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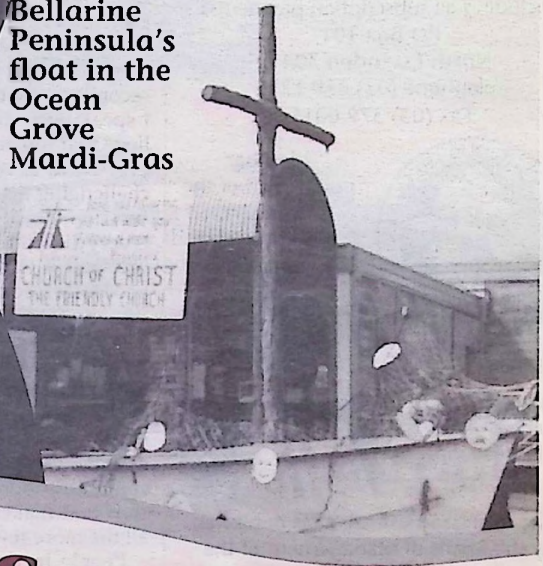
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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Humphrey B. Bear
arrives at Ascot Vale's
street party



Bellarine
Peninsula's
float in the
Ocean
Grove
Mardi-Gras



--- Into the Streets ---

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Lifecycle FINISH

Russell Wesley rides the roads of
Tasmania



260 1
Lyons helps
clean up the
streets of
Canberra



THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Vol. 95

No. 6

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Guest Editorial

Chaplaincy

Cyril K. Muller

Many specialised ministries fall under the heading "chaplaincy". Chaplains can be found in the primary, secondary and tertiary fields of education in both state and private schools. They can also be found in residential colleges, hospitals, industry, the armed forces and sporting bodies. My experience in chaplaincy has extended over a period of 20 years in the secondary and tertiary fields of education. I speak with conviction when I say I believe that ministry by chaplains, in whatever field, is one of the most vital and challenging fields of ministry in which to serve our Lord. True, success or otherwise is very difficult or near impossible to measure, and it is often only years later that people feel secure enough to give the chaplain any feedback.

While this ministry, and from here on I will address myself to that of tertiary chaplaincy, is not for the faint-hearted, the depth of interaction that takes place between the chaplain and those searching for truth has a fullness and richness of open and honest communication with both students and staff that makes this precarious ministry all the more rewarding.

People in the parish demonstrate the need to hide so much of themselves; in fact, they live a lie. I don't mean deliberately, they have been conditioned to believe that Christians don't have problems and if they have problems they can't be Christian enough. Often people leave issues too late, then churches either don't have the will or the skill to minister to them. As a parish minister I found very few church members ready to explore: violence in the home, marriage, family, the changing role of women, ethical practice in business or the workplace or any issues of justice that might involve a change of belief or behaviour. As a chaplain, I find people from all levels within the church and those not involved with the church have little hesitation in coming and pouring out their hearts and working through their concerns. They are also willing to explore issues at any level and consider the implications for their own belief or behaviour.

Ministry within a secular institution must by its very nature be very different from that within a parish or even that of a private school. Chaplains are usually there by invitation. Their mission is to the insti-



tutional body as a whole where they work out of an educational model. So it is appropriate for chaplains to share with students and staff the various elements of their personal belief and faith but inappropriate to tell others what they must believe. It is appropriate empathetically to work or wrestle through beliefs and concepts with another but in the end it is the other, who, led by the Spirit develops his/her own understanding/answer/faith.

John, a psychology student, came in asking for time to discuss the question of conversion—he wanted to research this phenomenon for an assignment and for his own interest. John had never been involved with a church before but had known others who had spoken of their conversion. In the chaplaincy at the time was the staff worker for an evangelical group on campus. The phone rang and as I was returning I heard the student lashing out at the staff worker, who felt the need to tell the student he needed to come to their meetings and be converted. "You are just one of the reasons why I have never been to a church and you have just confirmed for me that I was right not to consider getting involved." With that John left and we have never seen him since. The irony of it all is, the staff worker left, proud that he had just witnessed for Jesus Christ. My own model for chaplaincy work is that of Phillip, who walked alongside the chariot until he was invited up by the Eunuch. Then Phillip explained unto him Jesus.

• Cyril K. Muller is a Chaplain to the University of Queensland, representing the Queensland Council of Churches, a fraternal of churches representing Baptist, Churches of Christ, Salvation Army and Presbyterian. Educated through primary school, farming and timberfelling at Aratula, Qld, Cyril took time out to study the Deacon's Course at COB, Glen Iris, then 10 years later returned to train for ministry. He spent four years in full-time parish ministry at Maryborough, Vic, then 13 years in chaplaincy at Mildura High School (CCES). On returning to Qld, Cyril maintained a number of part-time responsibilities: Centenary church for 18 months, QCC chaplain to the University of Qld for seven years and Director of Marriage and Family Ministries, a division of Churches of Christ in Qld Social Service Department for six years.

Ascot Vale Street Party

Giving things away

On 14 March the Ascot Vale, Vic, church celebrated its centenary with a street party. St Leonards Road was closed to traffic and came alive to the sound of music from Stephen Reinmuth and various free activities and displays. These included a jumping castle, a Life Be In It parachute, face painting, a barbecue, playgroup and CE'd plant stall. There was a small charge for cakes and Devonshire teas and craft work. Humphrey B. Bear arrived, much to the delight of the children.

Free worship tapes and tracts were handed out to the large crowd who came.

The street party has helped to raise the church's local profile—people were amazed that things were actually being given away.

—Margaret Bourdon



Lifecycle 92

Russell cycles across Tasmania

Lifecycle 92 was held in Tasmania on 12 and 13 March to focus the attention of the Australian community to the issues involved in organ transplantation. The first ride was held in Tasmania as it is the state with the lowest rate of organ donation in Australia, with only two donors in both 1990 and 1991. Yet in 1991 12 Tasmanians had their lives transformed through the ultimate gift of life, a donated organ.

About 75 riders left on the



• The barbecue at Ascot Vale's street party

Australian Kidney Foundation's ride from Launceston to Hobart, with about 50 riding all the way. Almost half of the participants were transplant recipients.

Russell Wesley represented Victoria on Lifecycle 92. Russell, a minister within Churches of Christ, underwent a heart transplant in 1989. Russell is currently a Council for Christian Education in Schools chaplain in a Geelong high school.

Australia has one of the lowest rates of organ donations in the world. The success of transplants has led to an increase in demands for donors and there are now more than 3,000 Australians on a waiting list three years long. It is estimated that 20% of those currently on the waiting will die before they get a transplant.

Organs used in transplants include the kidney, heart, lung, liver and pancreas. It is also possible in Melbourne for families to donate heart valves, corneas and bone from their deceased relative through the Tissue Bank of Victoria.

Russell commented that the church and individual Christians need to discuss the issues involved in organ donation. Their families need to know in advance what their feelings and thoughts are so that they can make informed decisions at the appropriate time. It is a sensitive issue for many and yet this is an opportunity to allow God's created organs to con-

tinue giving "life" as was their purpose.

Russell reports that he rode in the top three for the whole trip. His training and fitness were excellent and while the ride was far from easy, with head winds, heat and hills, he found that it was all within his ability. He commented, "A further tribute and witness to God's miracle of healing by way of a heart transplant and God's continued faithfulness—plus my own attitude, self-discipline and appropriate training."



Something "Fishy" in Ocean Grove

Bellarine Peninsula church afloat

You could certainly have been forgiven for thinking that something was "fishy" when the Bellarine Peninsula, Vic, church float rounded the cor-

ner into the main street during the Ocean Grove Mardi-Gras Parade held recently. The float, inspired by Luke 5:10, consisted of a fishing boat with a cross as the mast and a net draped over the side filled with faces of all kinds. Some of the lateral thinkers in the church came up with the idea and it was made a reality by the creative abilities of Lindsay Firth.

The Bellarine Peninsula church entered the float to increase its community profile and capitalise on its reputation as "The Friendly Church". It was the only church-sponsored float to enter the parade.

—Mark Butler



Clean Up Australia

Lyons centre for community project

The Lyons, ACT, church took advantage of its prime position recently and became a collection point in the Woden Valley for the Clean Up Australia Day. Contact was made with the local primary school, cub group and community association. The church's Girls' Brigade and Kids' Club made it one of their activities, as did the Hughes Baptist Boys' Brigade. 150 from the church and the surrounding suburbs took part as collectors. A highlight of the day was a barbecue lunch put on by the church with meat and bread supplied by the local shops. The activity built on the good relations the church has developed with the local community in recent times. Many ideas have been suggested for ways of making the event next year a more significant day.

• Cover picture: Sarah and Victoria Caulter and Vanessa Swift help with the clean up

Camp Acacia Popular

Halls Gap camp development continues



• Colin Winter, Ray Drayton and Frank Richards with Colin's son Andrew

Camp Acacia's manager Colin Winter, Ray Drayton and Frank Richards are currently planning new projects for the camp at Halls Gap, Vic.

The camp is in continual use by church, school and community groups. Church groups interested in a 1992 booking are urged to make immediate enquiries. The centre offers catered and self-catered camps for up to 80, with special rates

for churches. Overnight or short-term accommodation for families and groups of up to 10 is available in the Chatauqua Lodge.

Church leaders and members are welcome to inspect the site if visiting the area. Halls Gap is increasingly becoming an important tourist centre with the Grampians National Park attracting large numbers of visitors.

Kidsmin Leaders

Good Companions and Explorers plan for the year

Special events were held recently to mark the commencement of 1992 activities for Good Companions and Explorers leaders. 25 Good Companions leaders met at the Surrey Hills, Vic, church on 10 February for an evening of leadership development. The release of the 1992 program booklet, the display of books and resources, the sharing of ideas from each club and a hypothetical panel discussion were helpful. Enquiries about Good Companions should be directed to Dot Brooker on (059) 97 6227.

The Footscray, Vic, church was the venue for a leaders' breakfast held on 15 February. Fifty leaders and guests met to share in a meal and receive reports on the 1992 program, which includes a range of

camping experiences and an Explorers triathlon. The large attendance spoke well for the year ahead. Ian Corlett, minister of the Sunshine, Vic, church, gave a challenging address on issues of personal leadership styles and characteristics. New Explorers clubs are in the process of formation. Enquiries concerning these should be directed to Russell Croxford on (03) 783 3235.

At both events, Lynette Leach, the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development's new field director, led the act of dedication for leaders. Joint Kidsmin activities for Good Companions, Explorers and Kids' Clubs in 1992 include swimming sports, a snow field day and regional festivals.

New MAP

CFA to be phased out in Queensland

The Christian Fellowship Association, or CFA as it is more widely known, had its beginnings in the 1930s. In Queensland it is now to be phased out and its role taken over by the Mutual Aid Plan (MAP). The two programs have been operating side by side for a number of years. Now the two will be amalgamated and the subsequent program will be called the Mutual Aid Plan.

There will be some modifications to the present MAP. One of the advantages of MAP is the local church involvement in the provision of assistance to people who are in need and a more flexible way of rendering

assistance. The two programs will be amalgamated on 1 July. There are plans to have a seminar for MAP agents early this year to explain the operation of the new MAP and to provide them with more skills in operating the program.

"While we appreciate what CFA has done in the past it is no longer seen as the most appropriate vehicle for the provision of welfare assistance to people in need. The Mutual Aid Plan is a more flexible way of working through the local churches to provide assistance," Dr Stewart, the Executive Director of the Queensland Social Service Department, said.



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Merredin and Bruce Rock's New Minister

Jolly family welcomed



• David and Sharyn Jolly with Annalysse, Nathan and Matthew

The induction service of David and Sharyn Jolly and family Nathan, Matthew and Annalysse was held at the Merredin, WA, church on 2 February.

The evening service was a special service with an ecumenical setting, when all denominations and clergy from the district were represented to welcome the Jolly family into ministry in the area.

WA Conference President Barry Ryall conducted the induction of David and Sharyn into the ministry of the Bruce Rock and Merredin churches.

Lecturer

Dr Craddock to speak at World Convention

The Jesse Bader Lectureship at the World Convention of Churches of Christ, in Long Beach, California, USA, speaker will be Dr Fred Craddock.

Dr Fred Craddock holds the Bandy Distinguished Chair in Preaching and New Testament in the Candler School of Theology. He came there from the Graduate Seminary of Phillips University in Oklahoma. Dr Craddock joined the Phillips University department of religion faculty in 1961, moving to the seminary in 1965, where he

taught until 1979.

Dr Craddock received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Johnson Bible College, Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1950, a Bachelor of Divinity from Phillips in 1953 and a PhD in New Testament from Vanderbilt in 1964. He has done postdoctoral study at Tubingen, Germany, and at Yale.

An ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Dr Craddock has served ministries in Tennessee and Oklahoma. In addition, he has served on the General Board and Administrative Committee of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), on the Commission on Theology of the Council on Christian Unity and has chaired the Commission on Ministry for the Christian Church in Georgia. He presently is serving on the Task Force on Ministry for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

He is on the editorial board of *Quarterly Review* and has served on the advisory board of *Interpretation*.

In addition to preaching and teaching widely at church assemblies and ministers' conferences, Dr Craddock has served as guest professor at other seminaries.

He has written seven books: *The Pre-Existence of Christ in the New Testament, As One without Authority, Overhearing the Gospel, The Gospels, commentaries on John and Philippians, and Preaching*. With Carl Holladay, John Hayes, and Gene Tucker he has published a nine-volume series, *Preaching the New Common Lectionary* (1984).



• Fred Craddock

Citizen of the Year

Deeply committed to helping others

Bill Heath, a life-long part of the Maylands, SA, church, has been named as one of two citizens of the year in the City of Payneham.

A substantial reason for the recognition was Bill's service to the church. Among many roles, he was an elder for many years, secretary for eight years, Sunday school superintendent for eight years and boys' club leader.

In 1969 Bill was SA Conference President, and he has served the conference on its Ministry Placement and Advisory Board, Social Justice Committee and Men's Society.

Deeply committed to ecumenical and justice issues, Bill

was an active member of the Social Justice Commission of the SA Council of Churches, and founded and still co-ordinates a local church branch of Amnesty International, thus being responsible for over 400 letters being written each year pleading for the release of prisoners of conscience.

He founded and co-ordinates Be-a-Friend, a local church-based organisation that matches people needing practical help with people who volunteer to give that help, and is an active volunteer with that group.

For several years Bill has been a voluntary worker in spa therapy with the Glynde Lutheran Nursing Home, and before that with Glenrose Court at Glen Osmond.

He has been president of the Hartley West branch of the ALP.

Bill is married to Evelyn, and they have five adult sons and daughters. He is a retired plumber, and one of a family of plumbers who worked in and around Payneham for many years. —Richard Lawton



• Bill Heath

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Spiritual Warfare

Taking Our Cities for God

David Henry

What is preventing me from seeing growth and spiritual freedom in my church? It's a question many ministers have asked over time.

If they have hearts for the lost and yet have still not seen a major breakthrough in terms of evangelism and church growth then something might be missing. And it may have nothing whatsoever to do with the power of the sermons, the level of pastoral care or the quality of the praise and worship. It could be that the stagnation is being induced and maintained by demonic spirits in all their guises and subtlety. If that is the case, the potential for the evangelistic endeavour of the church will be seriously weakened if not rendered totally ineffective.

Fighting the malaise therefore becomes a matter of taking up arms and adopting an aggressive battle plan in the spiritual sense (Ephesians 6:18).

Spiritual warfare—concerted and prolonged prayer and intercession against demonic forces—is not a new strategy.

But rarely has spiritual warfare been used in the context of breaking some form of bondage perceived to be over an entire city or even a country.

The most exciting evidence that this form of ministry is having dynamic results comes from Argentina.

It is this South American country, once known as the jewel of the continent but now economically stagnant, which has seen the most amazing testimonies of sudden church growth in recent times. The change is being seen as a national spiritual revival that has seen the evangelical church grow by at least 700% since 1984.

Among those at the forefront of this new movement is Edgardo Silvosio, a director of Harvest Evangelism and now widely recognised as the

world's leading citywide evangelistic strategist.

He will visit Australia in May for a six-day seminar.

Edgardo pinpoints the reason for the breakthrough in getting the gospel message out to people whose national pride and economy have been shaken to the core by war (in the Falkland Islands) and political mismanagement.

"If there is one dominant element that has emerged in the theology and methodology of evangelism in Argentina, I would say it is spiritual warfare. It is an awareness that the struggle is not against a political or social system. Nor is it on behalf of those who are captives, rather it is against the jail keepers, against the rulers, those in authority in the spiritual realm."

He has identified the three major strongholds preventing effective mission and outreach as ignorance, disunity and spiritual apathy. All three, he says, are fuelled and encouraged by Satan and his followers to block the work of the Holy Spirit.

Terms such as "destroying the enemy's perimeter" and "parachuting behind enemy lines" are used by Ed Silvosio and other Argentinian evangelists in reference to the formation of prayer cells to cover

entire cities in prayer, block by block.

It is akin to "spiritual mapping" in which suburbs, neighbourhoods or entire cities are examined for any historical or current demonic influences. These then become the focus for concerted prayer by teams of intercessors.

Believers in these small prayer groups are usually not leaders or pastors (generals) but rank-and-file members of the church (soldiers).

"Once the power of the enemy has been weakened through prayer, contact should be made with the unsaved to let them know that the church of the city is available to pray for their needs."

The plan to develop a way of identifying spiritual strongholds over cities and then attacking them in prayer is gaining wide support among church leaders around the world.

It attracted world attention in October 1991 when almost 4,000 church leaders from 41 countries met in Buenos Aires, Argentina, for one week to pray, work and examine the relationship between prayer and intercession for church growth.

Plan Resistencia and Plan La Plata for evangelising those



• Ed Silvosio

two cities in Argentina became the focus of study for the week.

It now remains to be seen whether the spiritual revival that has ignited the country will spread to other parts of the world, including Australia.

The Australian seminar "Taking Your City for God", will be held at Blackburn Baptist Church, 20-25 May. For program and enrolment details phone (03) 878 4622.

• David Henry is publications manager for the international aid agency World Vision in Australia.

[We carried a report on the first annual Harvest Evangelism International Institute held in Argentina in our 14 December 1991 issue. The report was written by Ian Alves, minister of the Chatswood, NSW, church, who attended the conference.]

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Upper Yarra Planting

Church well established

Last September, under the sponsorship of the Montrose, Vic, congregation, a new church was planted in the Upper Yarra region. Meetings are held in the Woori Yallock Primary School. The group is now well established and in contact with members and interested people in towns and rural communities in the area.

The church is well placed to serve both the Healesville and



• The attendance at a recent Woori Yallock service

Warburton areas. Attendances are growing. The new church is part of the CROP initiative of

the Vic-Tas Department of Mission Education and Development. Information about con-

tacts in the area should be passed to Alan Rackemann on (03) 723 4297.

In Just Ten Years

Largest Chinese church in Australia



• Elders, pastors and attenders at the luncheon following the anniversary

10 years ago on 31 March 1982 Grace Church of Christ was launched in a meeting room at the Glen Waverley, Vic, church.

The afternoon meeting attracted 19 adults and on the next Sunday numbers were down to 14.

At the 10th anniversary some 600 shared in the worship celebration held in the Syndal Secondary College. Don Smith represented Conference and the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development and brought a greeting.

The congregation is still with-

out a permanent home and is now in its fourth location, but a seven-acre site has been purchased in Wantirna. In all, the land has cost \$580,000. Preliminary work on planning for buildings is in progress.

The church has attracted Asian people from a wide area and also includes in its leadership and attenders a number of non-Asian people. There are 18 house groups meeting, a large Sunday school and active youth work.

The project began with the senior pastor Chek Chia's vision of a new work in Melbourne's eastern suburbs to

reach Chinese and other Asian people. This vision was shared with the Department of Mission, Education and Development and the department backed the new group financially for three months prior to the ministry being self-supporting.

Grace Church has a great vision for mission and is active in support of a range of projects, including one missionary from the church in New Guinea. Chek Chia is committed to assisting in the planting of new churches and has helped plant a church in New Zealand for our New Zealand Conference.

Consultations have also been held interstate. He is an active member of the ethnic committee of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development. The growth of the church is a strong testimony to the significance of church planting.

Following this growth the congregation is now the largest Chinese church in Australia.

All services and activities are conducted in English. Peter Lee is the associate minister. The church also has an associated congregation of some 150 attenders that uses Cantonese in its services.

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Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Bryan Mee's Article

To the Editor,

I was disappointed to read the letters in the 21 March issue and that other readers were offended.

It shows how many of our members miss the point and worry about things which make absolutely no difference to the Christian life. What a sad state we are in when we write 200 words about things which have no effect whatever on the real state of our world untouched by the Gospel. Do your readers ever see the real and many obscenities, e.g. racism, poverty, greed, lack of social justice and peace etc?

No wonder our membership (per capita) is in such sharp decline, despite the investment in many new churches.

These negative attitudes will never attract people to the Gospel. What is needed is the non-judgemental love that Jesus displayed.

—Fen Hewitt
(Wembley Downs, WA)

The "Plastic" Church

To the Editor,

I would like to congratulate you on publishing Bryan Mee's article in the 7 March edition. It seems to be the most talked-about subject within Churches of Christ at the moment.

This would be great if people were talking about what they can do to become less plastic and more real, but it's a little disappointing when all you hear are complaints about "that" word. We should be jumping up and down because

our churches are becoming "plastic" instead of whinging about "a word".

I know I get more offended by whinging, complaining Christians who live in their cushy little secure environments than I would ever get by the use of "a word".

Well done Mr Editor and I hope you publish the rest of Bryan's articles.

—Brett White
(Caringbah, NSW)

Ridiculing of Aboriginals

To the Editor,

I like to register my disgust at the ridiculing of the deaths of Lloyd Boney and David Gundy. The actions of the two police officers have sickened many right-thinking Australians and deeply pained every Aboriginal. It is hard to imagine the anguish felt by the families of these two victims of Australia's ongoing apathetic attitude towards Aboriginal people.

The mockery derides two important issues of deep concern to every Aboriginal throughout Australia, i.e. Aboriginal deaths in custody and police attitudes towards Aboriginal people, reflected by the needless death of David Gundy and the exceedingly high degree of Aboriginal incarcerations. I am pleased the prime minister, our premiers and the police commissioner acted promptly to condemn the action and apologise to the families of Lloyd Boney and David Gundy. However we must all recognise that the cause of poor race relations is evident at every level of Australian society,

which is a low estimate of Aboriginal people and bad attitudes toward each other as recent TV programs from Redfern and news from Melbourne confirm. We must all co-operate to correct this problem and eradicate this malignancy from our midst if reconciliation is to have any chance to succeed.

I call upon the church to lead the way in changing attitudes and improving race relations by supporting the free development of the Church of Jesus Christ among us Aboriginal people and ending all forms of tokenism and colonialism. I hope that the Churches of Christ in Australia with whom I and many Aboriginals are associated in ministry will continue to give a strong lead in this direction.

Governments must recognise the legitimate claims of Aboriginal people and make every effort to free them from welfare and all other forms of bondage.

Let my people go. (Exodus 5:1)
—C.W. Grant
(Pastor, Albury Koori Church)

[This letter was written by Cec Grant to various groups concerned with Aboriginal affairs. It is reproduced by us to help our churches understand some of the feeling by Aboriginals regarding their future—Editor]

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Letters from Tertius

Stewardship

To the Editor,

Our church has slipped behind budget. Of course everyone knows that these are difficult times. But so far most of us haven't been retrenched or bankrupted or had our wages cut down. But you've got to be careful, don't you, even about what you give to the Lord's work!

Well our minister usually gets the job of giving us a pep talk about it. This time he did it well, setting out the details and reminding us of what the Bible says. He asked us to increase our giving by the short fall of 15%. He offended no-one, in spite of the touchiness of the subject, and he left us all convinced that something positive and sacrificial should be done about it. A number of us congratulated him on doing a good job.

A month has passed since and there is no difference in the offerings. Should I be surprised? I didn't increase mine. Things are a bit tough just at the moment and I thought that all the others would increase theirs and that I would join them shortly when things get a bit better.

I feel guilty about it and can't help remembering a story that my father used to tell me. It was about some grape farmers in Spain. They wanted to celebrate the harvest. All agreed that after the grape crushing each family would bring a flagon of wine and put it in the reservoir that fed the town fountain. Then at a given time the fountain would be turned on and everyone would get free drinks.

Sure enough the farmers turned up and emptied their flagons into the reservoir, and on the given signal every one came forward with their cups, only to find that they were filled with water. Every one had put a flagon of water into the container expecting that all the others would have put in wine.

Next Sunday I'm putting in the extra 15% no matter what the others do. I've got to live with myself.

Hoping you are the same,
Tertius

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Letters to the Editor

Correction of a Correction of a Correction!

To the Editor,

In my letter of 4 April issue of *The Australian Christian*, the point I was making (hopefully forcefully) was that "putrification" is the "correct" spelling but its usage is obsolete. "Putrefaction" is the modern and acceptable usage.

Just as important, the contributor was the David Brooker, student, from CCTC, who is currently enrolled at Monash University/Melbourne College of Divinity doing a BA/BTheol, not the David Brooker, minister, from Surrey Hills church.

—David Brooker (CCTC)

[We are sorry we confused the two David Brookers. This will mean we will need to double and triple check all contributions to make sure we distinguish between these gentlemen—Editor]

Whited Sepulchre

To the Editor,

Here I am, a Christian for almost 50 years and yet I have not reached a proper stage of saintliness. Your magazine has brought this fact home to me.

Brian Mee's article with "that word" did not offend me!

Worse still—I actually wished I could find the church he was writing about. Not only that, I laugh at all the jokes on the back page too. How can I paint my sepulchre whiter?

So many letters have been published condemning "that word" so it must be there is something wrong with me. I do not use the vulgar word myself and am sure that Bryan Mee would not ordinarily do

so either—he was quoting someone else. But the word is not irreverent nor does it have sexual connotations so why do your correspondents label it a swear word? I doubt that he would have been fined for using it in a public place (Ray Smith, 4 April).

You could have breached copyright by deleting the word from the text of the item. Or else you could have refused to publish the thing at all and thereby deprived us of a great article.

I have asked God's forgiveness for my unholiness but somehow I still can not manage to attain a sense of sin in my lack of being offended.

Perhaps most of the "BS" is produced by sacred cows.

—Vi Phillips
(Balgownie, NSW)

Invest In The Future

To the Editor,

I read with interest the Youth Ministry article entitled "Invest in the Future" and one sentence in particular intrigued me: "So often it has been said that young people are the church leaders of tomorrow."

15 years ago I was a young person involved in a very successful youth group. Many of the participants made commitments to Christ and were baptised. 15 years on, very few of that group are actively involved in the church. Why?

This is a question I would like to see the church try to answer.

I know that as we grew from emotional adolescents into mature adults the church could no longer meet all our requirements. Many of us began to question theological issues as well as the role of the church in the community. Many of us left because we could not find adequate responses to some of these issues.

It is important to fund youth work, but let's not forget that teenagers develop into adults. If we are to have church leaders in 15 years time it's imperative that we develop a strategy for this important transitional time in life.
—Anne Mansell
(Mildura, Vic)

Help reshape evangelism for the 90s!

Reshaping evangelism to meet Australia's need for the Gospel is the aim of this exciting Forum.

Share with Leighton Ford, Ravi Zacharias and Australian Christian leaders in daily teaching sessions, open forums and workshops - and help develop an evangelistic strategy for the 90s, primarily through the local church.

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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

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Laser Typesetting
Specialising in small jobs
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Doug & Marg Goddard
3 Tennyson Street
Mitcham 3132
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(03) 874 8101

Media Review

Books

RETHINKING EVOLUTION



Rethinking Evolution

by Arthur Pigdon (Vital Publications) \$15

The theory of evolution poses a dilemma for Christians. Young people are taught evolution in school and university as though it is scientific fact, when in reality it is still only a theory—a theory that it is challenged by many scientists.

Yet those who have grown up in Christian surroundings are taught that God created the world and all things bright and beautiful.

Further, as the very nature of science and the scientific method excludes the concept of a Divine creator, purely materialistic evolution has no place for God. Too often the only choice given to people is to believe either in the godless theory of evolution or in the strained literal view of "creation science".

Arthur Pigdon, a member of the Red Hill church and a retired minister, has titled his book "rethinking" evolution. He requires just that—a complete rethinking of the subject of evolution, to update and expand our knowledge of Darwinism. He has evaluated the opposing concepts of chance and design in explaining the origin of life and expresses his concern of the effects of evolution on individual behaviour and the values of our society. Finally he comes up with an alternative Christian view of creation.

This is one of the most important books published by our Federal Literature Department. Gordon Stirling, in launching the book, said he wished it had been around in his youth director days. Charles Birch, until recently Professor of Biology at the University of Sydney, says, "The churches have let youth down by not relating scientific understanding to faith. [This] book certainly does something to address that failure."

Rethinking Evolution is available from the Federal Literature Department of Churches of Christ, c/o of Mrs E. Rankine, 5 Atkins Avenue, Glen Iris 3146. —GTA

The Prisoner and Other Stories

by Rhena Taylor (MARC Europe)

This book was published in 1987 and may be difficult to obtain in Australia. It is a series of 10 short stories that look at different aspects of mission activity today and some of the current issues faced by mission organisations and local churches. Although it is fiction, I am sure that many of the situations are real—the author has had extensive mission experience in Africa. The stories are basically about the tension in handing over mission responsibility to Africans. We read of the frustration caused by lack of resources,

corruption in a relief camp, resentment caused by patronising attitudes and courage under persecution. An interesting book on the current issues faced in mission work.

—CRA

The Communicator's Craft

by James Rye (IVP)

The author is a lecturer in English and Communication Studies at the Norfolk, England, College of Arts and Technology. He is also the pastor of a small church at King's Lynn. This book, as the title suggests, is about communication. Rye's basic premise is that what you say will only be memorable because of the way you say it—not because of what you said. His book, which is easily read

and filled with illustrations and examples, shows that he practices what he preaches. Indeed he is most helpful because of the examples he gives of the different aspects of communication. Some of the chapters in the book deal with the importance of communication, the use of parables, the importance of structure, non-verbal messages, the use of examples and the correct choice of words. This book will appeal to many people, not only those who preach, but all those who have to pass on information to others.

The book will be most useful to beginners in the communication business, since it does not produce any radical, new ideas. However, no matter how many years they have been trying to communicate, anyone who wishes to improve their communication skills would only be helped by this book. —JMP

You Can Be a Postal Evangelist

by Bruce Steinbaum (Postal Evangelism International) \$12.50

This book is written to help people become evangelists by sending scriptures through the mails. The various possibilities and methods of sending personalised letters, scripture portions and evangelistic material are outlined. The economics are set out, but it should be noted that this is written for an American scene and the postal regulations and charges differ in Australia. There are also some chapters devoted to outlining how readers can support Third World missionaries and how this is a more practical and cheaper option of evangelism than others.

An interesting book. It is very American but I am sure that the Friends of Turkey, who supply this book in Australia, would help those interested in Australian contacts and regulations.

Available for \$12.50, which includes postage and handling, from Friends of Turkey, PO Box 10154, Adelaide St, Brisbane 4000. —CRA



THE PRISONER AND OTHER STORIES



Sharp edged stories of Africa

RHENA TAYLOR



1991's Top Ten Stories

News with impact on USA Christians

The following items were selected by the *Christianity Today* news staff as 1991's top stories, based on the stories' impact on the US evangelical community.

In the 22 February issue we published the Top 10 list of *The Christian Century*, which also looked at the US news stories from a Christian perspective.

1. War in the Gulf

The conflict heightened not only interest in the end times, but also concern for peace in the Middle East.

2. Reforms in the USSR and Eastern Europe

Continued restructuring created new opportunities for believers.

3. Denominations address sexuality issues

Traditional standards of personal holiness were reconsidered and, by and large, upheld.

4. Euthanasia

Court cases, a suicide machine, a best-selling how-to suicide book, and a state referendum put the issue high on the public agenda.

5. Religious liberty

Lower-court interpretations of a landmark Supreme Court decision eroded constitutional protections of religious practice, said church-state experts.

6. Operation Rescue in Wichita

The controversial movement once again claimed the national spotlight, fanning the already-hot abortion debate.

7. Southern Baptist moderates

After more than a decade of conservative victories in the Southern Baptist Convention, moderates formed their own fellowship.

8. Protestantism in Latin America

The changing religious landscape in this part of the world was highlighted by major visits from both Pope John Paul II and Billy Graham.

9. Economic recession

Troubled times pinched Christian ministries and denominations, resulting in layoffs and cutbacks.

10. Dead Sea Scrolls

After decades of frustration, scholars finally gained full access to the 2,000-year-old documents.

Victory at Tamo

A battle won in God's strength



"What's that singing?" we all asked as we scrambled out of the house in the dusk.

"The mountain men have come and they are happy that the convention is here," answered some. We took pictures in the fading light as the mountain men worked a traditional singing. But soon the whippers changed.

"This is evil," said some.

Others began to shout, "They are worshipping spirit."

Then the battle began. It was not a battle with fists or weapons, but a spiritual battle.

For the whole convention, the mood was one of expectancy and now, right beside the church building, the battle lines were drawn. The cry of the drums sang out calling the faithful to arms. Inside the building the church leaders began to pray and sing. Soon great numbers crowded into the building and the singing and prayer

swelled to a crescendo. The noise of the mountain men could not be heard above the praises to God and the affirmations of faith in him.

The people spilled out of the building into the night air as the lights inside cut into the darkness. But that wasn't the only darkness dealt a blow that night. One more battle front was lost by Satan. This time without missionary help or urging, the church in PNG dealt with and fought the battle. Satan had lost another foothold. Even the mountain men heard the gospel that night. Instead of condemning totally and being wiped off, the people reached out and ministered to them showing them a better way. No spears were used, no cross words spoken. The battle was won in God's strength and his strength alone.

—Hazel Bassett

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

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"Service since 1907"

Happenings

The 1992 Templeton Prize for "progress in religion", worth more than \$1 million US, will be given to a Korean Presbyterian minister, Kyung-Chik Han. The money will be used mostly to rebuild churches in North Korea "as soon as it is politically possible". The rest will support the Young Nak (Everlasting Joy) Church, founded by Kyung-Chik Han in 1945. His church is the largest Presbyterian church in the world. It now reports more than 60,000 members, hundreds of daughter churches and missionaries in 21 countries.

The Cuban Baptist Church recently ordained 3 women. The decision was made after reflecting on the role of women in the church and society. The Baptists are the largest non-Catholic denomination in Cuba.

Churches of all denominations on the Mornington Peninsula, Vic, combined resources in the Frankston and Peninsula Bill Newman Crusade 10-15 March. More than 7,200 attended the tent meetings over the period of the crusade. The youth rally attracted a record crowd with a record 130 decision cards being completed after the appeal. However during the crusade \$4,000 worth of special audio equipment and microphones "disappeared" in broad daylight.

The Australian Council of Churches sent a delegation to visit the holding centre for boat people at Port Hedland, WA, over 24-25 March. The delegation met with detainees, concerned local people and government officials to gain a first-hand understanding so that the churches may be informed about the situation and, where appropriate, be in a position to take action.

With almost 1 million Protestant communicants, the east coast province of Zhejiang has the highest percentage of Christians

on the China mainland. Zhejiang now has more than 1,990 churches, half of which are newly built or restored, and 3,571 meeting points. To serve the Christian community, 273 seminarians and church workers have been trained over the last 8 years.

In March more than 500 Christians witnessed the first ordination service held after 1949 in Sichuan province in central China. On this occasion two new pastors, one of them a woman, were ordained into the ministry.

To coincide with the 125th anniversary of the start of the Scripture Union movement and 100 years of SU camps, over 600 delegates from up to 100 countries will meet in the Netherlands 19-25 May. It will be only the second major international conference in SU's history. About 200 of the delegates will come from the Third World. Emmanuel Oladipo from Nigeria is to be commissioned as SU's International Secretary.

Following the retirement after 30 years of service of Charles Chambers, the Sydney City Mission's Deputy Executive Officer, Ken Jarvis succeeded him as Chief Executive Officer of the Sydney City Mission and Mission Australia on 1 April.

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Nurses Christian Fellowship in NSW a special nurses service is being held on 17 May at 3 pm at the Wesley Chapel, Wesley Centre, 220 Pitt St, Sydney. The service is being followed by afternoon tea.

One in every six Australian children is now growing up in a home where no-one has a job, according to the Bureau of Statistics. About 52% of the children lived in sole-parent families. A total of 617,000 children aged 14 and under live in families without employment.

The argument that Sunday trading would give us a "European Sunday" is rather hollow. Nine of the EEC countries restrict Sunday trading, and only two, Spain and Portugal, have no laws preventing it. In Denmark there is no Sunday trading at all, German shops must shut not only on Sundays but Saturday afternoons too, and France, Belgium and Italy restrict Sunday trading to some small shops and tourist areas.

In an unprecedented summit of its patriarchal leaders, the Eastern Orthodox Church denounced active proselytism by both Catholics and evangelical Protestants across Eastern Europe, and threatened to freeze its 20-year dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church.

In an unprecedented move, the Roman Catholic Church has joined leaders of the Protestant evangelical community in Paraguay to petition for the constitutional separation of church and state. Evangelical churches in Paraguay, like those in other Latin American countries, witnessed significant growth during the 1980s. During that decade they doubled in number from 73,000 to 165,000 adherents and from 558 churches and preaching points to 1,254. They still account for less than 5% of the total population.

The Bahasa-Malaysia Bible is under renewed threat of being banned in Malaysia, following the passage of a parliamentary state bill in late December prohibiting the use of "Islamic-based" words by non-Muslims.

The underground Christian church in Iran is growing—secretly but steadily. There are approximately 12,000 evangelical born-again Christians in Iran. At least half of these are Muslim converts, the rest come from a variety of backgrounds including Armenian, Assyrian, Bahai, Judaistic and Zoroastrian.

The exact numbers are difficult to determine because most evangelical churches meet in secret locations. In addition to the 12,000 evangelical Christians there are also between 100,000-200,000 Christians of Armenian Orthodox, Assyrian Orthodox and Assyrian Catholic backgrounds.

Evangelist Billy Graham accepted an invitation to visit North Korea 31 March-4 April. He was scheduled to preach at two churches in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, deliver a lecture on religion to students at Kim Il Sung University and meet with a number of political and cultural leaders. His visit would be the first time a foreign evangelist has been allowed to preach in North Korea.

3 million Chinese have joined the Communist Party since 1988 but at least the same number of people joined Chinese Protestant or Roman Catholic churches.

As many as 3,000 German Protestant church leaders informed on their own flocks for the East German Stasi secret police, according to Berlin church historian Gerhard Besler. Many of those informants may be exposed to shame and retribution as Stasi files are made public.

Motorcycle chaplain Rev Geoff Glass ministered to riders at the Grand Prix in Sydney. His ministry has been such that officials arranged a "chapel" service for riders and pit crews on the Sunday morning.

This year God's Squad is celebrating its 20th anniversary. The original God's Squad was formed in Sydney during the late 1960s. John Smith recognised the relevance of such an organisation and so went to Sydney to meet with the members. This led to the formation of the Melbourne chapter in February 1972. Ironically

the Sydney club disbanded not long after this.

The Standing Conference of canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas has recommended "provisional resumption" of membership in the (US) National Council of Churches by the 5 Orthodox bodies that suspended their participation last year.

Megachurch ministers led by televangelist Robert Schuller have launched a new church alliance. Churches United in Global Mission (CUGM), with a membership of about 80 "super churches", hopes to be "an expanding network of Christian churches, from many denominations, uniting to share positively the message of Jesus Christ and his love for the world [and] seeking to address the needs of humanity and our environment."

Some 425,000 Mexicans gathered 21 March for a march and a 5-minute address by Luis Paula at the close of his "Festival de la Familia". More than 10,500 indicated that they committed their lives to Christ during the 12-21 March crusade.

On 10 April the Melbourne College of Divinity conferred degrees on 173 graduands and one diplomate. Four candidates received the new degree of Master of Ministry, one of whom was Brian White, who investigated the reasons why or why not the children of Churches of Christ ministers continued in their church attendance and commitment (we hope to have a summary of his findings in a later issue). The honorary degree of Doctor of Sacred Theology (Hons) was awarded to Dr Davis McCaughey, the former Victorian Governor, and to the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne, the Most Rev T.F. Little. In 1991 1,563 students were enrolled at the college and its 5 associated teaching institutions.

ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

FIELD SERVICES

New faces for the Board's staff are Alan Hirsch, Paul Creasey and Lynette Leach. Alan and Paul visited Sydney and Wollongong in late March to confer with ministers and students on church revitalisation issues, where the main emphasis is upon existing churches in inner- and middle-city situations. During the visit they also met with members and staff of the Department of Church Development and Education. Both Alan and Paul are actively involved in ministry with local churches. Ron Hewitt, Executive Director of the Department of Church Development and Education in New South Wales, reported on the visit as highly successful. Paul Creasey serves as youth ministry co-ordinator and consultant. Lynette Leach also joined the Board's staff this year after twenty-three years experience in adult, secondary and primary education. She is currently in-

involved in the Board's publication program, which is set for a significant expansion in new resources in the 1992-94 period. Lynette has strong interests in worship, music, family life, adult and children's ministry and the role of women in contemporary society.



REACHING THE "SUBBIES"

Sociologists have termed those in sub-cultures as "Subbies". Alan and Debbie Hirsch, South Melbourne, Victoria, with their team of workers, are seeking to identify with these people and demonstrate the love, acceptance and care of the Gospel.

In a recent issue of the magazine, *On Being*, Alan comments that what "Subbies" need is salvation (in the fullest sense of the word), rather than a nice belief system that does not have the ability to change their often miserable lives. The South Melbourne church offers a different experience of the community of faith. The church seeks to be relevant to a diverse inner-city population, which includes a number of disadvantaged youth and young adults. Formality and tradition have little relevance. The church is fostering genuine Christian community, which is seeking to be culturally and socially

appropriate. The church has grown from some twenty people to over one hundred in a short time. It is out of this background and experience that Alan addressed these issues in the recent visit to New South Wales as part of the Board's field service role.



600,000 attenders complete survey

SURVEY RESULTS AWAITED

In August 1991 some 600,000 church attenders in 7000 Protestant congregations completed a survey on the attitudes and faith of attenders. The Board acted as the national co-ordinating agency for the Churches of Christ survey and expects to receive an analysis of our situation at the next annual meeting. A high percentage of our churches participated in the survey. The survey is the largest ever attempted in the Australian church community and will provide important data for national and state agencies and local

churches. The information will be progressively available from mid-year. The task of assessing the data is an enormous one for the Sydney-based researchers. Dr Peter Kaldor, who developed the questionnaire, says that the survey will answer questions about the role of attenders in church life, examine aspects of belief and the socio-demographic features of the congregation and look at how Christians are sharing their faith with people in the community. During 1991 the Board made a direct gift to support the development of the project.

GIVING PATTERNS ALTER

When the books closed on 30 June 1991, the records showed that giving to the Board's work had reached an all-time high, with churches in all states showing great support. The backing was consistent with the interest in the Board's publications, resourcing and field services. The formation of the new Board structure approved by Federal Conference in 1990 has been well accepted.

Future planning to continue the initiatives in the education and evangelism areas has been based on sustaining and increasing the level of financial support. New publications and resources are planned as far ahead as 1994. Major training events for church planters, lead-

ers and ministers are in hand for 1992 with further proposals to be considered for the 1993-94 period.

To support this program, income from churches to 30 June 1992 was budgeted at \$13,500. To date only \$4,792.42 is to hand. Given the current economic pressures in the community, churches are likely to delay remittances until the last moment. A gift from every church within our Australian network is our goal. Please ensure your church's gift is sent this month. Individual donations are also invited for this national evangelism and education emphasis. Send your personal or church gift now to our Treasurer, Mr R. J. Barreau, 77 Capel Street, West Melbourne 3003.

YOUTH MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Youth of today are under more pressure than previous generations. High unemployment levels and a sense of despair have gripped young people. An increase in violence has caused many to question the future. In the United States young people have joined street gangs or become involved in drug abuse. Is this where Australian society is heading?

Some young people are confronted by family breakdown. Television has become the moral teacher of many young minds; our male youth suicide rate is the highest per capita in the world.

Churches of Christ throughout Australia are responding to the many challenges that lie before us, by looking at innovative ways to reach youth. The reports on this page describe various initiatives with young people at local, state and national levels.

—Paul Creasey
Youth Ministry Co-ordinator

YOUTH STRATEGY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Western Australia is proceeding with Youth Vision as a strategic plan for ministry with young people. Youth Vision exists to impart vision and direction for youth ministry in churches and provide resources to see that happen. In co-operation with the local church, Youth Vision accepts the challenge of equipping, nurturing and supporting leaders to minister to young people.

Dr Neale Fong, State Youth Consultant, states that the Youth Vision strategy involves five priority areas: leadership development and training, local church consultation and development, statewide events, a network of ministers to youth, and a support and administrative network. The launch of Youth Vision in Western Australia is to be seen as part of the overall commitment of Churches of Christ work with youth throughout Australia.



SERVICE AND MISSION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Jim Keatch, Associate State Minister, reports that service and mission are an emphasis in local church youth groups. Resourced by the state Youth Ministry committee, some youth groups are finding meaningful ways to express their faith.

Brooklyn Park's Spectrum group has recently been involved with one ward in the Adelaide Children's Hospital. Christmas decorations were put up and work is continuing on painting wall murals in the ward. Interaction between staff, patients and young people has been invaluable.

Blackwood young people are planning to visit Broken Hill in July 1992. The emphasis will be on serving the church and the community. Activities will include re-roofing, painting, involvement in church services, and outreach into the community. Sightseeing will be included for relaxation.

In these contexts there is emphasis on using the gifts and talents of young people in mission. A valuable aspect arising from these projects is that others are ministered to by the enthusiasm of the young people, who feel involved because their talents and abilities are being used.

YOUTH OUTREACH IN THE ACT

Thelma Leach, Conference Secretary, reports that Belconnen has seen a steady growth in its ministry to young people in the last few years. As well as numerical growth, there has been growth in the faith of individuals and a deepening commitment to serve Jesus Christ. Ministry with youth and young adults is supported by a youth committee, comprising the youth board member, the evening service convener, and an elder. A youth council representing the various activities and age groups oversees youth work in the church.

Groups for students in years 6-10 are led by enthusiastic, caring young adults. They meet on Sunday afternoon for study, and stay for a meal and the evening youth service. Regular social events are held. Senior students (years 11 and 12) meet socially and in groups for study and discussion. Sporting teams cater for those interested. A leaflet distribution to the University of Canberra student residences, inviting students to become part of the church family, brings new contacts.

YOUTH SERVICES

At attendances at Sunday evening services have increased. Services are planned by teams of young people who work with the evening worship convener. They are involved in all aspects of the service except the sermon. Because the services are relevant to the issues faced by young people today, they bring their friends. The leadership by young people in music and worship plays an important role in communicating faith issues. Paul Potter, minister, comments that the involvement of young people provides practical training for them. A coffee shop and canteen operates after the evening services to enable young people to mix informally. A pastoral care team of young adults follows up new attenders.

Youth and young adults are making a significant contribution to the total ministry of this church.

IMPACT OF NYC 15

Chris Hutton, Field Director, Department of Church Development and Education, New South Wales, writes:

My legs still ache when I think about National Youth Convention 15, held in January 1992, at Harrietville, Victoria. But it was worth it! In the middle of what was an excellent week I walked from Mount Loch carpark down to Harrietville via the Bon Accord Spur, 12 km more than I've walked for a long time, but a chance to enjoy the beauty of God's creation and get to know some of my fellow trekkers. Getting to meet and know people is what conventions are all about. People like Graham Hyman and John Bond were inspirational and yet down-to-earth and gave us something to go away with. Others led in worship and entertained us at the Nightspot. People like Juliette Keating told us great stories and produced one of the best creative dances I've ever seen. By their presence, people from all over Australia reminded us of our diversity and of the fact that we are part of something bigger than our local church. This was my fourth NYC—and for the sake of everyone now and in the future—I hope and pray there will be many more! Even my legs agree!

GIVE ME A REASON

Chris Cheal of East Keilor, Victoria, and one of the youngest participants, writes:

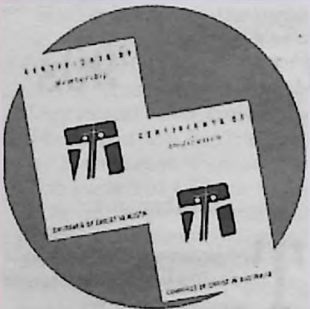
Travelling by bus to National Youth Convention at Harrietville I met new friends. The convention theme, "Give Me a Reason", featured in various experiences: studies, sports, games, hikes, eisteddfod, videos, music, meals and free time. On the last night, after Graham Hyman spoke, I made my decision to follow Christ. I was so happy. The people at convention had shown me how wonderful it is to be a Christian. I needed no other reason. I want to thank the organisers, John Bond, Graham Hyman, Andrew Ball, Dale White, Feathertop Chalet—and Christ!

PUBLICATIONS

LATEST PUBLICATIONS



Empowered People
The third in the "Growing Faith Bible Studies" series
Eight small-group Bible studies on Acts 1-8, by Cath Greatbatch \$2.50



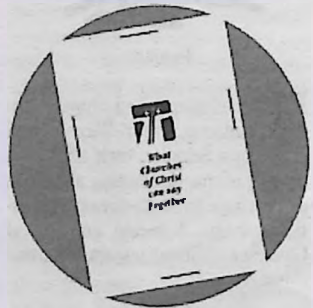
Certificate of Membership
Suitable for presentation to new members \$1

Certificate of Dedication
Available for parent-child dedication services, as a recognition by the local church \$1



Being Sure
Eight small-group Bible studies on the first epistle of John, by Cath Greatbatch \$2

"Introducing You to Our Church"
A folder for presentation to visitors and contacts. Local church information and the Board's promotional resources can be included \$2



What Churches of Christ Can Say Together
This useful brochure contains a detailed statement of Churches of Christ teaching on the Scriptures, God, salvation, the church and Christian hope. It is the result of a national Christian Union consultation. It has been revised and presented in a format suitable for distribution to people enquiring about our beliefs and members who want to learn more about basic teaching 90c

NEW!



Come Alive
A study by Alan Hermann of Queensland on spirituality. It is useful for small groups or individuals. Publication late April approx. \$3



Resources for Effective Evangelism
Contains a wide variety of methods and programs for local churches to effectively reach people. Edited by Ian Tippett \$7.50



Entering God's Kingdom
Five studies on the experience of conversion and ongoing discipleship, by Alan Hirsch \$2.50



Effective Assimilation
A manual of ideas for churches of all sizes to help newcomers feel welcome, and to give them a sense of belonging, by Ian Tippett \$8.50

CURRENT RESOURCES

Net Results
A monthly digest, edited by Herb Miller of the Disciples National Evangelistic Association, containing articles by Lyle Schaller, a page of motivational segments to photocopy for local church bulletin inserts, new methods from growing congregations and practical resources.
Individual copies \$2.50
Yearly subscription \$30



For a complete list of all resources, write to the Board at 77 Capel Street, West Melbourne 3003.

PUBLICATION PARTNERSHIP

The partnership between the Churches of Christ Australian Board of Church Development and Education and the Joint Board of Christian Education has effectively served many of our churches. JBCE is a co-operative venture between seven Australian and New Zealand churches. Best known is the children's curriculum "Living Faith", used among our churches Australia wide. "Top Gear" is the new youth resource for young adolescents involved in study programs. Brochures and information are available from the Joint Board of Christian Education, 10 Queen Street, Melbourne 3000. Phone (03) 629 5076.

MAJOR EVENTS FOR 1992

CHURCH PLANTERS' CONFERENCE

The Australian Board of Church Development and Education will link with Church Resource Ministries in a major national event for church planters to be held in Melbourne, 8-9 September. Ministers engaged in actual church planting and others interested in this ministry will be welcome to attend. The conference will be conducted on an inter-church basis with a large number of church planters expected to attend from churches across Australia. A special event for state leaders is also planned. Churches of Christ members from each state are expected to participate.

Guest speaker will be Bob Logan, who serves church planters internationally as vice president for new church development with Church Resource Ministries. He has himself planted a church that grew to over 1200 people and, in turn, planted six daughter churches. Bob Logan is also the author of several books and resources on church leadership, church planting, and church growth.

Enquiries may be directed to Don Smith at the Board's Melbourne office, state department staff for Steve Addison, the Conference Co-ordinator, PO Box 127, Glen Waverley 3150.



PRIORITY

The distinguished church consultants, Peter Wagner and Lyle Schaller, both affirm the priority of church planting and see it as the single most effective evangelistic strategy. A recent analysis of Churches of Christ projects confirms this view.

Denominations that regard themselves as "New Testament churches" are propelled toward church planting as a matter of integrity.

—Herb Miller

The personal faith development of all those associated with congregational life to ensure firm incorporation in the Body of Christ.

The nurture of the whole person for active participation, service and witness in the life of the church and community.

*The equipping of the membership for ministry and leadership through training experiences in—
outreach
pastoral care and
spiritual development.*

COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL IN THE '90s CONFERENCE

Wollongong's Spring Conference to be held 18-20 October will this year be a jointly sponsored event with the Australian Board of Church Development and Education. Last year over 300 people from the eastern states and South Australia registered, with many more participating in the public meetings. Dr T. Garrott Benjamin of the Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, will be the principal guest speaker. The church is one of the major African-American churches in the United States and the largest of its kind in the Disciples of Christ. Dr Benjamin is an outstanding speaker and in great demand for conference events for Christian leaders and ministers. He has worked closely with Dr Robert Schaller. Dr Benjamin is also a presenter on television to personnel in the American Armed Services. He has recently contributed to Disciples' thinking on the role of our churches in the 21st century. He will be joined at the conference by a distinguished team of Australian church leaders.



STREAMS

Staff members from Wollongong church will share with other presenters in sessions that will be streamed into four electives for youth and children's ministry, worship and the creative arts, church leadership, and ministry. Wes Beavis, recently appointed as a consultant to the Board, will contribute to the worship ministry in the public meetings and in one of the elective streams.

NEW INITIATIVE

The conference is expected to be one of the largest of its type ever held for our churches.

It represents a new initiative by the Board in the evangelism and education responsibilities of its charter.

Detailed information will be available to churches by mid-year. Begin talking with leaders about attendance now.



These two conferences are an integral part of the Board's national Australia Grow strategy in evangelism and training.

Busy Times at Lyons

It's all "go" in a community church

It's Wednesday evening at the Lyons, ACT, church. Eight-year-old Cameron, wearing his Superman suit, has just emerged, dripping, from the baptistry. He has discovered that you cannot walk over the insulating blanket covering water being kept warm for baptisms!

Tonight, Christian City Church, which hires our chapel, has 23 baptisms scheduled in their 7.45 pm-9 pm time slot. They will move into the chapel directly after Jazzercise, a fitness group, completes its one-hour session.

But right now we are rescuing Cameron in the course of a noisy Kids Club session that has to move to the Sunday School room by 6.30 to allow Jazzercise into the chapel.

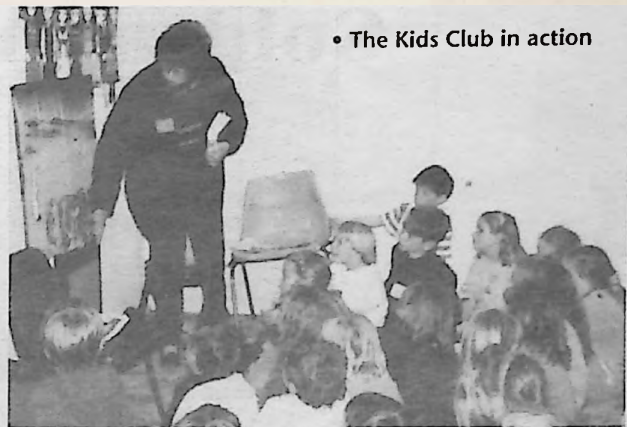
Earlier in the day the building was in use by the Know Your Bible (KYB) group and a class of seniors studying genealogy as part of the University of the Third Age. But Wednesday's action started for the Kids Club leaders at 4.30 pm as the team of helpers (from our church and from neighbouring St Albans) set up for Kids Club and held a prayer and briefing session, steeling ourselves for the arrival of the excited swarm

of 40 plus children who will be our responsibility from 5 pm to 7.30 pm.

Following the well-established, Australia-wide formula developed by Children for Christ for 6-12 year olds who otherwise would have little or no exposure to the Gospel, and using Scripture Union material, our team will provide a sequence of games, chorusing and Bible stories before we sit down with them in the Sunday School room over a meal followed by craft work.

By 7.30, cars and people are milling around the building as parents collect their youngsters (many come early to help them complete precariously glued ships, planes etc. made from wooden pegs, paddle popsticks and the like). At this time the Jazzercise group is handing over the chapel to the Christian City Church for their service while we are cleaning up the considerable fallout of glue, craft work and meal crumbs in the auxiliary hall rooms just ahead of the Catholic New Life Prayer Group, which hires one of these rooms. By 8 pm, just a little dazed, we are on our way home or maybe to another meeting!

Our all-purpose building has its heaviest bookings on Wednesdays and Sundays (with the morning and evening services, Sunday School and the 5 pm Aboriginal Church service). But it is "jumping" on every day of the week with regular hirings to Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, Jazzercise (three times a week), University of the Third Age (twice), a childrens music group, a callisthenics group and of course it is used fully for our own church programs including the weekly music group practices, Girls' Brigade, a Koinonia group, a Saturday elders' breakfast, periodical elders', board and other committee meetings and the daily activities involving the minister and his administrative sup-



• The Kids Club in action

port. Then on Saturdays our rostered cleaning teams move in, along with periodical working bees and lawnmower operators, endeavouring to do justice to our large and prominent site close to the Woden Town Centre in Canberra.

On the other side of the block our former manse is now in full-time weekday use, tenanted by a Christian counsellor and a mediation service for adolescents and their parents (or care givers).

There is a strategy behind all this. It earns us a useful return from our fixed capital equipment.

It reduces the risk of break-ins and vandalism. But, more importantly, our valley is aware that the Lyons church is active in the community. People are constantly moving through our premises. Bridges are built in many directions. This church is attractive because it is clearly alive.

—Ron Fergie

International Outreach

Outreach to many nationalities continues

The Fairfield, NSW, church members are finding an increasing need to understand the basic tenets of Buddhist, Islamic and Hindu beliefs.

The Spanish and Vietnamese churches have applied for membership of NSW Conference. Phil Wylie, minister of the Spanish church, will be in

Argentina and Chile 13 May to 24 June to learn about Latin culture, language and church mission strategy, obtain Bible study material and to acquire an empathy with their people.

Eclass Fathoury has a new baby boy—her seventh. Eclass or Calars means "it is finished" in Arabic.

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Golden Anniversary

College celebrates its past, present and future

Golden anniversaries are always exciting, because they represent a notable achievement. This is certainly true of the Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College. On 6 March 200 graduates and wives, together with special guests, gathered for a golden jubilee reunion dinner. Graduates from all decades of the college's life attended.

There were those of the Woolwich era, who were able to reminisce about the almost monastic lifestyle of 57 The Point Road. Then there were

the more recent graduates who remember only the Carlingford property. All were able to share in the common sense of achievement and ongoing purpose of the college.

Jack Cooke, Harold Hayward and Dennis Nutt presented "Fifty Years in Review", where they integrated the secular history of the last 50 years with what was happening in the Brotherhood and what was happening at college. Many entertaining recollections made this an enjoyable time.

The Past

There was also a visit from "Voices from the Past". The voices of E.C. Hinrichsen, A.G. Elliott, G.R.F. Ellis, A.W. Stephenson and R.J. Greenhalgh were all heard. These men played a significant part in the history of the college and "though being dead, yet speak".

Having reflected on what was and what is, the occasional address was given by the principal, Dr Keith Farmer. Keith

looked to the future and focused on what we shall be.

The highlight of the night was the introduction to those present of Peter Retchford, who was the first graduate of the college, Glen Brown and Jim Henderson. It was great to have these three "originals" present. Two had come from interstate, as had quite a few of those present.

Also present were Thelma and Rob Leach, representing the Churches of Christ Theological College at Mulgrave. Graham Warne, a graduate and now vice-principal of Kenmore, represented that college.

Saturday, 7 March, was the garden party. It was exactly 50 years to the day of Woolwich's opening. It was wonderful to see quite a few present who had been there on that day.

As part of the celebration the Jubilee Building was opened by Graeme Bagley, NSW Conference President, with the key being turned by Ken Baker, the architect for the project. Both Colin Bowser and Ken Baker, who shared in the day, have given long, faithful and valuable service to the college.

Many enjoyed an archives display, which gave a view into the life of the college from 1942 to 1992.

The Present

The college has 53 full-time students this year, including 21 incoming full-time students. Approximately 90-95% of these are undertaking either degree/diploma or diploma courses (normally four years). There are also many part-time students.

There have been 598 people enrolled as full-time students in the 50 years of training through Woolwich/Carlingford.



• The first intake in 1942—back: A. Gilbertson, G. Brown, C. Latimer, P. Retchford, front: C.J. McKenzie, R. Wilson, L. Jones, J. Henderson, A.W. Morris



• G. Brown, P. Retchford and J. Henderson at the reunion dinner

Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College

The Future

In addressing the challenges the college is facing for the future Keith Farmer indicated that the college board has decided that from the beginning of 1993 there will be a different training model progressively implemented.

Summarising the differences Keith said that the new model will have the following features:

- 50% of the training will be undertaken in the field, including the trainee living at or close to the ministry situation (compared with 25% presently). The location of this field work will be normally a vital local church, known as a ministry centre.

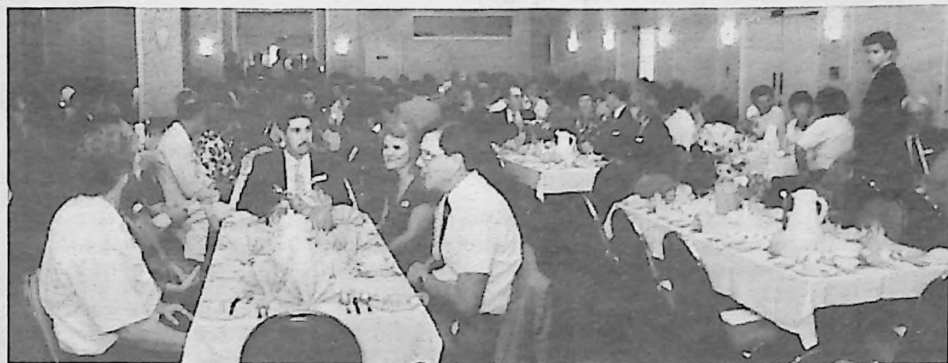
- Spiritual formation as a weekly emphasis through personal spiritual direction and development in a group situation. This formation emphasis will take place in the ministry context and under the guidance of a skilled supervisor.

- A part of each course undertaken will be fulfilled in the field (ministry situation) including a proportion of the assessment for that course. There will also be reflection in supervised groups on ministry experience. Thus a major intention in the model is greater integration of theory and practice.

- Training will take place for 11 months of each year rather than the present academic year (approximately eight months). This will allow those who choose to study as "full-time students" to finish the normal ministry training requirements in three years. However the model will work well for those choosing to train over a longer period.

- The majority of courses taken by most students will be in "module" form. The BTh degree and the college diploma will ensure that there is rigour in the academic work undertaken and that the biblically based course is maintained.

The Institute for Contemporary Church Leadership at the Wollongong church, along with Carlingford (associated with a



• The golden jubilee reunion dinner



• Opening of the Jubilee Building

local church), will be the ministry centres for 1993. The board of the college intends to add approximately one ministry centre per year in ensuing years. Students will have the choice as to which ministry centre they will be located at each year, with a variety of geographic locations, ministry contexts (e.g. inner suburban), styles of ministry and church sizes being offered. Recently \$350,000 has been invested in providing further facilities for the future training of the college. If you wish to support this bold venture you could send a donation to the **Building and Maintenance Fund** (tax deductible), **Library Fund** (tax deductible) or **General Administration Fund** (tax deductible), Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College, PO Box 140, Carlingford 2118.



Carlingford

Modules 1992

DP2108 WORSHIP IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

6-10 July 1992

Lecturers: Keith Farmer, Tim Hanna & Robyn Moses

Worship and its place in total church life, including music, leading and practical preparation of special services, e.g. weddings, baptisms, funerals

DE2103 YOUTH MINISTRY

13-17 July 1992

Lecturer: Graham Hyman

Historical background to youth ministry, and the present and future consequences and implications, including trends, the role of the youth minister, and the church in youth ministry and leadership models

Levels: degree, diploma, non-credit

Location: Carlingford

Tuition costs

\$262.50 degree (9 credit points)
\$175.00 degree (6 credit points), diploma
\$120.00 conversion course
\$90.00 non-credit

Churches of Christ (NSW) Theological College
PO Box 140, Carlingford 2118
(02) 630 7533

Classifieds

BIRTHS

ANDREWS (WITT) Paul and Michelle thank God for the safe arrival on 8 April of their lovely little girl Elise Mahalia. 7 lb 13 oz. Thanks to Dr Woinarski and staff at St Georges. All well.

ENGAGEMENTS

LOCHHEAD—JOHNSON Allan and Sandra and Peter and Petrea are delighted to announce the engagement of Bronwyn and Tony (of Blackwood Church, SA).

APPROACHING MARRIAGES

WARREN—NAPOLI Joy (Bangsund) and Garth Harris of Maroochydore, Qld, are delighted to announce the marriage of Mark Warren to Susan Napoli, daughter of John and Nina Napoli of North Balwyn, at 3 pm on Saturday, 2 May, at Genazzano College Chapel, Cotham Road, Kew. All friends are invited to this service. Mark's address: 32 Helene St, Bulleen 3105. Phone (03) 850 6705.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

BERRY—GREEN John and Trix praise God for 50 years of marriage

by Mr W.A. Wigney on 2 May 1942 at West Preston Church of Christ. Thank God for love of family David and Bronwyn, Susan and Ross, Barbara and Andrew and grandchildren Renee and Sarah and James and Samuel. Now residing at 41 Rooney St, Lower Templestowe 3107.

CHAPPELL—FOWLER Hilda and Stan were married at Shepparton Church of Christ by G.T. Pitman on 25 April 1942. Congratulations and love from Wendy and Robert, Rosalie and Adrian, Marilyn and Werner, Noel and Betty, Loris and Peter, Robert and Anna, and your 19 grandchildren. The family invite Mum and Dad's friends to an afternoon tea starting at 1 pm at Tennis Ranch, River Road, Kialla, on Saturday, 25th. No gifts please.

CRITTLE—BRITTER Connie and Wal announce with pleasure their 50th wedding anniversary. Married at Cheltenham Church of Christ by late beloved pastor J. Ernest Allan, 25 April 1942. Thanks be to God. Present address: 53/37 Viewmount Rd, Glen Waverley.

DARBY—SCOTT With thanks to God for his faithfulness, to the churches at Collingwood, Fairfield,

Ivanhoe and Doncaster for their teaching and fellowship, and to many friends within the Christian community for their care and loving support, Isabel and Rupert Darby joyfully anticipate the 50th anniversary of their marriage, celebrated at Collingwood church on 2 May 1942 by the late T.A. Fitzgerald and the late Rev T.W. Darby. Present address: 8 Morang Ave, Lower Templestowe, Vic 3107.

IN MEMORIAM

SCOTT Bob. Died 1 May 1989. Wonderful memories of a loved and loving husband, father and grandfather. Always alive in our hearts. Betty and family.

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Bookings and Further Information
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Mail 82 Oban Road, Ringwood 3134

NSW Church News

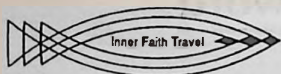
ARMIDALE (David Barber) Three people were baptised in a swimming pool on 15 March ... 70 attended our special 20th anniversary service 29 March. Special speaker was Richard Pearce. Richard & Shirley also sang in the service & for a concert ... Church & Sunday School growing & therefore we are planning a new building ... Weekly evening services are commencing 5 April.

BOWRAL (Garry Towle) Annual church camp held at Attunga, Canyonleigh. 50-60 attended. Speaker Peter McDonough, Principal Capernwray Missionary Fellowship. His talks were much appreciated ... Visit from Gideon speaker ... Kids Club (years 2-6) & Big Kids (years 7 upwards) growing in numbers ... Family group meets to share Sat evening meal ... Bethel series

(part 2 NT) meets Wed morning & evening, Gary leading.

MANNING VALLEY (Barry Rice, Ross Norling, Guy Cooper) Guy Cooper appointed as further associate pastor with responsibilities in youth ministry ... Ian White, Scottish singer/composer conducted concert ... 80 men attended Men's Night Out dinner with Steve Clarke as speaker ... Youth camp held to introduce Guy to young people ... Over 200 shared in first youth service for this year with Guy speaking ... 30 study &/or prayer groups functioning.

EPPING (David Moyes, Lester Sutton) Worship attendance up 20% since 1991 ... Extra seating needed ... Well attended Lads & Dads & Mothers & Daughters camps ... 50 attended half night of prayer ... 200+ enjoyed Sunday School picnic ... 170 attended "Getting To Know You" dinner ... Carlingford students John Lee & Joanne Dew witnessing near Epping pub each Friday night.



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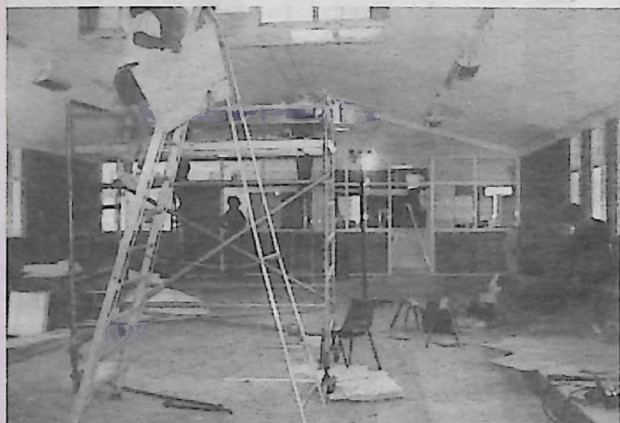
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News

Magill Closes Its Doors!

Major redevelopment program



• Chapel reconstruction

For seven weeks during February and March, Magill, SA, closed the doors of its chapel to carry out a major redevelopment program.

While the chapel was being rebuilt the congregation met for worship in the local Senior Citizens' Centre across the road.

The chapel and foyer areas have been renewed with a total repaint, provision of evaporative air conditioning, and new carpet. The windows have been covered with drapes, the sound system renewed and a state-of-the-art lighting system installed that enables, amongst other things, the fluorescent lighting to be dimmed.

New cupboards in the foyer, new platform furniture and an extension to the platform area for better use of instruments have all added to the attractiveness and effectiveness of the worship area.

It is worth noting that the platform extension was built using timbers from the original Sunday school anniversary platform!

A new cross has been added inside the chapel as a central feature, while the timber cross outside on the pylon has been replaced with a steel one. The timber from the old cross was reused to make the surrounds for the congregation's pigeon holes.

Outside, the property has recently seen the removal of a large number of trees in preparation for landscaping and the erection of new fences.

The original communion table and pulpit (built from timber originally used in the honour roll of the original Norwood chapel), have been refurbished and are back in place on the platform.

The work, costing some \$30,000, was made possible by two bequests and a great deal of voluntary labour. Tradespeople within the congregation gave freely of their technical skills, and hundreds of hours of effort went into the painting, sanding of pews and dozens of other small but vital tasks.

Ten formal working bees

were organised; dozens of other informal ones just "happened". It is estimated that over 1,000 hours of voluntary time was given to the project, which culminated in the official reopening on 8 March.

Ribbons were cut by Barbara Grear, Board Chairman, and Mrs West, the oldest member, as the congregation, led by the choir, entered the newly refurbished worship centre.

Communion for the first service back in the chapel was led by previous minister, Trevor Lawrie, and John Gilmore, minister since February 1991, preached the first sermon.

—Brian Phelps

Men's Seminar

Loss, stress and finance

Groups of men entered into discussion after a joint dinner at the Burwood, Vic, church on 10 March. During the dinner the various group leaders stated their professional qualifications and invited those participating to join their respective discussion group.

The discussion groups were "Men and Loss", conducted by Allan Anderson, a grief counsellor with Tobin Brothers, "Men and Stress", led by Graham Daff, a retired management counsellor with AMP, and "Men and Finance", led by Noel Will, a financial planner with Retireinvest.

The evening was sponsored by the Victorian Christian Men's Fellowship, who are willing to conduct similar seminars in interested churches. Those interested should contact the secretary, Ron Johnston on (03) 878 6289.

Mitcham Church of Christ

455-457 Springfield Road
Mitcham 3132

Church office (03) 874 8263
Church worship service 9.30 am
Evening study group 5 pm

Associate Ministers

Ron Chapman (03) 874 5565
Jim Wright (03) 803 5416
Secretary
Brian Coleman (03) 878 7438
Office Secretary
Helena Szozerkowski (03) 878 1947
Treasurer
Greg Runge (03) 852 0358

Dandenong Church of Christ

Centenary Celebrations

12-13 September 1992
Mark your diaries now!

A time to renew old friendships and make new friends while rejoicing in God's love together

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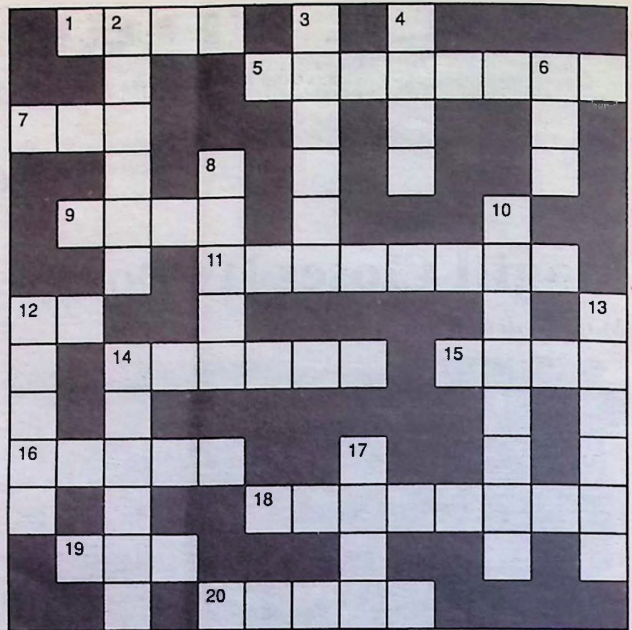
A Kingdom for Cockroaches

The perceptions we have today of two characters in a disturbing Lukan (18:10-14) parable somewhat impedes our appreciation of the Kingdom's complete orientation toward grace. The two familiar characters "Pharisee" and "tax-collector" have assumed in common English usage stereotypes that are exactly opposite to their identity in the parable. Today, the word "pharisee" means a self-righteous hypocrite, however to the auditors of the parable it was synonymous with purity in traditional piety. In their day the Pharisees were the outstanding exemplars of religious orthodoxy. The image is further compounded with the parable's setting in the temple—the context that determines at the outset who should be considered the favoured protagonist of the narrative. The unfolding narrative has a comparable effect to "a parson and pimp went up to the cathedral to pray". The context determines who is to be esteemed. It ensures that the Pharisee is expected to be the "good guy" of this story. In complete contrast, the tax-collector is an "irreligious cockroach", out of context in the parable's setting—the temple. The extent of our stereotyping encompasses the tax-collector as it does the Pharisee. The tax-collector, in Christian sentiment and rhetoric, has become a highly redeemable protagonist as the epitome of humble contrition.

We now have a propensity to read this parable as a "Christian caricature", a parody of the Pharisee and his "audacious self-righteousness". However, the parable is a shocking reversal of traditional pious sensibilities. In its Jewish context the prayer of the Pharisee is perfectly feasible, and acceptable, for the Pharisees were purists, exemplary in their orthodoxy. Even the low estimation with which he regards the tax-collector is not unusual, given tax-collectors' dishonest, swindling notoriety in a nation chafing at foreign military occupation, which they collaborated to sustain, if only for personal gain. For the tax-collector to be considered a recipient of grace or forgiveness in these circumstances was virtually unthinkable. Therefore the Pharisee's prayer would not have seemed out of place for the listeners. It would certainly not have the innuendoes of arrogance and hypocrisy, which now dominate our perception of both his character and attitudes.

In order to appreciate the parable's shocking reversal of expectation we must dispel our stereotypes of both Pharisee and tax-collector that have arisen out of the inversion that the parable itself has created, that is "Pharisee" as self-righteous hypocrite and "tax-collector" as a highly redeemable protagonist. In dispelling the stereotypes the parable has a pungent point to make. Who is the "unredeemable tax-collector" today? Good question. There are plenty of possibilities. "Social cockroaches" proliferate in any society. Conversely, who is the impeccable model of orthodox sensibilities today? An even better question! Now the parable's reversal motifs are devastatingly closer to home, for the Pharisee is not the stereotyped "hypocrite" but a purist, exemplary in moral and traditional orthodoxy. The tax-collector is not the humble exemplar of contrition—but a filthy cockroach, a despicable pest in his society. This reversal has disturbing implications for our perception of the Kingdom—if we are prepared to let go of our stereotypes and begin to see ourselves having the propensity to think and act, often unwittingly, like the purist (Pharisee) who shuns the cockroach (tax-collector). But the presence of the Kingdom is found where there is compassion, grace, unequivocal forgiveness and the opportunity for new beginnings—not sterile, compassionless orthodoxy, whatever its illusion of "correctness".

—Stephen Curkpatrick



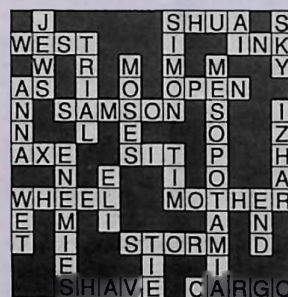
Across

1. Nebuchadnezzar was --- of Babylon.
5. One of the precious stones in the foundations of the New Jerusalem.
7. King of Israel.
9. Where David had a chance to kill Saul. (1 Samuel 24)
11. A man wanted workers for his ----- (Matthew 20:1)
12. Instruction by God via

prophets, e.g. Haggai 1:8.

14. Joseph's Egyptian name: Zaphenath ----- (Genesis 41:45-46)
15. A descendant of Asher. (1 Chronicles 7:35)
16. Song.
18. The good one is willing to die for his charges.
19. Do not gaze at wine, when it is ---. (Proverbs 23:31)
20. Seaport.

March Solution



Down

2. Great prophet.
3. Leprous Syrian. (2 Kings 5)
4. Book described as ----. (Daniel 7:10)
6. Unclean animal. (Leviticus 11:29-30)
8. Number of streams left when wind dries up the Euphrates. (Isaiah 11:15)
10. Canaan was the ----- land.
12. Fruit of the Bible.
13. Son of David.
14. Communication with God.
17. You will ---- what you sow.

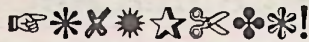
Vic-Tas Christian Women's Fellowship 106th Conference

Church of Christ, 46 Montclair Ave, Glen Waverley
Thursday, 30 April 1992

Theme—God's Women in Action
10.30 am: Worship, Reports, Business,
Conference Commitment Offering

1.30 pm: Speaker—Mrs Lynette Leach, Ethnic Focus,
Induction of Glenys Reaby and Executive, Liturgical Dance
Basket Lunch available for \$4 with pre-paid ticket
or BYO lunch

RSVP to Mrs Lorraine Hughes, Phone (03) 802 8950
Country lunches supplied.



Swearing

Gordon Stirling

“Swearing” is the blanket word that we use today for all forms of “indecent language”, “obscene language” and “blasphemy”.

It was not always so.

“Swear Not At All”

When Jesus said, “Swear not at all,” (Matthew 5:34) he was talking about the Jewish custom of swearing on oath to re-enforce one’s validity or honesty when making a deal. The idea was that if you swore “by Heaven” or “by Jerusalem” and you were making a false statement, something terrible would happen to you.

Much modern “swearing” had its beginning in such oaths, such as “by Christ” or “by hell”. Jesus said that no-one needs to swear on oath at all, and that our “yes” and “no” should be adequate.

This of course raises the issue of swearing in court on the Bible that one will “tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth”. This was the sort of thing that Jesus said was unnecessary and modern Christians should be asking themselves whether it would be better for them simply to make an affirmation that they will tell the truth (which is quite legal).

Derivations

Some modern swear words and many frequently used slang ones come from the custom of swearing on oath. The “great Australian adjective” is a contraction of “by our Lady”. “My oath” is from “I give my oath on (a sacred name) that what I am saying is true”. “By cripes” and “Crikey” came to be used by people wanting to stop short of “by Christ”. “Gee whizz” and “Jeeze” are contractions of “by Jesus”. “Damn” of course is used in the Authorised Version for “condemn” and as a “swear word” has contracted from “I’ll be damned (by God) if I do”. “Oh God” and “Good God” and “My God” come from the prayer in a sudden crisis, “Oh God preserve us!”

Blasphemy

Blasphemy is the word used

for what the Bible calls “taking the name of the Lord in vain”. It covers any disrespectful terms relating to God. While the terms “God” and “Jesus Christ” pepper the speech of many people who have nothing to do with either of them, and while this is technically blasphemy, in most cases those using the terms do not intend to slight the names of the divine persons concerned. The words and phrases they use have simply become part of their vernacular, however offensive they may be to some of us. Bill Cosby tells of the boy who grew up thinking that his name was “Jesus Christ” because the only time his father spoke to him was to disapprove of what he had been doing, the disapproval always being preceded by the exasperated oath, “Jesus Christ!”

Filth

As well as words derived from “swearing on oath” and from blasphemy, there is that form of “bad language” that comes under the category of “filth”. It centres mainly on the genitalia and the excreta. There is nothing intrinsically evil about any part of God’s creation of the human body or its normal functions. However the demeaning of such bodily parts and their uses and functions can only be aptly described as “filth”. The fact that some women comedians seem to go out of their way to exceed men in such expressions says little for their appreciation of the new freedoms available to modern women.

Filth is a sign of immaturity. Little children are curious about their bodies and their functions, and when together in bathrooms or other places will often indulge in shrieks of laughter or suppressed gurgles of amusement about them. But they normally grow through this stage, except for some adults who suffer from delayed childhood in respect to this sort of thing. So the “F word” is used by those who have not matured enough to know the

beauty and dignity of the God-given sex act in the context of true love. And the “B words” are used by those who have not yet learned that mature people do not make unsubstantiated remarks about other people’s sexuality or their parents in order to insult them.

Communication Problem

Modern swearing is more of a comment on our ability to use language in communication than it is a comment on modern morality. When a lot of people have trouble expressing themselves without punctuating their sentences and even splitting words with the so-called “great Australian adjective”, one can only conclude that there is something wrong with the teaching of English language and literature in homes and schools and in the media.

Perhaps the time has come for modern society to find more graphic turns of phrase to add colour to our communication without being confined to the hackneyed clichés of our limited vocabularies that we call “swearing”.

The Christian

The basic Christian principle of life is of course that of responsible stewardship, and this includes stewardship of language. Christians will use the languages available to them to express themselves in Christ-like ways that are helpful to those with whom they are communicating. But it is important to remember that bad language is not only “swearing”. It can also include sarcasm, gossip, negative criticism, harsh accusation and patronising, belittling and demeaning language, and these can be infinitely more destructive than “obscene language”. I remember as a small boy watching my friend as his mouth was washed out by his church member father who had caught him swearing. The father, in his expressed anger, in his abuse and in his belittling the boy in front of a

friend, was as much in need of a mouthwash as his son.

The second principle that Christians will keep in mind is that of acceptance and understanding of those who differ from them, especially those who come newly into the faith and have not yet learned to substitute Christian clichés for their “worldly” ones.

I do not condone the headlining of “that word” (“AC” 7 March) that gave offence, but I affirm the couple in the article who were using as graphic an expression as they knew how to describe their former “religious understanding”, especially in the light of their new-found faith. And it is interesting to note that when Paul chose a word to describe his former “religious understanding and experience” he chose a similar graphic expression, the Greek word *skubalon*, translated “dung” in the Authorised Version and often retranslated “refuse” by Sunday morning readers (Philippians 3:8).

• Gordon Stirling is a retired minister and former editor of “The Australian Christian”.

Ode to Sensitivities

(Written on an autumn evening, overlooking the conference table at a Magill, SA, board meeting)

Shock! Horror! Woe! Alack! Alas!
“The Christian”’s gone and done it!
It’s quoted language not sedate
You shouldn’t order run it!

Offended sensitivities,
Thin skinned and somewhat tender.
Can’t cope with vulgar common talk
Of manure of male cow gender.

But:
There is another world you know,
With lots of people in it,
Who speak a language clear and crisp,
And often quite explicit.

So should we lock ourselves away
And block our ears in horror,
Or listen to them carefully?
They just might be the church
Tomorrow. —Brian Phelps

A Church ABC

Subiaco is a suburb of Perth situated north of the Swan River, five minutes from the city centre. An older area of Perth, it is now seen as a desirable place to live by professional people.

The Subiaco Church of Christ began in 1899 and is located close to the main shopping area. Historically it has been one of the largest Churches of Christ in WA. It flourished in the 1940s and 50s but struggled in more recent times with the changing population of the area.

Now the church is growing as it adapts itself to the community and reaches out into its area.

Part of the "Subie" buildings date back to the very beginnings of the church, but they have been slowly cultivated and renovated over the years. There is now a chapel, hall and teaching facilities and the "cottage", a house with some potential. Recently the chapel was given a facelift to meet the growth of the church.

There are two services in the morning, at 8.30 and at 10, at-

tracting a couple of hundred worshippers, and nearly a hundred turn up to the evening service at 7. The membership of the church is young, although there are still those there from "glory days", people who had the insight to realise the future of the church lay in new people. And these new people are coming. There are many young couples (there were 13 babies

friendly" worship is important to involve people in the life of the church and small groups are vital.

To reach the "unchurched" there are a number of outreach programs. For children there is a Kids Klub, there are junior and senior youth clubs and "Night Shift" for young single adults, an over 50s group and an aerobics group as well as

have a six-month-old baby girl, Paige. When invited to be minister he was ready to settle down after years on the move involved in evangelistic campaigns and motivated by the evangelistic opportunities at Subiaco. He is now in his third year at the church. Although the church values Graham's communication skills he is quick to point out that everybody has a role in reaching people. Hestresses that the "you in the pew" are in the front line in showing others that they can be, as



Focus on Subiaco

born to church members last year), professional people and students—the University of WA is only 2 km away—including students from overseas.

The church has set itself a goal to add 100 people in 1992, at least 50 of them by conversion and growth commitment. This means that evangelism is very important, so everything done at the church has evangelism as its driving motivation. The chapel renovations are designed to make people comfortable in worship. "Seeker

other sporting activities such as volleyball and basketball.

In line with the church's commitment to evangelism was the decision to call Graham Johnston as minister. Graham, in his early thirties and from Texas in the USA, was with the Billy Graham organisation and first visited Perth as part of the Leighton Ford team. He had been educated at Dallas Theological Seminary and William Tyndale College. In Perth he came in contact with the Subiaco church and met his future wife, Tracey. They now

the church newsletter proclaims, "enjoying life as God intends". This statement is not only a statement about the joy of knowing God, but also a realisation that this only comes when living under God and his principles.

Subiaco is a church with a vision. It knows what it would like to do, and this involves reaching the people in the community who are lost. After it has built up its numbers it intends to maximise its strength, and be involved in church planting ventures.

Growing Spiritually

Almost immediately across the road from our chapel is a tradesmen's and workers' club. It provides recreational facilities for the local office workers and tradesmen; after work it is a popular spot for a beer, a round of snooker, a turn in the raffle for a meat tray or a meal at the Chinese restaurant.

Several years ago the club built new premises on the same site. The development included a large, fully-lined warehouse,

Good Workers!

Les Davies

which was given to The Smith Family for their social welfare work. Initially I must admit that I was surprised and almost a little taken aback by this! Here was a secular club doing its best to assist a most worthy organisation in its provision of services to the less fortunate people in our society. Why hadn't our church done something like that—after all, we do have a fair bit of vacant land next to our chapel.

Then I thought about it a little more! Why should Christians have a monopoly on doing "good works"? I guess there

are many people outside the established church who put the commandment "to love your neighbour as yourself" into practice everyday. (Or another possibility—perhaps there are some Christians who are members of the club and are involved in its management committee. Maybe someone from the congregation could slip down sometime and find out—and possibly have a meal or a game of snooker at the same time.)

I guess I ended up with at least two conclusions from this. First is that we shouldn't limit God by expecting him just to

work through church people. Second, if a group has talents or valuable resources, it should use them constructively. Maybe our congregation needs to turn its mind to doing something constructive with the vacant block we have next door to our chapel.

• *Les Davies attends the Lyons, ACT, church, and is President of the ACT Conference.*



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Personal

Baptisms

•Lori Matthews, Henley Beach, SA
•Sheree Clarke, Tanya Stone, Ben Allsop, Bayswater, Vic •Margaret Hughes, Arthur Long, Les Oaklands, Murray Bridge, SA •John Fordham, Paul Broese van Groenou, Liz Broese van Groenou, Armidale, NSW
•Margaret Boyce, Trent Boyce, Glenn Boyce, Chelsea, Vic •Andrew Rothwell, Launceston, Tas •Loreen Chivell, Ormond, Vic •Stephen Dyer, Annette & Mark Ingham, Kevin Burge, Swan Hill, Vic •Shaun Whittingham, Therese Murrell, Alain Steiger, Dorothy Mills, Rhonda Mills, Colin Mills, Peter Murphy, Glen Ellis, Rachel Shuttleworth, Sandy Raphael, John Reynolds, Kate Reynolds, Jodie Taft, Pam Ryan, Manning Valley, NSW •Nicola Gregory, Pine Rivers, Qld •Helen & Richard Boyd, Bruce Rock, WA •Garrett Booth, Ulrike Jauk, Werribee, Vic •Warren Carey, Warragul, Vic

Marriages

•Sharon Wakeling to Roger Wilson, Sarah Wilson to Mark Solley, North Balwyn, Vic •Gail Ereaut to Grant Smith, Bowral, NSW •Brenda Bevitt to Mark van der Zee, Susan Cook to Ian McLeod, Manning Valley, NSW •Cathie Arnold to David Wilson, Bruce Rock, WA •Tanya Hayward to Paul Trezona, Sharlene Hogben to Floyd Schokman, Kathryn Smyth

to Martin Forster, Wembley, WA
•Jenny Claxton to Peter McCormack, Amanda Harmer to Dwayne Needham, Warragul, Vic
•Ann and Kevin D'Arcy, Tararagon, Vic •Michelle James to Tony Medcraft, Devonport, Tas

Deaths

•Mrs Hilda Hill, Bayswater, Vic
•Snowy Thorpe, Ormond, Vic
•Eddie Brand, Colonel Light Gardens, SA •Rene Knight, Linder Barnett, Berri, SA •Alf Powell, Warragul, Vic

Changes

Berwick: Associate Minister—Andrew Ball, 432-446 Centre Road, Berwick, Vic 3806. Phone (03) 702 1011.

Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Best, Gertrude Isabel (nee Stevens) (7.4.92) Trudy was born in 1905 and when nine became a member of the Bet Bet, Vic, church. As a teenager she sought work in Melbourne. In 1925 she was married in the Maryborough church. The West Preston church was for her a consuming passion; there she gave sterling service in many ways, particularly in the choir, Christian Endeavour and Sunday school. Trudy's

service for the Lord extended to working for the Department of Community Care through the opportunity shops. Aware of her declining health she voluntarily requested admission to our church homes and was cared for first at Oakleigh, briefly, and then for nearly 10 years at our Northcote Nursing Home. She is survived by her husband, Bert, son Eric and caring daughter-in-law, Val (both members of the Tootgarook church), five grandchildren, two of whom still worship at West Preston, four great-grandchildren and two sisters, Mrs Hill (Murrumbena Nursing Home) and Mrs Living (Maryborough). A.B. Withers assisted the writer in the service at the Fawcner Crematorium.

—F.B. Alcorn

Foster, Perc (11.3.92) With Perc's passing a 77-year association with the North Fitzroy, Vic, church ended, which began as a five-year-old attending kindergarten. As he entered his teens he became involved in the Scouting movement, which led to involvement in the church youth work. It was during this time he accepted Christ as his saviour. He formed the Southern Cross Boys Club and began organising camps for young people. In 1930 he married Iris Phillips, his sweetheart since age 15 and she became his partner

in all youth work. The Brotherhood were looking around for a program through the week to co-ordinate the Sunday school work and Perce was appointed to the committee that brought into being the Boys' Explorers and Good Companions movements. He became the first Explorer Chief and was also chairman of the Young People's Department. In the local church he served as Bible school superintendent, deacon and elder, often speaking at services and neighbouring churches. He was a keen sportsman, involved in football, cricket and basketball teams at the church and became the organiser of the Baptist—Church of Christ Football and Basketball Associations, which later became the Baptist—Churches of Christ Recreational Council. These activities led him into a wider sphere in the community playing cricket with the Fitzroy Club and through basketball into the presidency of the Victorian Basketball Association. In 1956 he was manager of the Australian Basketball team at the Olympic Games. He was a wise counsellor and became a father figure to many young people. Just prior to his passing he presided at the Lord's Table and preached his last sermon. A memorial service attended by over 200 was held at North Fitzroy. A true gentleman and a great man of God. —VJF

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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.

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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
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- 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.

Church News

ACT

AINSLIE (P. Nelson) Ainslie is looking at future directions for the church. The aim is "To Know God & To Make Him Known" ... There was a three-week drive to add non-perishable goods to "Peter's Pantry" (for the needy) ... Special study book "Kingdom Come" was used for pre-Easter studies ... Ainslie was venue for special Seniors Weeks service ... Op Shop monster sale a success.

Tas

LAUNCESTON (R. Foster, C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) Andrew Rothwell baptised on 29 March ... Over 50 went to Caveside for Pleasant Sunday Afternoon on 5 April, an annual event, when Darryl Tobler spoke & singing group Adoration sang ... Church has purchased a bus to bring increasing number of Asian students from university to services ... New group called "Keenagers" formed for adults not involved in other groups.

DEVONPORT (B. Butler) 150 at "Endless Praise" concert ... Former Test cricketer Brian Booth spoke at outreach dinner ... Aborigines Board celebration with Frank Johnson. Reference made to eight from this church who have served on the field ... Refocusing process continues with church assessments, community surveys & "Vision" workshop ... Three adults welcomed into membership ... Ron Chapman to commence ministry in January 1993.

Qld

PINE RIVERS (Neale Proellocks, Ian Todd) Number studying Masterlife, ladies Timothy/Titus ... Four evening services "Sale of Eternity" Bible quiz based on Mark. Janine O'Rourke winner ... John & Adlean Liu guest speakers ladies meeting & missionary weekend ...

Nerelle Kassulke rededicated life ... Fiona & Craig Gordon welcomed ... Child Care Centre extensions opened 12 April ... Sympathies extended to Heather Fisher on loss of mother, Mrs Fury, & Merv White on loss of father.

GATTON (Barry Benz) Encouraging attendances morning services ... Music ministry growing with more instrumentalists, as well as ministry of Country & Western group "In Spirit", choir "Tribute Singers" & worship movement group ... More young people attending & praying for greater outreach to uni ... Outstanding quilt & needlework display organised by Gail Chalker in chapel & hall. Funds raised towards painting complex ... Early morning prayer daily for spiritual revival.

SA

HENLEY BEACH (Brian Hill) During March Ron & Phyl McLean were welcomed into membership ... Rejoiced at Lori Matthews' baptism ... Girls' Brigade parade, five leaders, 20 girls ... Val Stevens, student at the Baptist College, is assisting Brian Hill this year.

MUNDULLA (R. Saunders) Attendances averaging 35 communicants ... December church farewelled Joan & Ken Wray & February welcomed Ron & Alice Saunders to part-time interim ministry ... First term reports of Sunday School, Scripture Union & three youth groups encouraging ... CWF enjoyed varied programs, especially quarterly combined meetings with Bordertown ... Local church-Aboriginal work shared the \$600-700 Harvest Thanksgiving offering with grocery hamper from display table being distributed locally.

MURRAY BRIDGE (Morrie Munyard) Church approved purchase of 4.5 acres of land for future ... New fellowship for singles commenced & Playgroup being formed

... Evaluation church survey conducted with view of improving our effect in community ... YP enjoyed weekend camp at Baw Hill ... Proposed that members take part in prayer vigil for community on Good Friday ... Prayer continuing for health of Beryl Abbott & Cox family.

HAMPSTEAD GARDENS (Keith Ridge) Peter Kearney concert raised \$420 for Community Care. Support provided by Kidsmin team ... Five Lenten study groups ... Robert Coombe appointed Director of Music Development. Seven-piece band regular at 9.30 am & 7 pm ... Excellent response to "Healing the Wounds of Separation & Loss" conducted by Grief Support Service ... Kids Club commenced March ... Nancy Luff now at home recovering from stroke.

COLONEL LIGHT GARDENS (Adrian Clark) AGM held March. Elders & board dedicated in morning service ... 50s Plus had lunch & hayride Hahndorf ... 20 of Pairs'n'Spares had weekend in caravans Pt Hughes ... CWF held Old Time Picture Show ... Combined monthly services with local churches ... Church took part in ICC garage sale/auction fundraiser for local high school chaplaincy ... Eddie Brand died after long illness. Sadly missed.

BERRI (John Schulze) Old manse sold to St Catherines Home & demolished. Bought another North Berri ... John & Raelene settled into manse. John inducted into Riverland ministry. Representatives from other churches. Keith Horne speaker. Afternoon tea served ... Bible studies commenced Monday evenings, Tuesday afternoon ladies study ... CWF average 15 ... Visiting morning speakers Jim Keatch, Brian Phelps, Blind Mission ... Ladies helped Bible Society stall ... 5 March Harvest thanksgiving.

DULWICH-ROSE PARK UNITED PARISH (Roger Brown, Rob Williams) Palm Sunday service reflected widespread moves for innovative ways of celebrating this day with 15 children waving palm branches & distributing Lord's Supper bread to large congregation. Roger Brown led dramatised narration of early Easter events with helpers at vantage points in church simulating voices of Jerusalem newspaper & radio "reporters" & Rob Williams conducting communion.

Vic

BAYSWATER (R.C. Combridge) Ben Allsop baptised recently ... Hilda Hill died after a long illness ... Re-

cent youth camp held at Angelsea claimed a success (by the YP) ... Officers board to consider plans for the new chapel & facilities.

BOX HILL (J. Longbottom, P. Hunt) Dennis & Wilma Jetta, pastor Mooroopna church, guest speaker ... Guest artists Elizabeth & Kevin Baxter ... Ken Dearly welcomed into fellowship from Thornlie, WA, church ... Friendship group enjoyed tour of Echuca ... CWF craft demonstration by Pat Wigney & Marje Waters ... CWF police horsewoman Amanda Willmott & Robyn Sanders PR.

DANDENONG (Graeme Foon) Family service held. Theme "Giving Our Best to God" ... Food gifts brought & distributed to needy & CCTC ... Forum held to plan 100th church anniversary in September ... Christian Women's Fellowship gave luncheon to Bett Edwards for work in CWF. Bett & Max are moving to Phillip Island ... Two groups doing Christianity Explained courses ... New home group commenced ... Prayer night 7 pm Tuesday night.

CHELSEA (Ian Whitelock) Revised mission statement & 1992 program adopted & being implemented ... Dedication of officers held ... Three baptised in one family ... Supported Bill Newman Crusade ... New kitchen & toilet extensions started ... Generous response to financial appeal for increase in regular giving & support for building extensions ... Craft afternoon & progressive dinner held as successful fundraisers & good fellowship ... Aboriginal Board deputation appreciated.

ORMOND (G.O. Stibbe) Sean Bainbridge from College at Mulgrave commenced three-day ministry 19 January ... Ian McDonald appointed elder ... All but two units Bethany Close sold ... Luncheon held to promote small-group meetings ... Ian McDonald leading fellowship group ... Fiona Graetz appointed music co-ordinator ... Tribute paid to Ruth Hood for 30 years service to Good Companions ... Church fair great success ... Family picnic wonderful day.

NORTH BALWYN (Paul Burnham) 80% of church involved in FIG '92 (Fellowship In Groups) ... New Boys' Explorers' commenced ... Puppets & clowns involved in childrens ministry ... Minister commenced third year as chaplain to Melbourne Football Club & interviewed on Triple 7 Radio ... Weightman family from Wagga occupying manse during studies ... 24 attended SLM Cricketer's Dinner with Greg Chappell ... Series on family values being featured in 1992.

Visiting Canberra?

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

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Melba 2615
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Advance bookings appreciated

Church News

SWAN HILL (Lindsay Mayes, Tim Green) Baptisms on two evening services during March ... Annual meeting elected Graeme Sontie to eldership ... Worship retreat held with worship leaders, musicians & singers ... 180 attended evening guest service on 5 April ... Youth groups shared with Mildura YP in Easter Camp at Lake Bananee with associate minister Tim Green & Neil Meredith (Mildura) as joint leaders. **WERRIBEE** (Barry Jenkins) Church appreciates interim ministry of Barry Jenkins ... Aussie fete raised over \$2,000, thanks to Bronwyn Clinton & committee ... Enthusiastic response to appeal for support of Quarmby family's mission—well above target ... Church family has welcomed tiny Shantelle Chrisostom, whose grandmother came from India for birth, & Alexander Booth & his grandparents (Bennett) from Queensland ... Elder Harry Stockdale baptised Garret Booth & Ulrike Jauk. **WARRAGUL** (David & Debbie Buesnel) Evening services twice monthly & going strong ... Scout & Guide leaders held church parade ... Malcolm Gray speaker at successful 111th anniversary ... 60 attended Barry McMurtrie seminar in church ... Michaela Plant doing Certificate of Ministry at Wollongong ... Young man baptised. Six other commitments made ... Guest artists Andy Sorenson & Grant Ward ... COUFF's group visited Bairnsdale church for recent service. **TRARALGON** (Robin Harrison) Robin Harrison inducted to minister as a pastoral worker part time. 100 joined in the induction service & lunch afterwards to celebrate ... Renovations to manse will provide a venue for community program ... \$1,000 raised from a garage sale & fete to furnish renovated Endeavour House ... Three baptisms planned for May ... Attendances up by 20%, Sunday School attendance up to 30.

WA

WEMBLEY DOWNS (Eira & John Clapp) 60 enjoyed "A Pleasant Sunday Evening" in February sharing meal, entertainment & bargain bazaar (proceeds to church projects) ... Family camp at Serpentine—fellowship, sunshine & swimming enjoyed by 40 plus. Times spent in silence & prayer ... Kookaburra Toy Library reopened. Membership growing ... Bethel Bible series commenced ... Penrose, Gregory & Cant families returned from overseas ... Sue Somerville

has teaching position in country (Mingenew).

CARNARVON (Don Bone) Geoff Maxwell, ex-PNG, was guest speaker at World Day of Prayer meeting hosted by Church of Christ ... Guest speaker at CWF was solicitor, Patricia LeMiere, on "Truth" ... Combined churches planning Easter March of Witness ... Church barbecue & social enjoyed ... Due to ill health Muriel Holt resigning from FAB & returning to Queensland.

MERREDIN (David Jolly) David & Sharyn Jolly commenced ministry in February ... Cupa & chat with

Jollys held at Gloria Bank's home ... Young Adults began with pleasing number. Beach night at pool was resounding success ... Kids Club 1992 recommenced with new children being welcomed in each week ... A "new" Sunday School began March with pleasing results. This is part of an outreach program for 1992.

BRUCE ROCK (David Jolly) David Jolly & family welcomed joint ministry with Merredin. Barry Ryall spoke at induction ... All church auxiliaries recommenced, i.e. CWF, KYB studies, craft, prayer meeting, Opportunity Shop, Scripture, sen-

ior & junior youth groups ... Junior youth group spent evening catching gilgys (yabbies) ... Helen & Richard Boyd baptised ... Church hosted World Day of Prayer ... Members attended combined regional service Merredin ... Many young people moved to Perth. **WEMBLEY** (Kim Roberts) Record number of 81 upper primary school children attended Discoverers Club 9 April. Majority do not regularly attend a church ... "Love in Focus Easter Celebration 92" catering for 15 local primary schools grades 4-7 & sponsored by nine local churches well accepted.

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Review

March Happening '92

Music extravagance impresses all

Do you have a story to tell? Michael Duncan, a missionary from the Philippines and the guest speaker at Victoria's Happening '92 (20-22 March), certainly did. Michael, along with singer Steve Grace and Melbourne Youth for Christ director David Wraight had the crowd of 5,000 people captivated and challenged for the full weekend.



• Steve Grace

Along with the challenging messages, which saw many young and old people alike dedicate and rededicate their lives to Christ, a music extravagance unfolded that impressed all.

Full-time Sydney band, *In The Silence*, had the crowd rocking and dancing for three hard-packed sessions, while providing a slower, more relaxed, acoustic atmosphere on the Saturday afternoon.

To add variety to the music, YFC also presented a four-member all female harmony group with backup band. Taylor, appropriately named due to their surname, stunned many die-hard rock'n'roll fans with performances that held the crowd captive. The Victorian Christian Police Association, which helped keep peace during the weekend, showed they can also perform, by elegantly dancing with the four singing sisters, to loud claps, wolf-whistles and screams, which are commonplace at a Happening.

To cap it all off, Steve Grace completed one performance, giving the clear impression that he is still one of Australia's best Christian artists.

The *Dive-In*, a coffee-shop, drop-in centre project run by Warragul Youth for Christ was, according to sources, a resounding success, and will no doubt be implemented again at future Happenings.

With the weekend full of the action that Happening provides it was hard to pinpoint one single highlight, however John Dickson's didgeridoo playing and *In The Silence* and Taylor's version of "Showboat" spring to mind.

Many await the next Happening to be held in October. —Shaun White

The Last Word

The way to the soul's final greatness lies through its misery rather than through its success.
—P.T. Forsyth

Driver: "How far is it to the next service station?"

Farmer: "Nigh on to three kilometres as the crow flies."

Driver: "Well, how far is it if the crow has to walk and roll a flat tyre?"

"I hate vague, non-committal and middle-of-the-road people, don't you?"

"Mmmmmmmmm!"

Teacher: What happened in 1953?

Student: Peter Garrett was born.

Teacher: Now, what happened in 1956?

Student: He had his third birthday.

"I got an underwater mark on that last test."

"What kind of grade is that?"

"Below 'C' level."

Desperate for water after being stranded for days in the desert, the lost prospectors found nothing but a succession of dry stream beds. So they stumbled on, going from one ex-stream to another.

"Doctor, I'd like you to have a look at my rich uncle and see if you can help him."

"What seems to be the trouble?"

"He's got this terrible lingering disease. I think they call it longevity."

Opportunity is always easier to recognise going than coming.

Give some people an inch and they think they're rulers.



No, I'm positive your prayer goes direct. It doesn't get bounced off a satellite!

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