

National Journal
of Churches of
Christ in Australia

Vol. 95 • No. 5

4 April 1992

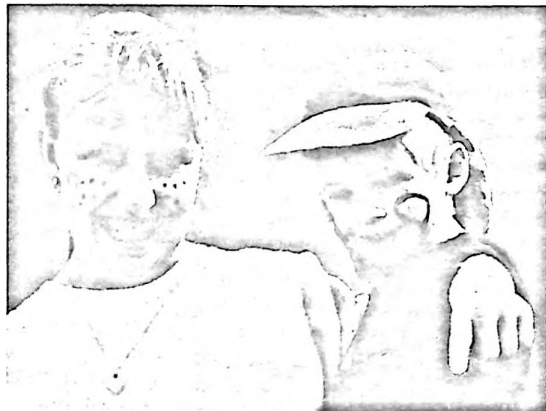
Registered by Australia Post
Publication No. VAR 0761

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN



View to the New

The extensions to the Churches of Christ Newburg Home in Mount Clear, Vic., will be opened as part of the Vic. - Was. annual conference — page 5



Fair Fun

*Kylie Dowrick and Christopher White
at the Mount Clear, Vic, church fair
—story page 3*



Guns of Fire

*Australia's newest Christian rock
sensation have released their second
album, "Viva the Revolution"*

—story page 13

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Vol. 95

No. 5

4 April 1992

Managing Editor: Chris Ambrose
Assistant: Geoff Alves

Issue	Deadline
25 April	16 April
9 May	1 May
23 May	15 May

Address for All Correspondence
(including all subscription payments)
PO Box 101
North Essendon 3041
Telephone (03) 379 1219
Fax (03) 379 0015



Member
publication of the
Australasian
Religious Press
Association



National logo of
Churches of Christ
in Australia

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

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

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

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

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

Advertising Rates

Displayed: \$5 per column
centimetre

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

Curkpatrick

The Kingdom without Boundaries



In any religious movement there is a sectarian propensity among some that seeks to demarcate boundaries between insiders and outsiders, spiritual and heretic, one of us and one of them. This tendency is nowhere better dispelled than in the parable of the Good Samaritan. The parable is a complete reversal of Jewish spiritual sensibilities. The target of this reversal, initially, is the orthodox status quo, the priest and Levite, whose righteousness is parodied in the unfolding narrative when they pass by the helpless victim on the other side of the road. The audience would have delighted in the subtle barb that implied that those who professed orthodox godliness were, in this story, not so godly after all.

The expectation for Jewish listeners would have been a priest, a Levite, then a layman, in a folkloric trilogy of characters that would serve as a parody on the clerical class. Such parodies are not uncommon in any culture. Wherever there is elitism of any kind, the egalitarian spirit seeks to undercut and subvert the integrity of those who for various reasons—birth, wealth, or even religion—are deemed better than everyone else. An Israelite layman who helped an injured man on a roadside ditch, while those who professed and taught the law did not, would have been a plausible little parody, a burlesque on the clerical class that the listeners would have enjoyed.

However, this subversive parable does not complete the expected trilogy of characters as an anti-clerical story. It takes an unexpected direction when the third person is not a Jewish layman, but a Samaritan. It introduces the incongruous ideas of "compassion" and "enemy", which to Jewish listeners, with their deeply entrenched hatred for Samaritans, would have been most disturbing. But it is precisely in the parable's surprising combination of "con-

tradictory" ideas that Jesus reveals to his listeners the elusive presence of the Kingdom. The listeners, who are Jews, are forced to recognise two completely incompatible ideas have been brought together in the parable, that is "compassion" and "Samaritan". This would come as a shock, a reversal of expectation. But it is through such shocking association of dissonant ideas the Kingdom impinges on human perception, and begins to relocate the boundaries of our "sectarian" propensities.

Initially, in the narrative's folkloric trilogy the expectation would have been anti-clerical, but the outcome is anti-sectarian. The most disturbing element for us in the parable is that the Samaritan is not a convert. In the story he exhibits no profession of faith, but practical compassion. As a narrative creation, his character, expressed with few words, mainly actions, is a metaphor of the Kingdom that extends beyond the boundaries of our religious maps—which for some have a strict demarcation between who is one of us, and who is not. For those who like well-defined boundaries the annoying thing is that this parable subverts religious boundaries based on race, creed, and social standing. The liberating aspect of the parable is that the world is more imbued with the presence of the Kingdom than we imagine or expect. Even our church membership rolls are not an adequate indicator of the Kingdom's elusive presence in our community, where there are those who are consciously or unconsciously part of the Kingdom's presence and work in our world. Perhaps for all his protestations at being a Christian—and there may be good reasons for that—Fred Hollows is a Samaritan who lives beyond our boundaries, but not those of the Kingdom. And thank God for Fred. The world is a better place because of people like him. —Stephen Curkpatrick

Easter '92

Hundreds of thousands involved



More than 100,000 are expected to participate in nationwide Easter '92 celebrations. In 1991 some 60,000 participated in Easter events and this year with every state involved in celebrations and with the energy evident at grassroots levels that number is expected to be almost doubled.

In cities and towns across Australia groups of Christians are planning to reach out in their local areas through a range of events.

Victoria last year had 13 regional celebrations—this year the number has jumped to 30. Many areas are not only having a regional festival, but are also bringing ongoing local events under the Easter '92 banner. Events of the Easter weekend will be launched by the Frankston Good Friday March. On Good Friday night Christians will gather to pray at Batman Park in front of the World Trade Centre. There from 6 pm until dawn, gathered around

candles arranged in the shape of the Southern Cross, Christians will pray for Australia. At dawn the vigil will conclude with a time of worship. The climax of Easter '92 in Victoria will take place on Easter Sunday with a march of witness in the heart of Melbourne. Around 3 pm marches will depart from various briefing rally points to march to the heart of the city at 3.30 pm to form a human cross. A special broadcast on FM radio will keep marchers in touch with each other and will feature live crosses from similar marches in Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Hobart and Darwin.

A national bulletin published in March gives further details of Easter '92 events around Australia. Office contacts are: National and Sydney (02) 716 8247, Melbourne (03) 686 6300, Perth (09) 481 3032, Darwin (089) 84 4488, Brisbane (07) 831 0299, Canberra (06) 290 1424 or 295 9532, Hobart (002) 34 9127 and Adelaide (08) 382 8536.

High Honour for "AC" Editor

Chris Ambrose ARPA president



• Chris Ambrose

At its recent convention in Adelaide, the Australasian Religious Press Association elected Chris Ambrose as its new president. The association represents over 100 Christian publications and organisations in Australia and New Zealand.

Chris has been editor of *The Australian Christian* for over four years but before that was subeditor/manager for nine years when Gordon Stirling was editor. In his time with the "AC" Chris has brought his accountancy skills to the management of the magazine and has overseen the introduction

of computerised methods of production and publishing.

Chris was born in Tasmania and studied accountancy at the University of Tasmania. He practiced as an accountant before entering the College of the Bible. He is married to Mary, a trained nurse working as a tissue transplant co-ordinator, and they have five children, George, at university, Kate and Roger, at secondary school, and Jack and David (from Korea and Thailand respectively), at primary school. Chris is interested in sport (athletics, hockey, cricket and bushwalking) and reading (10 books a week). Last year Chris was the secretary of ARPA and has been heavily involved in discussions with Australia Post and the Prices Justification Tribunal on changes to the postal system.

The election of Chris as president of ARPA is a high honour for *The Australian Christian* and for Churches of Christ in Australia and is an indication of the high esteem his colleagues hold him in. We wish him well in his new position. —Geoff Alves

All the Fun of the Fair

Improving the church's profile

The usually serene picture of the Mount Clear, Vic, church lawns and car parks was transformed into a kaleidoscope of colour and festivity for their inaugural church fair on 29 February.

The whole congregation worked together as a team, with each auxiliary or ministry organising a wide array of stalls and activities. There was pony-riding and face-painting for the children, cake, craft and book stalls, a white-elephant auction, plenty of food available and even a car wash. The "dunking" machine was also popular, as young people and church

elders alike queued for a chance to sink the minister (Dale White) in ice-cold water!

At the end of the day, over \$3,000 had been raised for various church ministries, including equipment for their new Explorers Clubs (for boys and girls), which began earlier this year.

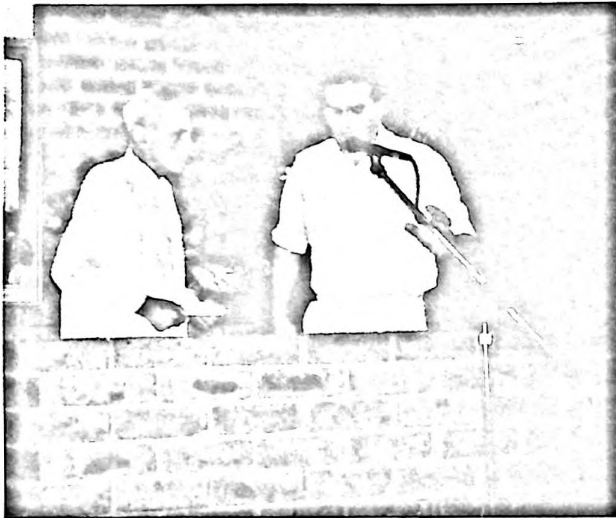
The fair also helped improve the community profile—as hundreds of locals joined in "all the fun of the fair". Pamphlets outlining church programs were distributed to all, and those who came enjoyed an atmosphere of fun, warmth and friendliness.



• The Mt Clear church grounds during the fair

Warragul Baptisms

Nine baptisms in the last five months



• Alf Powell giving his testimony prior to his baptism by minister David Buesnel

There is an air of excitement among Warragul, Vic, folk lately. After quite a while with no baptisms, there have been nine during the last five months, and the congregation is excited and praying for a lot more this year.

Among the first of the baptisms was 82-year-old Alf Powell, whose health was not the best, and whose baptism had been put off until he was well enough. The week prior to his big day, the congregation was asked to pray for his health during that week, to allow him to follow his Lord through the waters of baptism. He had a great week!

Alf came into the fellowship a few years ago through the Senior Friendship group, an outreach run by the church. Of the others, one was a man who

had transferred in from a different denomination and now wished to be baptised, and the other seven were all young adults. These seven all attend the fortnightly "G-Gang" young adults and teens group run by the church. Part of their program is to hold a discussion night once a month where many questions can be given and answered. There is a lot more potential within this group, which is proving very popular. There is a strong bond among these young people, and they are becoming more involved in other areas around the church and in the Sunday School.

The church is growing and reaching out, especially through the once-a-month evening services "Sunday on the Hill", which attracts many visitors as well as regulars. As the attendances have remained around 100-150 at these nights, it has been decided to hold them twice a month. At the last service 150 witnessed the baptisms of four young women. Music and guest artists are a vital part of the celebrations, as well as the message. An informal time of fellowship follows with supper, which is varied each night.

Easter Event

Schoolchildren to experience the Christian story

Over 1,300 children from 11 Mount Waverley and Chadstone primary schools in Melbourne, Vic, will attend a dramatised presentation of the Easter tradition over three days in April just prior to Easter.

This is the second occasion that the Mount Waverley-Chadstone Interchurch Council has presented the event. The intention is to provide an opportunity for primary school children in years 3 to 6, many of whom would otherwise have little involvement with church traditions, to learn the meaning behind Easter.

The event will present the Easter story by means of storytelling, drama and displays, together with mime and music. Every 45 minutes during school hours on 6-8 April, groups of children will be bussed into Holy Family Catholic Church in Stephenson's Road, Mount Waverley.

On arrival, the children will be met by clowns and their own hostess, who will guide them during their visit. They will be

taken through a series of caves, with audiovisuals and dioramas covering the life of Jesus Christ, to a storytelling session where traditional spring and Easter customs from around the world will be contrasted with the Australian season. The theme of new life and its symbolism by the egg will be stressed.

In the church, a drama will portray the Christian Easter story from Palm Sunday to Easter Day, with the children joining in with songs they have already learned at school.

The event is a well-organised and fast-moving affair, with over 100 volunteers from local churches presenting the story, providing music and catering, making the scenery and costumes and fund raising. Other church groups are assisting with the clowning and drama activities.

The Ministry of Education, the Catholic Education Office, and the Council for Christian Education in Schools have all given their blessing to the event.

Maitland on the Move

Meeting in Seventh Day Adventist buildings

The Maitland, NSW, church is moving once again. In its 12-year history it has moved from a literary institute hall to a school to an unused chapel to the Churches of Christ Retirement Village hall and now to the Seventh Day Adventist buildings.

All these moves have resulted because of growth and better ministry opportunities. We have had to move from the present lovely facilities because we are literally standing in the doorway. It had been hoped that our plans for building our own complex would have been finalised by now, but "so near" is not "there!", so we were forced to move. We have appreciated the co-operation with the SDA people and pastor in the discussions concerning the

move. They were open and straightforward and we trust this gives a good basis for mutual respect if not agreement on certain matters of doctrine. The first service was held on 15 March. The address is Brunswick Street, East Maitland, just off the New England Highway. Coming from Newcastle it is the third street on the left after entering the city's boundary.

It will only be on Sundays that we will use these facilities. On other occasions we will use the Retirement Village hall or homes of members and friends.

We believe that this move will allow us an opportunity for further growth, which in turn will allow us to more adequately fulfil our mission in the Hunter Valley.

—R.N. Hawkins

FURNITURE RESTORATIONS French Polishing and Cabinet Making Fine Craftsmanship

Repairs, staining and refinishing of all types of furniture, specialising in antiques

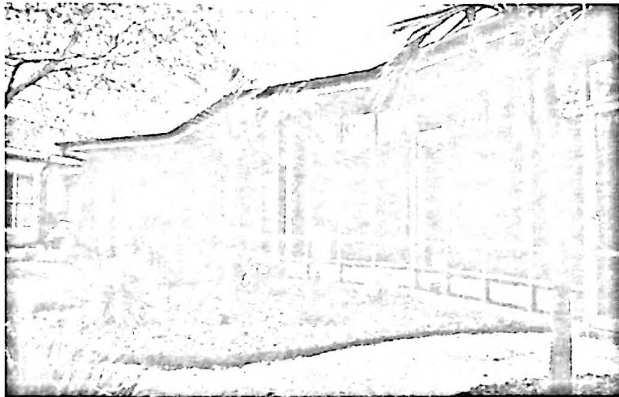
Furniture made to order

M.A. Ving-Tang and B.J. Purdie
B.H. (03) 723 0363A.H. (03) 720 1629

FREE QUOTES
(03) 723 0363

Making Our Better Best!

Move to new facilities



• Extensions to the Churches of Christ Nursing Home, Murrumbena

"The wish to maintain our reputation as premier care-givers, coupled with the proven high economic costs of isolated small nursing home units, made the move from Christian Guest Home to the Wahgoo Road Churches of Christ Nursing Home an inevitable necessity", stated Trevor Giles, the Executive Director of the Vic-Tas Department of Community Care. Trevor praised the excellence of care given by Christian Guest Home staff, admitting

that facilities praised in the past as fine examples of caring for frail elderly persons proved to be obstacles to the latest principles and practices of caring for aged persons.

Inspection of the newest facilities at the nursing home demonstrate clearly the quantum leap in care over the past few decades. Bedrooms are much more homely, with 20 rooms having their own facilities. The emphasis is upon residents' privacy, dignity and independence. Community rooms allow for social activity and special-care activities such as occupational therapy and physiotherapy.

A special barbecue function farewellled the old nursing section of Christian Guest Home. (No, it did not go up in flames.) Peter Bradley, the homes' chaplain and Colleen Salkowski supported the residents and their families in the move from one home to the other. Fred Combridge, a former department director, spoke of the good memories of Christian Guest Home and the many people whose needs were met with care and compassion over the years.

The department now looks forward to providing even better quality of life and care for residents in the future.

BUCKINGHAM MEMORIAL CENTRE

Self-catering camp site
38 Lockwood Road,
Belgrave Heights
Accommodation for 60
Large recreational hall
Low tariff
Small groups welcome
Enquiries: Jack Edwards
(03) 568 1825

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

Why not include us in your will?
The following wording could be used in your will:
I give and bequeath \$ (or a percentage of the total estate) to "The Australian Christian", the national journal of Churches of Christ in Australia, absolutely for the use and benefit of the organisation free from all debts, funeral and testamentary expenses.

Magazines under Threat

Postal costs will kill many religious and charity periodicals

The survival of many religious and charitable publications is threatened by the phasing out of Australia Post's registered publication service, according to the Australasian Religious Press Association.

In a statement of concern endorsed unanimously by its annual general meeting, ARPA—which comprises 70 major Australian religious journals—says religious publications face postal increases of 50-100% under Australia Post's new service for periodicals, "Print Post".

ARPA says such increases will have serious economic and social consequences. The increases will force the closure of many religious titles and the amalgamation of others, resulting in loss of jobs, particularly in the printing industry.

In addition, religious and charity institutions rely on their periodicals to raise awareness of social concerns, promote a social conscience, foster religious devotion and maintain support for welfare and benevolent services.

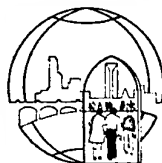
Since the early 1960s, the registered publication service has provided concessional postal rates for periodicals, with certain types of publications—including religious and charity—receiving the higher level of discount under Category A.

Print Post charges full commercial price for all periodicals.

Of the 3,200 Category A titles registered with Australia Post, 70% are religious or charity. Australia Post records show that religious titles have an annual mail volume of almost 37 million articles, or 0.9% of Australia Post's total throughput.

ARPA Executive Officer, David Busch, said the religious press varied from small quarterly magazines to weekly tabloids. "Typically they have relatively small circulations—between 4,000 and 10,000—and this is widely dispersed across states and into country areas. This means we incur the highest increases under Print Post. With postal costs representing a large proportion of operating costs for many of them, the non-profit, non-commercial religious and charity periodicals cannot withstand this assault on their viability. The small, independent press must be guaranteed affordable access to the national postal service."

ARPA has called on the Federal Government to immediately postpone the phasing out of the registered publication service, and to direct Australia Post to offer a printed matter service which does not place undue hardship on those publications whose survival is most vulnerable to postal increases.



**SWANSTON STREET
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Melbourne**
(cnr Swanston &
Little Lonsdale Streets)

Sunday

9.00 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Worship & Communion
Services
Gospel Celebration

7.00 p.m.

Wednesday

1.15-1.45 p.m.

Lunchtime Service

For further enquiries, please ring (03) 663 3884

New Developments in Queensland

Social Service Department busy with openings



• Michael Lavarch unveils the plaque at the Bribie Island Nursing Home

The Queensland Social Service Department began February with a busy weekend with the openings of the new Buckingham Gardens 50-bed aged care hostel, the six Sandringham Place units at Alexandra Hills and a 20-bed extension to the Sir Charles Adermann Nursing Home at Bribie Island.

Buckingham Gardens

On 1 February over 300 assembled for the opening and dedication of Buckingham Gardens Hostel and the adjacent Sandringham Place. The facilities were opened by the Hon Ben Humphries, Minister for Veterans Affairs, and the dedication was led by the Chaplain to the Brisbane Homes, Sheryl Hoffman. Dr Donald Stewart, AM, spoke on the theme of the call of Christ to a ministry of care.

Buckingham Gardens is part of a new concept of hostel care in Queensland being developed by the Social Service Department, in which instead of building a large institutional building there is a complex of five 10-bed hostel houses on the site. All the cooking and care is handled in each house. This provides for greater resident participation in the activities of daily living, greater participation by members of the resident's family and the crea-

tion of a more homelike environment.

The Buckingham Gardens house names follow a royal theme, with William Manor, Windsor House, Elizabeth Lodge, Victoria Court and Alexandra Place. The central roadway, Cliff Coward Drive, is named after the late Cliff Coward, who invented and promoted the ICA scheme in Queensland. At the opening Gladys Coward unveiled the plaque.

Also located on the same site is the Redlands Day Care Centre for children and the Redlands church. The Social Service Department is seeking to develop a healthy relationship and interaction between the various facilities on the site.

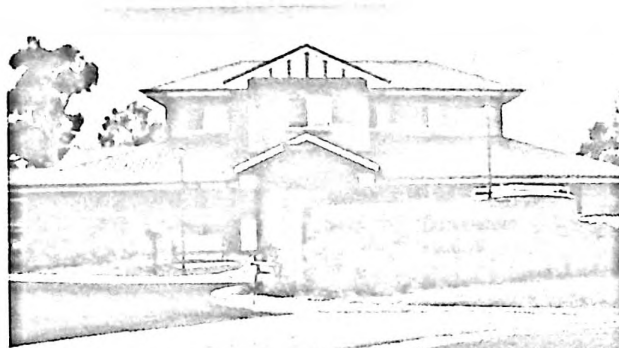
Buckingham Gardens and Sandringham Place form part of the Brisbane Homes and come under the responsibility

of administrator Lyndsay Dipple.

Bribie Island Nursing Home

On the following day, the Social Service Department opened the 20-bed extension to the Sir Charles Adermann Nursing Home at the Bribie Island Retirement Village.

About 400 crowded into the newly completed activities hall, where Michael Lavarch, the local member, declared the facilities open and Wayne Kirk, minister of the Bribie Island church and chaplain to the village, conducted the dedication. Ed Cheal, chairperson of the Bribie Island Regional Committee, chaired the program.



• Buckingham Gardens



• Units at Sandringham Place

Les Lawlor says...

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

LAWLORS PTY. LTD.
THE PEST CONTROL PEOPLE
 6-10 Henley St., Torrensville
 Phone (08) 43 9636



Appointments

Two Inductions

New staff at Nunawading

Two induction services in two months have kept the Nunawading, Vic, church busy at the beginning of 1992.



• Tracey Carr

Tracey Carr, formerly of Caringbah, NSW, was inducted into the position of the Director of Small Group Ministries in January. Tracey will guide the church through a new phase of the development of small groups and will pay particular attention to the nurture of new Christians.

John Rowe was inducted as the Director of Pastoral Care in February. John was formerly minister of the Belmont-Highton Baptist Church and will be responsible for the fur-



• John Rowe

ther development of lay pastoral visitation and community care.

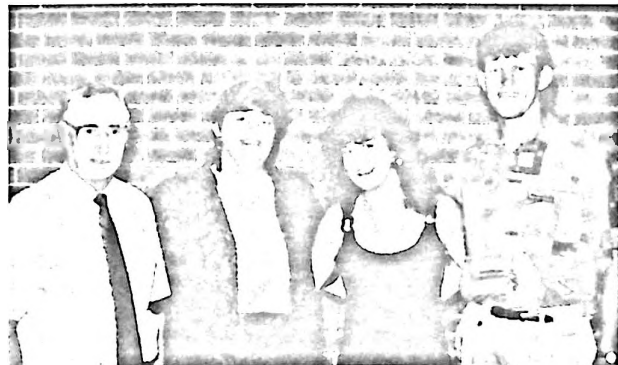
New Team

Brian White senior minister at Caringbah

In January Brian White was inducted as the senior minister of the Caringbah, NSW, church.

Three weeks later Jenni White and Jill Morante, both graduates of the Wollongong Institute for Contemporary Church Leadership, were inducted into part-time ministries.

Jenni is the children's minister and runs a very successful three-hour Kids Club program. It is still growing, with around 80 children currently on the roll. Jill is the church office administrative secretary and houseparent of Caringbah's new



• Brian White, Jill Morante, Jenni White and Trevor Touzel

project for homeless girls.

Trevor Touzel, a student at the Wollongong Institute, is responsible for the church's four youth groups.

Brian will supervise the team and is also lecturing part-time at the NSW Churches of Christ Theological College at Carlingford.

Ringwood Induction

John Sharp begins ministry

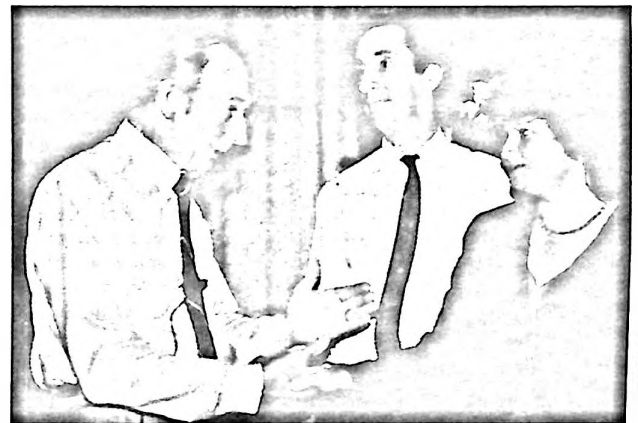
John Sharp was inducted to

ministry at Ringwood, Vic, on 2 February. Max Moody led the service to welcome John, Christine and sons Matthew and Joel for the next five years.

Alan Niven represented conference and CCTC, where John is currently studying part-time.

Peter Breen from the Richmond church played the piano and sang. Members from Montrose provided the music.

John and Christine were members at Werribee before going to CCTC. John has served at Richmond and Montrose as a student minister and visitors were in attendance from all these churches.



• Max Moody welcomes John and Christine Sharpe to Ringwood

AN INVITATION

to join with the residents of Churches of Christ Nursing Home, their relatives and friends, staff and the members of the Department of Community Care

in celebrating the official opening of the new extensions and upgrading of the Churches of Christ Nursing Home, 1 Wahgoo Road, Murrumbena

on

Sunday, 3 May 1992, at 3 pm

An official function of the annual Vic-Tas Churches of Christ Conference

Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

"The Last Word"

To the Editor,

It appears that from time to time some readers object to some of the jokes that appear in "The Last Word". I think that you are in a "no-win situation" because all jokes are offensive to somebody. For example, in *The Australian Christian* of 21 March 21, joke 1 is offensive to animal lovers, joke 2 would upset some sporting shooters, jokes 3, 5 and 8 belittle people of small intelligence, joke 4 belittles children's innocence, joke 6 could be offensive to royalists, joke 7 ridicules the English language and the cartoon on the bottom ridicules the clergy. Even the "serious bit" at the top of the column could be seen as discriminating against the poor. It seems, Mr Editor, that the only safe course for you is to confine your jokes to those in which the Devil "gets it in the neck". If he happens to have any "closet followers" among your readers they are not likely to come out into the open to defend him against alleged discrimination.

—Gordon Stirling
(Back at Boronia, Vic)

Correction of a Correction

To the Editor

On Page 14 of the 21 March

FRANKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST



GREENWAYS

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

1 & 2 BR Villas

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

issue of *The Australian Christian* you claim under the heading "Correction" that the sixth line of the third paragraph of the previous issue the word "purification" should read "putrification" I would argue that "putrification" is not acceptable and that the best rendition is "putrefaction".

—David Brooker
(Surrey Hills, Vic)

[We give up. The proofreader's salary will be halved, the sub-editor asked to retire and an appeal launched to purchase a better spelling checker in the computer.]

Offensive Language

To the Editor,

I was disgusted to read the phrase in the heading of and in the article in the 7 March issue of *The Australian Christian*, even though the point Bryan Mee was trying to make is vital in the life of the church.

It is recognised that each person has the prerogative to express themselves in whatever way they choose even if the words used annoy the hearer. But it is a sad day for the witness of the church when worldly expressions have to be used to convey a message.

The inclusion of articles with offensive phrases is not what I, and I am sure many others, expect or want to read in a Christian publication for circulation to people striving to grow in Christian stature to witness to those who do know Christ as their own personal Saviour.

—Wilf Lovell
(Daw Park, SA)

Offensive Language

To the Editor,

Last week I spent time talking to a person who was fined \$100 for swearing on a Melbourne tram. I hope they didn't read the 7 March edition of *The Australian Christian*, containing the article by the late Bryan Mee.

It's very difficult to respond to an article printed posthumously. I respect the memory of Bryan Mee and his ministry, and appreciate the point of the article.

However, I protest at the

unnecessary use of a swear word in a national Christian magazine. There are still certain words that are offensive, and a crime to use in public, and as editor you have deliberately chosen to use one of them. The point of the article could have been made equally as strong by creative editing. As a Christian, I don't use that language in my home, or among the people to whom I minister—let alone in the pulpit, or at a public meeting.

Could you please publish the standards that *The Australian Christian* adheres to in its editorial policies?

In view of the specific NT injunction to "not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths" (Ephesians 4:29) and "nor should there be foolish talk" (Ephesians 5:4 NIV) I think I have a bit of weight to my protest. Holiness in speech is an important aspect of our witness. Let's aim for standards of excellence in our na-

tional church magazine.

—Ray Smith
(Gisborne, Vic)

Objection

To the Editor,

It was with a sense of unbelief I read that "word" in *The Australian Christian* (7 March issue). I object! Not only to the word but to its use in a paper devoted to the Christian way of life and to our relationship with the world we live in.

Certainly our Christian values must not isolate us from others but neither should we forsake our own standard in manner or in speech to remain "in touch" with those outside of Christ. Non-Christians have a peculiar and accurate insight into what they perceive as both proper behaviour and language for Christians and any departure from the perception they have only hinders us, rather than helps us, to find a bond which will draw us together.

There are countless Chris-

Letters from Tertius

Transfiguration

To the Editor,

I've heard dozens of sermons on the transfiguration of Jesus and usually we are told that life is not all mountain-top experiences and that sometimes we have to come down to earth again. But when our minister preached on it last Sunday he read from the Good News Bible. The words that hit me were, "As Jesus was praying his face changed its appearance."

I had always thought that this change of face was a sort of supernatural aura. And maybe it was. But the way it reads in the Good News Bible the glow on our Lord's face was the result of his praying. And it even looks as though that glow extended, in the disciples' eyes, even to his clothes.

I was puzzled and later got out my concordance to look up the passage. In the earlier verses Jesus is talking about his future suffering, rejection and death, and the fact that his friends would also have it rough and would have to bear crosses of their own. So could it be that as they reached the top of the mountain the disciples saw anxiety and pain and concern on Jesus' face? And could it be that as he prayed and got it all into perspective, the anxiety and pain lifted, so that his face lit up with a glow of peace and trust?

No doubt the change in face and clothes was miraculous! But I know that sometimes when I've been as low as you can get and then have prayed my faltering prayers, I have felt a sort of inner glow of reassurance. I don't know what my face may have looked like at such times. I don't pray in front of a mirror. But if there were any change in it, that too would have been a miracle!

—Tertius

Letters to the Editor

tians who keep their Christian stance aloft without causing division or offence. They sometimes experience opposition, or perhaps light-hearted ridicule, but I know of none who have lost contact with their fellow workers because of their stand and of many unbelievers who have found Christ Jesus as Lord and Saviour through them.

I object to the inconvenient and unnecessary use of a worldly word in a Christian paper.

—E.R. Finck
(Windsor Gardens, SA)

Provocative

To the Editor,

I was very disappointed when I read the recent issue of *The Australian Christian* (7 March) and noted the offensive language used in the article on page 18.

If the article is intended to be "provocative", then it should help us grapple with, and think through, significant issues rather than bring discredit to

standards of Christian journalism!

It is also disappointing that such offensive language has been allowed past the editor's desk. If we need to use such language to make an impression, or to be "provocative", it doesn't say much for the quality of the rest of our witness, does it?

—Roger Risson
(Goolwa, SA)

T.E. Rofe Scholarship

To the Editor,

Could you please advise your readers that if they are a graduate of COB or CCTC and they are contemplating further tertiary-level study to enhance their ministry they may be eligible to receive a grant under the T.E. Rofe Scholarship.

Applications close on 30 April 1992.

Application forms are available from CCTC, PO Box 629, Mulgrave North 3170. Phone (03) 790 1000.

—Keith Bowes
(Principal, CCTC)

Service

No Peace without Justice

A service for Palm Sunday

The Churches of Christ Social Justice Committee has prepared the following order of worship for Palm Sunday, 12 April 1992. They have chosen the theme "No Peace without Justice" and would encourage those preparing morning worship to explore the theme. The service can be adapted to suit your situation.

Call to Worship

The world belongs to God,
The earth and all its people.
How good and how lovely it is
To live together in unity.
Love and faith come together,
Justice and peace join hands.
If the Lord's disciples keep silent
These stones would shout aloud.
Lord, open our lips
And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Welcome and Announcements

Hymn 129

Prayer

Gracious God, your love for us surpasses all our hopes and desires.
Forgive our failings, keep us in your peace and lead us in the way of salvation.

Bible Readings

Isaiah 59:14-20

Luke 19:29-40 (Jesus enters Jerusalem: Prince of Peace)

Our Response

Right Blessings on him who comes as King
Who comes in the name of the Lord.

Left Glory to God in the highest
And peace to his people on earth.

Right I will hear what the Lord God has to say,

Left A voice that speaks for peace.

Right Peace for all people and for his friends

Left And those who turn to him in their hearts

Right His help is near for those who fear him

Left And his glory will live in our land.

Right Blessings on him who comes as king.

Left Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.

[Alternative reading: Philippians 2:5-11 (See Churches of Christ Hymnbook selected scripture reading no. 13.)]

Hymn 256 (Note the words of verses 3 and 4.)

Introduction to the Communion Celebration

Sharing the Bread and the Wine

Offering and Prayers of Intercession

Hymn 574 (words by Randall Pitman)

Witness to the Word—Sermon

Hymn 307

Benediction (See Churches of Christ Hymnbook selected scripture reading no. 37 h.)

Notes

There are sources of hymns and choruses available other than the Churches of Christ Hymnbook. These could include "Scripture in Song" (numbers 311, 59 and 509) or "In Spirit and in Truth" (numbers 42, 41 and 25).

For prayers "Uniting in Worship" (People's Book) has litanies for peace and justice on pages 168-169 and 182-183 that include appropriate prayers. A procession of palms and a children's segment may be included as required.

The passing of the peace may also be included. It could be introduced by saying, "Before offering each other the sign of peace let us silently commit ourselves to show mercy, act justly and walk humbly with God." (Micah 6:8)

—John Somerville (WA Representative)



VICTORIAN-TASMANIAN CONFERENCE 1-3 MAY 1992

JOINT PRESIDENTS' RECEPTION

Friday, 1 May, 6.30 pm
Williamstown Town Hall
Items, Department Focus Times
Cost: \$15 Tickets from Conference Office
Phone (03) 326 8900

BUSINESS SESSIONS

Saturday, 2 May, 9 am to 4.30 pm
Nunawading Church of Christ, Surrey Road,
Blackburn

YOUTH EVENT

Saturday, 2 May, 7.30 pm
Assembly Hall, Caulfield Secondary College
Speaker: Dale White

OPENING OF NURSING HOME EXTENSIONS

Sunday, 3 May, 3 pm
Waghoo Road, Murrumbena
by Department of Community Care

CONFERENCE GOSPEL CELEBRATIONS

Sunday, 3 May, 7 pm
World Congress Centre (ample parking)
Speaker: Iris Lawson
Guest Artists

Media Review

Videos

Together We Can

Together We Can is the name of a new seven-minute video, co-produced by a number of missions in the Middle East.

The video looks at the impact that TV is having on the region's 200 million Arabs—most of whom are Muslims. For the large number of illiterates in the Middle East, TV is now the primary source of information and entertainment.

Until now, Arabic TV broadcasts have been largely controlled by Islamic governments. However, with the increasing use of satellites for international television broadcasts, more and more Arabs are tuning into European and Asian television services.

Together We Can is available on free loan from Interserve, PO Box 320, Box Hill 3128. Phone (03) 890 0402, Fax (03) 890 1231.

When you write, please indicate your intended use of the video and give alternative dates for use.

Books



Voices of Hope in the Rural Crisis

edited by John Pfitzner (Lutheran Publishing House) \$5.95

Voices of Hope in the Rural Crisis is a collection of papers presented by farmers, rural counsellors, financial experts, women in agriculture and others closely involved in the agricultural scene. For a small book, a wide range of subjects is covered, beginning with an attempt to give reasons for the "why" of the rural crisis—from a greedy living beyond our means, to an eye-opening look at the Australian farming industry in a global perspective to issues beyond local control.

The book goes on to detail practical ways of coping with stress, change and difficult situations as they impact on individuals, family relationships and rural churches. It is blunt in its criticism of Australia's "deficient" trade and economic policies, our "unsustainable" values, and the "features of advanced capitalism". It presents a need to look at farm management, farming methods, stewardship of the land and the inadequacy of a prevailing unofficial "prosperity theology".

Perhaps most useful of all is the message running through the book that God has not left the farm, that he is still interested in farmers and farming, and how crisis and failure are a call to faith and an invitation to live closer to God.

An encouraging word for those facing failure and guilt in the rural crisis, and an important resource for those wanting to understand it better.

—Grant Simpson

Bound for Life

The Joy of Christian Commitment

by John White

John White has again produced a book that all Christians can relate to and learn from and be encouraged by. He explains that although his own body is 65 and ageing he is kept young through the Holy Spirit. Now that he is this age he is constantly reminded by this world that he should be dull and decrepit and rigidly turning into stone. Instead we find he remains inspired and is being renewed inside constantly by God's Holy Spirit.

John White further discusses the cost of commitment in an

ever-increasing demanding world and the pressures this brings into the average Christian's life. He points out our dual citizenship but reinforces that because of our commitment we know that our home is with God and that we long to be with him.

A refocus of our position with God is necessary for recommitment to occur. This examination will bring pain at first but ultimately it will bring joy at the realisation of a closer walk with our Lord. John White says, "If we want to be committed to Jesus, devoting our lives to him, we must radically change the way we view our lives. Taking up our cross, treading the pathway of faith, and journey to freedom and joy."

We must see our lives and the world through Christ's eyes. Look at yourself in the mirror of Christ's word and ask, "Where is my treasure, where is my heart? Am I a child of the country I was born in or a citizen of eternity?"

I found the book to be a guide for a lifetime commitment, covering all aspects, humorous in some places, serious in others, but always realistic and practical. The format of having a question section at the end of each chapter enhances its use for group study. I enjoyed this book and encourage you to read it.

—Lindsay Raisbeck

The Firewalkers

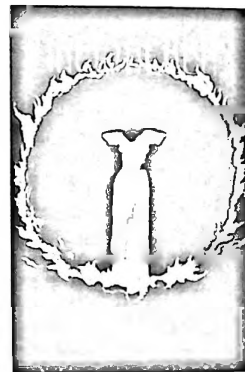
by Christine Mangala (Aquila Books) \$9.95

This is a love story set in Southern India. A young and beautiful dancer is widowed one month after an arranged marriage. Her father is very strict in his following of the Hindu faith, as is Aparna herself, and thus she should from now on be dead to the world. Into the life of the town comes a new collector. This novel examines the struggle the young couple have to build a relationship in defiance of society and to meet or overcome the demands of the Hindu philosophy. The couple have contact with a Christian community and there is a discussion of some of the differences between the Christian faith and the Hindu view of life.

One interesting supplement to this book are a number of authentic vegetarian recipes from Tamil Nadu so that readers can eat alongside the characters as they progress through a world of festivals, celebrations and rituals.

This book should be available from most good bookshops. If unavailable the distributor is Shepp Books, 2/40 Leighton Place, Hornsby 2077. Phone (02) 476 3712.

—CRA



Since I just got baptised, can I skip tonight's bath?

Christian Kurds Plight

Imprisoned in the desert

A few months ago I visited Quetta in central Pakistan on my way to Iran, and later passed through it again on my way from Karachi to the north. The bulk of southern Pakistan is desert, with Quetta in the centre, and through it go all the rail and bus links from the north to Iran, from Iran to Karachi and largely from both places to the north. On every hand it is surrounded by hundreds of miles of inhospitable desert. That desert is important—it is the walls of a prison.

I had been visiting the post office and had paused outside one of the Iranian "consulates" where information on Iran is available. Being bound for Iran in a few days, I was debating whether or not to enter and seek enlightenment when I was accosted by one who turned out to become a firm friend, one Shewan Saeed, who said he had been to Iran. Shewan is a Christian Kurd and one of about 30 Christian Kurdish families in Quetta. The total number of Kurds in Quetta is about 1,000, and they are refugees. Many have fought actively against the Iraqi regime.

It is not putting too fine a point on it to say they are imprisoned in Quetta. They may leave any time they like, providing it is back to Iraq or to Iran, otherwise they cannot get a permit to buy a ticket, and with hundreds of miles of desert it is impossible to leave otherwise. Nor is there any work for them there, despite some of them having quite high qualifications. They are, by general refugee standards, quite

well housed. A family would occupy a small block with two mudbrick rooms about four by four by four metres, with an outside toilet, and usually another smaller laundry or kitchen added. They are a very clean and industrious people. There is a UNHCR allowance (or there was one, the UNHCR is or has had a cash crisis) of 1,000 rupees per month (about \$50), which allows a diet of rice and vegetables. They face the nightmare of having this allowance cut.

The Christian families have no Christian literature, probably not even Bibles, and I saw no evidence of a church or chapel. Education is minimal and higher education very difficult.

Most of them told me they face certain death if they were to return to Iraq. Despite the boasted tolerance of the Iranian government, refugees going to Iran are forcibly converted. The churches in Iran have very limited rights and are unable to help. Indeed there is a suspicion they are really showpieces to demonstrate how tolerant the government is. There is also a difficulty that many if not most of these Kurds have been openly hostile to Iraq, and both the Iranian and the Turkish governments have a large problem in preventing their country from being used as a base for the Kurds to attack Iraq, so these refugees, known enemies of Iraq, are naturally under suspicion.

The US Embassy and the Vatican have been petitioned, but with no visible support being shown. It may well be up to us to do something about 30 families of Christian Kurds. Have we got room for 30 Christian families? For those interested in such matters the Kurds are descended from the Medes and speak a form of old Persian.

I can be contacted at PO Box 72, Maryborough 3465, to share more on their situation.

—John Alderson

Handwritten Bible Launched

Helping the people of the CIS

Messages of commendation from every sector of the community have been pouring into Bible Society offices following the nationwide launch of the Handwritten Bible Project.

The imaginative project, which has been launched in every capital city, not only commemorates the founding of the Bible Society in Australia in March 1817, but also remembers the people of the new Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), who have been without copies of the Bible since the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917.

Australian participants who handwrite one verse of the Bible are paying \$5, which covers the cost of supplying one Bible for a Russian family. The target is to supply people of the CIS with at least 360,000 desperately needed Bibles this year.

His Excellency, the Governor of Queensland, Sir Walter Campbell, wrote the first verse, Genesis 1:1, in Queensland's Handwritten Bible. Australian of the Year, the Most Reverend Peter Hollingworth, and the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Alderman Jim Soorley, have also given their support.

Councillor Ian Buckingham, Mayor of Box Hill, gave his support by inscribing Genesis 1:1 in the first Handwritten Bible in Victoria.

Radio personality, Alan Jones, has also said, "I am delighted to give my support to the Handwritten Bible Project."

Artist Pro Hart has donated a painting to the Bible Society to be auctioned in support of the Handwritten Bible project. The suggested starting price is \$10,000. Several copies of various paintings by Pro Hart will be included in the Handwritten Bibles.

There is a book in Bible House in Moscow that contains scripture verses cut out of atheistic magazines and books that have quoted scripture in an effort to destroy their credibility. This book was precious beyond words to those who had no other access to the Word of God.

The Bible Society invites every church to contact the Handwritten Bible coordinator in their state, and give the members of their church the opportunity to experience compassion for people who suffered through 70 years of atheism.

Aid for Burmese

Australian churches support oppressed people

"Australia's churches are acting with Burmese people as they uphold human dignity in the face of violent repression by Burma's military regime," said the Reverend David Gill, General Secretary of the Australian Council of Churches (ACC). He was speaking following an announcement that the Australian government will direct \$100,000 to programs of the Burmese people, through the ACC.

The Burmese military seem intent on destroying opposition in Karen State. The Australian government's decision is a

boost to the long efforts of the churches to help these people, hunted to the edges of their homeland.

Australian churches, through the ACC Christmas Bowl appeal, have been active partners with Burmese people and churches over the past 10 years, supporting women's leadership training, schools, health care and diplomacy training for Burmese representatives.

Since 1986 Australian churches have given approximately \$300,000 to Burmese people's projects.



ON YOUR OWN, YOU'RE NOT ALONE

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

Write enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

CSF, PO Box 411, Mayfield 2304

Happenings

In the UK, while the church is struggling with the concept of women in leadership, the church is not reluctant to send women overseas as missionaries. Currently 56% of Protestant missionaries are women, although only 5% of deacons in the Anglican church and 3% of women ministers in the Baptist church are women.

The flow of scriptures into central and eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union will dry up in July 1992, says the United Bible Societies. The Bible Society in Russia is selling, without any effort, approximately 60,000 scriptures a month. At the moment there are 100,000 Bibles on the way to the CIS, which will arrive in March. Funds available to supply scriptures will run out in July.

Young people in the US have stronger beliefs in religion and hell than their counterparts in other countries, according to a poll by MTV. The poll found that more than 90% of Americans aged 14-34 believe in God while only 48% of the British do. While only 16% of Germans believe in hell, 76% of Americans think hell is a real place.

Protestant churches in America are relatively sensitive to the needs of families, the elderly, children,

teenagers and the poor—but less sensitive to the needs of minorities, non-Christians, young adults and singles, according to the findings of a survey by the Barna Research Group.

Sports and Leisure Ministries held their first single-sport dinner on 17 March when they held a cricketer's dinner in Melbourne. The host for the evening was Greg Chappell, former Australian cricket captain. Rowan Forster, ABC journalist, was the speaker for the evening. Wayne Phillips, a Victorian and Australian cricket player, was interviewed during the evening. One young man indicated he would like to discuss making a Christian commitment.

The Anglican Catholic Church's missionary diocese of Australia (a breakaway from the Anglican church) was promulgated on 1 March. The church is seeking to make a niche for itself by absorbing Christian traditionalists dismayed by such trends as the ordination of women. It has 7 Australian parishes and 12 congregations, comprising some 300 worshippers.

A survey has shown that almost 50% of Australians have confidence in prayer as an aid to recovery in times of ill health. Few placed

much confidence in faith healers. Specialist doctors were most trusted (93%), followed by positive thinking and a determination to get well (83%). 48% said they had confidence in their own individual prayers with 34% expressing confidence in the prayers of a congregation and 32% in the prayers of a minister or priest. Of those who claimed no religion, 20% expressed confidence in personal prayer.

In a move to house Adelaide's chronically homeless, 10 church and government bodies have joined to build inner-city housing for people who have been homeless or in boarding houses since before the recession. They expect to have 3 projects completed by early next year. The association will offer units at rents similar to public housing rents, and help tenants develop independent living skills.

Expanding youth ministry is being hailed as the reason for a doubling in the number of confirmations in Anglican parishes over the past 2 years in the Bathurst, NSW, diocese.

There was an estimated total of 49,000 two-thirds world missionaries by the end of 1990. That was 35.5% of the total number of Protestant missionaries. By 2000 the number

of missionaries from the two-thirds world will surpass those of Western nations.

In 1990 35% of people in Austria were church members, only 1% less than in 1980. However, church attendance declined from 27% to 22% over the same 10-year period. The Roman Catholic church accounts for 96% of the church members and 97% of church attenders. Declines in the Protestant, Lutheran and Reformed churches masked growth in the Evangelical Free churches, which trebled in size during the 1990s. The Orthodox and Oriental churches doubled in size during the same period.

The church-going population in Spain declined from 78% to 69% from 1980 to 1990. The Roman Catholic Church lost 761,000 or 7%, while the Protestant churches gained 84,000 or 87%. Opinion polls have revealed that 20% of Spaniards declare themselves to be without faith and around 50% are non-practicing Christians. The number of foreign missionaries to Spain doubled to 1,100 during the 1980s.

Of the adults in church in Australia on a Sunday morning 52% will not be Christians, according to a recent report from the Barna Re-

search Group. When people were asked to give their own description of what being a Christian meant, less than half chose statements traditionally agreed upon as being part of what Christians believe. The following are the percentage that chose statements that fit traditional descriptions: Episcopal 24%, Catholic 26%, Presbyterian 38%, Methodist 39%, Lutheran 43%, Baptist 59% and Assemblies of God 84%.

While most churches in Australia will be celebrating Easter over the period 16-19 April (this means a 3-week break until the next issue of *The Australian Christian*) the Orthodox churches will be celebrating Easter over the period 23-26 April.

Concerned about the danger of a diminished response by Australia in a time of economic downturn to settling refugees and protecting their basic human rights, the Australian Catholic Bishops Committee for Migrant Affairs and the Australian Council of Churches are holding a National Forum on Refugees 19-21 July at Sydney University. The purpose of the "Welcome Stranger" National Forum on Refugees is to examine the nature and extent of the global problem and the welcome which Australia gives to refugees.

Cruise the Gold Coast in a luxury cruiser or houseboat.



Cruise through hundreds of square miles of secluded waterways, renowned for good weather all the year round. Laze on a deserted beach, visit island wildlife sanctuaries. Have fun in the resorts. Cover it all in style in a luxury cruiser or houseboat everyone can afford. Special rates for church members. No boat licence needed.

Runaway Bay Marina
245 Bayview Street
(PO Box 396)
Runaway Bay, Old 4216



Broadwater Cruiser Hire

Phone (075) 77 3366



David Pullin & Co.
Pty Ltd
9 Sturt Road, Brighton 5048



Phone (08) 298 5500
Fax (08) 296 6831
AH (08) 378 3112

Licensed Agent
Member of the Real Estate Institute



Providing a service in new and established homes, units, townhouses; property management; investment; sales, auctions.

For all your real estate needs

Dean Sander

Guns of Fire

Australia's newest Christian rock sensation, Guns of Fire, have released their second album, "Viva the Revolution".

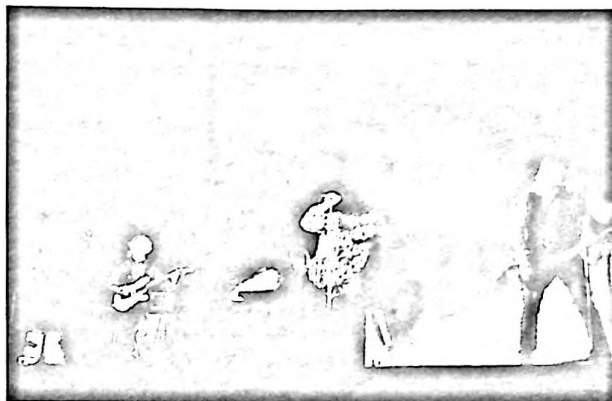
Guns of Fire were originally formed after two pastors in the Sydney area had a vision that a Christian band was needed in order to touch the kids in today's society. What we have now is a band of five Christians who have also caught that vision and are pursuing it to great heights.

Viva the Revolution is a live album, which was recorded at the Blackstump Arts and Music Festival in October 1991. The album captures 13 tracks (one bonus track on the CD) of

high energy, raw talent and determination, incorporated with musical and vocal brilliance that have impressed even the harshest of critics.

When quizzed about the title, lead guitarist, David Moye, said, "It's basically saying Christians rise in a revolution against evil. The revolution starts within us, by us overthrowing darkness and coming into the light."

While talking to David, I also asked why the album had been done live and if it proved to be



harder than their debut album, *Shifting Winds*.

"*Shifting Winds* was a studio album, and although its lyrical content and message is similar to *Viva the Revolution*, it was polished and many fans stated that it didn't represent the true high impact energy of a live Guns of Fire performance. So we decided to show people what a Guns concert is all about. It was a great deal harder, due to the fact that we had to get it right first time. It was also made more difficult by including nine new tracks previously unreleased."

Guns of Fire are probably best known for their lyrical content, in which they talk about issues important and relevant to today's society, and *Viva the Revolution*, which was produced by Randall Waller, is no exception.

It was David Moye who wrote the song, "Bye Bye Baby", so I asked about the meaning behind the song. "As well as letting people know our faith, we also like to talk about relationships, issues and injustices. For example "Bye Bye Baby" is a song that talks about the unborn child. Abortion often occurs today for convenience. A woman has a right to choose, but that doesn't make the decision the right one every time. Every action whether good or bad will always have its consequences."

You only need to go to a Guns concert to see that they have a ministry. At a recent concert in Sydney it was with interest that I was able to view keyboardist, Rowland Moye and drummer

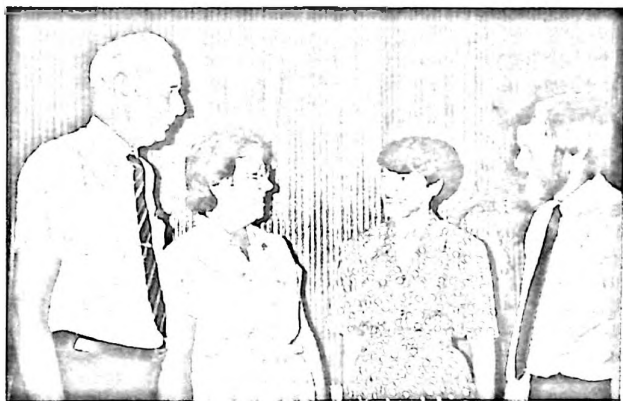
Steve Hibbins at work setting up the stage in readiness for the night's performance. At the same time bass player, Greg Golds, was taking a well-earned rest replenishing himself with breakfast prepared for him by his wife. It was only after a few minutes that I was able to find vocalist Anthony Hook in a back room, busily preparing the message he was going to deliver later that night.

I asked David what he saw as Guns of Fire's message to the music world. "As well as providing an entertainment, we also like to share the gospel in words and music with our audience, whether that be in a prison, pub, church hall or school. We believe we are responsible to reach our generation and we find music is probably the best medium to bridge the gap. It is a good common ground to draw an audience."

Their latest album *Viva the Revolution* is available from Christian bookstores or from David Mezey, Private Bag 4, Panania 2213. Phone (02) 620 1658. —Shaun White

Field Director Appointment

Lynette Leach commissioned



• Max and Stella Carter with Lynette and Athol Leach

Lynette Leach was commissioned as a field director with the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development in a special service at the East Keilor church on 16 February. The crowded meeting had representatives from metropolitan churches and conference departments present. Kim Thoday of the Kensington Christian Network was the preacher, with conference president Max Carter, women's conference president Stella Carter and department chairman Cliff Warmbrunn and

other department members participating.

Lynette serves in a full-time capacity and is responsible for education services to churches ranging through from children to adults. Prior to accepting this position, Lynette was a secondary school teacher in Melbourne's western suburbs. She has had extensive experience in teaching and worked in adult, secondary and primary areas. Through her years of service with the East Keilor church she has worked in many areas and is currently an elder.



Assisting Christian Singles
PO Box 240
World Trade Centre 3005
Phone (03) 306 1549

New World Convention Secretary

Jacobs to take up international position

A New Zealand couple has accepted appointment to executive positions of the World Convention of Churches of Christ, succeeding Allan W. Lee, General Secretary for the past 21 years.

Lyndsay A. Jacobs, currently principal of Darfield High School in New Zealand, and immediate past president of the World Convention, will be installed as General Secretary at the concluding service of the 13th Assembly, 5-9 August, in Long Beach, California.

Lorraine M. Jacobs, a professional educator and social worker, will be installed as Associate General Secretary.

The Jacobs will move to the United States in early 1993, following completion of Lyndsay's principalship at Darfield.

The World Convention, a global fellowship of Churches of Christ, Christian Churches and the Disciples of Christ from some 50 countries, meets every five years, focusing on evangelism, proclamation, education and fellowship. The Jacobs provided outstanding leadership for the 12th Assembly of the World Convention, held in Auckland, New Zealand, in November 1988, where Lyndsay presided and Lorraine

personally created the over 3,000 communion cups for the Assembly's closing ceremony.

Both have held World Convention leadership positions since 1979, participating in the planning for the assemblies held in Hawaii, Jamaica and New Zealand. Lyndsay has served since 1988 on the World Convention Long Range Planning Task Force.

Lorraine has served on the Executive Committee of the National Council of Churches in New Zealand and the steering committee for the Conference of Churches of Aotearoa/New Zealand, was a consultant to Churches of Christ ecumenical work in Western Australia, a participant at the 1991 World Council of Churches Assembly in Canberra and served as editor of *The New Zealand Disciple*.

Lyndsay is a lay preacher and member of the Canterbury Lay Preachers Association (Methodist, Presbyterian and Churches of Christ). Beyond the local church, he has served as President, Associated Churches of Christ in New Zealand, editor of *The New Zealand Christian*, the national paper of the New Zealand Churches of Christ and Convener of Christian World Service in New Zealand, an interchurch aid agency of the New Zealand churches.

World Convention Assembly participants will honour Allan and Mildred Lee on 8 August for their 21 years of outstanding leadership to the World Convention. The Jacobs will be installed at the closing worldwide communion service on 9 August.

Moore Drama at Brighton

Minister put on trial



• Neville Moore

On 29 March, Neville and Joan Moore retired from 12 years of ministry with the Brighton, SA, church, and a total of 44 years in ministry for Neville in our churches and school chaplaincy.

On this occasion, Neville, on behalf of the church, welcomed Lyn Stansall into the ministry team. With valuable experience in previous youth and children's ministries with Marion Uniting Church, eldership experience and training as a fashion designer, Lyn, who is 32, married with two children, takes up the responsibility of children's ministry leadership. Lyn joins an existing ministry team consisting of Stephen Curkpatrick (team leader), Ken and Vera Matthews (pastoral care), and Blythe Mann (ministry administrator).

But that was not the only significant event of the day! Neville also opened the Community Care Centre next to the church, which commences a community service and ministry with a team of over 20 working in a voluntary capacity.

Neville's last day in full-time ministry ended in a dramatic, unexpected court case, in which Neville was put on trial, and a number of people gave evidence about his ministry. The jury found him guilty of a con-

sistent, faithful and compassionate ministry at Brighton. Stephen Curkpatrick, who conducted the trial, sentenced Neville to continued involvement in the church's ministry, after a period of exile from the church (a long holiday!). Neville has been placed on a good behaviour bond for the rest of his life, and must report weekly to a local church. Neville and Joan will continue to live in the Brighton community in their retirement.

—Blythe Mann

Norling's House Burnt

Concern of God's people

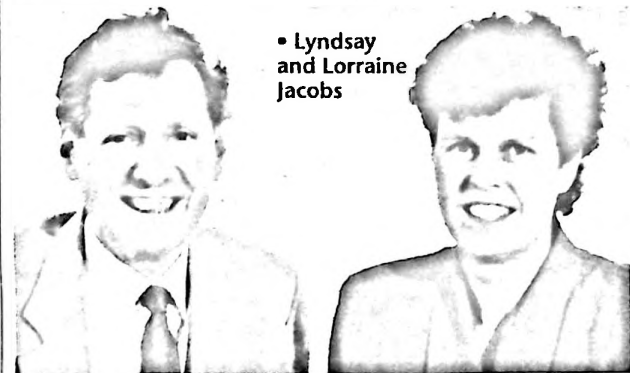
On 1 February, at about 3 am, the home of Allan and Alice Norling, at Beecroft, NSW, was severely burnt and damaged by fire.

They praise God for the many evidences of his providence and power. They are grateful that they were away from the home at the time, and for a number of important items that were preserved.

They express appreciation for the many ways in which concern and support have been expressed by the church at large and the Epping fellowship in particular.

During the next few months, while the house is being restored, they will be residing at Unit 1/7, Maida Road, Epping 2121. Phone (02) 876 3331.

• Lyndsay and Lorraine Jacobs



L. C. F. Higgins

Chartered Accountant

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

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

First Manse

New residence for Port Fairy

The congregation at Port Fairy, Vic, has acquired the church's first manse. A dedication service led by Roy Hope was held at 5 pm on 15 March following a barbecue in the grounds. Roy and Margaret Hope are the first occupants. Margaret Hope has recently developed an attractive cottage garden in the church grounds.

The acquisition of the residence at 7 Ritchie Court represents the achievement of a long-term goal by the congregation. Work in the area began in 1883 and for many decades the church had less than 10 members.

At the morning service Colin Sykes was baptised. Colin's baptism follows a number of additions to the membership, which now exceeds 30. Port Fairy is a popular holiday resort, which means crowded services for the church in peak holiday periods.

Graeme Buckmaster represented the Properties Corporation and Don Smith the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development at the dedication service. The ministry appointment and manse project are a joint department project under the CROP initiative where assistance is given to smaller churches in developmental situations.



• Roy Hope

Breaking Free

Women and men in the Australian church

Last November the Vic-Tas Department of Community Care hosted an afternoon seminar, "Breaking Free: Women and Men in the Australian Church". Gardner church was the venue, with around 50 people of different ages and backgrounds attending. Keynote speaker for the seminar was Dr Veronica Brady, a well-known spokesperson on the role of women in the church, Aboriginal issues and a range of social justice concerns. Veronica is a Loretto nun, famous for her habit of bicycling about her business in the city of Perth.

She spoke in a humorous, informative and inspiring way to the assembled group. Her message was pithy and energetic, embodied in the speaker herself as much as in what she had to say. We were encouraged to think laterally about the church's conservatism in relation to its power structures and modes of worship. As well, the church needs to imagine more dynamically the need for change and renewal in matters of justice, both within intimate relations and in the wider community.

The group dispersed to workshops where such issues as family relationships, inclusive language in worship, biblical images of God, sexual abuse and violence and other topics were opened up for discussion. All this was followed by tea together and a refreshing time of reflection and worship in the round. We were encouraged to dance, sing and allow ourselves to worship the God of creation, the Giver of Life, the one described in the scriptures as a Mother Hen watching with great love over her chickens.

Community Care is planning another seminar for 1992—"Living Together"—a day-long seminar to discuss and explore and celebrate such issues as relationships, alternative

Baseball Prayer

Chaplain at sporting venue



• Pat Casalenuovo and Sydney Waves at prayer

Yes, it happens in Australia—the chaplain praying with a professional sports team on the field prior to the game. Rev Pat Casalenuovo, SLM chaplain to the Sydney Waves baseball team prays with the team on the pitch prior to each game. Pat, from the USA, was a sports chaplain in Boston and has introduced prayer as part of his ministry.

Pat Casalenuovo is a huge man, with a spirit that athletes spontaneously warm too. One of his ministries with the team is to invite small groups of players to his home for a meal. He recently hosted several players for an Italian home-cooked spread!

Meanwhile, Ken Bond, the inaugural chaplain in 1989 at the Australian Institute of Sport returns to the AIS as from March in ministry partnership with Peter Nelson. Ken Bond moved from the AIS at the end of 1990 to concentrate on parish duties and having completed his pastoral term has come onto the full-time staff of the Specialised Life-Orientated

households, the church family, the home, extended communities and living alone. It promises to be a time of challenge, renewal and new vision. The date is 15 November, and the venue is yet to be finalised. Watch this space!

—Lyn McCredden

Ministries Inc. Ken will continue in his fifth year as chaplain to the Western Suburbs Rugby League team and will inaugurate the "pastoral care" ministry of NSW SLM chaplains. Other chaplaincy changes include: Gordon Barr—Hobart NBL Basketball, Richard Coombs—PGA Vic, Stephen Edwards—Illawarra Steelers Rugby League, Peter Nichols—St Kilda AFL, George Powell—PGA WA, Chris Ruby—Canterbury Rugby League, Alan Stewart—Eastern Suburbs Rugby League, Len McGee—Gold Coast Seagulls Rugby League and Norm Brampton—Illawarra Hawks NBL.

Two SLM chaplains of six years standing have retired, Tudno Rees (Illawarra Hawks) due to ill health and Rick Miller (Illawarra Steelers) due to parish ministry demands.

STRACK REMOVALS

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

David Strack
(Proprietor)

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

"Service since 1907"



INNER FAITH TRAVEL PTY LTD

Our Christian Travel Agency



TOLL FREE 008 074 426

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

ACN 010 648 316 Lic No 261



White Papers

The dangers of special occasions

The Archbishop Didn't Turn Up



But he did! He always did turn up. If he didn't I was ready. But he was always there!

It was during the time I was president of conference. It may not be generally known but, for just one year, your president ranks with archbishops, commissioners and other heads of churches.

You attend some fairly important occasions: the consecration of a bishop, welcomes to big guns from overseas, ecumenical gatherings and, in my case, the celebration of Victoria's beginnings at Portland. (The Governor was in on that. For that day, he, too, was one of us!)

On the really big occasions at St Paul's or St Patrick's, the archbishop would give the occasional address. What if he didn't turn up! It could happen...sudden loss of voice, a crisis in Rome or Canterbury, traffic delay. Anything could happen. It never did, but I was ready.

I could imagine a monsignor or under-bishop coming to the heads of churches' pen in the cathedral, and saying, "It is very embarrassing but His Grace is stuck behind an overturned concrete truck on the South East Freeway. Would one of you be able to assist at short notice?" Modestly, I would say, "No worries, mate! Leave it to me." I would have a sermon ready. Whatever the occasion you couldn't go wrong with "Evangelism and Social Justice". A sermon for all seasons and all places. It was never needed, the archbishop always turned up.

Special occasions can have their dangers. I remember one dignitary who did turn up. It was a civic service with the Essendon City Council at our Ascot Vale church. Councillors

are not elected because of their ability to take part in a church service. Therefore, you endeavour to anticipate problems and guard against them.

The mayor, in his robes, was to read the New Testament lesson. I am sure that there are mayors who would grace any church service, but there are those who would not...I had this feeling!

The passage the mayor was to read was Romans 8:1-11. I took no chances. A fortnight before the service I sent him a copy of the New Testament with a bookmark and the reading flagged, "Start here" and "Stop here".

I was confident, then, when I invited his worship to lead us in our worship with the Word. He started at the right place, although he was a very ordinary reader. He reached verse 11 where it said "Stop here," but he did not stop! He read on...and on...and on...! He finished chapter 8 (all 39 verses) and started on chapter 9. He read it all and stared on chapter 10. I knew what I should have done, but I didn't do it. Right through chapter 10 and the be-

ginning of chapter 11. At this point (Romans has 16 chapters!) I moved forward and said kindly but firmly, "I think you should stop at the next verse." He did stop. I had turned him off.

I guess in New Testament days a congregation would gladly listen to nine chapters of Paul in one sitting, but a civic service at Ascot Vale was not

the time or place. It is possible to be turned off and turned down before you are called on. There was the time I drove 150 km to preach at a church anniversary. The president called on me to speak five minutes before I was due to leave for another engagement. I thanked the president for his exhaustive and exhausting history of the special occasion, and headed off. The church was so pleased with me that they invited me back the next year.

These days, I am mainly in the pew and not the pulpit, and the other Sunday, waiting for the service to start, I was dreaming of archbishops and mayors. There was a tap on my shoulder. It was the president for the morning. "I'm sorry to trouble you, but the Old Testament reader hasn't turned up. Do you mind filling in?"

Of course not! No worries, mate! Archbishops, presidents, Old Testament readers...we're all the same, somehow! Life goes on and the Lord will be served.

—A.E. White

Foster Care at Ipswich

Second Queensland agency

The Queensland Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs have allocated one of five new foster care programs to the Queensland Churches of Christ Social Service Department. The new program will be located in Ipswich and will be making its headquarters at the Bundamba church.

This allocation follows the work that has been done with the pilot foster care program run at Maryborough in Queensland, known as Alternative Placement Support

Service (APSS). The new program will be called APSS-Ipswich. The co-ordinator of APSS-Maryborough, Keith Parry, is being transferred to co-ordinate APSS-Ipswich and a new co-ordinator will be appointed to the Maryborough position. Keith will continue to have an oversight of the Maryborough program.

Of the six foster care agencies operating in Queensland the Social Service Department is operating two, which gives some idea of the quality of the department's work in this field.

A Church ABC

Red Hill is situated in Victoria's Mornington Peninsula, in the hills behind Dromana, on the same range as Arthurs Seat. Beautiful and evergreen country, in the past there were many orchards. Now this has changed and cattle, sheep, vineyards and hobby farms dot the landscape.

The first service of the Red Hill church was held on the property of

Robert and Eliza Sheehan at the junction of the Mornington-Flinders and Red Hill Roads (now known as Feralwood Farm) in 1885. Robert and Eliza, who had come from Adelaide in the bullock wagon they had been given as a wedding present, were soon joined by other families.

The first building was erected in 1911 on the Holmes' property, and this is still used today for playgroup and Sunday school. From 1912 students from the College of the Bible ministered to the church, and baptisms were held in the sea at Dromana or Shoreham. The first full-time minister was appointed in 1956 as the congregation grew and the present brick chapel was erected in 1960. It is a light, well-planned and comfortable worship centre, which can easily be expanded. More recently a large and highly functional kitchen

and excellent toilets have been added to the complex. An old house next door completes the facilities.

The church over the years has contributed members to new churches on the peninsula—Tootgarook in 1951 and

the youth of the church meet on an ad hoc basis for evangelistic rallies, social events and camps. A playgroup is held two days a week. The ladies of the church are very active. They sell plants at the famous Red Hill market and the money

a finance committee, Christian education and evangelism and the Operation World mission program that was very well explained on the back page of the 7 March issue of "The Christian".

The minister at Red Hill is Wally Gibney, who is in his third year there. Wally trained at the Melbourne Bible Institute and Woolwich and has had ministries at Rich-

mond, Horsham and Croydon, all in Victoria. He is married to Betty, and they have two children, Christopher, 16, and Penny, 14.

Recently the Red Hill church held its 107th anniversary. During the service the guest speaker, Gordon Stirling, took the opportunity to launch a book written by church member, Arthur Pigdon, *Rethinking Evolution*. This book, which has been published by the Federal Literature Department, makes an important contribution to the understanding of God's creation of the world.

The real strength of the Red Hill church is the genuine warmth and friendship of its members. They see that the starting point of the church is God and not themselves. Their focus is on God and his purposes, and this seeks to unify them as they aim to make disciples in their corner of Australia.



Focus on Red Hill

Mornington in 1989. Red Hill's numbers are increasing and there are now about 80 communicants, but this number rises during the holiday period. The church was established by locals but now members come from all over the peninsula, from Blairgowrie, Rye, Rosebud, Dromana, Mt Eliza, Mt Martha, Somers, Hastings and Flinders. The average driving time is 20 minutes.

The service is held at 10 am and the Sunday school withdraws during the meeting. There is a worship leader as well as a communion leader and speaker. There is no regular evening service but now and then there are specials—Christmas, Easter, combined services with other churches, and other evening services.

Over 30 people from the church are involved in small groups, based geographically. There is a Sunday school, and

raised is used for all manner of worthy causes. There is also a choir which performs occasionally at church, and there is a very active "Prime of Life" group that meets once a month, with speakers and social events that has proved very useful as a bridge to non-Christian friends and relatives.

The church is involved in religious education in the school and also co-operates with other churches in the area to provide food to the growing numbers of people in need in the area.

The administration of the church is interesting. The board has had its numbers scaled down and now hears reports from different areas of the church's life. These include an excellent care committee, which meets once a month, each member of which is responsible for a number of people in the church, a worship committee,

Comment

Communication

Neil Marsden

So often people hope or believe that other people know what they're feeling and what they need. Most of the time other people don't. Many experts believe that the breakdown of the family is directly attributable to a breakdown in communication within the family. Friendships fall apart on misunderstandings. Armies are defeated and destroyed, even when led by gifted generals, when all means of communication fail. Communication is a necessary part

of living and through the exchanging of thoughts, beliefs, desires and needs, people can grow stronger. Everyone is at their best when they are comfortable, confident and secure; these feelings can come about in any kind of relationship through communication so that each person knows where they

stand. This applies in friendships, marriages and Christianity.

Christians must always keep in communication with the Lord through prayer and reading of his word, the Bible. People throughout the ages have been astonished at the truths that are constantly being re-

vealed in the Bible. The Bible is a book that has withstood the centuries and stands as a testament to the need of communication.

By reading the Bible people have discovered the will of God in their own lives and through prayer they speak directly with the caring and loving father of all things. Through communication comes understanding and strength.

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

Youth Ministry

The following statement followed discussions at the 15th National Youth Convention in January.

We have become increasingly alarmed at the diminishing priority that is being given to youth ministry at state and national levels.

While we are encouraged at the priority ministry to youth is given in some local churches, this is not reflected state by state at a leadership level. In the past few years we have gone from employing six full-time youth specialists at a state level to only three full-time and three part-time. There is a clear indication that by 1993 most states will be represented by part-time workers who have other portfolios and responsibilities.

Worthwhile state ministries that have put Churches of Christ youth ministry to the fore nationally have in several states been reduced to part-time positions. Each staff worker is expected to maintain and continue to develop the program! It is lunacy to expect anyone to do this. If cutbacks are needed in this current economic environment, should it be our young people who pay the price? We assert that if the conference leadership was more in touch with the person in the

Invest in the Future!

Youth leaders argue for a fresh challenge, a new vision

pew and in the community, youth ministry would have a much higher priority.

Statistics continue to indicate that 90% of people become Christians before they turn 25 years of age. Our ministry priorities do not appear to be consistent with this reality. Is it possible that while we voice our commitment to youth ministry it is not reflected in the

appointment of conference staff and the distribution of funds?

We wish to challenge our conference leaders to carefully consider present and future directions. Something must be done! So often it has been said that young people are the church leaders of tomorrow! Do we believe by our present set of priorities that we do not expect a tomorrow, or do we

Response from Ian Allsop, National Conference Secretary

Youth ministry is a priority within Churches of Christ. We agree with the authors of the statement that it is the significant investment in ensuring a church of the future as well as youth being an essential aspect of the church of the present.

We have never had more investment in youth ministry in the history of Churches of Christ than we have at the moment. The fact that the statement was written by ministers working with youth at the local level is significant. What has happened is that the resources for youth ministry are now being released to be used at the local level rather than being centralised in conference departments. Many of us consider this to be a very positive affirmation of youth ministry as a priority.

It would be marvellous though if, as a result of the statement from these youth ministers, funding became available to restore former central staffing levels.

not care about the youth of today or do we not wish to provide leadership for the future?

The issue is too serious to simply be a subject of debate. Action must be taken now! We need a fresh challenge, a new vision. A network of leadership needs to be raised up to meet that challenge. If we are genuinely concerned about young people now and want them in our churches, if we want our churches to sustain long-term growth, we must be prepared to invest for the future.

• This statement was signed by the following associate and youth ministers: Guy Cooper, Lisa Gaddes, Chris Hutton, Lloyd Irwin, Mike Parker, Jeff Pope, Lester Sutton, Stuart Wesley and Lisa Wilson (NSW), Graham Hyman, Ross Savill and Gordon Barnes (Qld), John Gilmore, Jim Keatch and Graham Mann (SA), Gordon Barr, Graeme Hush and Darryl Tobler (Tas), Craig Allan, Andrew Ball, Gary Berry, Russell Croxford, Tim Green, Paul Hammat, Andrew Henley, Neale Meredith, Alison Pitt and Lynda Smith (Vic) and John Bond, Phillip Croot, Lyn Devlin, Neale Fong, Robert Mason, Paul Sanders, David Stanford, Margaret Swan, Scott Vawser and Mark Wilson (WA).

Growing Spiritually

Early Morning Holiday Musings

Bill Flett

Welcome, another glorious day! Made by the Lord—rich in beauty here on the river at Bendeela Picnic Ground. There are brilliant reflections, fish jumping, ducks swimming—and this morning's early bird calls were superb! Mate calling to mate in complete trust and recognition—and I'm almost sure the lyrebird on the far bank got in early with an imitation kookaburra laugh. Stirred 'em into action with the real thing a few minutes later!

So the clear dawn of God came, and now the sun, and the cheerful voices of the young—

up early because they slept early. Some are wood hunting, sculling across the river and back by canoe to send the smoke drifting up as mum gets ready to fill their hunger before the day's first activity. It's an especially golden morning—following plenty of atmosphere-cleansing lightning and a gentle storm or two. So today is clean and new—asking us hu-

mans to treat it so and let a little of it rub off on us.

But, for some of us, that will not happen. The night before was given over to booze and coarse jokes and hiding under cover of darkness those deeply felt inadequacies. For some it will be the same again—waking late, feeling rotten, the heat of the day already come. For some (the young people fresh

from our education system of study, exam and long breaks) a new experience and a sad one—never to be the same again—fooled by "worldly-wise" veneer and alcohol. For some, cheated by the dark, with the beauty of life perhaps gone forever. Yet, what a glorious morning it is—for everyone! Lord, I thank you for it. Please send us some more, so we can appreciate your glory—and get used to feeling new and clean, like today.

• Bill Flett is the minister at the Ann Street, Brisbane, Qld, church.

Here are some reflections on our experience at the Noarlunga Centre, SA, church (NCCC). God has been doing good things among us, but we feel we still have a long way to go.

Total Mission

First of all, we have to keep taking seriously the challenge of the uncompleted "Great Commission" of Jesus Christ to his followers—to go into all the world with the Gospel. "Mission" is not some optional extra, but is part of following him, helping to bring the Good News to every person, near or far, as he directs. Cross-cultural mission, such as "ethnic", "Aboriginal" or "overseas", develops as part of total mission.

Leadership

Mission-minded ministers influence the church in that direction: "Like pastor, like people." Mission consciousness is "caught" as well as "taught". Following the important ministries of Morrie, Frank and Ron, Ross and Graham have recently led and encouraged in mission in a variety of ways. The same applies to other key leaders—elders, leading women, youth leaders and Sunday school teachers. For example, Cliff, elder for many years and at times pastor, has "mission vision", and has had long and practical involvement with Aboriginal mission.

Sending

When God calls particular members of the local church into crosscultural service, the interactions of ongoing fellowship help build a mission-minded church. Ron and Kate, and Ern and Pam, were called from NCCC to many years of Aboriginal mission with FAB. Ron and Kate have returned to active ministry and mission leadership. Ron ministered with Morrie at NCCC before Ross and Graham, and is now SA State Minister and a member of Federal OMB. Kate is a member of the National FAB, of the SA Church Development and Education working group and of the NCCC World Mis-

Completing the Great Commission

The second in our series on how the local church can be mission minded

sion Committee (WMC). Roger and Jill were called to service with OMB in Vanuatu, Neville and Dorothy to Indonesia with OMS, Debbie to Norseman with FAB, Kevin and Val to Jordan with WEC.

God's calling continues among our young adults (and some not so young). As I write this, Wendy is assisting Kevin and Val for six months with WEC in Jordan. (Wendy's father John, and also Miriam, were recently "roadies" for interstate legs of Bible Society "Bikes for Bibles" journeys). Tania and Greg are in Papua New Guinea with a Wycliffe Bible Translators work party, and Cathy (who is also an AFES staffworker on tertiary campuses) is in Indonesia with an OMF mission-experience tour. Tania and Cathy are members of our WMC. This time last year, Denis was about to leave for the Philippines with a Venture for Victory basketball team.

Giving

Missionary giving develops with mission-consciousness. At present, 15% of general offerings are shared mainly among our "Living Link" members, FAB (a "Keep a Missionary" partnership), and OMB. Additional designated offerings have increased strongly and are forwarded promptly. All amounts are reported regularly.

Visits

It is great to have members who are returned or retired missionaries, those who have visited mission fields, those who are in active contact with missionaries—learning, corresponding, praying and sharing with infectious enthusiasm. Jan gave many years of OMB serv-

ice in Papua New Guinea, is secretary of the SA State Committee of OMB, is on our WMC and, for example, prepares "Focus on World Mission" for the weekly church paper. John, SIM missionary returned from Ethiopia and SIM SA representative, was first convener of the NCCC Missionary Committee. Ross and Chris are retired from long years in Africa with the Bible Society and Viv and Wyn from service in WA with FAB. Steve, in retirement, visited OMB work in Vanuatu and returned with a passion for mission that found practical expression, for example, as a member of WMC and active agent for OMB *Mission* magazine. Murray and Joy, with previous service in Aboriginal mission, visited aspects of Wycliffe and OMB work in PNG during long-service leave, and are members of NCCC WMC. Arthur and Val are involved with WEC literature outreach and recently visited China with

"missionary eyes". Many other members have contributed quietly over the years to build a rich tradition of mission.

Events

Special events held from time to time help lift mission attitudes to new levels. In 1990 we arranged a weekend program entitled "Why Mission Today?", preceded by churchwide preparation. In 1991, at the suggestion of Ross, we ran a "Mission Dynamics" week led by a visiting Wycliffe team. In addition, from time to time our services feature interviews and presentations by outgoing or homecoming missionary members or visitors.

Last but Not Least

Prayer and education go together in these matters. We distribute what literature and information we can, and compile a bimonthly missionary prayer calendar of daily entries on up-to-date aspects, with emphasis on our "Living Links" and on OMB and FAB matters. Over 100 members use this calendar. A monthly missionary prayer meeting is held, with small but faithful attendance. Though mentioned last, we do not underestimate the importance of prayer and spiritual battle by the many or few, for God to develop a mission-minded spirituality in our church.

—Murray Lindsay

FOR A NEW HOLDEN SEE MURRAY ECKERT

OVER 21 YEARS EXPERIENCE as a master sales consultant.

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

Member of Blackwood Church of Christ.

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



Claridge Holden

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



Personal

Baptisms

• Colin Sykes, Port Fairy, Vic
 • Meridee Sheperd, Prospect, SA
 • Dorothy Cook, Brooklyn Park, SA
 • Michelle Bust, Adrian Toft, Bundaberg, Qld
 • Sue Kimpton, Toni Noble, Diane Porter, Lawrence Porter, Jessica Demeny, Robyn Gentle, Julian Ward, Belrose, NSW
 • Leisa Apelt, Croydon, Vic
 • Bonnie Lawrance, Hartwell, Vic

Marriages

• Peta Stanway to Martin Howell, Jacinta White to James Jacobson, Hobart City, Tas
 • Jacqui Corlis to Geoff Garrett, Michelle Van Es to David O'Brien, Belrose, NSW
 • Kim Downie to Tim Simpson, Sandra Scott to Andrew Barnett, Manifold Heights, Vic
 • Alison Hancock to Paul Goldsmith, Hartwell, Vic

Deaths

• Hereward (Harry) Jacobson, Max Atwell, Hobart City, Tas
 • John Garnett, Brooklyn Park, SA
 • Perc Foster, North Fitzroy, Vic
 • Mildred Botterill, Stan Lacey, Croydon, Vic

Thompson, 7 DeHavilland Avenue, Hendon, SA 5014.

Modbury: Minister—Dean Hamilton, 9 Wyndham Crescent, Surrey Downs, SA 5126. Phone (08) 264 5954 (office) (08) 251 3735 (home).

Waikerie: Secretary—Mrs Norma Lather, P.O. Box 75, Ramco, SA 5322. Phone (085) 41 9070.

Changes

Albert Park: Minister—David

Great Camping Centres

- ◆ Camp with us in 1992
- ◆ Vacancies available
- ◆ Outstanding environments and facilities
- ◆ Self-catering available (most sites)
- ◆ Special church rates
- ◆ Overnight stays welcome—Halls Gap and Bicheno

Halls Gap
 Banksia
 (Gippsland Lakes)

Monbulk
 Bicheno
 (Tasmania)

Churches of Christ, 77 Capel Street, West Melbourne 3003
 Telephone (03) 326 8900 (Vic) (003) 75 1247 (Tas)

ARE YOU ABOUT TO CRACK UNDER PRESSURE?

On the surface, your daily life's well ordered; you're able to cope with the seemingly infinite demands on time. Loyalty and energy. **BUT HOW IS YOUR INNER WORLD COPING?**—the private world of the spirit where self-esteem is forged; where basic decisions about motives and commitments are made; where, in solitude and reflection, you commune with God. Is your private world about to cave-in?
 Gordon MacDonald has been President of the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship and Senior Pastor to one of America's larger



churches. *"I know something about the disorganization of the private world because I have struggled with it all my life. To bring order to my private world has been one of my greatest battles"*

You can learn firsthand from the experiences of Gordon and his wife, Gail, and from the wealth of Biblically based hints that are the heart of his award-winning book *"Ordering Your Private World"* and the best-seller *"Restoring Your Spiritual Passion"*.
SEATING IS LIMITED, SO REGISTER NOW!

A SEMINAR with GORDON & GAIL MACDONALD

FRIDAY 8th MAY 1992, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
SATURDAY 9th MAY 1992, 9.30am - 4.30pm
NUNAWADING CHURCH OF CHRIST,
 182 Surrey Road, Blackburn.

Registration Fee \$20 per person - light lunch provided.
 Registrations close 30th April 1992.

REGISTRATION FORM

Yes, I want to attend the Gordon & Gail MacDonald Seminar on re-ordering my private world!

Name _____
 Address _____
 _____ Postcode _____

I enclose my registration fee of \$20 Phone _____

Mail this form with your cheque to Ron White, P.O. Box 549, Noble Park, 3174.
 Cheques should be payable to "Churches of Christ Ministers' Association".

Interchurch Trade & Industry Mission (SA) Inc.

INDUSTRIAL CHAPLAIN

A full- or part-time position will become available from mid-1992 in the Adelaide metropolitan area.

Qualifications

APPLICANTS must be ordained clergy or persons accredited for ministry with a member church of ITIM (SA).

PREFERENCE will be given to applicants with experience in industrial chaplaincy and in preventive and crisis counselling.

Further information may be obtained by contacting

The State Director
 ITIM (SA)
 28 Franklin Street
 ADELAIDE SA 5000
 PHONE (08) 231 0120

Applications should be in writing giving details of experience and qualifications.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 29 May 1992



CHURCHES OF CHRIST THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

40-60 Jacksons Road, Mulgrave
 PO Box 629, Mulgrave North, Victoria 3170 Australia

PRINCIPAL

Dr Keith Bowes concludes his period as Principal of the College in December 1993. The Board of Management of CCTC is seeking applications for the position of principal from suitably qualified people.

It is anticipated that the successful applicant will have the attributes of Christian maturity and integrity and pastoral gifts coupled with a strong commitment to Churches of Christ. The person will have teaching, scholarship, administrative and interpersonal capacities of a very high order. Academic qualifications will include an Australian masters degree or equivalent but preferably a doctorate.

Applications close on 1 June 1992

Information relating to the position of principal is available by phoning, faxing or writing to:

Dr John Bailey
 Chairperson of the Board of Management
 Churches of Christ Theological College
 5 Larool Close
 East Doncaster 3109
 Victoria Australia

Phone: Bus: (03) 347 8188
 Home: (03) 848 8935
 Fax: (03) 349 1722

- All initial enquiries will be treated in strictest confidence.
- CCTC is an equal opportunity employer.
- The Board of Management reserves the right to invite people to apply.

Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Lines, Mabel Leila (nee Kieseker) (19.1.92) Born in Roma, Qld, 13.1.01, Mabel spent most of her life there. She was raised by her aunt and uncle, Kate and Phillip Browne, founding members of the Roma church. Mabel was baptised 19.9.15 by William Rothery. She was church organist for approximately 50 years. Mabel married Mac Lines 29.12.21. She was widowed when Mac died at 37 years. They had two daughters, Beryl (Muller) and Ronda (Finnigan). Mabel was a real "little Aussie battler" who provided for her family by taking in boarders. Over 40 people called "Mabs' Mansion" home for a period of their lives. Due to advancing years she lived for a time with Beryl and Ronda before moving to Illoura Village for the Aged, Chinchilla, three years ago. Mabel (or Mayo as she was known to friends) was with her family on Christmas Day when she became ill and was admitted to Chinchilla Hospital. She passed away peacefully having celebrated her 91st birthday in hospital. Her funeral was held at the Chinchilla church. Her life was dedicated to Christ and her family and all who knew her will miss her love and friendship.

—Rod Feldhahn

McIntosh, Hilda

Hilda passed away at 93 years of age a few days after admission to the PA Hospital. With her passing a gracious and generous lady has gone from us. Born in Brisbane and educated at Petrie Terrace School, she stayed at home until 1920 when she married Eric McIntosh, the boy next door. To their marriage were born four children, Beryl (Muller), Keith (dec), Gwenda (Home) and Noela (McLucas). Actively involved in the Baptist church, they moved in 1935 to Roma where they linked with the Church of Christ. Hilda was church pianist for a time and CWF secretary. Their home was literally

an "open house", where church visitors stayed, and hospitality was for them a way of life. After the marriages of their daughters they returned to Brisbane and joined the church at Ann Street, once again becoming active loyal members. Widowed in 1979 Hilda went to live with Noela and Don in 1982 and membership was now with the Camp Hill church. Five weeks before her death she moved to Buckingham Gardens and was settling in extremely well when she took ill. Hilda will be remembered by many for her prolific letter writing and her gracious and warm spirit to all she met. With her husband Eric they were the kind of members churches and ministers remember with thanksgiving. The funeral service was conducted by a minister and friend of the family Les Armstrong.

Thurgood, Charles William Ernest (Bill)

(5.2.92) Born 25 March 1908 at Wedderburn. Bill married Mabs on 15 May 1937 and they experienced 55 years of unselfish love and dedication to each other. They were blessed with two daughters and one son and five grandchildren. Bill was a quiet achiever. He served his apprenticeship as a woodcarver and eventually built up his own business. He was a member at Footscray in early years. His family history in Churches of Christ is commemorated by a stained-glass window at Lygon Street. His Aunt Antoinette was the founder of the Christian Endeavour movement and the first President of Christian Women's Fellowship. He was a successful sportsman, playing and coaching tennis, bowls and cricket. Bill was seen as a very supportive family man, considerate to others, with great determination and never afraid to stand up for what he thought was right. He had a vital spirit and his main aim in life was to follow God's purpose and to do good unto others. He will be missed by the Coburg church.

—Don Milne

Church News

NSW

BELROSE (Ian Chapman) Attendances have more than doubled since last year ... Kids Clubs are on Tuesdays & Fridays ... Bible study group meets on Thursday. Prayer meetings on Monday. Discipleship classes on Sundays ... CWF meets regularly for craft mornings ... Pot luck dinners & Sunday services have encouraged family fellowship ... Planning meeting held early 1992 emphasised the need & objectives for outreach supported by prayer.

Qld

BUNDABERG (Alan Leane) Praise God primary decisions Adrian Toft, Tracey Green ... Ellen Rackermann guest at Fairhaven ... Vera Rodgers unhurt when car careered into her bedroom causing \$10,000 damage ... Ben Buettel, Gems of Joy concert 11 April build up John Bond Crusade ... Central Coastal Minister's seminar Bundaberg ... Clive Wissmann, Bougainville, spoke on "Life on Bougainville" ... 15 attended QCWF Camp Caloundra ... Pray for John Bond Crusade 1-10 May.

SA

ALBERT PARK (David Thompson) Bible study, Friendship Club, Drop-in Centre progressing ... CWF enthusiastic about new format with individuals taking responsibility for each meeting ... Church celebrated 39th anniversary 15 March followed by barbecue & cake cut by youngest & eldest present ... Val Stevens (Burleigh College) is student minister at Henley Beach. Husband Wilf suffered a slight stroke when undergoing double by-pass heart surgery 30 Jan, recovering slowly. **PROSPECT** (S. Schmaal) Special combined service led by Friendship Club & followed by basket luncheon to celebrate Dora & George Bonne's 80th birthdays ... Prospect Fair—Prospect church will have stand with plenty of give-aways ... Church camp 29-31 May at El Shaddi ... Camera Club opened with tea followed by slides. Good variety, welcome to church members to view, better than watching TV ... Handwritten Bible project taken up. **BROOKLYN PARK** (P. Webber) Church is in good heart ... Four additions ... Evening service commenced weekly ... New budget accepted. 22% increase in offerings needed ... Funds being raised for amplification system—\$4,575 ... \$519 raised 40 Hour Famine ... Minister attended Lab 2 of Calling

& Caring seminar, Melbourne ... Three senior tennis teams reached semifinals ... Deacons appointed—G. Beaumont, J. Garnett, J. & M. Cambareri, G. Smith (treasurer). **ELIZABETH** (Ralph Oke) Young person went to Fusion Training Centre, Sale, Vic; another commenced three-year course Tabor College, Adelaide; another involved with Fusion in youth ministry & school ministries Munno Para—Elizabeth area ... Local MP Martin Evans officially opened "Boomerang Centre" during concert arranged by youth group. Centre and op shop opened two days a week. Moneys raised used in church's food parcel ministry called "Norman Needy". **CROYDON** (Keith Miller) Since Philip Stevens left to take up an appointment at Ararat, Vic, the pulpit has been filled by church elder Win Sulley & a number of visiting speakers ... Keith Miller has accepted an invitation to a ministry at Croydon & he & wife Meredith & their three children now occupy the manse. SA Conference President, Rob Leane, will induct Keith on 5 April.

Tas

HOBART CITY (J. Weston, G. Hush) Board held planning retreat & formulated plans for next three years ... Hobart Discipleship Training Institute classes commenced for 1992. Gavin Thompson appointed HDTI Administrator ... Sunday afternoons Jeff Weston conducting church service for Hmong community. Several families from Hmong community in church family ... Youth Specialties Australia in conjunction with church Youth Task Force held a most successful seminar on Understanding Your Teenager. **LAUNCESTON** (R. Foster, C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) Large contingent attended Convention at Ulverstone 14 & 15 March ... "Corazon Singers" (Ballarat) guest artists at 7 pm on 22 March when one primary decision & four reconsecrations ... Sir Geoffrey Foot awarded the highest honour given by Rotary Clubs—the Paul Harris Award.

L.M.C.T.
6549

Ken Geyer

SELECT USED CARS

49 Bond Street, Ringwood 3134

Telephone: (03) 879 4004

A.H. (03) 722 1780

CONTACT KEN IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR
A USED CAR OR NEED TO RENT ONE

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

Vic

GISBORNE (Ray Smith) Scottish songwriter Ian White returned to Gisborne for second gospel concert ... Church involved in seven-week course, "Ministry Is for Everyone" ... Darren Hickling & Anita Kan appointed student ministers for 1992 ... Six new families/couples have commenced attending this year ... Gill family farewelled—moving to be involved in new Sunbury church ... Young people conducted successful coffee shop with gospel singer Kathy Johnson. **PORT FAIRY** (Roy Hope) Fellowship shared with Youth Dimension Coffee Shop team & OAC beach outreach over holiday period ... Prayer vigil well attended 11 Feb ... Painting & improvements at manse in preparation for occupancy in February ... 15 March manse dedication. Barbecue fellowship & service enjoyed by about 50 ... Colin Sykes baptised 15 March ... Church assisting with Meals on Wheels ... YP appreciated invitation by Warmambool. **ECHUCA** (A. Symes) Church attendance has been quite stable. Young people & groups very popular ... Church members have met to discuss means & ways of repairing the building as well as the cost by voluntary help in the labour ... Our minister, wife & two of their family will tour interstate after Easter when others will help out from the platform. **CROYDON** (Martin Burgess) Peg

Lawn organising monthly church lunches ... Grocery offering for those in need received last Sunday each month ... Good attendances at Kidsmin Adventure Camp (17) & swimming sports (23) ... Good Companions growing ... CWF annual street stall held 27 March ... Family service 28 March featured Win Morgan ... Martin Burgess providing youth leadership training ... Youth worker intern Richard Gordon to join youth leadership shortly. **CAULFIELD** (A. McMillan, Carl Lee) On 12 March the CWF celebrated their 69th birthday. About 70 ladies attended enjoying a luncheon & fellowship afterwards. We had very interesting talk on history of Royal Doulton pottery by Lyndel walker ... After 39 years decided to combine EWF with the AWF so now all meet together on second Tuesday in the month. **MOUNT CLEAR** (Dale White) Information night & new attendees luncheons held recently to help assimilate a large number of new folk ... Second phase of Explorers Club commenced to involve boys & girls in years Prep-2 ... 175 at recent morning service involving York Street band conducted by Frank Clark ... Young adults ministry growing ... Lorikeets Group coordinating a casserole ministry for any in need. **MANIFOLD HEIGHTS** (Greg Illingworth) Rick & Leonie Wright commissioned into full-time ministry with Close to the Edge as Direc-

tor in Victoria ... Visitors from Restoration House, Torquay, present ... Boys, girls, men, youth and study groups commence ... CWF 65th birthday speaker Vince Ross, Aboriginal Liaison Officer ... Praise & ministry mid-week meeting ... Interesting profiles of members weekly in church paper. **HARTWELL** (Graeme Rogerson) Special Advent & Christmas services included Sunday School presentation of "The Christmas Machine", candlelight service of lessons & carols featuring the "Verity Trio" ... Induction service for Merry Blair. Ian Allsop officiated ... Youthwork alive & growing fast ... Church hosted Rotary service ... Rev Lloyd Shirley conducted banner-making class ... District inter-church Lenten studies commenced ... KYB, Care & Share group & young adults Bible study meeting regularly.

WA

SCARBOROUGH (Nigel Merrick, Raye & Mike Hasleby) Outreach seminar "Understanding Your Teenager" well attended ... Studies on Romans, "Husbands & Wives" (Biblical basis of family relationships) & "Encouragement Course" well received ... Several members preparing to go to the Philippines to build medical centre ... "Bamboo in Winter" screened ... Keith Ananda accepted to study medicine. **KALAMUNDA** (Mark Proud, Paul Sanders) Rejoice in appointment

of Fred Hainsworth & Alan Whelan to eldership ... Leadership Council structure in place & additional board members appointed ... Dr David Shalley, WABC, speaker in series on "The Person & the Work of the Holy Spirit" ... Men's breakfasts with Ed Cole videos held weekly ... Several young people farewelled to service—Antony Cook (India), Stuart Michael (Halls Creek), Lee-anne & Trevor Street (North West). **MAYLANDS** (Robert Drown) CWF opened year's activities with Devonshire morning tea 10 March. Leader Connie Eaves, speaker Robert Drown ... Ladies involved in World Day of Prayer regional meeting. Enid Marshall, Betty O'Meara, Wilma Humphrys participating in service ... With emphasis upon caring ministry, Robert Drown, Margaret Jones, George & Connie Eaves, Everleen Caddy & Jan Morskate will be attending Selwyn Hughes & Trevor Partridge seminar in Perth during May. **EASTERN HILLS** (Maurie Ashworth) World Day of Prayer—about 60 attended morning & evening services. \$100 offering to Bible Society ... RE going well in schools. 43 classes being covered ... Purchase of organ approved AGM ... Charles Lithgow re-elected church chairman ... Decision for the Lord made by Karen Morrison ... Average attendance of 40 at all-age Sunday School ... More leaders & helpers needed for youth work & Girls' Brigade.



44th NATIONAL CONFERENCE

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA
Melbourne, 5-11 September 1993
"Christ: The Timeless Resource"

NATIONAL PRESIDENT: Clive Ward, 77-79 Capel St, West Melbourne 3003
Phone (03) 326 8900

NATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS SECRETARY: Ian Allsop, 77-79 Capel St, West Melbourne 3003 Phone (03) 326 8900

NATIONAL CONFERENCE SECRETARY: Ian Allsop, 77-79 Capel St, West Melbourne 3003 Phone (03) 326 8900

NATIONAL CONFERENCE TREASURER: c/o Churches of Christ Centre, 77-79 Capel St, West Melbourne 3003 Phone (03) 326 8900

DIRECTORY OF NATIONAL AGENCIES

AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: President: Eunice Feidy, 50 Hewish Rd, Croydon 3136 Phone (03) 725 5328; Secretary: Eleanor Roberts, 11 Winchester Rd, Nunawading 3131 Phone (03) 874 5110

AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Secretary: Mrs F. Morris, 27 Albert St, East Malvern 3145; Treasurer: Mrs A. Allison, 28 Potter St, Black Rock 3193 Phone (03) 598 5594

AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST OVERSEAS MISSION BOARD: Executive Director: J. May, PO Box 320, Unley 5061. Send donations to: Vic-Tas: Val Wilson, PO Box 362, Springvale 3171; SA: D. Lewis, 9 Clisby St, Vale Park 5081; WA: R. Cousins, 130 Whalley Cres, Maylands 6051; Qld: L. Christensen, 9 Gilmour Crt, Toowoomba 4350; NSW: D. West, 28 Bayview Ave, Earlwood 2205

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF "THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN": Chairman: K. Aird, 263 Melbourne St, North Adelaide 5006; Secretary: D.W. Burdett, 22 Ferdinand Pl, Campbell 2601

CHURCHES OF CHRIST THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE: 40-60 Jacksons Rd, Mulgrave 3170. Board Chairman: J. Bailey; Principal: K. Bowes; Registrar: G. Wigney Phone (03) 790 1000

CHURCHES OF CHRIST PROVIDENT FUND: Secretary: J.R. Ashley, PO Box 140, Carlingford 2118 Phone (02) 630 7784

FEDERAL ABORIGINES MISSION BOARD: Executive Director, A. Moyle, PO Box 1199, Wangara 6065. Forward donations (tax deductible) to: NSW: Miss E. Lincoln, 165 Gloucester Rd, Hurstville 2229; Vic: Treasurer, Malcolm Anderson, 22 Goe St, Caulfield South 3162; SA: Conference Centre, 263 Melbourne St, North Adelaide 5006; Tas: J. Harrison, 12 Henrietta Cres, West Launceston 7250; WA: Treasurer, H. Folland, 9 Canterbury Rd, Bayswater 6053

AUSTRALIAN BOARD OF CHURCH DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION: Executive Director: D.H. Smith, Churches of Christ Centre, 77-79 Capel St, West Melbourne 3003 Phone (03) 326 8900; Chairman: Dr C.E. Wambrunn

FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN UNION: Chairman: Dr T. Banks, 13 Eton Rd, Belmont 3216 Phone (052) 43 3713; Secretary: J.W. Pye, 43 Grey St, East Melbourne 3002 Phone (03) 419 4318

FEDERAL HOME EVANGELISM: Treasurer: c/o Churches of Christ Centre, 77-79 Capel St, West Melbourne 3003 Phone (03) 326 8900; Secretary: I. Allsop, 77-79 Capel St, West Melbourne 3003

FEDERAL LITERATURE DEPARTMENT: Chairman: K.J. Clinton, 149 Jolimont Road, Vermont 3133; Secretary: Mrs E.M. Rankine, 5 Alkins Ave, Glen Iris 3146

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE: Secretary: C. Wilson, PO Box 140, Carlingford 2118 Phone (02) 630 7533

Urban Mission

“Walk the walk, don't just talk the talk,” is the message of Michael Duncan, a New Zealander who is co-ordinator in the Philippines of Servants to Asia's Urban Poor.

Michael and his family have taken seriously God's call to mission and live with and serve the poor in the slums of Manila. He advocates an incarnational model of mission. This approach is based on an understanding of theology that says that as God set aside his Son to come to earth to live and die for people, so his people, under the leading of the Holy Spirit, should go and live with those for whom Christ died. As Jesus was a servant, so should we be. As Christ adopted our life and sufferings, so should his followers today live a lifestyle appropriate to those amongst whom they minister. Servants to Asia's Urban Poor advocate not only a social transformation of the society in which they work but also a personal conversion for those with whom they are in contact. They are concerned about personal sin and social sin (structural imbalances).

Michael argues that through his and others' experiences they have seen the need to be working in the power of the Holy Spirit. They have also seen the relevance of the charismatic gifts, especially healing, in communities that are lacking in basic medical structures.

In urban situations (and Australia has one of the highest concentrations of people in urban situations in the world) the church has a unique message. First, the church is a community—it brings together a diverse group of people whose resources can be released back into the community. Sec-

ondly, churches are vulnerable themselves and have a willingness to self-sacrifice with their “missionary zeal” for the poor and needy. Thirdly, churches should nurture workers and sustain them in their involvement and can do this better than non-church groups. Because of its divine nature the church is not a one-issue community and thus can work on many different fronts.

Michael argues that for Christians to have “street credibility” they need to live with and relate to the people they are trying to reach. Unless we live with Jesus as our model, we will not be taken seriously, and thus our message will be lost.

Michael was asked about the way that many Christians become concerned about their own family and then made decisions on ministry based on their needs. He sees this as a symptom of one of the driving forces of today's Western society—the drive of “need” (personal gratification) determining what we do and buy etc. He queried whether people are putting God first in their lives or if the family has in some cases replaced God as the driving force of life.

If we are serious about our ministry in our urban areas of Australia then we need to consider carefully how we will be involved in these communities. I know of several churches and Christians who are trying to live this type of mission in Australian cities. They need our support and prayers.

—Chris Ambrose

[Servants to Asia's Urban Poor can be contacted through their Australian Co-ordinator at PO Box 6394, Upper Mt Gravatt 4122. Phone (07) 349 6475.]

The Last Word

When God pardons, he consigns the offense to everlasting forgetfulness

—Merv Rosell

Little Susan was mother's helper. She helped set the table when company was due for dinner. Presently everything was on, the guests came in and everyone sat down. Then mother notices something was missing. “Susan” she said, “You didn't put a knife and fork at Mr Larson's place.”

“I thought he wouldn't need them,” explained Susan. “Daddy said he always eats like a horse.”

★★★★★

Father: How dare you! What do you mean by hugging my daughter?

Boy: I was just carrying out the scriptural injunction, “Hold fast that which is good.”

★★★★★

A: If you will give me your phone number I will give you a call.

B: It's in the book.

A: Good. What is your name?

B: It's in the book, too.

★★★★★

“I'm supposed to tell you that there will be a small parent-teacher meeting tomorrow night,” said the student to the parent.

“Well, if it's going to be small, do I have to go?” asked the parent.

“Oh, yes,” replied the student. “It's just you, me, the teacher and the principal.”

★★★★★

Wife: Would you help me with the dishes? Husband: That isn't a man's job.

Wife: The Bible suggests that it is.

Husband: Where does it say that?

Wife: In 2 Kings 21:13 it says, “And I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.”

★★★★★

Two people drove their cars towards each other on a narrow street. Neither could pass. One leaned out and shouted, “I never back up for a stupid idiot!”

“I always do!” shouted the other man, shifting into reverse.

★★★★★

I WORRY ABOUT THE YOUTH OF TODAY. THEY ARE SENSITIVE, COMPASSIONATE, SERVICE-MINDED, ECOLOGY-MINDED AND ACCEPTING OF PEOPLE FROM ALL CULTURES AND BACKGROUNDS. IN SHORT, THEY'RE TOTALLY UNPREPARED FOR THE WORLD WE'RE ABOUT TO DUMP ON THEM.



SUBSCRIPTION FORM

PO Box 101, North Essendon 3041

Name

Address

Postcode

Amount Enclosed: \$ Church

Renewal New Subscription

Payment can be made by Bankcard, Visa or MasterCard

Donation: \$

Please charge my—

\$25 Full Year \$19 Rest of Year

Bankcard Visa MasterCard

\$14 Rest of year if recommended by a current subscriber

Card number

Expiry date

Subscriber:

Signature