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Guest Editorial

"Someone Has Removed the Cross"

Cliff Warmbrunn

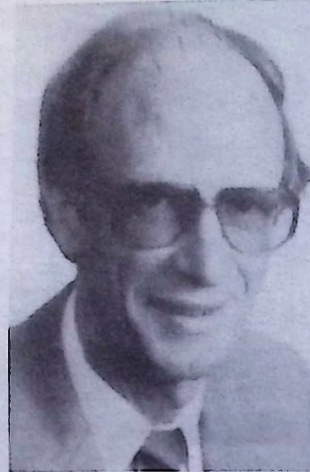
It was "our turn" to vacuum our chapel and foyer. It's not an onerous task but even so I can easily find an excuse to arrive late. On this occasion my wife had finished the foyer area just as I arrived. Our facilities have recently been renovated and upgraded and on the chapel wall adjacent to the baptistry a cross has been placed. But this day it was missing.

I rather set me thinking—would it really make any difference to me or to us if, in fact, the cross was missing from history and from our faith? After all, it seems that the majority of Australians either ignore its presence or regard it as an irrelevant symbol of an old institution. The old rugged cross has become the old rejected cross. And yet, I'm not so sure. It is true that some liberal theologians have discounted the need for a cross followed by a resurrection but they are a slim minority and their viewpoint has not gained very wide acceptance in recent years.

In our secular life many of us will avoid a cross at all costs. Successful Australians in the 1980s were projected as entrepreneurial and high fliers. The morality and ethical stance of our economic and political leadership went unquestioned. And now the high fliers have become the court dodgers. Mostly we watch their antics and say to our friends and neighbours, "I told you so." But society is bearing its cross—unemployment queues are longer and welfare agencies are straining their resources to the limit.

In more recent times it would also appear that the church is bearing a rather heavy cross: suggestions of sexual misdemeanours amongst the ranks of the clergy, highlighted in the American evangelical media groups and even more recently in the unlikely statistics of seductions by clergy in Australia, and bitter legal battles over the legitimate role of women in ecclesiastical structures.

These crosses, both secular and religious, often seem more than we can bear. We wish they would go away.



I wonder if this is what two of Jesus' followers were talking about as they walked the 11 km from Jerusalem to Emmaus. "Our friend," they said, "was sentenced to death and crucified. We can't believe it." They wanted the cross and its dreadful scenario to be removed. They wanted the status quo to continue. They wanted their plans, their ideas, their structures to continue. But Jesus had different plans. He makes people's crosses disappear. Often, like the Emmaus

walkers, I feel frustrated and know there is no bypassing the inevitable.

It was dusk when our travellers arrived at their front gate. They were tired and hungry. It seemed natural to invite their walking comrade to stay overnight. You know the rest—Jesus was alive! They almost ran the 11 km back to Jerusalem to tell the 11 disciples, "The Lord is risen indeed." That is the story of the other side of the cross.

We can only know the "fire burning within us" if we have been through the experience of the cross, and that is both possible and impossible. Possible, as individuals, in that we bear our cross daily; impossible in that Jesus has borne the ultimate cross for us. Possible, as a society, as we engage in the debates, the social justice issues, the political forays; impossible in that Jesus has redeemed society—he came into the world that it might be saved. Possible as a church as we serve our fellow people and walk through the dust of imperfect structures and broken relationships; impossible because Jesus loved the church and gave himself for it.

Incidentally, at our chapel the following Sunday the cross was back on the wall.

• *Cliff Warmbrunn, a general practitioner in Geelong, is a member of the Belmont, Vic, church, where he has held office as deacon, elder and board chairman. Currently he is chairman of Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development and of the national Australian Board of Church Development and Education.*

An Op Shop Fashion Parade!

Creative Living at Ainslie



• Joy parading op shop items

Twelve models—seven women, three men and two children—modelled casual and street wear from the Ainslie, ACT, Church Op Shop at a fashion parade organised by the Creative Living Centre.

40 members of Creative Living enjoyed an interesting afternoon as the 12 professionally paraded the catwalk modelling all types of garments, with accessories including books, bags, a bicycle and a boater hat.

All garments and accessories are among a hoard of items that are regularly on sale at the church's op shop.

The op shop opens for business two days a week and the proceeds assist the ongoing work of the four Canberra churches.

Creative Living Centre meets fortnightly, with a varied program, preceded by an interesting walk to a different beauty spot each time.

—Beth Butler

ABCDE Books

Good response to new resources

A steady demand for the new resources released by the Australian Board of Church Development and Education in April has been most encouraging.

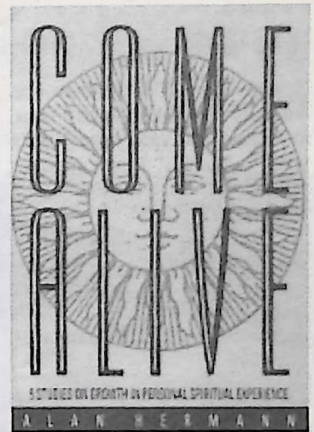
Demand for the new Membership Certificates has been such that a reprinting is likely to be required within the next few months. A new certificate for parent-child dedication services is also available. The leaflet *What Churches of Christ Can Say Together* has also attracted strong interest and supplies available at New South Wales and Victoria-Tasmania conferences sold out. The leaflet is suitable for enclosure in the new visitors folder "Introducing You To Our Church" and "Welcome To Our Church Family".

Supplies of Alan Hermann's

new study *Come Alive* at \$3 have just become available. This is a study on the issue of spirituality with five units on: Spiritual Dryness, Personal Devotions, Silence and Solitude, Meditation and Inner Contentment. Alan is the education officer of the Queensland Department of Church Development and Education. The material in this book parallels the material that was recently presented by Gordon MacDowell at the NSW and Victorian ministers' seminars, which were very successful.

New study resources by Keith Horne (Seven Churches of Revelation), Greg Elsdon (Sermon on the Mount) and Jeff May (pre-Easter) are proposed for 1992-93.

A list of resources available from the Board was recently



forwarded to churches. Additional copies are available by writing to the Board at 77 Capel Street, West Melbourne 3003. Phone (03) 326 8900.

(All of the books shown on the cover are also available from the Federal Literature Department, c/o Irene Small, 12 Cornwall Avenue, Keysborough 3173. Phone (03) 798 3391.)

Stirling Celebrates

125 years of service in the Adelaide Hills

On 31 May Stirling, SA, celebrates its 125th anniversary. Meeting on the same date in 1867, the "baptised believers, worshipping in the school-house of the district" determined, "We hereby resolve ourselves into a Christian Church, having the Bible and the Bible only as our rule of faith and practice."

J.W. Webb commenced ministry from that day. Land was purchased in March 1868, and the building, essentially the same as the worship centre today, was opened on 24 January 1869.

The district has changed from rural to almost suburban. It maintains its distinctiveness through its location in the beautiful Adelaide Hills.

Accessibility to the city for employment, shopping and recreation via the South-Eastern Freeway, the magnificence of the scenery and quiet home

retreats provide an atmosphere of living that make the Stirling district quite special.

Aldgate Valley church grew from the Stirling congregation in 1888, and became a separate church in 1965.

The two churches work cooperatively in ministry to the community.

Present membership is 78, with 21 Christians in Fellow-

ship. John Main has been minister since 1984.

There are youth activities, men's and women's groups, a house group, friendship group and care directed toward intellectually disabled people and their families.

Stirling church sets out to demonstrate in their community "Living from a Christian Perspective".



• The Stirling chapel

1991 Index

Copies of the 1991 Index to *The Australian Christian* are now available and all subscribers who requested them in past years should have received their copy by now.

Other readers interested in receiving an index should contact the "AC" office at PO Box 101, Essendon North 3041, phone (03) 379 1219 or fax (03) 379 0015.

Venture for Victory

Basketballers wanted

The 17th Aussie Venture for Victory basketball team to tour Hong Kong and the Philippines is now being sought. The tour will take place 26 December 1992 to 28 January 1993. This is an opportunity for basketballers to combine their love of Christ and sport in an overseas missionary tour.

The tour is an opportunity to support the witness of local Christians in schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, prisons and just among people on the streets. In the Philippines after the last tour a lot of mail was received from spectators to the games the team played. Churches are now following up



• The Venture for Victory basketball team at a Hong Kong high school

the 3,500 who signed up for the Bible Correspondence Course following last year's tour.

The Venture for Victory Board is seeking young men who are above average in basketball ability, who are in excellent physical condition and who are spiritually mature, to apply now to go on the next tour. Each team member is expected to raise his own finance for the tour (at least \$2,950) and applications close on 29 July.

Enquiries and information plus application forms can be obtained from Bruce Townsend, Venture for Victory Board, GPO Box 1717, Adelaide 5001. Phone (08) 212 4611.

Home Groups

New venture at Thornleigh

Cell groups have been a vital part of the Thornleigh, NSW, church life for the past few years. On 29 April, after much planning and prayer, a new format commenced, known as home groups. This new venture saw the setting up of 13 home groups to which over 400 were invited to attend covering all age groups from children to the oldest. The response was very good. The home groups are divided into four pastorates, with one of the ministry team as pastor. Each pas-

torate will meet together once a quarter for worship and fellowship. The Sunday service is the coming together of each pastorate for worship, fellowship and celebration. This new venture will enable each pastorate and home group to become more caring of each other as the church grows numerically: —J.V. Ellerby

Prom Praise on Again

Choir and orchestra wanted

Following the enthusiastic response to the inaugural Melbourne Prom Praise concert last year Melbourne Prom Praise 1992 will take place on 29 Au-

gust in the Melbourne Town Hall at 8 pm.

This special evening combines orchestral music with sacred choral music and audience participation in traditional hymns and contemporary Christian songs.

Members of the choir and orchestra are now being recruited. Choir members should have some choral experience and music reading ability. Orchestral players should have at least Grade 6 AMEB in their instrument and some orchestral experience.

Tickets at \$15 (\$12 for concession and groups of 230 plus) will be available early July.

For participation queries and application forms phone (03) 848 2346 for the choir and (03) 808 0959 for the orchestra. Ticket enquiries can be made on (03) 878 0110.

Presenting...

PROM Praise MELBOURNE A CELEBRATION IN PRAISE

A program combining popular concert music with traditional and contemporary Christian hymns, featuring a massed choir and orchestra drawn from the Melbourne Christian community

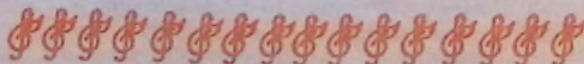
Melbourne Town Hall Saturday, 29 August 1992, 8 pm

A NIGHT NOT TO BE MISSED

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Keswick Bookshop, Port Phillip Arcade, 232 Flinders St, City
Koorong Books, 6a Vicki St, Blackburn South
Word Bookstore, 200 Huntingdale Rd, Oakleigh East
or send cheque and stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Melbourne Praise Inc.
PO Box 78, Blackburn 3130
Further inquiries: Telephone (03) 878 0110



"Melbourne Prom Praise" is an inter-denominational organisation comprising representatives from major Christian denominations.

People

Reappointment

Tootgarook appreciates its minister

The church at Tootgarook, Vic, recently overwhelmingly endorsed a recommendation from the elders that our minister, Mal Giezendanner, be invited to extend his ministry by a further three years to January 1996.

For the past 11 years Mal, together with Eleanor, his wife, has served the church and the community in a very valuable way. Both Mal and Eleanor have endeared themselves to the congregation and to the folk outside the church.

Mal has a ministry to the frail, elderly and sick people in the various homes and hospitals in

the district, particularly the visibly impaired folk at the George Vowell Centre.

He is a very practical person and can be called on to offer advice to many people in many ways, for example helping elderly folk with advice on matters pertaining to insurance or making a will. His bright and cheery manner endears him to young and old alike.

We really believe the Lord has put him here, and Mal never fails to present Christ in his preaching, and his prayers are a great comfort to many.

—Dorothy M. Smith

ILO Rep

Dean Phelan to Geneva

Dean Phelan from The Patch, Vic, has been selected as one of four private sector representatives from around the world to attend the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention to be held in Geneva from 23 September to 1 October 1992.

Dean is Director of Services at Epworth Hospital in Richmond, Vic, and he has been invited to be part of the ILO Committee of Experts for Health and Medical Services. Equality of men and women is to be discussed. Sixteen countries will be represented with 40 delegates in all—20 worker representatives (from unions

etc), 16 government representatives and four private employer representatives.

The CAI (Confederation of Australian Industry) put forward Dean's name as Australia's nomination. The four employer representatives selected are from Spain, Italy, Pakistan and Australia.

Dean is a board member at The Patch and Deputy Chairman of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development.

Tim Green for Swan Hill

Involvement in youth work and worship



• Ken Clinton, Lindsay Mayes and Tim Green

On the evening of 31 January, Ken Clinton inducted Tim Green into an associate ministry with the church at Swan Hill, Vic. The chapel was filled for an inspiring service with members of Tim's family, friends, clergy from local churches and representatives of local government present.

After finishing secondary school, Tim completed a three-year course at Deakin University, graduating with degrees in arts and social science. He was then employed for a number of years in the office

equipment industry as a salesman. Entering the Churches of Christ Theological College in 1988 and graduating in November last year, Tim accepted a call to Swan Hill to share ministry with Lindsay Mayes, who is in his 10th year of service here.

The major areas of ministry that Tim will be involved in are youth, young adults and worship. Tim believes that youth are a vital element of today's church.

The pressures, both academic and social, placed upon the youth of today are enormous. So often young people are left to cope with broken family relationships, financial hardship and growing pessimism concerning employment opportunities in the future, along with peer pressure to conform with ungodly standards.

Tim believes that to minister Jesus' love, acceptance and peace to young people is vital today. Who else but the body of Christ is commissioned to do this?

Tim also seeks to encourage creativity within the worship life of the church: "Because the worship service is, to a large extent, the shop window of the church's life and witness it should incorporate a creative balance between the more traditional style of worship and the more contemporary forms of expression."

—Ern Rogers



• Dean Phelan



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The Potency of Prayer

The mission of God and cosmic conflict

1992 marks the 200th anniversary of the dawn of modern missions. It was on 31 May 1792 that William Carey preached his now famous sermon from Isaiah 54:2-3. "Expect Great Things from God, Attempt Great Things for God". The next day a missionary society was formed and later that year William Carey himself became the first missionary candidate of that fledgling society.

200 years later, at the celebration of its 21st annual Missionary Convention (3-5 April), the Swanston Street church in Melbourne was privileged to have a tenth generation missionary, a great-great-grandson of one of the members of that first missionary society as its special guest speaker, Dr Keith Hinton, from the Bible College of Victoria

Dr Hinton has been a missionary with the Overseas Missionary Fellowship, teaching in Bible colleges in Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, prior to his present appointment at the college.

Dr Hinton's theme was "The Mission of God and Cosmic Conflict".

Because of the nature of the theme the church resolved to prepare more thoroughly in prayer. Over the weekend prior to the commencement of the convention a 40-hour pray-a-thon was held, while the convention itself commenced with a half night of prayer. On the Saturday morning a prayer brunch was held, which was given even greater urgency with the news that Dr Hinton had taken ill after his Friday night message.

Miraculously the Lord enabled Dr Hinton to continue to preach on both the Saturday and Sunday nights. On the Sunday morning, at very late notice, Dr David Price, the Principal of the Bible College of Victoria, filled in and gave a very powerful message on the importance and power of prayer. The church has been deeply

stirred and richly blessed by the ministry of these men.

On the final Sunday morning the church gave its annual love gift offering to members of the Swanston Street missionary family.

This year's Love Gift was record \$34,197. In addition the annual faith promise renewal offering was received. Again a new record of \$190,529 was promised. This means that \$224,725 will be given in missionary support during the coming year. Last year the targeted total was \$181,700. In reality \$183,348 was given, which meant that there was a surplus of \$1,648.

Of even greater significance was the fact that eight young people committed their lives to full-time service. Seven of these were tertiary students from South East Asia. Many others were prayed for as the Spirit of God touched upon sensitive areas.

Perhaps the greatest lesson to come out of this year's convention was to be reminded afresh of the potency of prayer. Those who pray constitute God's elite army. This army has no guns, no bombs, to tanks, no aeroplanes, no missiles, but has more firepower than all the armies of the world put together.

An exciting innovation at this year's convention was to set apart up to 20 members of the Swanston Street church who have offered to help out at the Brunswick and South Yarra churches.

Both of these churches have had long and distinguished histories but both are now in decline.

Swanston Street has been asked to provide leadership and help. A formal commissioning took place for those who have offered to help in these two inner city ministries. Dr Hinton's emphasis on crosscultural evangelism was particularly pertinent in reminding us of the mission field at home as well as overseas.

—Allan Webb

Red Cliff's Reverend Rex Retires

42 years of parish ministry



• Phyllis and Rex Sharrad. Rex is looking forward in his retirement to returning to one of his hobbies, oil painting

Rex Sharrad formerly retired from active parish ministry on 29 March, after 42 years of service to the ministry. That day also marked the fourth anniversary of his induction to ministry at the Red Cliffs, Vic, Church of Christ.

Rex served in the Sunraysia district for 23 years since coming to Mildura in 1969 to become chaplain of Mildura Technical School.

During those years he gave voluntary ministry service to churches of his own and other denominations as a member first of Wesley Methodist and then the Uniting Church.

He has fond memories of his school chaplaincy days, often meeting former students who are now married with children and making their mark in

Sunraysia as successful business and family people. The Red Cliffs church held a special farewell luncheon to express their gratitude to Rex and Phyllis for their four-year ministry. Gifts were given to both Rex and Phyllis on this occasion. They will continue to worship with the Red Cliffs church.—Photo and story courtesy of *The Sunraysia Daily*

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Sports Ministries



• Geoff Glass with Michael Doohan, grand prix winner

Motorcycle grand prix chaplain

Geoff Glass, the Motorcycle Grand Prix chaplain, had a wonderful four days of ministry at Eastern Creek, Sydney, which included the first Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix "chapel service".

Geoff, a Sports and Leisure Ministry chaplain, arrived with his wife Jan from Melbourne on 9 April, and collected their badges and on-course portable phone. They established links with course officials and renewed acquaintances that they have made over the past three years as chaplain.

SLM Motor Racing Ministries National Co-ordinator Rev Garry Coleman gave them



• Tom Watkinson

the use of his courtesy "coach" as a base.

On Friday and Saturday, the two practice days, Geoff visited riders and pit crews and caught up with those whom he met in previous years, including numerous overseas riders.

This included meeting with many of the wives with their husband riders in private within pit caravans or rooms. Eventual winner Michael Doohan warmly received Geoff and Jan on their visit to his "pit location" and responded by having their photograph taken together.

A number of officials and riders asked whether Geoff intended ministering on the "international" tour circuit, with one key motorcycle sport organiser offering to look at ways sponsorship might be forthcoming for such a ministry.

The Sunday morning Grand Prix day "chapel service" was promoted on the official day sheets and a number of motorcycle personnel, wives and officials attended.

Christians at Bathurst

Tom Watkinson, a member of Christians in Sport, won "Class A" at the Easter Bathurst 12-hour race, adding another national championship to his belt. In fact Tom did so well he finished an overall 11th. More than

Media Awareness

Training days planned

People from various denominations joined with others from Christian organisations to attend training days and conferences for the launching of the Media Awareness Project Australia. The project, inaugurated by the Mothers Union (Anglican), in association with the Jerusalem Trust, was launched nationally and as an ongoing project further training and conference days will be held.

MAPA aims to alert men and women how much the media

affect every part of their lives, to learn to praise and criticise in a positive way and to base these attitudes on Christian principles. Training days provide a wealth of information on how the media work and workshops enable this information to be put into practice.

Information on training and conferences can be found at state Mothers Union offices. In Sydney contact Carol Lloyd on (02) 267 8372.

—Jeanne Sutherland



• Training day on media awareness

this, on the rear of his racing car for all to see was "Easter—the Resurrection We Had To Have" and on the side "Reborn, Just Jesus".

Another Christians in Sport member at the 12-hour event was Peter Taffa of the Christian Autosport Car Club, who finished second in his class.

Rev Garry Coleman, National Co-ordinator of SLM's Motor Racing Ministries, led two chapel services at Bathurst, the first at 7 pm Easter Saturday, the second 10 am on Easter Sunday during the race. He renewed many contacts in his ministry, engaged in some counselling, prayed with others, made new contacts and worked closely with the drivers. His Motor Racing Ministries coach was used to good effect as a base for crew hospi-

tality and is becoming more and more well known. On the Palm Sunday weekend the churches in the Mt Druit area of western Sydney arranged an outreach in the open court at the shopping centre. They had a band, puppets, clown, book tables and signs displaying the Easter message. Tom Watkinson gave a testimony and had his race car on display. Garry Coleman brought the message.

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Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

CROP and Unity

To the Editor,

At the recent Vic-Tas Conference an appeal was launched for funding for CROP (Church Reach-Out Plan) anticipating further church planting activities.

At the same conference I read the Conference's Mission Statement and down near the bottom in item 12 I read: "Promotion of the unity of all God's people maintaining a passionate commitment to the ultimate goal of visible unity."

One would have hoped that the old days of a church on every corner would be long gone yet we are still planting congregations in areas where the Christian church is already established.

I seem to have read that Alexander Campbell did not set out to create a new denomination or "church" and in fact was quite prepared to see his "movement" disappear when unity on NT principles became real.

I hope the CROP people pray before they plant.

—Max Collyer
(Boronia, Vic)

Gospel Celebration

To the Editor,

The Gospel Celebration held in the World Congress Centre was a most fitting climax to the Victorian-Tasmanian State Conference. The excellence of production and on-stage presentation was a clear statement

that we have realised that we are a "church for today". The music was a good mix, the graphics enhanced the production and the variety of presentations in the program was excellent. I was privileged to view the event from the control room of the centre, where the lighting operator was a young man with no church affiliation. At the conclusion of the program he commented to me that it was by far the best program that had been conducted in the auditorium for some months, and that it was "good to work with happy people". I believe that although he was working, the program, what was said and done and how the staff was treated is a significant commentary on our church, our contemporary witness and those who represent us on such occasions. Please keep up the high standard of witness to Christ next year.

—Ian Tippett
(The Patch, Vic)

To the Editor,

It was a disappointment to me to find that there was no change to the format of the Vic-Tas Conference meeting even though there had been a separate meeting for youth on the preceding night.

In past years, the excuse had been given that the type of service had to please two age groups.

Surely now was the opportunity to return to the inspirational, spiritual meeting which would unite both young and old. Let's feel some warmth and

pride in our church and its history. Perhaps there is no J.F. Handel in our midst, but there are some first-class musicians and soloists who can convey a message that is religious and meaningful. They would give support and encouragement to the speaker.

Is mine a solitary voice? I hope not.

—P. Annear
(Gardiner, Vic)

Unemployment

To the Editor,

In Sunbury, as in other communities, unemployment is an immense problem. Within our church we have many who are affected. Some are looking for full-time, some for part-time jobs. The situation is frustrating—it's not just a matter of finding a job. The jobs are not

there. Others must be experiencing similar problems, and so I have two suggestions:

- Establish a register of people within our churches who are looking for employment.

- Those in positions of influence, or owning their own business, could take a good look at their work situation. Is there room for just one more employee? It could even be temporary or part-time, but may provide someone with valuable experience.

We have the opportunity to work together and help one another. How about being part of the solution?

If anyone is interested in being involved in the register, please contact Vince Hutton on (03) 311 0237.

—Anne Oliver
(Sunbury, Vic)

Letters from Tertius

"The Wall Came Tumbling Down"

To the Editor,

I'm still pinching myself about the disappearance of the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain...and the Bamboo Curtain for that matter. It all happened so quickly and unexpectedly that you almost feel that you'll wake up and find that you've been dreaming. But I suppose we shouldn't be surprised. Millions of Christians have been praying for it to happen for a long time.

And I've been thinking about the "Cold War" that had us all worried sick as "brinkmanship" on both sides looked as though it could all "hot up" in a hurry. In those days both sides were courting the Third World countries, pouring in millions of dollars of aid to get them on our side. Dams were built, rolling stock was provided. Capital was pumped in. Their arsenals were filled.

And now the West that was spending billions of dollars to defend themselves from "the Evil Empire" can hardly rake up a few dollars to help the new "Good Empire" onto its democratic feet!

But the thing that worries me is, who is going to help the Third World countries now that the so-called Great Powers are no longer "courting" them? And then I get to wondering what I, Tertius, can do about it!

I console myself that my spasmodic and not overgenerous gifts to the various church and community relief agencies is something, and it is. But as well as that I can talk and I can vote and I can "add the stubborn ounces of my weight" to getting Australia to start increasing its overseas aid instead of decreasing it all the time. And I can pray. And maybe the God who shocked us by dismantling the Berlin Wall and the various curtains, will show the nations that it is even in their own selfish interests to open their miserable hearts and pockets to "those who have less".

—Tertius



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Christian Radio

Berwick on air...

Every day in Australia there are hours and hours of Christian broadcasting going to air. You may listen to commercial or ABC radio stations and gain the impression that Christian music is non-existent, but you'd be wrong. Christian programming is constantly available and few know about it.

A revolution has struck radio on the FM band. New radio stations have been quietly opening under our noses and now number 500. That's right—around Australia there are 500 FM radio stations, and the audience is finding them. Today more Australians listen to FM than listen to AM, and the trend is accelerating.

A few FM stations are the commercial and ABC clones of the same old boring AM stations, but most are excitingly (and sometimes dreadfully) different. As the listeners search around the dial they are finding the alternative stations.

In Melbourne, for example, there are now 23 FM stations, more than double the number of AM stations, and 15 of these are alternatives that feature many fine Christian programs.

They are community radio stations, or public broadcasters, and already in Melbourne they attract 4% of the listening audience and that percentage is growing. As they say in the radio game: "There's always someone listening."

It's not big compared to the rich, professional stations. A report in *The Australian* of 11 May 1992 says: "Program for program, Alan Jones (breakfast show, Sydney's 2UE) now pulls more listeners than John Laws (morning show, follows Jones, on 2UE)—165,000 at any one time, as opposed to Laws' 110,000 for the 9 am to midday slot. Although Laws is syndicated nationally on 30 outlets, Jones' cumulative reach (the number of people-listening to the show at some stage per day) in NSW can be half a million."

Put bluntly, religious radio does not draw that size of audience and so has disappeared from the mainstream outlets.

Community radio is local area radio, run by local enthusiasts at increasingly high standards of presentation. You'll even hear ex-ABC and commercial announcers, and some not so ex-.

The music they play is chosen by the announcers themselves and not by a marketing computer that has defined a narrow marketing niche. So community radio is true broadcasting, not the narrow casting of the formula-driven professional clones. The result is an outlet for Christian broadcasting.

How Can You Find Quality Christian Broadcasting?

For the cost of a yearly subscription your local station will post you regular copies of their program schedule. A subscription may cost \$25 per person, or \$40 for an organisation such as a church or small group.

Having trouble picking up the signal? Check both your radio and the aerial.

Community radio is supposed to have a limited broadcast area or footprint, but radio signals take little notice of boundaries drawn on maps. With a powerful radio and aerial you will be delighted with the quality of your signal.

Receivers have moved from cat's whiskers crystal sets, through valves and transistors and have now arrived at digital radios, which are in most new cars. A new car radio can be purchased from \$180 upwards. You only get what you pay for, so don't hesitate to spend more on your hours of listening enjoyment.

What sort of aerial does your TV set use? Well, that's what you need for your home FM radio. Ring the local TV antenna service and they will install one for \$100, less than the cost of a night out at *Phantom of the Opera*.

Can your congregation encourage Christian broadcasting?

Yes, not with negative criticism, but with positive involvement:

- Take a group subscription to your local radio station. Invite a radio representative to talk with your group of enthusiasts.

- Next time you have a function that reaches out to the community, spent \$50 or \$100 advertising it on your radio station.

- Run your own radio program. You will need a team of three enthusiasts who are prepared to invest money in CDs, and who are reliable, because you must turn up every time.

A Church That Runs Programs

In 1990 the Berwick, Vic, Regional Church of Christ joined two local stations whose licences to begin full-time transmission were issued in 1991. Today the church has a team of a dozen enthusiasts who are happy to talk with you about their discoveries, and who can give you initial training in radio.

Currently they are "sowing the seed" each week to an audience estimated to be far more people than ever attend their huge mudbrick chapel, and Melbourne listeners are welcome to tune in to the following programs:

- Tuesdays, 7-8 pm. An hour of "Mainly Contemporary Christian", broadcast live on 3SER 97.7 FM. Pitched at the 18-40 age group, we love featuring Australian gospel groups, including Steve Grace.

- Thursdays, 9-10 pm. An hour of "Bright and Easy on the Mountain", broadcast live on

3MDR 97.1 FM. Pitched at the over 40s age group, the program mixes Ray Conniff's "Hello Young Lovers" with Mantovani's "Amazing Grace". A similar program is presented every second Saturday night on the same radio station.

- Saturdays, 3-5 pm. Two hours of "No Business Like Show Business", 3SER 97.7 FM. Plays everything from *Phantom of the Opera* to *Sound of Music*. A secular program, "and we're on air for the Berwick Regional Church of Christ, the church that features great music at every service". This program places the name of the church before people who will never listen to religious programming.

- Sunday evenings. Once a month we supply an edited audio recording of our church service for replay on the Gospel Hour on 3MDR 97.1 FM.

You are invited to become a regular listener, and the announcers will dedicate a song to you, or mention your birthday/anniversary, if you ring during the program. The two stations with which the Berwick church is involved also broadcast a range of other Christian programs each week.

Don't Despair

So don't despair of ever hearing Christian programs in the media. It's there on Community Radio, sandwiched between programs on the local scouts and ecology in the garden. —Malcolm Gray (On 11 June the Berwick church will celebrate the first anniversary of its initial regular radio broadcast.)

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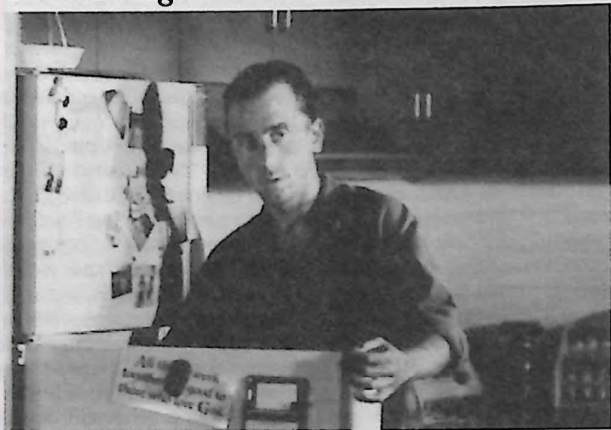
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Films

Backsliding



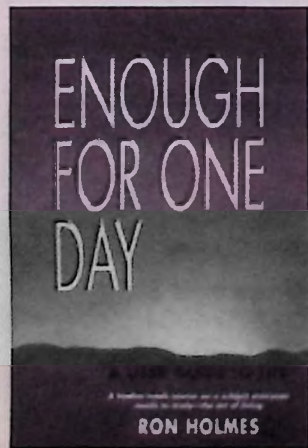
• Tom Whitton (Tim Roth), the engineer, in "Backsliding"

Backsliding is a new Australian psycho-thriller that has been screening in Sydney and has just commenced a season in Melbourne.

The movie is about a young "born again" couple running a gas pumping station in the outback who have a new mechanic come to stay with them. The situation rapidly deteriorates when the incompetent new mechanic ruins the generator and the husband accuses the wife of backsliding in her faith. The husband becomes more and more unhinged and finally disappears into the desert.

The religious experience of the couple (fundamental and possibly charismatic) is dealt with very well for a secular film. The opening scene of a baptism, when the husband is revealed as an ex-prisoner was quite realistic. (The nature of Jack's crime is chillingly revealed later in the film.) The portrayal of the pastor who appears at different times during the film is well handled. Another reviewer in a Christian paper noted that the underlying idea of the film is that being born again may not successfully change those with deep-seated problems. Interestingly the idea for the film came when the director and co-writer of the script was stranded on a remote property in the outback with a rifle-bearing religious maniac. This is his first commercial film.

An enjoyable yet disturbing film that handles the issues of Christian faith quite sympathetically. —CRA



Books

Enough for One Day
by Ron Holmes (Vital Publications) \$7.50

If you had sat under the preaching of Ron Holmes, as I had, more or less regularly over some six years, you would pick up this book expecting to be refreshed and strengthened. You would expect to be helped, not by pious platitudes, but by practical comments from life—and you would not be disappointed. The format is in 12 studies with seven sections of one

page each day. They may be read a day at a time over 12 weeks. Or they would make very good individual or small group study material for 12 sessions. The seven one-page studies follow the theme for the week and have a logical connection although each is complete in itself. Each of the 12 weeks has its theme stated in an overall title. This is not another book of "daily readings" that gives a text at the top of the page and then a reading for the day drawing out a devotional thought for the day. Each page is headed by a title developing the theme. Well-chosen texts have their place within the context of the study and contribute to it.

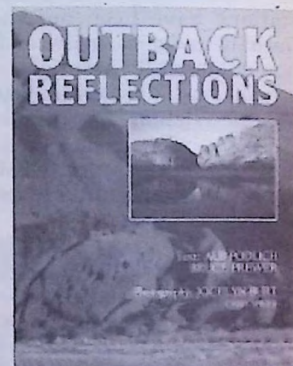
Ron Holmes tackles big questions and niggling personal ones, but to them all he brings practical comments from his pastoral experiences, from his reading and observations and from his own rich reflections on life. —EWR

(Available from the Federal Literature Department, c/o Irene Small, 12 Cornwall Ave, Keysborough 3173, for \$7.50 plus \$2 packaging and postage.)

Outback Reflections

by Aub Podlich and Bruce Prewer
(Lutheran Publishing House)
\$39.95

This magnificent coffee-table book is illustrated by beautiful photographs by Jocelyn Burt and Chris Spiker. The Lutheran Publishing House is to be commended for bringing out such a project, especially as it is printed in Australia for a reasonable price. Aub Podlich and Bruce Prewer reflect on the Australian outback in their inspiring poetry, highlighting their love and respect for the land and its Creator. The poetry is readable and inspiring and the full-colour photography complements the text excellently. A delightful production that would not only make an excellent gift for people overseas but also help readers more fully appreciate God's hand in the Australian environment. —CRA



Nothing Is Certain

Tony and Janese are learning!



• Tony and Janese Williamson

"There are hardly any snakes around here. Be careful, but you won't see many. In the 18 years I've been here, we've only killed a few." I was telling them about life at Chungribu.

The next morning as I took the kettle off the stove, the burners all began to jiggle. An earthquake, I thought. But no. Nothing else was moving. Some slithering noises later, I shone a torch down the back of my fridge to find—a snake, who had found the griller a bit too warm for comfort and had decided to move out. It's hard to kill a four-foot snake in the kitchen of a house with bamboo walls without attracting the attention of close neighbours.

Not many snakes at Chungribu, eh? Well, it's the first one I've ever had in my stove!

"Sure, the Ramu is in flood. But don't worry. It only ever comes up for a few days, and then goes down again. We've never had to miss a "plane day" because of floods in all the time I've been here."

Two weeks later, the water is

still here, and we're wishing we had webbed feet for wading. The boat is leaving here tomorrow to collect our supplies, as the airstrip is unable to be used. (But the waterbirds fishing on the airstrip parking bay are very pretty!)

Yes, Tony and Janese are learning that of all the things my experience has taught me, there's only one that they can really count on, and that is the motto of all experienced missionaries, "Nothing is certain, except that nothing is certain!"

But you know, I'm not even sure that one is true. Because one thing is, after all, certain—God's love for us, and for the people here to whom he sent us.

—Fay Christensen
(Chungribu,
Papua New Guinea)

Malnutrition

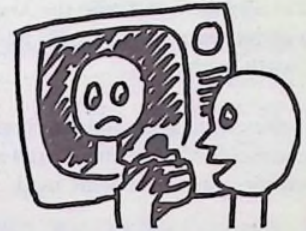
Helping a hungry world

It is easy to feel overwhelmed by all the poverty and injustice in the world and to think that it is only through major initiatives that real change will occur. True, but will the big decisions be made unless enough people are involved and putting pressure on the decision makers? Christians should be in the forefront in working for change.

Simply Sharing Week (17-24 May) is an effort by the Australian Council of Churches to seek greater awareness of human needs and some form of involvement. It encourages us to give to **Force Ten** projects money raised by various means—some as simple as going without desserts for the week. But whether we participate in this effort or some other aid project, the challenge is to "live simply so that all may simply live". It will only be when the God-given resources of the world are shared that all human beings can have dignity and life.

J.F. Kennedy said: "We have the ability, we have the means, we have the capacity to eliminate hunger from the face of the earth. We only need the will."

Dr M. De Silva, an MP in Sri Lanka, says, "[In] less than a year, the US and United Nations were able to collectively, determinedly, resolutely protect their petroleum interests in the Gulf. Yet, today, 42 years after the 1948 declaration, 'Everyone has the right to a standard of living', poverty and hun-



ger have reached unpardonable levels."

"Even though no human right is generally more endorsed than the right to food, ironically no human right is more systematically and comprehensively violated...more than 700 million...do not eat enough food...and...40,000 children die each day as a result of hunger or malnutrition-related diseases.

"Our first step in attempting to understand the problem of hunger is overcoming the mythology created by images of famine. There is a tendency in...richer countries to think of hunger mainly in terms of television stories of emaciated people in Ethiopia, Sudan and elsewhere. But...most of the world's hungry are malnourished every year...They are hungry not because of inadequate food supplies but primarily because their poverty denies them access to food—food produced in quantities more than enough to feed the world's population."

—Alan Page
(C of C representative on the Victorian Committee of World Christian Action of the ACC)

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Achievements

CCTC at Mulgrave has accomplished a lot during the past year:

- Seven have begun ministry in local congregations following graduation.
- Faculty have met with the 33 continuing ministerial students to assist them identify gifts and strengths and to set personal growth goals.
- Selected ministers and members at national and local levels have been included in the ministerial assessment process to ensure that realistic criteria are being used.
- Jack McCormick has been appointed as (honorary) Director of Field Education. Jack is strengthening links with the churches who share with CCTC in the practical training of ministerial students.
- The job description of the Principal has been reviewed at depth, and modified. Applications have been invited for a new appointment to begin in 1994. We seek the prayers of all in relation to this appointment, which should be finalised within three months.

Church Planting

The Mulgrave Church of Christ meeting at CCTC enables students to see church planting at first hand. By sharing his time equally with the church and the College Alan Niven provides a helpful model for ministerial students. The church became self-supporting last year.



First baptism at Mulgrave
CCTC church planting

CHURCHES OF CHRIST THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Making an impact on people and churches

Robert Leane (recent President, SA Conference, Director SA Independent Schools Board and off-campus student): "As an 'off-campus' student I have found the material studied horizon lifting, especially the programs provided by College faculty. Their personal understanding of the various topics and their love of learning has been an inspiration. In addition, the faculty have an infectious dedication to their work as evidenced during my week of on-campus study. The education I have received and the principles underlying the various approaches to ministry have equipped me to work more effectively in my areas of responsibility."

Elizabeth Lloyd (first year, former Director of Nursing): "Since becoming a student at CCTC I have learned to be more disciplined with my time. I have grown closer to my husband as the time we have together is more precious and no longer taken for granted. I have been challenged in my thinking of what I will do in the future towards God's work. I certainly read the Bible in a more constructive way than I could before coming to College."

Ron Brooker (Australian Secretary, World Convention): "As a 'very mature'-age student I have come to CCTC to study two subjects in which I have a particular interest. I have been

enlightened and stimulated and am enjoying the challenge of thinking through my theology, rather than just accepting what has been my tradition in the past. There is a feeling of 'fraternity' and common purpose which excites me and helps me feel 'young' and involved. I would encourage all to seriously consider the opportunities which CCTC offers to learn and grow in our faith, and enhance our Christian lives."

David Anderson (one-year Certificate course): "As I look at my home country of China, I see a field white unto harvest and the need for more labourers for God. I am so pleased to be studying the scriptures in depth and I look forward to the possibility of returning to China to share God's word with my people. In a way that will be following the footsteps of my grandfather, Albert Anderson, who went from Australia to China nearly seventy years ago."

Jim Longbottom (from WA, final year): "College continues to challenge me with new learning about faith and life. It goes on helping the integration of previous learning and experience. My year group also provides me with peer support and care. I look forward to full-time ministry because the four years at CCTC have provided a firm basis for ministry in contemporary society and for mission to people who lack faith in God."

Mutual Ministries

- More and more members are undertaking individual units or Associate Diplomas so their service for God within the mission of the local church can become more effective. The Associate Diploma in Pastoral Care attracts many mature adults.
- Most of the 70 plus part-time students choose units that are

part of the BTheol degree. Overall, BTheol units help finance the ministerial education program of CCTC.

- During the past year around 30 ministers have undertaken graduate study through CCTC. Most of these focus on an area of significance for their local ministry.

The Financial Situation

We began 1991 with a financial crisis but with the wonderful support of the churches, the students and the faculty and staff of the College, we managed to cover all costs and begin to repay the outstanding loan to the Victorian Properties Corporation. We thank you most sincerely for your contribution.

As we all know, 1992 is also a recession year in the Australian economy and so many individuals families and churches are feeling the economic squeeze. The College is not excluded from these economic difficulties and so again in 1992 we are facing some financial challenges.

CCTC belongs to you. We invite your continued prayerful and financial support as we make an impact for God on people and churches.

Don't hesitate to call the College on (03) 790 1000 for details on the most effective ways that you could assist CCTC financially in 1992. The Building and Maintenance Fund still provides tax deductibility to those with that particular need.

John Bailey (Chairman)

Graduating Students in Demand!

CCTC students who have already accepted appointments for 1992 include: Julie Adam to Surrey Hills, Ron Chapman to Devonport, Jim Longbottom to Box Hill and John Sharpe to Ringwood.

All other final-year students are currently negotiating with churches or church agencies.



Three of the 1992 graduating class
Gerry Doyle, Jim Longbottom and John Sharpe

Make your impact for CCTC's ministerial education program by supporting the College Appeal on 7 June 1992

Happenings

World Communication Sunday is being held on 24 May, with the theme "The Proclamation of the Message of Christ in the Means of Communication".

Tom Boomershine, co-founder of the Network of Biblical Storytellers International and professor of New Testament at United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio, is to visit Australia in July. He is being brought to Australia through the combined efforts of the Australian Chapter of NOBS, the Bible Society, Rollie Busch Lecture Committee/Trinity Theological College, Brisbane and Trinity Parish, Perth. While here he will deliver the Rollie Busch lecture in Brisbane and Perth, as well as conducting several Bible storytelling workshops. The draft itinerary is Perth 27-31 July, Adelaide 31 July-4 August, Sydney 4-10 August and Brisbane 10-17 August. Details from the national co-ordinator, Rev Rex Hunt, 14 Beechwood Parade, Cherrybrook 2126. Phone (02) 484 5499 (home).

In Victoria the Explorers Canoe Club is holding a weekend canoeing on the Mitta Mitta River over the June long weekend (6-8). Rafts are available and warm accommodation in Omeo. Further details from Paul O'Bryan on (03) 754 7855.

People with strong religious beliefs are more likely to lodge complaints about radio and television programs than are people without strong beliefs. Research by the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal shows that complainants to the tribunal have markedly stronger religious beliefs than do the general population.

Phyl McKinnery was installed as President of the NSW unit of Australian Church Women at a special service on 18 May at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. She was the founder of St Joseph's Crisis

Centre for women and children and involved with the Catholic Women's League, St Vincent de Paul Society, SAGE Frail Aged Club, RSL Care Club and Meals on Wheels.

In March Sir Garfield and Lady Todd celebrated at their home in Zimbabwe 60 years of marriage. They went to Rhodesia shortly after their marriage in the 1930s as missionaries with the New Zealand Churches of Christ and have lived there ever since. Sir Garfield became Prime Minister of Rhodesia and later was held under house arrest for his support of black independence.

The Evangelical Alliance (Vic) has called for all Christians and churches to unite in a week of prayer for the unemployed, culminating in a united day of prayer on 5 July. The Evangelical Alliance, in association with the Victorian Council of Churches and Easter '92, is launching the initiative to get Christians praying about and talking together about their responses to the unemployed. The Alliance has prepared a number of prayer suggestions, obtained a range of study guides for church groups, will make available fact sheets and has identified a number of action opportunities for Christians to share in and learn from what others are doing. For details contact the EA office on (03) 882 7475 or fax (03) 882 7498.

The Winter School in the Sun is an annual "school" that brings recognised expertise to Queensland to address a cross-section of professional disciplines concerned with the reduction of health and social problems associated with alcohol and other drugs. The 5th school is being held 6-10 July at the Brisbane City Travelodge. Sponsored by the Queensland Alcohol and Drug Foundation details and registrations can be made by phoning (07) 832 3798 or faxing (07) 832 2527.

BreakFREE 92 is a dynamic program encompassing the whole of the Hunter Valley in NSW, from Murrurundi to Newcastle and Nelson Bay to Swansea. With the support of over 230 churches from all Christian denominations, BreakFREE 92 will touch all levels of the community. Between 9-31 May over 320 events will take place throughout the Hunter Valley. With the theme "Working Together To Tackle the Needs of the Community", BreakFREE 92 aims to draw together the church, business and general communities. The main speaker will be John Smith of God Squad. Details from (049) 43 6367.

The Victorian Council of Churches Commission on Churches in Solidarity with Women has appointed a project worker to co-ordinate the production of an education leaflet on sexual harassment in church communities. Interested persons with suggestions or seeking information can write to Marilyn Born at the Churches against Violence to Women Project, Victorian Council of Churches, 328 Flinders St, Melbourne 3000. The first brochure will be available in July.

New Zealand has been urged to send its speakers and leaders to the US instead of importing Americans to speak there. Visiting American author Tom Sine says it is time the flow was reversed—because New Zealanders have a lot to offer Americans, while Americans have little to offer the church in New Zealand. Tom Sine, author of the *Mustard Seed Conspiracy* and *Why Settle for More and Miss the Best*, was impressed with the church in New Zealand during his 2-week speaking visit.

The East Keilor, Vic, church, Milleara Road, East Keilor, is holding a series to be called "Great Modern Preachers". The first service in the series is being held on 31 May at 10.30 am. The first speaker

in the series is Rev Ron Ham, minister of the Collins St, Melbourne, Baptist Church. He is a writer, script writer and broadcaster of Christian comment.

Youth With A Mission leaders are calling their 7,000 worldwide staff to join a special 30-day fast from 20 February to 23 March next year—the period of Ramadan, one of the 5 Pillars of Islam. The special prayer time is being planned as part of the groundwork the international leaders believe God has called the mission to do in readiness for its part in sharing the gospel throughout the Muslim world.

In the US the giving per church attender is \$701 a year. In suburban churches the average is \$895, while in rural churches it is \$562.

12% of all American adults read the Bible every day of the week, while 52% do not read it at all. Another 33% read the scriptures at least once during a typical week. More blacks (70%) read the Bible than Hispanics (49%) and whites (42%). More women (50%) read it than men (39%). More than one in four of those who claim to be evangelicals (26%) read the Bible daily, another 50% read it weekly or more but 22% report that they never read the Bible outside of church.

250 years after its first performance, Handel's *Messiah* still resounds across the world with its message of hope and joy. Sopranos, contraltos, tenors, basses and even those in between should mark 1 December at 7.30 pm in their diary. *Messiah* will be sung by all who wish to join at CCTC, Mulgrave, on that date. The cost is \$10, which includes a Christmas supper, and participants will need to bring, beg or borrow a copy of the score. Details from Stan McCredden on (03) 758 7514.

Evangelicals in Colombia are rapidly approaching 2 million, up from only 8,000 in 1948. The Christian Crusade Church, a WEC-related denomination, had 30 congregations in 1975 and now has 250 congregations, with 26,000 baptised members and 60,000 adherents. Several key factors have influenced this growth: monthly whole nights of prayer, the spiritual battle against drug barons (leftist guerrillas had also been a persecuting force, but they are now laying down their arms), complete freedom of religion now enshrined in the constitution (the Roman Catholic Church was the official church from 1886 until July 1991) and evangelistic literature. (*Desafio* and *Valientes* are full-colour evangelistic magazines for adults and youth. 1 million copies a month are distributed through 1,500 church outlets across the country.)

The NSW Nurses Christian Fellowship, as part of its 70th anniversary celebrations, is holding a professional dinner on 26 June in the Lyceum Room at Wesley Centre, 220 Pitt St, Sydney, 6.30-9.30 pm. The speaker at the dinner will be Pat Ashworth, a nursing leader in the UK and past President of NCF International.

The Anglican Consultative Council has released new statistics on the number of women ordained within the world-wide Anglican communion. There are two women consecrated to the episcopate (bishops), 1,342 women ordained to the priesthood and 1,942 women ordained to the diaconate. Of the 34 provinces and member churches, 15 have women ordained as deacons and 14 have women ordained to the priesthood. Six provinces or churches have the question of ordaining women as priests on the agenda of synods to be held in the next two years, including England, Australia, Southern Africa, Central Africa, the West Indies and Scotland.

Faith Speaking to Faith

One of the seemingly best kept "secrets" of the Christian church, outside honest theological enquiry, is that the post-resurrection narratives have fundamental discrepancies. Rather than ignore these discrepancies and hope nobody notices them it is ultimately more helpful to our quest for spiritual integrity to wrestle with the issues they present. Certainly, if we want to communicate the reality of the resurrection to those outside the church community we are compelled to come to terms with the nature of the Gospel narratives.

The Gospel narratives of the post-resurrection appearances are extravagant in their discrepancies. Luke shows several women visiting the tomb on Easter morning, then reporting the empty tomb to the disbelieving disciples. But Matthew says the women (only two) worshipped Jesus when they met him while running back from the tomb. The first to encounter the risen Christ on Easter day, in Luke's account, are the two men on the road to Emmaus. They return to Jerusalem and report this to the eleven disciples, then Jesus appears to them, after which they go out to Bethany, from where Jesus ascends. (The Lucan sequel of Acts shows this ascension occurring forty days later

from the Mount of Olives). John shows Jesus appearing to not eleven but ten disciples, then again a week later, this time with Thomas present. Then he appears to them a "third" time on the shore of Lake Galilee. Matthew says they all met on a mountain in Galilee—not the lake shore! The shorter, most reliable ending of Mark has no appearances but says the women fled from the tomb and were too afraid to speak to anyone. Only John records the encounter with Mary Magdalene in the garden, and the giving of the Spirit. Paul's tradition of the post-resurrection appearances excludes specific mention of the women, even though they are prominent in all the Gospel narratives. So what are we to make of these strange, intransigent discrepancies?

If we insist on the Gospel accounts presenting seamless chronological documentaries, we will have enormous difficulties with these narratives. However, if we are to understand the Gospels as "faith speaking to faith" that is a different matter. That, as many competent scholars have

shown, is what the Gospels are—expressions of faith responding to the advent of God in Jesus Christ. Experiences of faith, speaking to the faith of the early church. The Gospels are not mechanistically detached from the writers as people—people who shape their narratives from their own theological perspective of the events surrounding Christ, reflecting the way those events had a profound impact on them personally. Hence the post-resurrection discrepancies, which preserve rather than deny the intrinsic mystery and elusiveness of the resurrection. A "scientific" document could not convey this, but profession of faith does. The gospel writers would have been first to acknowledge

that their accounts are not chronological documentaries, but "faith speaking to faith". Luke shows that the risen Christ is to be encountered in the breaking of bread, John in receiving the Spirit, and faith. For Matthew, the resurrection is an awesome earth-shattering event, hence his own characteristic details, whereas Mark leaves the reader with awe and mystery. Each conveys to the church, several decades after the events, those unique impressions, enabling them to affirm to their congregations, scattered all over the Mediterranean world, that Christ is risen! They are confessional narratives—faith speaking through faith, to the faith—affirming that in Jesus Christ God is acting decisively in history. That is what makes their message wildly exhilarating, relevant to living and sharing God's eternal quality of life in today's world.

—Stephen Curkpatrick

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Classifieds

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

STEVENS, Janice. Congratulations on your 70th birthday. Loving best wishes from all the family. To celebrate the occasion the family are holding an "At Home" at 26 Caulfield Avenue, Cumberland Park 5041, on 6 June, 2-5 pm. All welcome!

IN MEMORIAM

PORTER Dora F.M. Passed away 23.5.90. Although you are no longer with us you are still remembered and not forgotten. All your loving family.

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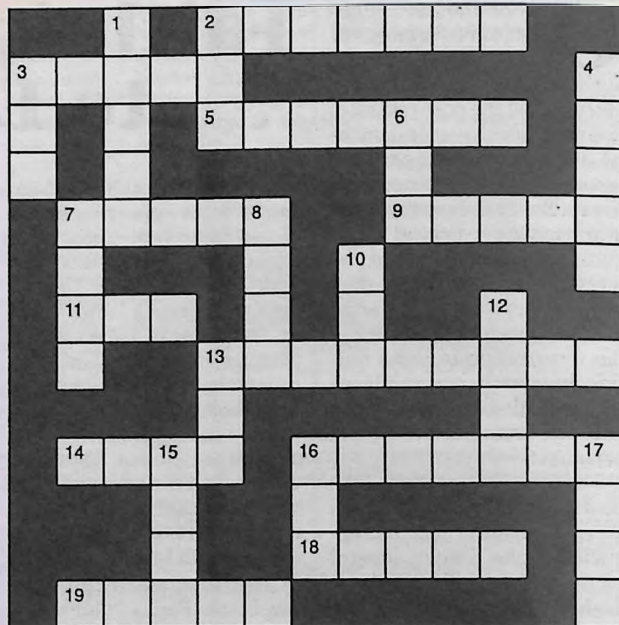
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Crossword



Across

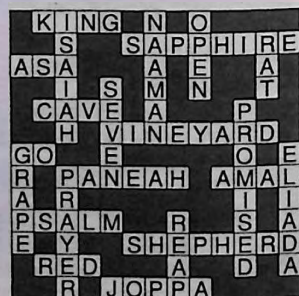
- One of the twelve
- Word used in KJV to describe preparing meat for meal
- Wonderful for God's people to live together this way
- Minor prophet
- Fruit mentioned in the Bible
- Abraham's nephew
- The wise men went ----- for the new-born king
- What has to be worked out (Luke 14:28)
- To own

- Count the cost before building one (Luke 14:28)
- The Evil One

Down

- Father-in-law to Esau (Genesis 26:34)
- Tree planted (Isaiah 44:14, KJV)
- Goes back to its vomit (Proverbs 26:11)
- Peter saw one filled with animals (Acts 10:11)
- City in Benjamin (Ezra 2:33)
- Made Judah's teeth white (Genesis 49:12)
- A virtue
- Title addressed to owner of a field (Matthew 13:27)
- Bird mentioned in Bible
- Boaz --- down at the town gate (Ruth 4:1)
- Mrs Lot's final form
- Jeremiah saw one boiling (Jeremiah 1:13)
- King of Israel

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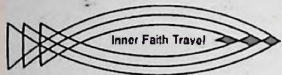


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Mission, Sydney

AWARE

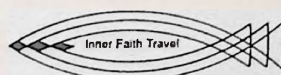
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Mission

Missionary Emphasis

The Harlaxton, Qld, church has been an independent congregation for 26 years. The first minister was Harold Finger, a returned missionary. So from the very outset there has been a missions thrust. During the early period the church had a visit from Reg Combridge, who told of the need of a hospital block on Maewo, Vanuatu. As a result of this the church raised \$2,000 to meet this need. Later when Harold Finger went back to Vanuatu, the congregation supported him as their living link. So began a tradition of missions support within the congregation. This has taken the form of a number of work parties to New Guinea and Vanuatu, annual missionary conventions and regular highlighting of missionary work.

As a result of this climate of interest and approval of missionary endeavour a number of the people of the congregation applied for service. Bev Varidel and Lyn Large served with APCM in New Guinea. In the mid-seventies Fay Christensen went with the Churches of Christ to New Guinea. Last year her twin sister Jan Christensen began serving in Vanuatu at Banmatmat, after having given service with Aboriginal Missions and Kenmore College. This January, Tony and Janese Williamson began with our mission in New Guinea as church advisers.

At present the church continues to have a strong missionary emphasis. To set the tone of the importance of missions, our four living links are prayed for on a regular basis in

services and prayer groups. People are encouraged to write to these people and pray for them. Any reports of their work are circulated to the congregation. Every opportunity is given to people involved in missions to speak to the church.

All church members are asked to give to missions through the faith promise giving program of the church. When new members come into the congregation they are asked by the minister to consider praying for the living links and giving something on a weekly basis to missions. As a result of this, not only is our missionary giving increasing but also our general offerings are rising substantially. Coupled with this there is a strong appeal from the pulpit for people to consider direct service for Christ and his church.

As a result of the above, there is an atmosphere in the church life of approval of missionary work. People who may be candidates for missionary service know that they would have the full support of the church should they enter this service. This atmosphere is not something that is fostered in a year or two, but must be part of the long-term strategy of the church. Here at Harlaxton we believe that missionary work is as much a part of our outreach as is local evangelism and God has blessed us in both areas throughout our history

—Daryl Thorpe

• This is the third in a series of articles initiated by the Overseas Mission Board showing how the local church can become mission minded.

Comment

Chirpy Little Churches

I would like to say a word of commendation to all the little churches throughout our country, the little churches that keep on chirping! These churches bravely resist the temptation to settle cosily down to become interesting historical ruins, and keep looking for new ways of doing the work of God in their area.

I must say I have become more aware and appreciative of this, having recently moved from a lovely large suburban church with many attractive resources to a small country church, without even the advantage of a phone on the property.

Finding that the Sunday school work was not reaching the children of the area, this small congregation of 35 began a weekly Kids Klub with a two-hour varied program, taking in some fairly solid Christian teaching. Meeting on Friday nights, the group has a weekly tea together, leaders and children, and the number attending often equals (or passes) the number of people in the con-

gregation on Sundays. This work has been in action for several years and is well known in the community, the local hotel showing its appreciation with gifts of cordial, ice and savoury crisps.

A weekly Friendship Group was also begun, and is a source of outreach to older people, who because of their isolation and failing health are unable to find helpful activities in other places. With a recently reintroduced monthly Sunday night service of praise, a prayer breakfast and Bible study (two groups), this small church is surely chirping away its message of hope and compassion to the people of the district.

Let all little chirping churches listen and take heart. The song is going on (though maybe the singers are few) and it is the same sweet song our larger churches are singing and most certainly helps swell that great chorus of love and praise to God from the hearts of his people everywhere.

—Helen Oatley
(Milang, SA)

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Safe Sex

Gordon Stirling

I switched my car radio to the ABC and tuned in to a talk-back show compered by a woman who was inviting phone calls from people who wanted to have their say on the question, "Should condom machines be installed in high schools?"

Condoms in High Schools

There was no shortage of callers for and against. Among them was a young man who said, "Could it be that the answer to the AIDS problem is for society to take more seriously the concept of keeping sexual intercourse within marriage?" There was a shocked pause during which the compere was trying to find something to say that would be kind to the young man but would not brand her as being old fashioned. After an embarrassed "er" and an "ah" she said apologetically, "Yes that is one option, but of course everyone would not agree with you!" Then the impartial(!) compere hurried on to the next caller.

So the biblical understanding of sexual relationships is being swept aside as belonging to the old-fashioned, pre-pill, Judeo-Christian ethical system. And AIDS has reached epidemic proportions, in spite of the condom business becoming a billion-dollar industry. And now high schoolers are the big risk factor, not to mention the spread of venereal disease among young people and the increase in teenage pregnancies.

However the one-time adherence by many to sexual abstinence outside of marriage

was not for basic biblical reasons. Mothers lectured their daughters about getting pregnant and all of the inconvenience and social disgrace attached to it. Fathers lectured their sons on the practical dangers of getting girls pregnant. Then came the pill and the permissive society...and AIDS. And a promiscuous society turned to the use of condoms for "safe sex" for both homosexuals and heterosexuals. And we have the vexed question, "Should condom vending machines be installed in high schools?", to save some kids from the horrors of AIDS while giving the impression to other kids that random sex must be OK as condoms are on sale in the locker room.

"The Bible Says..."

But the voice of the church proclaiming the essential rightness of the biblical ideal is not acceptable to much of modern society with its ethic of "if it gives instant gratification do it regardless of future consequences or what it might do to some one else".

So to discover the concept of sex within marriage because "the Bible says so" cuts no ice with the majority of people. The way the media treat the Rev Fred Nile as an "odd bod buffoon" is an example of community attitudes to any appeal to biblical authority.

And the more Fred Nile says "God says" or "the Bible says",

the more he becomes a laughing stock.

So what does the Christian church do about the whole question of human sexuality in a multicultural democratic society where all are a law unto themselves and the arguments "the Bible says" or "you might get pregnant" or "you might get AIDS" are not acceptable

First of all we must get behind the cliches "the Bible says" and "God says" and ask the question, "Why is God saying what he says about sexuality through the inspired writers?" God is not saying abstain from sexual intercourse outside of marriage because he is a spoilsport or some kind of heavenly wowsler, or because the sex act is "not quite nice". If God speaks about sexuality in the scriptures there must be some very important physical, social, psychological and spiritual reasons for what he is saying.

It is therefore up to the church to discover well-reasoned and convincing social and emotional and physical reasons for keeping the sex act within stable, permanent, responsible man-woman relationships, because modern society will not accept the easy answer, "The Bible says."

Convincing Convincingly

For centuries the church was satisfied with its "thus saith the Lord", and its condemnation of guilty couples before the

pulpit, its ability to get churchly standards onto statute books and its use of fear to motivate appropriate moral behaviour. But none of this will do in a secular world. If the church is to speak it must do the hard work of convincing society that reserving sex for stable, permanent responsible relationships makes more sense than any other way. The church must be willing to do the hard work of finding ways to do this convincing convincingly.

The Christian understanding of sex is that the sex act is a highly satisfying and joyous experience within the life partnership of a woman and a man who are giving each other unconditional love in a stable and dependable and responsible relationship. If the sex act under any other circumstances can cause social and emotional and physical damage, the church must do the hard work of producing the evidence in order to convince a secular society.

Love People, Use Things

The Christian understanding of life is that we love people and use things, rather than using people and loving things.

Casual sex and sex without mutual contract is often the most damaging way in which people are used as things. The church has the task of documenting this convincingly, especially to teenage girls who are more frequently "used" as conveniences than any other sector of society.

Unwittingly the church has been landed into an "unholy alliance" with the state and the entrepreneur in relation to marriage. The state took it upon itself to regulate the social contract of marriage in order to provide legal security for marriage partners. Now the state has nullified its role by giving full recognition to de-facto relationships in which there is little or no legal security and wherein the state is actually giving its blessing to sex outside of marriage. The entrepreneur has come into the picture to provide the "trimmings" for the weddings in extravagant and pretentious circumstances

Recession Impact

Requests for financial assistance to churches because of the impact of the recession, coupled with supporting new projects are creating major financial pressures. Your church, group or personal gift by 30 June will help us help others.

Terry McCredden—Treasurer

Department of Mission, Education
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We Have a Choice Despite His Power

and surroundings and at enormous cost, so that couples who have in effect entered into a committed love relationship that they intend to be permanent cannot afford to get married and "have to live together", as they put it, until they can. Church leaders must do a lot of thinking through this one with a view, perhaps, of taking back the church's former "monopoly" of Christian marriage that state and entrepreneur have wrested from it.

The Way Ahead?

A secular society has changed the sequence of events. Once couples came for the blessing of church and state on what they intended to be a lasting loving relationship and then they started living together. Now the tendency is to "live together" and later to seek the security that church and state can give to their relationship.

Perhaps the way ahead is for church leaders to find agreed ways of giving the church's blessing to, and seeking the blessing of God on, couples who have in effect committed themselves to a lifetime relationship but who cannot yet afford to buy a home or have an elaborate wedding and who (in some cases) see no good reason to acquire the "piece of paper" that the state gives.

In other words for the church to devise a service of commitment of couples to one another, before God, before the "living together", with the house, the big celebration and the state regulation following in due course if and when the couple are ready for these "secular bits".

The secular world is looking, in vain, for "safe sex". The church should be showing the way to "fulfilling sex" within a relationship that is loving, stable, responsible and dependable. The church should be able to prove that this way makes social, physical and emotional sense, both to believers and non-believers.

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

The deity of Jesus Christ is the fundamental belief on which Christianity rests. If Jesus was not the Son of God then we don't have Christianity. It's as simple as that.

Throughout the Bible Jesus is spoken about as being equal to God; even Jesus spoke in these terms. There seems little doubt that Jesus is the Son of God.

Isn't that amazing? I think it is. What other religion on earth has the worshipped God actually die by the hand of his creations? None other than Christianity. Our God is completely unique. Our religion, Christianity, the only true religion. Whatever denomination you

belong to, it doesn't matter, the fundamental belief is still that of the deity of Jesus and his death on the cross.

Jesus is now seated at the right hand side of his father and has power over all things. He is equal to his father; he has a name over all names. Yet, nearly two thousand years ago, he died for us.

Can anyone truly understand this?

We can trust Jesus. Not only has he absolute power over all things, but he allowed created hands to mutilate and kill him. His return to life marked the defeat of sin and has left mankind with an open invitation into Heaven. Jesus holds out

his hands to us, and we can either accept his merciful and forgiving invitation or we can ignore him.

Despite his awesome power, Jesus still gives everyone on earth the choice to love him. We all have a choice.

—Neil Marsden

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I, the Unworthy

Lord, you give me strength
when I think I need power,
You give me courage
when I ask you for peace,
You give me wisdom
when I want cleverness,
And you give me hope
when I want direction.
When I ask for security
you give me a burden for
others,
When I seek escape
you give me laughter,
When I need vision
you give me wonder,
And when I yearn for faith
you give me grace.

For you knew my needs

that I did not know,
You understood my fears
that I could not face,
You took away those secrets
that I could not share,
You forgave those sins
that I could not erase.

Yet, most amazing and divine,
Is that you knew
My greatest need
Before I ever was, or could,
or did.
So when I came to you with my
greatest plea,
And I, the unworthy, asked for
love—
You had already
Sent your Son
Oh, praise Your Name.
—Jill Nitschke (Nambour, Qld)

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A Church ABC

Williamstown is a small town of 600 about 50 km from Adelaide on the edge of South Australia's Barossa Valley. In this area of apple orchards and vineyards Williamstown is famous for its "whispering wall" at the Barossa Reservoir. (Go there and find out.)



The average attendance is 45 at the 10 am Sunday service, which is followed by a Youth Bible School. There are also services on the second and fourth Sundays at 7 pm.

The Williamstown church has quite an outreach for its size. There is a community youth group, WAT (Williams-

town Active Teens), that meets fortnightly on Friday nights and has 35 attending. An active ladies fellowship supports a 16-year-old orphan in the Geon Children's Home in South Korea—one of the ways they raise money for this and other causes, including living link missionaries, is by making wreaths for funerals.

Focus on Williamstown

church, which has accommodation for senior citizens, meetings are held every Thursday evenings, and the ladies provide occasional afternoon teas. The church is also noted for providing people for the full-time ministry—at least half a dozen, including the current minister.

with Operation Mobilization in Vienna, Austria.

Robin also serves as an associate staff worker with the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students at Roseworthy Agricultural College and is a lieutenant with the Country Fire Service. Like most church members he is very involved in

The Church of Christ, in circuit with Kersbrook, has only a small congregation, but is representative of all ages. Next year it celebrates its centenary, as the church started on 27 August 1893 in a small iron shed. "Little Glory", as the shed was known, was the church's home for the next seven years until the present stone chapel was built in 1900.

There are Bible studies on Tuesday nights and Wednesday afternoons, and at the Abbeyfield Home behind the

town Active Teens), that meets fortnightly on Friday nights and has 35 attending. An active ladies fellowship supports a 16-year-old orphan in the Geon Children's Home in South Korea—one of the ways they raise money for this and other causes, including living link missionaries, is by making wreaths for funerals.

the life of the community.

In September the church plans a two-week reachout. A team of young people from Operation Mobilization will be working with them in programs aimed at both youth and adults. The film "Jesus" will be screened as a lead-in prior to the fortnight.

Williamstown is a very rich, warm fellowship, always reaching outwards, and with a fine record of service to God and to the community.

So you've got the flu and you are feeling pretty miserable. Now some preacher is telling you to ask God to bless your wog!

You had planned your days and weeks and then, of all the times one could have got the wog, you had to get it now. Fortunately, I rarely get the flu, even though I'm in association with some pretty queer germs at times. I like to think I am kept free of the queer wogs due to our gracious God and the orange I have each morning, plus the swig from the olive oil bottle at night! No rude comments. It is olive oil.

If at the moment you are laid up in bed or droopily poking around the heated kitchen or lounge, how about taking a little time to say "thank you" to God for all those good days of health. After all, have you really been confined to bed very much?

"God, Bless My Wog, Thank You"

Gordon Henderson

And those few days off are opportune times to have a feeling of admiration and sympathy for those dear souls, young and old, who have been confined to beds or wheelchairs for months or even years. Think how well they have learned to cope, yes, even smile, laugh and praise their Lord. If this doesn't convince you very much, then try reading the book of Job. Really, now, isn't God good to you and me?

Our few days of illness give us time to pray, meditate and

study the scripture. But of course all you may desire to do is to sleep or lie in a warm bed and be waited upon. There are certainly worse sins than that.

Anyway, we are into the weather now for winter wogs. I don't wish it upon you to get the flu, but if you do, remember all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to his purpose. You may have needed those few days in bed to give yourself something to think about. Well, here's hoping I

don't have to have any "get well" cards sent to me!

Fit or ill, may God bless our readers.

• Gordon Henderson is the minister of the Nubeena, Tas, church, and has been for nearly nine years. Nubeena is the main town on the Tasman Peninsula, and has a population of about 700. The area is a great tourist attraction largely due to its beautiful scenery and its convict past. The Nubeena church has faithfully witnessed since 1879.

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Marriages

•Ruth Russell to Richard Gilhooley, Frankston, Vic •Cavelle Clark to Bernard Binns, Horsham, Vic •Kim Whitcombe to Terry Kellogg, Bendigo, Vic •Kristine Morris to Philip Brooks, Jillian Iszlaub to Brad Whitby, Tracy Kruger to Terry Murphy, Maryborough, Qld

Deaths

•Gwen Coram, Berwick, Vic •George Roberts, Myra Peck, Carnarvon, WA •Mrs Jean Kippin, Eastern Hills, WA

Changes

Federal Literature Department: Secretary—Irene Small, 12 Cornwall Avenue, Keysborough, Vic 3173. Phone (03) 798 3391. Zillmere: Minister—B.L. Reid, 5 Ashford Place, Algeester, Qld 4115. CCTC: Faculty—Harvey Miller, "Gilead Downs", Yarragon South Road, Yarragon, Vic 3823. Phone (056) 34 2218. Avonsleigh: Ministers—A.B. Titter, 3 Lee Street, Noble Park, Vic 3174. Phone (03) 792 3142. Jim Larkham (student), 9 Kent Street, Narre Warren, Vic 3805. Phone (03) 704 6449.

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Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Burt, Murvin Thomas

(2.4.92) Tom was born in 1918 to Frederick and Annie, at Tumby Bay, SA. The family moved to Boort, Vic, and Tom attended school and church there and gave his heart to Christ as a youngster. He enlisted in the AIF and served at Tobruk. On leave in Devonport, where the family had moved, he met and later married Gwenda Barton. Tom was always involved in community and sporting groups, particularly when that supported his children's activities. In his latter years he keenly researched and published the Burt family history back to 1674. Tom's faith was always an active one and he served as an officer at Invermay, Launceston, Devonport and Ulverstone, where he was chairman for many years. Tom maintained his dignity and sense of humour through a long illness with cancer, and died quietly at home.

—T.G. Edge

Hollard, Lorna

(15.4.92) Born in 1932 Lorna grew up in a church family and with her brother Donald Mortimer was involved in the churches at Black Forest, Hawthorn and Grote Street. In 1953 she married Rex Hollard and together they became involved in the beginnings of the Brighton, SA, church and were in fact foundation members. To their marriage were born Peter, Joy and Philip. Rex died in 1986 and the lady who had quietly and graciously supported Rex in his church work and given herself to her children was alone. It was then she decided to make a new start and linked with the church at Marion. In the six years she became deeply involved in South Side Solos, Telelink and the volunteer work in the church office. She exercised a quiet but effective pastoral ministry that endeared her to many people. Twelve months ago after surgery she faced a not encouraging prognosis but maintained her commitment to church and family. After many weeks in hospital she quietly passed away. The Heysen Chapel was filled to capacity for her funeral and indication of the high esteem this quiet and dedicated lady was held. A lady of simple faith and values, possessed of a quiet inner strength she will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

—K.D. Horne

Long, Reginald Charles

(24.4.92) Reginald Charles Long, well known Stirling District identity and life elder at Aldgate Valley, SA

church, died suddenly at his home. On what would have been his 84th birthday, large crowds gathered at the graveside and then at the church for services of burial and thanksgiving for his life. He had married Cora Wilson some 62 years beforehand. They met in Balaklava during a mission led by Bart Manning. This same mission marked the beginning of a life of service and dedication to Christ for both Cora and Reg. The Depression years saw Reg and Cora move to a family property at Mylor where they lived and raised their family. Reg's involvement in church and community saw him as a strong developer within the Aldgate Valley church, the Stirling District Council (representing the Mylor Ward) and as a founding member of the Royal District Nursing Society. He will be remembered as one of Aldgate's "heroes of the faith" for his encouragement of all and his many stories. He lives on in Christ and in the memories of those who knew and loved him.

—Dennis Ryle

Mathieson, George McArthur

(23.4.92) With the death of George (G.M.) Mathieson the churches in South Australia have lost their longest-serving minister, George having graduated from the College of the Bible in 1926. Born in Dunedin, NZ, in 1904, he lost his mother at seven years of age and with his sister was brought up by his father. At 13 he left school and was taken shearing by his father. George carved his own destiny in life and was in every sense a self-made man. He went to night school and then to the School of Mines, where he completed his accountancy studies. At 16 he made his commitment to Christ and was baptised in Dunedin Tabernacle. During these years the late George (G.T.) Fitzgerald taught him Bible Class and had a profound impact on his life. A deep commitment to Christ and the church, a compassion for little people and a strong sense of the social issues that hurt the poor and dispossessed were established in those years. In 1926 George came across to Melbourne and the College of the Bible to train for ministry. He was one of six New Zealanders and the last group to come to Australia before the opening of Glen Leeth College. During his time in college he met and married Alice Dowell of Ascot Vale and together they became a hard-working team who supported each other in the ministries they undertook. George served the churches at North Essendon (Vic), Peel Street Ballarat (Vic), Wanganui (NZ),

Obituaries

Wellington South (NZ), Moreland (Vic), Bendigo (Vic), Horsham (Vic), Hawthorn (SA) and Maylands (SA). It was then that he moved into another field of service with Prisoner's Aid and for the next 12 years took this organisation from relative obscurity to the much respected OARS (Offenders Aid and Rehabilitation Services). Retirement was not in the vocabulary of George and Alice and interim ministries followed at Kaniva (Vic) and Kalamunda (WA). Eight years ago they took up residence in Rose Court (Everard Park) and maintained an active interest in the church and family. George had been physically failing in recent years and he peacefully passed from us. With his passing the church lost a dedicated minister who had served his Lord completely and energetically all his life. Always a keen Brotherhood man with an ecumenical heart, he was President of Conference in South Australia and a President of Christian Endeavour in Victoria. Not given to the contemplative or pietistic, he led his people from in front, an activist who believed with all his heart the church must not only do good but be seen to be doing good. Described by his sons as "unsinkable" he was part of that dedicated group of pioneers who have hammered out on the anvil of their own sacrifice so much of what we hold dear today. His two sons George and John are active in the churches in South Australia and his wife Alice will continue to reside at Everard Park. The congregation who gathered to pay tribute to his life and ministry was large and representative. In every way the service was a simple tribute a dignified and upright man, eloquent preacher, perfect gentleman and a man of tremendous personal bearing and stature.

—Keith Home

Moroney, Doris

(10.3.92) Doris Moroney (Beattie) was born in Brunswick, 1.11.15, and grew up in the Moreland, Vic, church, where she committed her life to Christ. She taught Sunday School at Moreland and was an active member of the various churches she attended. She married Alan in 1942 and they had three children, Ken, Joan and Berice. She was a loving, caring person with many talents and interests. Her passing has left a gap in many peoples lives. She will always be remembered as a lady who loved God and other people before herself and as one who lived her life to serve.

—JMP

NSW

GILGANDRA (P. Anderson) Painting of exterior of manse completed ... Easter camp at Rangari (near Gunnedah) well attended. 16 from Gilgandra attended. Theme "Victory". Many commitments ... Slides of former years enjoyed by members ... Church joins with AIM for monthly exchange meetings ... Sunday School children presented mothers with white flowers during morning service.

Vic

WODONGA (D. Oldfield) Five members attended North East & Riverina Convention at Wagga ... Vince Hawkins (Albury), Val Combridge (Wodonga) compiling list of past members Albury-Wodonga for reunion, Easter 1993. Speaker P. Kavanagh ... Sermons taped for Sunday School teachers & shut-ins ... Peter Melville (director), John Chalker (studies) for YP Easter camp at Cheshunt ... Ian Sproule recovering from surgery to remove eye.

MORWELL (Graham Woodward) Church has grown numerically & spiritually in last few months ... Sunday school & youth group had an enthusiastic start to 1992 ... Afternoon service commenced on 4 May ... Many of our members were actively involved & financially supported Walk Against Want ... Recently had our family camp at Inverloch & annual picnic, both of which were of great fellowship & enjoyed by all.

FRANKSTON (Phillip Bradley, Russell Croxford, Harold Bischoff) Appreciated work of Fred Combridge in organising & planning services before new minister commenced. Fred presently recovering from knee operation ... Phillip Bradley inducted into ministry by Dr Gordon Moyes, February. Phill & Cherie welcomed into membership with their four children ... Several house parties held in members' homes to get to know Bradleys ... Max Carter, Conference President, guest speaker in February ... First-year CCTC students participated in service ... AGM held March. Elders appointed: Fred Combridge, Terry Vickerman, Graham Cole, Barry Grove, Jim Backholer, Paulyne Mitchell, Marilyn Townsend.

BERWICK (Tim Hanna, Andrew Ball) Youth camp at Yellingbo ... Wendy Honey appointed administrative secretary ... Annual church outing on Puffing Billy. Service held at Emerald ... Church family camp Badgers Creek ... Small groups introduction dinner ... Easter story

Church News

play ... Lyn Oliver resigned as musical director ... Gordon McDonald (author) guest speaker ... Good Companions & Explorers will merge to become "Kids Club" ... Working bees continue on church & grounds.

NUMURKAH (Bryan O'Neill) Had a very meaningful Easter with Bryan O'Neill (student minister) leading us in a Passover supper on Thursday night & a service on Friday & Sunday, with a number of visitors attending ... We are enjoying many visiting speakers ... Jumble sale will be held on Friday, also a cake stall & craft stall with Mother's Day ideas ... Numbers are steadily growing. **HAMPTON STREET** (Peter Pitts) Fellowship enjoyed by many at pancake night on Shrove Tuesday ... Combined service with Brighton church 5 April. Special speaker Ian Allsop ... Combined service at Sandringham Baptist church on Palm Sunday. Augmented choir presented program. Barbara Pitts presented two beautiful vocal items. Peter Pitts brought message.

GLEN WAVERLEY (Ron Elbourne, Lindsay Croxford, Howard Sanders) Special floral & creative movement focus for Easter services ... 15 small groups now meeting ... Regular Saturday morning study/support sessions held for small-group leaders ... Special recognition & prayer support for Glenys Reaby as she commenced as State CWF President ... Playgroups held Saturday Dad's morning ... Guest speaker George Warren (Conference President) ... 12 riders again achieved Bike-A-Thon return trip to Ballarat. **HORSHAM** (Harvey Clark) Christian Women's Fellowship well attended at Mother's Day meeting featuring musical program by Beth Kuchel & Olwen Butler.

BENDIGO (John Sweetman) Another successful carol service held with Eaglehawk Band. Owing to wet weather this was held in school hall ... Empty Christmas tree received \$522. COCOA offerings were \$725 ... Gold Miner Gang held a full day of activities during last week January ... Three baptisms ... Recent guest speakers Ray Taylor from Bible League, Steve Gray from Fusion, Andrew Amiet, NTM, while minister on holidays.

GARDINER (Paul Creasey) Church heartened by increasing number of young people & visitors ... Members using talents for necessary fund raising ... Korean Church's new home Gardiner ... As outreach Friendship Club & Over 50's Friendly Society again holding Grand Concert in Malvern Town Hall ... As Field Director of Dept of MED, our minister conducted youth

camp in Tasmania. Several accepted their Lord & greater number rededicated their lives.

MITCHAM (Ron Chapman, Jim Wright) The Cross of Christ, devotion for choir & congregation, presented on Palm Sunday ... Ladies prayer breakfast on Mother's Day. 120 attended 9.30 am service, newly formed singing group sang, flowers presented to Mrs Swales & Melina Szczerkowski, oldest & youngest mothers ... Men's prayer breakfasts held monthly ... Successful board retreat held to plan future program ... Cake stall raised \$2,050 towards photocopier.

PEEL ST, BALLARAT (Wayne Allen) Friday Fun Fare (monthly) continuing well under leadership of Max White & helpers. 70 present 1 May ... Easter Sunday 7 pm informal service led by White family. Intermission of hot cross buns ... 3 May Lukas White spoke 7 pm service ... Live & Learn sponsored Safeway presentation 28 April. 104 attended. \$271 donation ... Mother's Day services well attended. Wally & Rosalie Anstis responsible for evening service with mothers & family taking part.

AVONSLIGH (A.B. Titter) 107th anniversary of present building celebrated 3 May. In 1885 it was first church erected in Dandenong Ranges. 15 years previous services held in homes ... Jim Larkham providing appreciated assistance in Sunday School & services as student minister ... Mr & Mrs Titter leave in June for trip to Asia & Europe & World Convention ... Church encouraged by well-attended services & a number of visitors.

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WA

CARNARVON (D. Bone) Members of local churches met together at Church of Christ for combined march of witness through town, finishing at Civic Centre for short service ... AGM of church well attended & all positions filled ... Pat Moore speaker at CWF meeting ... Praise God for good river flow & breaking of drought in Gascoyne area.

EASTERN HILLS (Maurie Ashworth) Easter services well attended ... Dawn Lithgow soloist singer ... Floral presentation to pastor & wife ... Max Downs, David House Fellowship, guest speaker 12 April ... Youth work going well. Support by Shire Council ... Bible study for Shire employees over Easter. Request for further studies during year ... Representatives from Postal Sunday School May ... Sunday School/church picnic May ... Arrangements underway for concert in June.

Qld

MARYBOROUGH (David Woodward, Alan Weedon, Allan Cunningham) Centenary dinner with Conference President Col Deacon and Hervey Bay church, guests ... Celebrations June long weekend. Speaker Des Nelson ... One baptism ... Beales returned New Guinea ... Baird, Wills families, Tanya Sims farewellled ... Evans family welcomed ... Prayer breakfast ... Young adults group commenced ... Eldership training course ... Film "Bamboo in Winter" ... Many visitors at family services ... Boys' Brigaderaising funds 1993 camp.

Tas

HOWRAH (Allan Blyth) Senior & junior youth groups active & growing spiritually & numerically ... Two more students committed their lives to Christ ... Elders & deacons held retreat/planning day ... Max Carter (Conference President) visit ... Easter '92 special services/march ... Geoff Morffew chairman of elders ... Malcolm Orr re-elected as elder ... April worship attendances highest for two years.

LAUNCESTON (R. Foster, C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) Young people have cleaned newly acquired bus & drivers being recruited & route being planned ... Craig & Rod attended Ministers' Conference ... D. Tobler spoke at am services on Mother's Day & Bill Howard at 7 pm, which also featured the Partridge Family (Jane & her three children) ... Over \$400 raised from

Op Shop fashion parade to help musical group "Adoration" purchase music.

SA

MATILDAST, PORT LINCOLN (Jim Spiker) EP Women's Conference held at Ungarra. 11 ladies attended. Anthea Spiker inducted as president ... Ladies evening group commenced monthly. Activities have included swimming, walkathon, night hike/supper at Tulka ... Microwave being purchased for church kitchen ... Visiting speakers were Peter & Brenda Dawes ...

Monthly meeting at Pines with barbecue ... Church supplying Scripture Union notes for children 12 & under ... Marsha Spiker farewellled to university.

MILANG Sunday evening services reintroduced first Sunday of month with congregation participation & bright singing ... Kids Klub continues to attract 30 children weekly ... Combined April social afternoon held for 10 members who had birthdays/anniversaries ... Glad Hutchinson feted on 80th birthday ... Bible study, prayer breakfast & Friendship Groups meet weekly ... Delegates who attended Conven-

tion returned with encouraging news, including July visit from Hazel Skuce.

HAPPY VALLEY (Russell Allison) Russell celebrated his 40th birthday ... Youth group meeting weekly ... KYB groups studying "Finding Christ in the Old Testament" this term ... April Fool's Dinner well supported. Special thanks to Norma, Leigh, Jane & Jill ... Lee Bowley made palm crosses for Palm Sunday. Sunday School sang in service ... Sound Advice sang for Mother's Day ... 12 basketball teams entered in C of C competition.

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Out and About

Alliance Celebrates

150 years fighting the demon drink

It was a miserable Melbourne day and to add to my woes there was a transport strike. So as I made my way around Albert Park Lake lost and late in the rain and wind looking for the Carousel Restaurant, I wondered why the Victorian Temperance Alliance had chosen this place to celebrate their 150th anniversary. It was a good thing I don't drink otherwise I might have needed something from the well-stocked bar—an odd backdrop for a meeting of temperance folk.

The Victorian Temperance Alliance, on which Churches of Christ are represented, traces its history back to 22 February 1842 when a meeting of interested people was held in the Scots school house to do something about the lack of community control in the colony regarding drunkenness. The fight continues today. As I watched the swans swimming in the sun (such is Melbourne's weather) resolutions were passed to reduce the enormous cost of alcohol to our society. One resolution aimed to encourage establishments serving and selling alcoholic drinks to carry a wide range of attractive non-alcoholic drinks as well. I agree. I'm tired of going out to dinner and only being offered orange juice or mineral water.

Unfortunately at the sesquicentenary luncheon that followed the non-alco-

holic drinks ran out before we'd finished the fish, but I did get a little taste of some attractive sparkling ginger wine from Ray Brough's Dry Dock Cellars.

The speaker was the Hon. Dr Don Hopgood, Deputy Premier of South Australia, who has remained "TT" despite being a jazz musician and a politician.

He reminded us that we have some pretty powerful allies in the campaign to take the demon out of drink: politicians, the police, the health industry, the women's movement and the churches.

Our own Victorian premier, who was at the lunch, commended the alliance on its fine record of service over 150 years, and pointed out what had been achieved in combating smoking in the past decade to show just what can be done.

—Geoff Alves



• Serving non-alcoholic wine at the temperance luncheon

[Photo courtesy of "The Victorian Baptist Witness"]

The Last Word

The first lesson in Christ's school is self-denial.

—Matthew Henry

Note inside of pay envelope: "Employees should not discuss their salaries with others." The employee said, "Don't worry! I'm as ashamed of it as you are."

★★★★★

Two detectives were standing over a dead man named Juan.

First detective: "He was killed with a golf gun."

Second detective: "What is a golf gun?"

First detective: "I don't know, but it sure made a hole in Juan."

★★★★★

Conversation between Adam and Eve must have been difficult at times because they had nobody to talk about.

★★★★★

A minister was asked to inform a person who had a serious heart condition that the person had been fortunate enough to inherit \$1 million. Everyone was afraid the shock would cause a heart attack and the person might die. The minister visited and said, "What would you do if you inherited a million dollars?" The person responded, "Well pastor, I would give half of it to the church." And the minister dropped dead.

★★★★★

Then there was the Chinese reporter who burst into the office shouting, "Hold the back page!"

★★★★★

A small child was leading a donkey by an army camp. A couple of soldiers wanted to have some fun.

"Why are you holding on to your brother so tight for?" one of them said.

"So he won't join the army," was the reply.

★★★★★

"I have a cold or something in my head."

"I bet it's a cold."



No wonder the picnic committee had no problems booking a site!

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