world of reality to make an unforgettable experience for Ivor and his family.

Ivor and his kids were walking down (funnily enough) George Street when Ivor spotted a man in a green shirt and dark glasses. Ivor couldn't believe it! Was this true? Could this actually be happening? Ivor was sure that George Benson was actually standing in front of him!

Feeling absolutely amazed and shaking with excitement, apprehension and nervousness, Ivor approached the man and noticed that there were no bodyguards around. None. But Ivor was sure this was his hero. If you follow a man for over 20 years you recognise him when you see him. Ivor eventually gained enough courage, and

holding out his hand asked, "Are you George Benson?"

The man turned, smiled and nodded. "Yea man, that's me."

Ivor couldn't believe it. His dream had come partly true—he had met George Benson.

This meeting started the most exciting and unbelievable period in Ivor's life.

George Benson, one of the most respected musicians in the world, walked for a while with Ivor and his kids up and down George Street, before taking them (now accompanied by Ivor's wife Debbie) to a Pizza Hut for lunch. They spoke as if they were old friends from way back. It was a dream come true. Ivor couldn't believe it. During lunch, Benson turned to Ivor and asked, "Have you seen my show?" Ivor admitted that he simply couldn't afford it. George Benson smiled and invited to them to his next show as his personal guests! Ivor was not prepared to refuse!

During the next few days, Ivor and his family spent a lot of time with Benson. They saw his show and went backstage with him to his private suite. They went out on the Hilton's private boat for a cruise with Benson, before he accompanied them back to their house for a meal. And Ivor even had a jam session with his hero—the one and only George Benson.

They spent their time as if they were lifelong friends. It was one of the greatest times of Ivor's life.

The worst year of his life didn't end in bitter disappointment as he had feared, but on the highest note it possibly could! Ivor had actually met and for several days hung around with his hero, a man he admired and literally dreamed about for years. He had experienced something money simply could not buy and, interestingly enough, Ivor wasn't the only one to get a thrill out of the encounter. George Benson really took a liking to Ivor and his family and enjoyed their company because they made him feel like a normal human being rather than a superstar. They even spoke on points of religion, as George Benson is a man of faith and could quote the Bible like Ivor couldn't believe.

They say there's no such thing as good luck or coincidence—just split-second decisions by God. Well, the Lord certainly made some wonderful decisions in helping Ivor out of his depression.

George Benson, a man who never leaves a hotel room without bodyguards, just happened to be on the street as Ivor was coming along. It was almost as if he was waiting for Ivor to stumble upon him. If Ivor had a parking space, or if he had missed the lights, he would have missed his hero. As it was, their paths met, they talked like old friends, spent time together like friends, helped each other like friends and by the time Benson had to leave were friends.

It makes you think, doesn't it? Anything can happen, dreams can come true. The most wonderful events could be just around the corner while we worry about the problems we're experiencing. Ivor climbed out of his depression or perhaps he was thrown—by this amazing event. Almost unbelievable. You can't tell what will happen—anything is possible. **Anything.**

• *Neil Marsden is a member of the Hurstville, NSW, church.*

Now that the emotion of Christmas is all but over (except the trauma of credit card repayments) it would seem an opportune time to have a very unemotional (not emotionless) look at the Christmas story.

We would all be familiar with the time-worn cry that the "real" Christmas story has been covered over by crass commercialism, Santa Claus, drunken parties etc. This is true enough, however, once this layer has been stripped away what is often left and expounded is equally in need of critical investigation.

A careful examination of the biblical texts reveals that much of our story, told by countless nativity plays, both inside and outside the church, owes more to pious legend than accurate scripture. Yes, even the "real story", which has had one layer of extraneous material stripped away, requires another layer to be removed to reveal the "real, real story".

Let's begin at the source, our available biblical texts. The first thing we find is that of our four Gospels only Matthew and Luke have incorporated any mention of Jesus' earthly birth. Both the first Gospel written, Mark, and the last, John, are silent on this issue. We are left therefore, with Luke 2:1-20 and Matthew 2:1-12 to inform us of Jesus' birth.

A precise investigation of these texts is at first surprising and then somewhat disturbing in their simplicity and lack of detail of which we are familiar.

There is no mention of a donkey on which Mary rode, no inn, no inn-keeper and no animals. We are not told how many visitors from the East bear gifts and they are certainly not described as kings. Further, Jesus is visited by the magi in a house (*oikian*) and he is no longer described as a baby (*brephos*—Luke 2:12) but a child (*paidion*—Matthew 2:11). That Herod ordered all male babies "who were two years old and younger" (Matthew 2:16) to be executed adds weight to the magi visiting Jesus quite some time after his birth.

Much of the Christmas story, told by countless nativity plays, both inside and outside the church, owes more to pious legend than to scripture

The Real, Real Christmas Story

Mike Folland



It is, however, the question of where Jesus was born that raises the most inquiry. There is no mention of a stable and the word most commonly translated as "inn" (Luke 2:7) is of special interest. The Greek word is *katalumati* and the New Jerusalem Bible comes closest in translating it as "living space". The word is probably best understood as a "guest room" and is quite different to the Greek word for inn (*pandocheion*), used later by Luke in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:34). Kenneth Bailey notes, "Examination of Luke 2:6-7 in light of its Palestinian cultural background indicates that Jesus was born in a private home in Bethlehem. Everything that we know of Middle Eastern village life suggests that Joseph sought and found shelter in an occupied private home. In the

one-room peasant dwellings of Palestine and Lebanon the manger was built into the floor of the house. The term *katalyma* in Luke 2:7 is best understood as guest room." (K.E. Bailey, "The Manger and the Inn: The Cultural Background of Luke 2:7", *NESTheolRev*, 2, 2/'79, pages 33-44)

It would appear then that Joseph and Mary sought lodging in a family home in Bethlehem, most probably Joseph's parents' home (although we are not told). While they were there, not necessarily the first night they arrived, Mary gave birth to her child. Because the guest room in the house was occupied, Jesus was placed in the manger in the main family room. What we know of Joseph and Mary's socioeconomic position (Luke 1:48, Matthew 13:55) makes it improbable that they could afford, or desire, to

lodge in an inn and much more likely to seek out family.

After dismantling the old familiar story, is there anything left? The answer is a resounding, Yes! The details of Jesus' birth are consonant with the rest of his life and give direction for the early church.

Jesus is born away from his natural home, unlike his cousin John the Baptist. Although most likely born amongst family, he is denied the hospitality of the guest room and laid within a feeding trough. His first visitors are shepherds—nomadic, "homeless" and mistrusted. Later, in his public ministry, Jesus chooses himself to become "homeless" (Luke 9:58) and seeks to welcome the lost, the outcast, the forgotten to the true family of God (Luke 4:18-19). As his life and ministry approach their culmination, Jesus calls his disciples and friends to one last meal of hospitality, the "Last Supper". This occurs in a *kataluma* (now translated in the RSV as a guest room—Luke 22:11), the very same location type that was denied at his birth. During their meal Jesus tells his disciples, "That you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom." (Luke 22:30) The inclusion in the family of God will continue after Jesus' life and indeed the early Christian community persists in this important quality of hospitality as it seeks to live out and proclaim the good news of the risen Christ (Acts 2:46).

The circumstances of Jesus' birth have a domestic feel about them, they resonate with the sounds of family, homes and, yes, even inconvenience. The good news is that, just as the shepherds knelt in the loungeroom to welcome Jesus, so too can we be welcomed to this family of God within our own homes, family, struggles and disappointments.

• Mike Folland is the minister at The Patch, Vic, church.

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Youth Ministry

"Hey! Are you coming to Bible study this week?"

"Ah...I...ah. No, sorry I have to help my great aunt with her stamp collection on that night."

This conversation demonstrates the reluctance people have to involve themselves in some of the Christian education models that exist in churches today. If we believe we have a living, vibrant and life-changing message, why is that message so often presented using such lifeless and lacklustre methods?

Youth ministry should involve the principles of Christian ministry being applied to youth. It is unfortunate that many churches give youth ministry a low priority and that standards that would never be acceptable in other areas of the church are allowed in youth and childrens work.

Christian education that is going to be effective and have integrity must be strategic. If haphazard, ill-prepared CE without an aim is occurring then measurable growth cannot be expected. Similarly if one static method is used continually, even in conjunction with clear aims, little growth should be expected.

A suggested aim of a Christian education curriculum is that young people should—

- learn about God as he is

What Should Be on Our Curriculum?

Darryl Tobler

revealed, through the person of Jesus Christ and in the record of his activity in human history and respond to him in faith, commitment, love and obedience;

- interpret their own situation and their world in accordance with Bible teaching;
- advance to Christian maturity as evidenced by—
 - + love for other people;
 - + involvement in Christian community;
 - + service in society; and outreach.

As these (or variations of these) aims are established a curriculum covering the following subject areas could be developed:

- Revelation—promotes a Christian basis for authority.
- Redemption—brings a biblical understanding and response to God, hu-

manity and the world.

- Community—encourages service in the church.
- Vocation—discovering a personal role.
- Intimacy—finding God's ideal of sexuality.
- Lifestyle—developing Christ-like behaviour.
- Mission—seeing the bigger picture.

The church youth groups and their leaders who take a strategic approach to Christian youthwork will identify readily with this type of curriculum and are probably familiar with similar formats. Historically churches have tapped into the best of solid content in Christian education material. The sad thing is that the method of teaching or the environment where the teaching is occurring can foil even the best prepared program.

After establishing a base for the CE program a youth leader should then carefully consider

the methods available. The range of electronic equipment and teaching aids available should be seen as useful tools by the teacher. A VCR will never replace a teacher but a VCR used correctly by a teacher in conjunction with a quality video will increase that teacher's effectiveness. Films, personal experience, music, drama, mime, other young people, local landmarks, the wilderness—basically anything can be used legitimately by the creative teacher who is prepared to communicate to young people in a language they understand.

CE plays a major part in discipleship, evangelism and at the contact level with youth people. The challenge is to establish clear aims and to find or develop a viable curriculum then to use creativity in methods to fulfil those aims.

Further Reading

A Bible Study Curriculum for Church Youth Aged 15-19 Years by Ross Farley (Scripture Union) and *Creative Teaching Methods* by Marlene D. LeFever (David C. Cook Publishing Co.) (Both these resources have been particularly helpful to the writer.)

• *Darryl Tobler is the youth minister at the Launceston, Tas, church.*

Ministry Concludes at Modbury

Dennis Ryle hands back symbols of ministry



• Dennis Ryle gives back Bible to Maurice Keatch

Dennis Ryle concluded his five-year ministry with the Modbury, SA, church on 28 December. At the conclusion of his address, a brief "decommissioning" was observed.

Dennis asked Maurice Keatch to the front of the church and then returned the pulpit Bible to Maurice as an indication that his preaching-teaching ministry was concluded.

He then handed back his church directory, indicating the end of his pastoral ministry. He returned the keys of the church complex, which is

known locally as "Mission Station Modbury", showing that the leadership would now belong to another. Finally he removed his name tag, thus ending his membership.

Suitable recognition had been made to Dennis, Jenny and Laughlin previously at a farewell luncheon. The Modbury church is very appreciative of the ministry that Dennis has offered the church and their prayer is for God's blessing to be with the Ryles as they move to Aldgate Valley.

The ministry of Dean and Glenys Hamilton commenced on 2 February.

One Sunday after preaching on the Prodigal Son, someone who undoubtedly felt empathy for the elder brother, said to me, "I don't like that story—its not normal". And indeed, it isn't. The parables of Jesus constantly subvert the way we think things are or should be. That has devastating implications for Christian faith and spirituality—if we take their shocking subversion of "normality" seriously! Whether the person listening to the parables—then or today—is prepared to accept the world of subversion revealed in them or not, is another matter. Spiritual awakening to the life and presence of the Kingdom is contingent on recognising that our own perceptions of normality are subverted and undercut by the parables.

There is nothing normal in many of Jesus' parables. In a culture where obedience and reward were inseparable—the wrong son is rewarded by his father. In a fiercely proud Jewish community—the wrong person is made a model of compassion. In a highly moral society—the wrong example is used to demonstrate urgent decision, and contrary to the

"Normality" in the Parables

human code of fairness and getting our just desserts—the wrong wages are paid in a vineyard. But it is precisely this reversal of normality that creates the context for grace. The parables, like clever humour, catch us by surprise. They ambush us, and as one theologian has put it, "wound us from behind" in that unexpected twist, that reversal of normality that occurs in the narrative. However, in their reversal of expectation and wounding dissonance they begin to prise open the shell of our secure but truncated world of "normality", to show us the astonishing, unexpected world of the Kingdom.

When the wrong son, the delinquent boy, is showered with gifts from his father, we see the lavish, extravagant, unequivocal forgiveness of the Kingdom. When the wrong person, the enemy, is made a model of compassion, we discover that the compassionate presence of the Kingdom can come from the neighbour one does not, and indeed cannot, logically expect

it. When the wrong example is used to demonstrate urgent decision, we see that our response to the challenge of the Kingdom is as urgent as a dishonest person facing a crisis. Not an honest person who has friends, neighbours and colleagues who will stand beside in the face of crisis, but a dishonest person who has no-one to stand beside and who must face the crisis alone, who must think, decide and act immediately to save a skin. When the wrong wages are paid in a vineyard, we are reminded that grace is always a surprise, and is far more extravagant than we imagine, but never extravagant where we assume it ought to be.

How much do we think and live by the world of parables—which is world of reversal and paradox, but none other than the world of the kingdom? I suspect we interpret the parables to fit our perceptions of normality—the way we think things are or should be. If we are honest with ourselves, we would prefer to shower our

gifts on the exemplary son rather than the prodigal; we would prefer not to expect or concede that someone of a different creed, colour or culture could be an exemplary model of compassion; we would prefer to procrastinate rather than decide and act in matters relating to the Kingdom, including the church's mission and ministry. If we are honest with ourselves we would prefer the predictability of fairness and getting our just desserts, rather than the extravagance but apparent "unpredictability" of grace. However we are called to live out the lifestyle of the Kingdom, a lifestyle of subversive paradox—where, in reversal of human expectations and perceptions of normality, extravagant unequivocal forgiveness is extended to prodigals, compassion comes from the neighbour we do not logically expect, the adventure of faith will involve us in risk-taking decisions, and grace is always a surprise, and far more indulgent than we imagine. That is the astonishing, unexpected world of the Kingdom, which in reversal of all our expectations, is truly normal and full of serendipitous joy.

—Stephen Curkpatrick

Girls' Brigade National Camp

Fonomarae a time of fun, fellowship and learning



• Fonomarae '92 participants from SA Churches of Christ companies: Kylie Douglas (Salisbury), Cathy Brooks (Henley Beach), Dawn Portlock (Hawthorn), Fiona Trowse (Noarlunga Centre) and Vicki Lanyon (Henley Beach)

The Girls' Brigade organises a biennial national camp for Pioneer girls, known as "Fonomarae", which literally means "getting together in a meeting place". Participants are selected to attend by interview, each state having a quota, depending on membership.

Fonomarae is an important camp for all involved. It is a time for fun, fellowship and for learning new skills.

During 7-16 January Fonomarae was held at Margate Youth Centre in Queensland. While at camp, the girls took part in many electives and activities, including wind surfing, sailing, canoeing, golf, cottage craft, drama, puppetry and music in worship. Devotions on the theme "To Know Him Is To Love Him" were an important part of the daily routine.

South Australia sent a contingent of 19 girls.

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Baptisms

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Marriages

•Anne Milsom to Dolph Young, Happy Valley, SA •Carol-Ruth Harrison to Scott Ludbrook, Mount Clear, Vic •Bronwyn Davis to Brendon Cameron, Berwick, Vic

Deaths

•Hereward (Harry) Jacobson, Hobart City, Tas •Edith Wallis (Henderson), Mount Clear, Vic •Colin Wills, Portland, Vic

Changes

Frankston: Minister—Phillip Bradley, 12 Catherine Court, Langwarrin, Vic 3910. Phone (03) 783 3235.

Preston: Minister—Tony & Lynette Armstrong, 13 Kinkora Road, Reservoir, Vic 3073. Phone (03) 478 5335.

Carnegie: Minister—Ron Braun, 28 Blackwood Street, Carnegie, Vic 3163. Phone (03) 568 7228.

Seven Hills: Minister—Max Watson, 69 Seven Hills Road South, Seven Hills, NSW 2147. Phone (02) 622 9690.

Portland: Associate Minister—Paul Kerrison, 39 Tyers Street, Portland, Vic 3305. Phone (055) 23 1574

Is God Calling You?

The Red Cliffs Church of Christ is presently seeking a minister to serve our congregation's needs and help develop the church's program. This position would suit an enthusiastic person who can communicate effectively with all ages. Red Cliffs is part of the fast-developing Mildura area. Warm climate and people.

Please write to: The Secretary
Red Cliffs Church of Christ
PO Box 54
Red Cliffs, Vic 3496

NSW

TAREE (Peter Wallis) 29 December family tea held prior to evening service to farewell pastor Neville Aubrey & family. Presentations made by elder A.A. Billingham & to Mrs Aubrey by Norma Harvey on behalf of CWF... Moving service on 2 February by Graham Warne to induct Peter Wallis into ministry of church. Congregation pledged support pastor & his wife during their time at Taree.

EPPING (David Moyes, Lester Sutton) Largest crowds for many years over Christmas... Strong crowds over January... Baptism sermon by David Moyes. 10 responses... Young people excited about Lester Sutton's ministry... Two students at Epping. John Lee (worship) & Joanne Dew (youth). SEVEN HILLS (Max Watson) Church enjoyed night of praise with "Endless Praise"... Ruth Scott recovering from surgery, Reg Holmes waiting to have operation & Deanna Van Tweet has had to give up work due to bad back... Church farewelled student Neil Dickinson, who has gone to Normanton, Qld... Tom Beaman has concluded ministry. Farewelled with presentation and lunch... Max Watson commenced one-year ministry 26 Jan.

SA

HAPPYVALLEY (Russell Allison) Brian & Phyl Weatherall, Don & Helen Holmesby welcomed into membership... Sunday School breakup very entertaining... Book stall held for Christmas... A group went carol singing to four local retirement villages... First ecumenical Australia Day service

Moving to Melbourne?

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

Church News

in Happy Valley well supported... Dolph Young & Anne Milsom married 1 Feb... Auxiliaries resuming after holidays.

Tas

CAVESIDE (John & Colleen Harrison) Well-attended Sunday School anniversary 1 Dec. Peter Pinder (Westbury Baptist) speaker... Successful working bee 7 Dec... Church full for "So This Is Christmas" celebration 23 Dec. Special items from Launceston group. Christmas dinner followed service... Study groups combined for final 1991 meeting... Full bus travelled

to Westbury for evening service 2 Feb when Sunday School presented items & J. Harrison preached.

WA

CARNARVON (D. Bone) At an Australia Day dinner Ron & Criss Jones were each named Carnarvon's Citizens of the Year. They have left Carnarvon to settle in Northam... The Boska family sojourned in Carnarvon & spoke of their work in Looma... Merv & Eva Vawser are ably filling in at Looma for next six months... Claire Day is incoming president of CWF... Board members & wives had evening out.



Australian Committee of World Convention Churches of Christ

Post Convention Tours World Convention Long Beach California 5-9 August 1992

"Insight International Tours" have planned two great tours for members and friends of Churches of Christ. Even if you do not have sufficient time to attend convention you can still join the tours below. We have a few vacancies on each tour.

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European Tour

24 August to 10 September 18 day/17 Night Tour
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Breakfast each day...12 dinners...5 x 2 night stops...all sight-seeing and gratuities
Cost: \$2,200 per person (twin share)

To register, or for further information and full details contact:

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A Church ABC

Bob Hobson has taken up an interim ministry for one year at the Nambour, Qld, church. Nambour, in a rich coastal area 100 km north of Brisbane on the Bruce Highway, is a large town with a population over 8,000. It is a very productive area—products include sugar, fruit, dairy produce, ginger and timber. It is well known for its tourist attractions, including the “Big Pineapple”. Now Nambour has a pastor as rich and colourful as the area.

The Nambour church is situated in National Park Road and has a lovely building with fine facilities. There are two services, one at 10.30 am and the other at 7 pm (6 pm in the winter months). Attendances range between 250 and 300.

Bob Hobson comes from the USA. He first visited Nambour as a guest speaker in 1986 and again in 1987. He had kept contact with people in the church

since, and when he was invited to minister for a year, he accepted with enthusiasm, as he regards Nambour as a “fantastic, lovely fellowship” and obviously enjoys being there.

Bob was born (in Kansas) and raised a Baptist. With the wonderful outgoing humour for which he is noted he says he

Bob’s ministry developed out of the problems he faced in his early days. He admits he found the Christian life “boring”.

He finally discovered that the Jesus who died for him was now living in him and wanted to use him. Bob is a keen golfer and wonders what it would be like if a great golfer, Greg Nor-

the world. His home, when he’s there, is Sun City, a suburb of Phoenix, Arizona.

For much of the time he is on the move, by air or in his motor home. He conducts missions lasting about a week, and then moves to the next place. He is booked out into 1994, but has kept 1992 free for Nambour.

Now 63 years of age, he has been married for 45 years and he and his wife have two children, Ruth,

who lives in Phoenix, and David, a missionary in the Philippines, and eight grandchildren.

Bob Hobson is a wonderful preacher, using humour to good effect (“The Lord must have had a sense of humour to pick the 12 disciples.”)

The people of Nambour are responding. Already attendances are stretching the accommodation to the limit. Bob says it is great to be there, and the people of Nambour thinks it’s great to have him.



Focus on Nambour

can trace his lineage “back to John, the Baptist”.

He has been a minister for 44 years, most of it as a travelling preacher. However, in 1963 he became the pastor of a small fellowship in Wisconsin meeting in a school gymnasium. In his seven years there membership grew to over 1,000. (And the next pastor, who has been there ever since, has seen the Lord continue to bless the church—there are now between five and six thousand in fellowship.)

mansay, was inside him. “What a wonderful game of golf I could play then!” he says. “Yet this illustrates exactly what Jesus can do in our lives!”

From then on Bob’s life took off. He has made his ministry to those who don’t know Christ—and to those who do—telling them, “The Christian life is not difficult—it’s impossible. It takes Christ to live the Christian life.”

His reputation established, Bob was invited to visit churches all over America and

Growing Spiritually

I look back over the last three years since becoming a Christian and marvel at the power of God to really change people.

Meeting a Christian man (now my husband) made me stop and see that all men were not to be despised and that the difference in this person was God. From this I knew where I had to go and after accepting

Changing Lives

Michelle Willcocks

the Lord I was all fired up to learn, to read and to get knowledge from God’s word. But God wanted first for me to learn how to talk to him and listen to him. A new-found Christian

friend came to my home with a book called *What Happens When Women Pray*.

Next God showed me that I had to have love in my heart so that everything I would do and change in my life would be through love. So many barriers just melted away—things I thought would never change in me just did. Then came the testing times when there seemed to be a blockage between God and me. Time and again it happened and I couldn’t see why. God in his wisdom was showing me I needed to praise him all the time.

With the changes in me I finally was able to read God’s

word and really hold it in my heart. So I thank the Lord joyfully for guiding me along the way so far. And I thank those whose fellowship God placed me in, who in their obedience to God nurtured my new life.

Eagerly I await each new day to be ready to serve my Lord both in my home and outside. Praise the Lord.

• Michelle Willcocks is a member at the Bimungup, WA, church

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Church News

Vic

WARRNAMBOOL (Peter Broadbent) Wonderful family service held at Christmas led by Kindt family & others participating ... Enjoyed many holiday visitors ... Great time of fellowship & outreach with other churches during "Tent Event" program ... Broadbent family accepted invitation to further ministry term ... Home fellowship & other groups recommencing in February.

SPRINGVALE (J. Carmichael) Church looking forward with confidence in 1992 ... Year started with good attendance of YP for Cheree Stevens' baptism ... Lester Sutton's ordination held at home church, Springvale, 12 Jan prior to commencing ministry Epping, NSW. Service videoed ... Several new families attending ... Church supporting YFC ministry to "Kids at Risk" in Springvale ... Church camp Monbulk 21-23 February will focus on personal evangelism.

MILDURA (David Ratten, Neale Meredith, Doug Clark) Dec-Jan attendances high. Average 240 am, 141 pm ... Neale Meredith inducted into second full-time ministry position on 19 Jan. 269 attended ... Guest speakers in January Peter McRoberts (missionary in Japan), Martin Burgess (Croydon) ... Fourth annual gospel service held in Mildura Amphitheatre on 26 Jan. 250 attended ... Steve Hall (and family) enter Carlingford College for ministry training this year.

DANDENONG (G. Foon) Dedication service held for James Francis Caulfield ... Julie Foon & Joyanne Edwards held outreach breakfast for ladies. 76 attended. Nola Baker was the speaker ... Catering committee held church dinner for college fund. \$320 was raised ... Young people starred in Christmas play on the Sunday of their breakup & again on the special carol service held on 22 December when church was full.

OAKLEIGH (W.J. Edwards) Minister & wife welcomed back after holidays ... John Kotre, Joy Butler & Boris Homicki speakers during minister's leave ... CWFAC commenced year activities with barbecue in manse grounds 4 Feb ... Church women conducted stall on Chadstone Charity Day & raised \$783 ... Harold & May Smedley & Norm Murphy on sick list ... Lal Banner had serious fall while on outing from Emmaus & Dorothy Featherstone has entered residence at Emmaus.

MOUNT CLEAR (Dale White)

Over 200 attended our Candlelight Carols Night prior to Christmas ... \$588 given to COCOA in Christmas Day offering ... Youth Group hosted a free Christmas dinner for seniors ... Temple Day Offering raised nearly \$4,000 to offset building loans ... New Explorers club for children commenced this year under leadership of Ross Firth & team ... Sunday School and youth groups continue to grow.

BERWICK (Tim Hanna) Special services all November to celebrate opening of new church ... Over 200 attend biannual Seniors Con-

cert ... Members participated in two community radio programs ... Christmas functions were Aussie Bush Christmas, all Sunday School children in nativity presentation, nine lessons & carols and carols by twilight at Civic Centre ... Jenny Wake resigned as administrative secretary ... Andrew Ball to be inducted 8 March.

CARNEGIE (Ron Braun) Following carol service on 15 Dec Norma Hall farewelled and presentations made in recognition of her seven years ministry at Carnegie ... At well-attended service 2 Feb welcome extended to Ron & Cathy

Braun ... Induction service for Ron conducted by Don Smith, with Graeme Chapman as president. Luncheon held following the service.

PORTLAND (R. Hough, P. Kerrison) Auxiliaries and clubs in action after Christmas break ... CSSM took part in services in Jan ... Farewelled two families 19 Jan: Clegg family, going to Fiji and Kevin & Wendy McKenzie to Bible college ... Paul & Elizabeth Kerrison & family inducted as associate minister and we are looking forward to their leadership ... Many visitors over holiday period.

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