

THE AUSTRALIAN

# Christian

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST OF AUSTRALIA

Vol. 100 No. 1, 1 February 1997

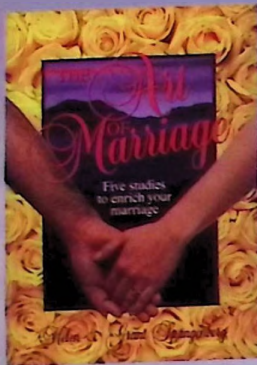
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS  
OF PUBLISHING 1898-1997

100

Then they believed his words; they sang his praise. Psalm 106:12

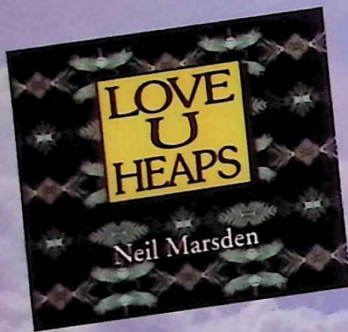
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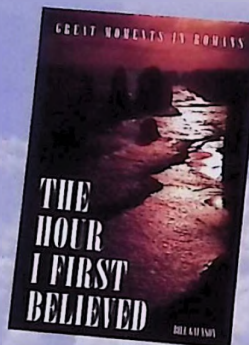
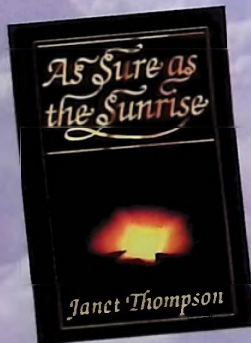


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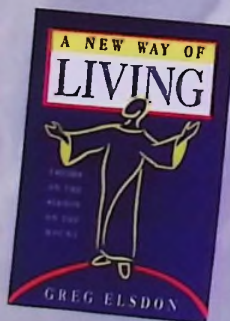
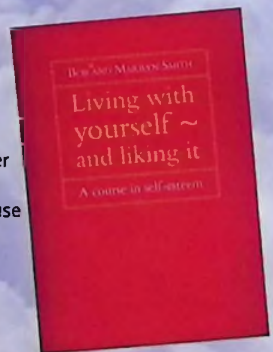


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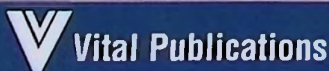
A series of books of Discovery for children. by Paul and Michelle Andrews

## ALBERT JONES



## CAPTIVE AUDIENCE

**Captive Audience**  
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# Editorial

## The Future Counts

DON SMITH

**H**istory is bunk! This is a statement attributed to Henry Ford the founder of the Ford Motor Company. That is not how I see history as I survey the 98 handsomely bound volumes of *The Australian Christian* in our office. Shortly we shall add volume 99 and volume 100 early in 1998. As I look at the volumes I am aware of all that they stand for. Here is history with a purpose lived out through hundreds of thousands of faithful members. Here is the story of churches and their ministry through almost a century. And in 1997, our 100th year, more reports will be added telling of ordinary people alongside a whole



range of people offering leadership to the church from local to international levels. \* During our 100 years we have rejoiced in six colonies joining in a visionary federation. We have reported the impact of two world wars and bad economic times. Some volumes clearly reflect the upheaval and political conflict of more recent decades. We have also seen our Australian Movement pass through the stages from sect to become a small mainline denomination. In 1898 our forebears were confident and even dogmatic about our perceived role. One hundred years on many things have changed and we are in the midst of a new search about role and future directions in our Australian context. This is something we have in common with most well-established denominations and our sister churches overseas. \* Whatever the difficulties and challenges confronting our churches nationwide I believe our work at its core is in good shape. It has an inner strength and vitality and leaders with a commitment to development and fashioning new vision for the movement. Alan Hirsch's article on his recent overseas visit and our work illustrates this. Note also Viney Longthorp's report on *Sunday Age* commentator Terry Lane about the future of liberal and fundamentalist churches in Australia. We stand between the old and the new churches. The centre can be our strength if we combine vision and apostolic confidence in the gospel. Let's celebrate 100 years. History is not bunk, but it is the future which counts! \*

Editor: Don Smith, Production Manager/Sub Editor: Nigel Pegram Issue 15 February Deadline 6 February; Issue 1 March Deadline 20 February; Issue 15 March Deadline 6 March. Address for All Correspondence PO Box 101, Essendon North 3041. Telephone (03) 9379 1219, Fax (03) 9379 0015. E-mail [aceeditor@ozemail.com.au](mailto:aceeditor@ozemail.com.au) Member of the Australasian Religious Press Association. The Australian Christian is published by the Board of Management of The Australian Christian, a Department of the National Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia. Keith Aird, Chairman (SA); Lindsay Mott, Treasurer (Vic); John Batchler (Tas); Kevin Bray (ACT); Tom Glynn (NSW); Bob Smith (Qld); Allen Smyth (WA). Printed by New Litho Pty Ltd, 63 Sunbury Crescent, Surrey Hills Vic 3127. Responsibility for electoral material is accepted by Don Smith, 2 Larkspur Ave, Doncaster 3108. This publication is indexed in the Australasian Religion Index. ISSN 0004-8652. Advertising Rates: Displayed: \$5.50 per column centimetre, Classifieds: \$14.00 for the first 25 words and 25c for each additional word.



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Greetings from sister publications in the United States, the Australasian Religious Press Association and our printer open our Centenary year. We also include input from two of our past Editors.

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**The Australian Christian welcomes letters from its readers. Short letters up to 175 words stand the best chance of publication. All letters may be edited. We reserve the right to omit letters altogether.**

## Euthanasia

To the Editor,  
Statements have been made publicly by various church leaders in continued opposition to euthanasia. But I believe a sampling of opinions of those church members who have formed views in this controversy would reveal a wide variation in their opinions. Meanwhile one of Australia's noted newspaper cartoonists has said it for many Christians and others when he berated MPs for endlessly debating this question "while people suffer in misery" (Aitchison in *The Advertiser*, Adelaide, 8.1.97). The cartoon accompanied an editorial which said the Northern Territory law should remain. "It is merciful. It brings peace," the editorial claimed. I have no right to speak for my local parish (Dulwich-Rose Park, SA), but am merely indicating one lay person's view.

—Jack Ludbrook  
(Toorak Gardens, SA)

of Christ?" I would ask two questions: 1. Have the fundamentals of Churches of Christ changed in any way since our inception as a separate Christian group, in the early nineteenth century? 2. What are the fundamentals of Churches of Christ relevant to 1997 and onwards as we seek to cooperate with other churches? There may be many people regularly attending Churches of Christ services who do not know what our fundamentals are.

—Ken Wray  
(Noarlunga Centre, SA)

## Internet Absence

To the Editor,  
In relation to the proposed constitution for Churches of Christ in Australia, Ian Allsop has suggested the possibility of establishing an Internet connection. While I share Ian's Luddite predilections, I suggest that given contemporary developments on the World Wide Web, the sooner this happens the better. It is noted that Campbelltown, NSW, church already has a site on the web and has begun an Internet ministry. However, in the absence of a Churches of Christ home page, it is listed under Disciples of Christ (Christian Church).

—H.E. Hayward.  
(Pymble, NSW)

## What are the Fundamentals?

To the Editor,  
With reference to Robert Lean's report on the National Council and Assembly ("AC" 14.12.96) Robert says that one of the questions discussed was, "How do we encourage active cooperation with other churches while maintaining the fundamentals of Churches

## Who counsels the counsellor?

To the Editor,  
Who counsels the counsellor? This is a question that has concerned me for years. Our pastors are taught how to counsel people, during their years in Bible College, but what happens when they are in need of it themselves? Too often we expect our pastors to be omnipotent, like Christ, but then

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# Letters to the Editor

it is found that they are not. Then people turn their backs on them. They cannot dare to be human, and their family suffer as well. The pastor is expected to cope with every situation that arises and cannot always confide with a spouse and this places the marriage under stress. This can lead to a breakup of the home and ministry as well.

The "tut-tutting" of friend and foe causes wild accusations, gossip mongering and a bad witness in the community. It is no wonder we are losing trained pastors. This was once said to me by one of my fellow workers, "There are more hypocrites in the church than outside of it." Who can argue with them? I cannot.

—Zeta Goodwin  
(Bundaberg, Qld)

Some State Conferences have noticed this need and have

employed ministers for ministers. —Ed.

## Homosexuality

To the Editor,  
Why do so called "Defenders of the Faith" betray their calling by trying to undermine the clear teaching of the Bible? It has me beat!

This attitude is so evident when we hear the sexuality debate. Why are Christian leaders pussy-footing around the clear teaching of the Scriptures that homosexuality is an unacceptable act in the eyes of the God revealed in the Bible? Maybe such people could enlighten me as to why they single out the homosexual/lesbian act from all the deviant sexual acts and call it okay within certain limits? There is more said in a condemning manner about such behaviour than against paedophilia, incest and bestiality. We don't seem to be wanting them endorsed as acceptable as long as they are in a warm and meaningful relationship. Then if people want to make homosexuality respectable what about those who are discriminated against who are adulterers, fornicators and prostitutes?

As Christians let us not confuse compassion for the person (whatever their moral state) with agreement with their behaviour. The message of the

Cross separates the two. Agreement with God's verdict requires a moral as well as a spiritual transformation. Gratitude for God's compassion at Calvary finds expression in a desire for godliness. Those who seek to play upon the com-

passion of God while maintaining their unregenerate behaviour are playing loose with the holiness of God. Such people ought to read Jude's letter and tremble.

—R.N. Hawkins  
(East Maitland, NSW)

## Update

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first issue of our 100th year. To be the Editor at this point is an unexpected privilege. I look back on the work of some great Editors and in this issue we welcome our two most senior past Editors as contributors to our main feature. They are joined by the Editors from papers representing our three streams in the United States. Their contributions and goodwill are especially welcomed.

The greeting and support from Paul Daley the Managing Director of our printing firm New Litho Pty Ltd is especially welcomed. We have an excellent partnership with the management and staff which now spans 1982-1997. The colour cover pages of this issue come with their support.

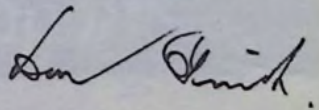
This issue has been prepared

on our newly-purchased computer, which readers have made possible through generous giving. Your gifts thus far have encouraged us to believe that the \$2000 still required will shortly be forthcoming.

Additional copies of this issue are available. We shall shortly be launching an Australia-wide promotional initiative. As part of this, we look forward to the support of Robert Leane our National President.

We welcome back our regular contributors. This year Glen Wegner will focus on the theme of Pastoral Care, starting in the next issue.

This will be a great year to be a subscriber and reader. I'm sure you will enjoy it.



### Hamilton Church of Christ

#### 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

18 May 1997, 10.00 am

Guest Speaker  
Ron White

RSVP 12 May 1997

Tom Trimmell (03) 5572 4536  
2 Elizabeth St, Hamilton Vic 3300.

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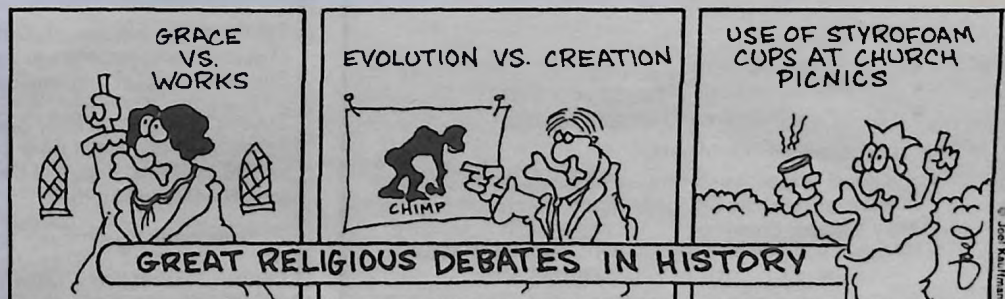
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### Pontius' Puddle



# Perth Bible College Graduation

## Number of Churches of Christ students graduate

Scarborough Church of Christ, WA, was packed to capacity on 30 November, 1996 for the 68th Annual Perth Bible College Graduation service.

The College Chairman, Dr Alan Mitchell, said that the College was continuing to undergo change. During the year two long-standing Board members (Mr Geoff Pearce and Mr Dennis Watkins) had retired and two new members (Dr Richard Berlach and Mrs Joy Eichhorn) had been appointed. He indicated that the College was continuing negotiations with the WA Government about offering a degree program in 1998.

Past student and serving Board member, Mr John Crosby (Warnbro) presented gifts to three staff members (Mrs Kim Teoh; Mr Trieu Van Huynh & Mr Andrew Duirs, Subiaco church) who had completed their time at College. He then presented the book, *Memories of Perth Bible College*, to Miss Maureen Ambler who is retiring after 22 years of faithful ministry at the College.

In presenting the report on the College year the Registrar, Mr Graeme Michie, reported that two new faculty members had commenced during the year (Mr Ray Ball, Subiaco church, and Rev Alan Gordon, who subsequently accepted the position of Executive Director of the Bible Society), and announced the appointment of Rev Dr D. Andre van Oudtshoorn to the faculty for 1997. The addition of these lecturers has extended the capacity and breadth of the College Faculty, especially in the areas of practical ministry skills and spiritual formation.

After a time of praise and worship lead by graduating student, Lee Sykes, (Rivervale), the college choir led by Mr Travis Fitch, sang, "It is well with my soul". A highlight of the evening was Mrs Lyn Huggins leading a choir of students' children in the singing of "Clap your hands". Graduating students David Cohen (Nollamara) and Rod Clarke (Dianella) opened in prayer and brought the Scripture reading, respectively.



Dianne Birch with Dr Alan Meers

During the evening ten A.Ths from the Central School of Religion were presented as were 18 internal College awards. Recipients included: Michael Birch (Alexander Heights) and his sister, Dianne Birch (Nollamara), Rodney Clarke (Dianella), David Cohen (Nollamara), Oliver and Jan Haynes (Joondalup), & Lee Sykes (Rivervale).

In presenting the Diplomas the Principal, Dr Alan Meers noted that most of the graduating students had obtained appointments for the new year. These include

Dianne Birch (the preferred applicant as Chaplain at Nollamara SHS), David Cohen (continuing part-time at Nollamara), Oliver Haynes (part-time at Joondalup), and Lee Sykes (continuing at Rivervale).

The college expects to end the year with a deficit in all accounts, but is trusting God to supply all their needs as he has over the past 69 years. Applications are now being accepted for the 1997 college year and it is anticipated that there will be over 20 in the first year class.

## Full-Time Minister Required

Knoxfield Church of Christ is a caring, community-minded church with a good representation of all ages.

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**Mrs Anne White**, Administrative Secretary, 429 Scoresby Road, Ferntree Gully Vic 3156. Phone (03) 9801 5798.

**Mike Folland**, Chairman Vic-Tas Department of Ministry, 77 Capel Street, West Melbourne Vic 3003. Phone (03) 9756 7240;

## OMB Deputation in February

Sunday 2	Mike Folland am Red Hill pm Bayswater	Ian Hunt am Gisborne pm Bendigo
Sunday 9	am Boronia pm Warragul	am Box Hill pm Boronia
Sunday 16	am Mitcham pm Footscray	am Keysborough pm Footscray

Overseas Mission Board

Saturday 15—4.00 pm – 7.00 pm Chadstone BBQ for Church Mission Representatives to meet Follands, Hunts and State Overseas Mission Unit members. RSVP 10 Feb. (03) 9794 9419.

Sunday 16—Mission Rally 2.30 pm Doncaster. Commissioning of Follands—Banmatmat Bible College, Vanuatu. Report of service in PNG by Hunts, Report of Doncaster young people's mission tour, Fiji, December, 1996.

Most weekday meetings both Follands & Hunts will share.

Details or bookings from 3–18 Feb only contact Jack Edwards (03) 9794 9419.

## Carlingford 1996 Graduation

**Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College Carlingford Ministry Centre graduation**



*Rear (L-R): Paul Mangion, Geoff Griffiths, Andrew Fell, Chris Carrie, Graeme Foster, Garry Dieckmann, Bruce Darge. Front: Wendy Lewis, Darren Harwood, Naomi Moore, Fred Anderson, Albert Viranatuleo.*

"It's easier to restrain a maniac than to resurrect a corpse!"

With this compelling picture, College graduates were urged last month to have courage for God in ministry, and not be beaten into mediocrity by fear of failure or the need to please.

Just over 215 people took subjects with the Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College during 1996 in order to become better equipped for life and ministry. Of these, nearly half were not enrolled in any course of study, but were simply investing in their own ability to serve God in their church and in the world.

Eighteen of these will graduate with a BTh/Dip from the College this year, at graduation ceremonies held at their Ministry Centres—Manning Valley, Carlingford and Wollongong—in a year which saw a total of nearly a hundred people around NSW enrolled in full-time training for church ministry with the College.

Eleven of the graduates are from the Carlingford Ministry Centre which held a moving Graduation Ceremony on Friday 6 December. Inspired by the words of "The Spirit Says Arise", the graduates were commissioned with prayers and the presentation of their degrees, and a message by Tim Hanna on "Courage for the Future". Tim urged the graduands to step out with Godly risks, reminding that it was not until the feet of the Israelite priests actually touched the flooded Jordan did the water stop, providing the difference between crossing or drowning. Though it is wise to avoid either extreme, it is better to err on the side of action for God and to need guidance, than to be dead to ideas and endeavour for him.

The College's "Youth Worker's Certificate" was awarded for the first time in 1996, to Wendy Lewis, who is from Tasmania, and now ministering in Port Macquarie.

## Recognition Dinner

**Ian Allsop's contribution as Conference Secretary recognised**



*Jan and Ian Allsop enjoy a dinner arranged by the Vic-Tas Conference to recognise the contribution made by Ian to churches and people during his ministry as Conference Secretary. Heads of Churches attended to mark Ian's involvement in ecumenical work. He commences a new endeavour as a Consultant to churches and community organisations in February.*

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### THE ROAD TO BETHANY

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Allison Carr and Penny Galbraith.

## Fire Victims

### Dandenong Ranges church mourns loss

Members of The Patch church are grieving over the deaths of Graham and Jenny Lindroth who lost their lives in the disastrous bush fires which swept through parts

of Victoria's Dandenong Ranges on 21 January. The young couple ages 26 and 24 lived in Seabreeze Avenue, Ferny Creek, where three of the 31 homes in the Ranges were burnt out.

Graham and Jenny who were active in the congregation's youth and adventure activities were married just on five years ago at The Patch church.

They were greatly loved and respected by their church community and in their workplace and community activities.

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## Tony Campolo

### Special series of meetings in Melbourne

Well known US preacher, television presenter, author and sociologist Dr Tony Campolo will visit Melbourne 14-23 March 1997 for a series of public meetings and seminars with the theme "Festival '97".

The event is being sponsored by an inter-church committee representing ten denominations. The administration is based at the Blackburn Community Church of Christ. Meetings will be held in eastern, western and inner city venues and Bendigo. Themes include parenting, relationships, youth leadership and church revitalisation. Major events will be held at the Sports and Entertainment Centre: 22 March (youth)



and 23 March, a public rally with the theme "The Kingdom of God is a Party". Tickets are required for most events. Inquires to (03) 9877 3466.



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We are seeking a pastor to shepherd about 250 predominantly English-speaking Asian Christians from various denominational backgrounds.

The incumbent must be a Bible-based evangelical preacher with the ability to care for the old and young alike. A strong ministry support team is provided.

Please forward your queries or application to:  
The Secretary, Grace Church of Christ,  
PO Box 29, Glen Waverley Vic 3150.

## Seaford Centre

Cooperative Centre opened



The Bev Sercombe Memorial Fountain and part of the stained glass window

His Excellency The Hon Sir William Deane, AC, KBE, Governor General of Australia opened the Seaford Ecumenical Centre on 24 November 1996. Churches of Christ are cooperating with Anglicans, Catholics, Lutherans and the Uniting Church in a harmonious witness at Seaford, a developing region south of Adelaide. Churches of Christ are worshipping with the Uniting Church in the Baptistery Chapel on Sunday mornings and with the other churches in the evening. The Baptistery Chapel features a large baptistry backed by a stained glass window and includes a fountain which witnesses to the new life we enter after baptism.

## World Vision Chief

Former Premier to head World Vision

Former South Australian Premier Mr Lynn Arnold is to be the new chief executive of World Vision, effective 1 February 1997.

He replaces Philip Hunt, Chief Executive since 1988, who has been appointed World Vision's director of operations in Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

Philip Hunt has been a contributor to this paper and an enthusiastic member of the Doncaster, Vic, church.

Mr Arnold entered the South Australian Parliament in 1979 and left in 1994 to pursue post-graduate studies.

He was Premier and Minister for Economic Development and Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs

from 1992 to 1993.

Mr Arnold and his family have been active members of Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Adelaide.

**David Johnson**

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#### 1. Director of Youth and Training (2 days per week)

will provide leadership to Youth Vision through the effective facilitation of youth ministry within Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania and the coordination of the new Youth Ministry Training Course.

#### 2. Youth Administrator (2 days per week)

will provide administrative support to the Director of Youth and Training and fulfil administrative responsibilities and oversight of events for Youth Vision.

#### 3. Kidsmin Coordinator (1 day per week)

will oversee the development of children's ministry in Victoria, providing field services and working with the Kidsmin Committee.

**Applications close 24<sup>th</sup> February 1997  
Commencement dates to be negotiated.**

Written applications and requests for position descriptions should be made to:

Mrs. Lynette Leach  
Conference Executive Officer  
Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania  
77 Capel Street  
West Melbourne Vic 3003  
Phone (03) 9326 8900



All initial inquiries will be treated in strictest confidence.

The Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania is an equal opportunity employer. The Conference Board reserves the right to invite individuals to apply.

## CORAZON

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## Congo Christians

### Mission in African nations

The Disciples of Christ has a 650,000 member church in Zaire. 1998 will mark the centennial of the work founded by US Disciples of Christ missions. Across the Zaire (Congo) River is the sovereign, oil rich Republic of the Congo, numbering some two million inhabitants. There is now a Disciples community of some 700 members. Political turbulence in Zaire has negated major financial support. With support from the US Disciples and the United Church of Christ one of the Zairian pastors has been released to the Congo as a church developer. Writing in *The Disciple* Dan Hoffman says that worship with Congolese Disciples is exuberant



and participatory. In the Congo, which was previously a French colony, most of the population is under 30 years of age. The Congo church now has twelve congregations located in Brazzaville, the capital, Pointe Noire, the Atlantic seaport, and Njondo, in the northern Congo.

## 100 Years 1898-1997

### Tribute from The Australasian Religious Press Association

One hundred years' continuous publication is certainly something to be celebrated! The Australasian Religious Press Association (ARPA) is proud to salute *The Australian Christian* on its fine record in the religious press since 1898.

The very first distinctively religious publication to go to press in Australia, the "AC" has also a remarkable record in having only 10 editors during those 100 years. The magazine, with the same name it used in 1898, continues to serve The Churches of Christ across Australia. It sets a fine ex-

ample in reflecting the views of its people "in the pew", church leaders, and in faithfully reporting events across the nation and the lively issues of the day within that denomination and beyond. ARPA has been strengthened and enriched over the years by the active participation of editors and staff of the "AC", whose membership dates back to the beginnings of ARPA, and continues today. Congratulations to *The Australian Christian*, its staff and readers on its 100th birthday.

—Angela Grutzner  
(ARPA Executive Officer)

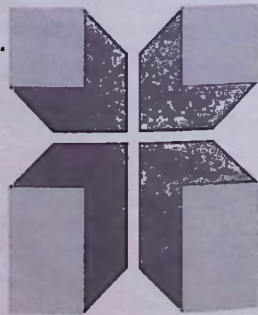
# Executive Officer

The Properties Corporation of the Churches of Christ  
invites applications for the position of Executive Officer.

- Duties:** The corporate management of the Properties Corporation of the Churches of Christ as directed by the policy decisions of the Board of Trustees.
- Qualifications:** Graduate in Accounting, computer literacy essential. A proven knowledge of financial and secretarial management essential.
- Remuneration:** An appropriate remuneration package will be available.

Applications in writing, with curriculum vitae to:

The Chairman  
The Properties Corporation of the Churches of Christ  
77 Capel St  
West Melbourne Vic 3003  
Telephone (03) 9326 8900



# Centenary

## Changing the Guardian

A.E. WHITE

“It was the best of times, and the worst of times.” It was a time of extraordinary change, including new adoptive parents for “The Christian”. \* Surely, the 20th century, more than any other, will be known as the century of change. There were extraordinary changes in transport. Entertainment opportunities multiplied. Nuclear energy arrived for good and evil. There were wars of unparalleled brutality, many monarchies became republics, and new diseases troubled the world. Among the so-

*In 1967 our debt to the Austral had reached crisis point.*

cial changes, universities proliferated, once cherished traditions were mocked, and the number of divorces crept towards that of marriages. The churches had much more competition. With television and a commercialised secular sporting Sunday, Sunday Schools were decimated and many churches abandoned the Sunday evening service. The two most effective evangelistic agencies were severely wounded. \*

My own change was important for me. I exchanged the pulpit for the pen and the printed page. From 1898 the Austral Printing and Publishing Co. owned and published “The Christian”. After 1963 the Austral was still the printer and manager, but the guardian was changed and the journal published by Federal Conference, and I was the first full-time editor. In 1967, there was

a danger that I would be the last editor. Most states had their own journals, subsidised by their Conferences. It was expected that they would be closed and support transferred to the new-look “Christian”. It was to be everybody’s paper and each state was represented on the Board of Management and on the editorial panel. Some state journals continued, affecting our anticipated circulation numbers. Maybe the new Board should have appointed an editor from NSW, and printed the journal in Queensland! \*

A local church “Christian agent” system had operated for promotion and collection of subscriptions. It was not successful. Some agents were competent and committed, others were not. In some churches comparatively large amounts were owing by subscribers and neither the agents nor the churches concerned had responsibility. In 1967 our debt to the Austral had reached crisis point. There were some who thought that “The Christian” would have to cease publication. We battled on, but I had to act as manager as well as editor. \*

In these worst of times, our churches, which had begun with a passion for unity, were threatened by disputes as to how unity ideals could be achieved. There were many in our churches who were opposed to cooperation with other denominations through Councils of Churches, be they state, federal, or world. There were other conflicts and divisions in our churches which saddened and distressed us all. \* Even in the worst of times there were so many good things. There was growing support all over Aus-

tralia with a small but steady circulation increase. Our financial situation was improved when subscription accounts were sent directly to subscribers. Readers were invited to become “friends of the Christian” by making a donation. The World Convention in Adelaide devoted an offering for the journal. These things worked. When I left that editor’s chair there was a capital fund of over \$47,000. However, success or failure of the journal is not measured only by circulation numbers or money in the bank. Rather, the tests are: have we faithfully reported the life of the church, have we truly reflected the gospel in its pages, have we been sensitive to the needs of the people, and have we been true to the Lord in all of these? \*

It was the best of times because of the opportunity given to me to serve with a group of dedicated men and women, and because of my contact with the churches. The editor is also a kind of preacher and pastor ministering to a wider church. At conferences I would meet “pen” friends who were counted as true friends. \*

I enjoyed a very close relationship with the Board of Management, the “AC” Advisory Committee, the associate editors, and also with Shirley Wallis and June Hurwood who joined me in exuberant Christian slavery in the office! \*

It began as an optimistic adventure in 1963, became a financial trauma in 1967, but through good stewardship, hard work, encouragement and support, became a real part of the best of all times. \*

All White was Editor of “The Australian Christian” 1964–1980.

# Centenary

## The Disciple

ROBERT FRIEDLY

**C**ongratulations on the 100th birthday of *The Australian Christian*! About the time yours was born, our magazine was in an earlier manifestation called the Christian Evangelist. And somebody in the States was saying: "The Campbell-Stone movement doesn't have bishops; it has editors." Well, those free and unfettered editors—on both sides of the

*And somebody in the States was saying: "The Campbell-Stone movement doesn't have bishops; it has editors."*

water, I'm sure—played as major a role in helping shape the thought and practice of the Christian Churches and Churches of Christ as prelates have in other bodies of Christendom. \*

Our editorial mission was (and is!) to keep Christian minds open to the wideness of God's mercy and stimulated by the great diversity in understanding of God's will. That has been a difficult but necessary calling in a church that views free response to God as both a right and an obligation of individual believers. Alexander Campbell was certain that sincere believers could be trusted to study the Scriptures in context of the setting, the time and the circumstance and determine God's demands on their lives. Our movement's journalists have been essential to backgrounding Christians for that task. \*

J.H. Garrison was the editor of *The Christian Evangelist* in North America when *The Australian Christian* was born. He was perhaps the central figure among our people in America at the time. He is credited with an historic role in drawing Disciples of Christ back to the Christian unity vision, when that aspect of the Campbell-Stone theology was being swallowed up in an orgy of religious competition and growth among Protestants in North America. Garrison helped found the forerunner to the National Council of Churches in the United States and is credited with giving it its name, the Federal Council of Churches. \*

The Disciples of Christ in North America have 600,000 "participating" members. *The Disciple* magazine publishes 48 pages, eleven times a year, and goes into 29,000 homes, all of it paid circulation. Church offerings do not subsidise the magazine; nor does church leadership censor it. It is not what is commonly known as a "house organ". *The Disciple* has two editors, one old and one young, one male and one female, one ordained and one lay—both are trained secular journalists, raised in the Disciples of Christ. \*

We are but 25 years old in our present incarnation as *The Disciple*. We wish you God's blessing and continued success as you begin year 100 in the service of Jesus Christ. \*

Robert Friedly is Editor of "The Disciple".



## Family Greetings

Bringing together the greetings from the Editors of papers from our three streams of churches in the United States must be a first for *The Australian Christian*. We all belong to the one great family and movement worldwide. We experience one expression of unity through the World Convention of Churches of Christ, and look forward to celebrating this unity at the forthcoming Convention in Brisbane in 2000. Robert Friedly is the Editor of the Disciples of Christ paper, Phillip Morrison as Editor of *Wineskins* comes from the a cappella stream and Sam Stone from what are known as the Independent churches.

# Centenary

## Greetings from Wineskins

PHILLIP MORRISON

**R**ubel Shelly and Mike Cope, co-editors of *Wineskins*, join me in sending this word of greeting and congratulations to our friends at *The Australian Christian*. As "new kids on the block" (*Wineskins* is just four years old), we stand in awe of a sister publication which has been around for a century. \*

Like our brothers and sisters in Australia, *Wineskins* is committed to the restoration principles so well defined by spiritual visionaries such

*The body of Christ must be an elastic wineskin for the gospel wine rather than a brittle liability to it.*

as Alexander Campbell and Barton W. Stone. Unfortunately this movement—at least in the United States—has strayed from its moorings and has been drifting in the dangerous seas of custom and tradition. Our call for undenominational Christianity has been taken less and less seriously as our own denominational characteristics have become more pronounced. We are determined to recapture the noble restoration aim of being Christians only, while rejecting the arrogant claim that we are the only Christians. \*

In our purpose statement, we declared that *Wineskins* is committed to the stimulation of bold but responsible change in the church of God. Our very name is taken from

Jesus' parable about the ever-fresh gospel and its always-frail containers. He warned against putting "new wine in old skins" lest the skins burst and waste the contents. In Jesus' metaphor, the skins are the culturally-conditioned and time-bounded experiences of the people who form the covenant community of God. The body of Christ must be an elastic wineskin for the gospel wine rather than a brittle liability to it. The guiding star of this enterprise is a Christocentric study of Scripture that can challenge the church to act out the meaning of Christ for this age. \*

I cannot remember a time when there was so much interest in prayer and Bible study. The "toughest ticket" in Washington, DC is a seat at the President's annual January prayer breakfast. Sports heroes openly declare their faith and give God credit for their accomplishments. Bible study groups have waiting lists of people for whom there is no space. The fastest-growing churches in our country are community-based, evangelical groups which meet with open Bibles and hearts to seek the guidance of God. \*

It is in this climate that Churches of Christ, committed to Scripture, have their greatest opportunity of this century. The unique plea that we have often thought was falling on deaf ears is, in fact, being heard. It is being heard by people who may not know us but who want to know the Lord. He has scattered the seed of his kingdom far and wide, and it will not return void. \*

All this is happening in a world so full of changing beliefs, lifestyles, technologies, and philosophies that the changes are truly frightening. In religion, we have historically responded to change either by refusing to acknowledge the need for change or by accepting uncritically whatever change someone proposed. One reaction produces slavery to form and tradition while the other produces slavery to one's own wishes and desires. Neither is acceptable. Though we have not always taken kindly to change, change has continued to come. Rather than fight change, *Wineskins* seeks to direct it in biblical channels. *Wineskins'* editors share the sentiments of John R. Sizoo: "Let it never be forgotten that glamour is not greatness; applause is not fame; prominence is not eminence. The man of the hour is not apt to be the man of the ages." \*

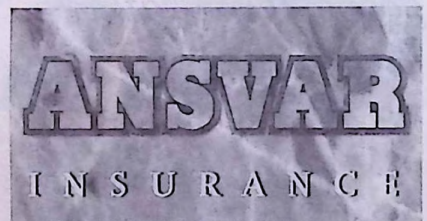
In honour of the man of the ages—the Rock of Ages—we have just one purpose: to honour God the Father and to glorify the blessed name of Jesus Christ. \*

We pray that all who share these biblical ideals may be blessed of God, for this century and all centuries to come. And we pray that *The Australian Christian* will be blessed and continue to be a blessing. \*

Phillip Morrison is Managing Editor of "Wineskins".



# We're changing with you



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If it's been a while since you've talked to someone about ANSVAR, it's time to look again. Because, just like you, we're always changing to meet your needs better.

That means we have a wider range of insurance options than ever before, from home and contents, to boats and businesses, churches and cars.

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For 35 years, our first priority has been our responsibility to you - in fact, our name is Swedish for responsibility. For you, this means policies supported by the care and advice of experts, an international network, and assets exceeding \$600 million.

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These are just some of the reasons ANSVAR today is the leading insurer of churches in this country and a growing player in other areas.

So if it's been a while since you considered ANSVAR, take another look. We're sure you'll be pleasantly surprised.

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P.O. Box 330, Launceston 7250

# Centenary

## The Christian Standard

SAM STONE

**W**e are pleased to send congratulations to our sister publication, *The Australian Christian*, upon the celebration of 100 years of publishing. To our many brothers and sisters in the Churches of Christ in Australia, we send our Christian love and greetings along with our prayers that God will continue to bless you all. \*

In the US, as in Australia, the printed page has been prominent in the movement attempting to recap-

*After one year, the men felt compelled to abandon the venture. Errett felt otherwise. So the brethren made him a gift of the magazine—debts, liabilities, and all!*

ture the Christianity of the New Testament. Many early leaders were both writers and editors. The oldest and best known publisher serving these churches is Standard Publishing. \*

The company's start can be traced back to the first issue of *Christian Standard*—7 April 1866. The front page featured news of the recent death of the movement's best-known advocate, Alexander Campbell. That issue marked the beginning of a new generation for those interested in the restoration of New Testament Christianity. \*

A group of concerned Christian leaders had met in the fall of 1865 at the home of T.W. Phillips, a businessman in New Castle, Pennsylvania. Among this number were physicians, attorneys, educators, and preachers. General James A. Garfield, later to become President of the United States, was among them. They selected one of their number, Isaac Errett, a brilliant minister with the church in Detroit, Michigan, to be the first editor. \* *Christian Standard* began publication in Cleveland, Ohio. Circulation grew slowly, however. After one year, the men felt compelled to abandon the venture. Errett felt otherwise. So the brethren made him a gift of the magazine—debts, liabilities, and all! \*

To keep the venture afloat, Errett accepted the presidency of Alliance College (Ohio) and moved the publication there. In 1869, a Cincinnati publisher, R.W. Carroll, invited Mr. Errett to bring *Christian Standard* to the Queen City, and he did. It has been published there each week since. \*

The journal's circulation grew, and churches of Christ and Christian churches were growing, too. As the Sunday school movement began its upward surge, the magazine began carrying the International Uniform Lessons. A weekly lesson leaflet followed. Then came *The Young People's Standard* (today known as *The Lookout*), and a host of other publications for all age groups. Today our company provides not only a widely-used Sunday school curriculum, but more Vacation Bible School materials than all other US publishers combined! \*

## CHRISTIAN STANDARD

Standard Publishing is not the official denominational publisher for the Christian churches/churches of Christ. No publisher could be. The churches have no denominational headquarters. Locally governed, they are free to choose their material. Still the long and close relation of publisher and people has woven Standard's influence for biblical Christianity into thousands of these congregations as a trusted friend. \* Standard Publishing's commitment—to produce true-to-the-Bible material—has not changed in more than 130 years. The weekly *Christian Standard* continues to provide essays, comment, news, and inspirational material "devoted to the restoration of New Testament Christianity, its doctrine, its ordinances, and its fruit". \*

The congregations known as Christian churches and churches of Christ in America today function through these kinds of ministries:

- About 5,500 local churches with a total membership of over one million. \*
- 38 colleges and seminaries, mostly Bible colleges, with over 9,000 students enrolled. \*
- 1,100 foreign missionaries, serving on six continents. \*
- National conventions, which meet annually for preaching and fellowship but do not have any authority over churches, ministers, or missionaries. \*

Sam Stone is Editor of the "Christian Standard".

# Centenary

## A Century of "The Christian"

GORDON STIRLING

**W**hen I was a boy "The Christian" was handed to subscribers once a week at the morning service and Sunday afternoons were devoted to reading it. Subscribing to "The Christian" was part of belonging to Churches of Christ. I do not remember any church family that did not subscribe. \*

At the Maylands, WA, church every one who was received into membership was given a copy of the New

*The glue that has held us together is our cooperative work in overseas and Aborigines missions and—The Australian Christian.*

Testament, a year's subscription to "The Christian" and a packet of offering envelopes. The idea was to establish in the minds and habit patterns of new members, our witness to New Testament Christianity, our understanding of what it was all about and an incentive to pay for its propagation. \*

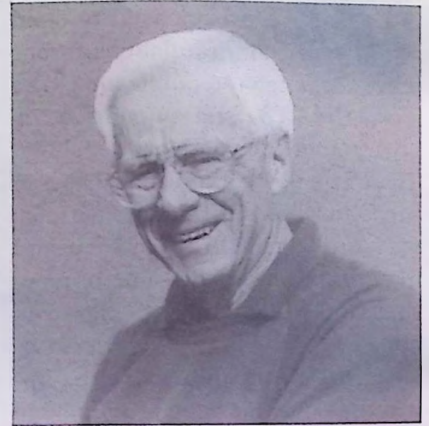
Each Editor has brought to the paper something of his own gifts and understandings, but for most of my generation and before it, the editorship of A.R. Main was the most significant. "The Christian" was second only to the Bible in authority for our people. As well, A.R. Main was heading up the training of generations of ministers at the College of the Bible. We were one

people, there was one paper and one College, and we were of one mind, that of A.R. Main. He would not have wanted to be a dominator of thought. Indeed he gave generous space to dissent. Main's authority came from the will of our people who believed that God had called us to do a work for him, and A.R. Main's clear enunciation of that work gave it focus. During his editorship we probably became more one in thought and purpose as a people than at any other time before or since. \*

In Churches of Christ we have no hierarchy to keep us on a single track. We have no written creed to guide us. As autonomous congregations there is no compulsion for us to cooperate with one another. Yet we are united in mind and purpose, with a strong feeling of togetherness. The glue that has held us together is our cooperative work in overseas and Aborigines missions and—*The Australian Christian*. \*

As Churches of Christ as we approach the new century we are asking ourselves how our historic witness can be expressed in relevant terms and in contemporary ways. And we are asking ourselves how we can make this witness to the church and the world as a strong united people, proud to be Churches of Christ in name and fact, as part of the whole church of Jesus Christ. \*

I believe that as God gives us the answers to these questions, *The Australian Christian* will continue to be a significant part of the glue that will continue to hold us together as we go on responding to his call. \*



But if that is to happen we must make sure that "The Christian" is in every church home. So here is a practical suggestion to subscribers. What about asking your church secretary to include the following item of business on the next church board agenda. \*

Item: *The Australian Christian* \*

1. Do all board members subscribe to "The Christian" to be aware of the larger life of our churches and the whole church? \*
2. Does the minister subscribe as a valuable tool for his work. If we are not paying enough, should the church subscribe for the minister? \*
3. Plan an "Australian Christian" Sunday, using free sample copies obtained from the "AC" office to enlist subscribers. \*
4. Providing a subscription for each new family to strengthen their allegiance to their new church. \*
5. Paying pensioners' annual subscription for them and collecting from them in easier quarterly payments. \*

Let us ensure another century of *The Australian Christian*. \*

Gordon Stirling was Editor 1979-1988.

# Fundamentalism Revisited

VINEY LONGTHORP

**M**ost agree that we should always be careful when attaching labels to people or organisations; after all, "every label is a libel." But that said, there are occasions when we need to engage in a bit of responsible name-giving if we are to make sense of certain trends and social processes. \* Fundamentalism is one such name, which we use to denote a religious or theological mindset. Even so, we need to employ this label with care. Is religious

*This is a lethal mixture and has resulted in persecutions, heresy-hunting, injustices and myriad forms of discrimination.*

conservatism to be called fundamentalism? Nor is the Christian church the only location of fundamentalism; many identify Islamic fundamentalism. Also Fundamentalism is to be found in the corridors of politics. \* Many consider that where fundamentalism becomes a problem is when ultra-conservative ideologies of any complexion

become aligned with sources of power. This is a lethal mixture and has resulted in persecutions, heresy-hunting, injustices and myriad forms of discrimination. \*

If the above seems somewhat abstract then tune in to SBS TV on Tuesday 4 February at 8.00 pm (8.30 pm SA) to the latest of their *Cutting Edge* documentary series, "Onward Christian Soldiers". Here the Dutch filmmaker, Freke Vuijst traces the development of the Christian Right in the USA since its resurgence in the 1970s. Vuijst points to the dangers when fundamentalist Christians become directly involved in the exercise of political power. \*

The program shows how through the use of the electronic media, fundamentalist Christians reach the general population and "forge their way into the corridors of power". Their aim was to exert their power so that their views would be in a nationally commanding position. Tele-evangelists such as Jimmy Swaggart, Jim and Tammy Bakker and especially Jerry Falwell became the public faces of religious politics and were hired by certain politicians so that their preaching would sway the voting. These right-wing Christian, pro-Republican groups argued against abortion, the theory of evolution, pop culture, Eastern religions; they

were anti Communist, pro-Contra and pro-apartheid. \*

But in the late '80s the power of these people waned somewhat. However, Vuijst maintains that the Christian Right is on the rise again. A large part of the documentary presents the evidence for this. She believes that such groups are dangerous because their intolerance is a threat to the very principle of democracy. \*

To many it is puzzling that such groups have much direct, political clout. But as Harold Bloom, in his brilliant study *The American Religion* wrote: "Separation of church and state has never meant seclusion of religion to purely private life. More decisively, separation of church and state, with its ban on any establishment of religion, has carried the positive meaning that Americans were free to invent new theologies, new churches, new religions. This ... was a fact of American life." Furthermore: "Fundamentalism is the parodistic curse of the American religion, and the political, social, moral, and even economic consequences of its anti-intellectualism are quite vicious." The program spells out these realities as claimed by Bloom. \*

Has this anything to do with us "denizens of down-under"? It sure has. One of the results of the power of the mass-media and globalisation, including cable TV and the Internet, is that there are no hiding places from these, or any other influences. Paid American religious programs are increasingly on offer to our commercial television stations; they come expertly packaged and marketed, and are relatively inexpensive. \* And as Edward Said (*Culture and Imperialism*) and James



Morris (*Pax Britannica*) both point out, powerful economies, ideologically-driven and often with nationalistic myths, will export their values as well as their goods. \*

Furthermore, some of these operators are very wealthy. As far back as 1984, the American tele-evangelist Pat Robertson expressed the wish that instead of his buying time on a British television channel he would prefer to buy the channel itself. (Fortunately an enlightened government prevented this.) \* In one part of his weekly column in Melbourne's *Sunday Age*, Terry Lane made this somewhat pessimistic observation: "The indications are that liberal Christianity is quietly slipping into oblivion. A few fundamentalist sects are flourishing and some of the more monolithic non-Christian religions are temporarily thriving." Has Terry really seen the future? Alongside this, the words of Aldous Huxley may be apposite: "There will always be faith in the world but there is no telling what its content will be." \* If the program "Onward Christian Soldiers" has any truth in it, that a hefty part of the content is to be fundamentalism, then the opening pages of the third millennium will record our living in "interesting times" indeed. \*

**ELIZABETH CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
 Sunday 16 March 1997  
 Theme "Does Life Begin At Forty?"  
 Guest Speaker—Ray Ewers.

10.00 am Worship and Communion  
 12.30 pm Lunch  
 2.00 pm "Looking back and reaching forward"  
 7.00 pm Gospel Celebration

RSVP for those staying for lunch by 23 February 1997.  
 PO Box 44, Elizabeth SA 5112 or phone (08) 8255 2907

# Classifieds

## BIRTHS

**JONES (HUTCHISON)** Brendon and Sharon thank God for the gift of Hannah Louise, born 6.12.96. A sister for Sam, Luke and Tim.

## ENGAGEMENT

**AMBROSE-BAYLISS** Mary and Chris, with Rosemary and Robert are happy to announce the engagement of Kate and Russell, "To God be the Glory".

## SILVER WEDDING

**AMBROSE** Chris and Mary have been married 25 years on 12.2.97. "To God be the Glory".

## DEATHS

**KRUGER, David Alexander** at Wakefield Hospital, Adelaide 13.12.96, 86 years, loving husband, Lucy Adeline, devoted father & father in law, Garnet & Naomi & Alwyn & Helen. Fond grandpa, Jonathan, Carmen, Sandra, Louise & Catherine. Great-grandpa Tyson, Laura, Amy, Elyica, Daniel, Samuel, Aaron. Romans 8:38-39.

**MOTT, Colin Burgess** on 23 November at Mildura. Beloved husband of Jessie and Myrtle (dec), Much loved father of Andrea, Michael and Paul, father-in-law to Greg and both Lys and Grandpa to their children.

**STIRLING, Lesley** on 24 December, aged 83. Loved wife of Gordon; mother of Jeanette with Arthur Morris, of Beth with Graeme Butler, of Heather with Doug Mudie. Grandmother of Mark Butler with Nicola; Amanda with Rod Lynch; of Brian, Glenn (dec.) and Bruce Morris with Sally; of Evan and Rachel Mudie, Great-grandmother of Daniel and Andrew Butler, Joshua Morris.

## IN MEMORIAM

**TORLEY, James Michael** 25.4.64 - 26.1.87 Rembering with love, our dear son, brother and dad. I thank God for making me Jamie's mum. Loved & missed deeply. Mum, Dad(dec.), Andrew & son Stephen.

## SYMPATHY

The Members of the Board of Management, Editor and Staff of The Australian Christian extend their sympathy to Gordon Stirling and family members in the death of Lesley on 24 December 1996. "For in hope we are saved," Rom 8.24. Keith Aird, Chairman, Don Smith, Editor.

## BOARD REQUIRED

**CHRISTIAN GIRL** requires board with Christain family. Room or granny flat suitable. 2nd year stu-

dent, Victoria Uni, St Albans Campus. Jenny Jeisman, (087) 55 1116.

## HOLIDAYS

**AYR, NORTH QUEENSLAND** Travelling up the Queensland coast? Stop over in the "Bountiful Burdekin" at Ayr Shamrock Motel. Friendly service, reasonable rates. Phone (077) 83 1498. Owned and managed by Dudleigh Oakes.

**FREMANTLE, WA** Bethel Guest House. Short walk to town, beaches, Esplanade. From \$20 pp twin includes light breakfast. Phone (09) 335 4656. Host Bob Fairman.

**GRAMPIANS SUNRISE HOLIDAY UNITS** Modern FSC, 6 2-BR units, 1 3-BR cottage, games room. Superb views, farm setting with hand-fed animals. Suit family holidays, reunions, small group camps or retreats. Speak to Bruce or Marilyn Bertram (053) 56 6300.

**HERVEY BAY, POINT VERNON** Whale watch or explore magical Fraser Island. Premier holiday position. New 3BR house, lock-up garage. All modern cons, has everything. Fully furnished, carpets, colour TV, washing machine, dryer, microwave. Short stroll to Bay, boat

ramps, shops and parks. Bookings phone (02) 790 3710.

**HOUSEBOAT "White Heron"** 8-berth. Moored at Blanchetown, SA. Phone (08) 365 1153 or (085) 40 5250 or write 7 Gameau Rd, Paradise 5075.

**PORT ELLIOT & VICTOR HARBOR SA** are perfect holiday spots. 2 and 3 bedroom self-contained units in each location for hire. More Uniting Church owned units at Belair, in the Adelaide foothills. Phone UCA (08) 212 4066.

**NOOSA QUEENSLAND** Luxury fully-equipped private 2 bedroom unit available early June to mid August while owner overseas. Attractive rates. Full details Carmilla Wilbraham (07) 5482 7489.

**SA SEASIDE HOLIDAY PLAYGROUND** includes Victor Harbor & Port Elliot. Uniting Church owned self-contained 2 and 3 bedroom units available for hire in both locations. Also units overlooking Adelaide at suburban Belair. Phone UCA (08) 8212 4066.

**PHILLIP ISLAND HOLIDAY HOME** situated at Rhyll in a quiet court. Sleeps five. All mod cons. Barbecue in garden setting. \$350 per week. (03) 9802 3514.

## SAPPHIRE COAST & SNOWY MOUNTAINS

Eden, Merimbula, Central Tilba, Cooma and Adaminaby, Kosciusko National Park.  
6 Days - \$495 - Dep. 12 May  
Luxury Motel Accommodation

## CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

Coober Pedy, Ayers Rock, The Olgas, Kings Canyon, Alice Springs. Fly to any mainland capital city from Alice Springs.  
10 Days - \$980 - Dep. 7 June  
Part camping, part motel accom.

## NT KAKADU

Mataranka Thermal Pools, Katherine Gorge cruise, Yellow Waters Billabong & Darwin. Fly to Alice Springs and home from Darwin from any mainland capital city.  
9 Days - \$1250 - Dep. 16 June  
Includes air fares and cruises.  
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# Conference on World Mission and Evangelism

ALAN HIRSCH

I have always wanted to go to South America, and contrary to the opinion of some, it was not because I am a frustrated percussionist who happens to love the sheer vigour and energy of afro-latino music, but rather because I had heard so much about what God is doing on that continent. The growth of Christianity in Latin America is nothing short of explosive, especially in Brazil, Argentina and Chile. \*

The rate of new church development in Peru and Chile is unprecedented in our world. The Pentecostal church is by far and away the fastest growing Christian movement in the world. The ministry among the poor (the large majority of the people) in various contexts has led to some of the most significant theological developments this century. \*

So when I was invited by the Conference in Victoria and Tasmania and Department of Christian Union to represent Churches of Christ in Australia at the Conference on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME) in Salvador, Brazil, it didn't take long to become excited by this opportunity. \*

The CWME itself was a ten-day marathon, comprising over 600 people from 75 different countries. It meets every five years to discuss critical themes for mission and evangelism. "Called to One Hope: The Gospel in Diverse Cultures" was the theme. \*

The Conference sought to achieve an impossible task—coming up with a single statement, only 12–15 pages long, in which all views of those present were adequately expressed. Frankly the end result was, in

my opinion, less than adequate, but the actual journey in getting there was quite stimulating. \*

Some of the highlights of the actual conference for me were:

1. A session with Lesslie Newbigin, who must surely rank as one of the greatest missionary-statesmen-missiologists of this century. At 84 the fire for the Gospel still burns brightly in him and that powerful mind is as sharp as ever. \*

2. The Bible studies: When a group of people, all from different cultures get together around the Biblical text, the result can pretty disturbing ... but it can also be extremely stimulating. \*

3. Meeting people from different contexts and learning from their experiences. Interestingly, I felt deeply affirmed that what we are doing in our mission contexts was cutting edge, even in global terms! There were not too many that I met from the West that were breaking new ground and experimenting in mission. What we are doing in our various contexts appeared to me to be somewhat more innovative and daring. \*

4. Further grappling with issues of Gospel and culture in a thorough, systematic way. And doing this in a community that represented the world church with all its diverse cultural expressions and interests. This precise issue, that of gospel-culture interface and the cultural relevance for our churches, has engaged my primary attention for the last two or so years. \*

5. My first real encounter with the Eastern Orthodox. I appreciated their perspectives on issues and their passion for the historic faith. I have always felt



*Some of the translators necessary for communication at the conference*

that I was "paleo-orthodox" at heart! \*

But my real education was to come from another source. \*

I was fortunate to be able to travel with two friends, one of whom is a Brazillian (Rene D'Sant Anna—one of the ministers at our St Kilda church). Not only did this give me instant access to a culture that knows very little of the English language, but connected me with the people of Brazil in a way that would have been impossible without Rene. \*

We stayed with his family in the favellas (the slums) both in Rio and in Salvador; and to be quite honest, these experiences turned out to be more moving and personally significant than the CWME conference (which in shocking contrast was held at a five-star hotel near the beach). \*

In Rio we stayed in a 12-square house with about 11 other people! \*

This experience had a profound effect on me and my fellow-sojourners. What was surprising was, that these warm, vibrant people were sustained with a basic joy that appears to

be lacking in so many Westerners, and in spite of their poverty were extremely generous. Encountering these humble people who gave of their hearts and possessions—one could not help but be deeply humbled. Furthermore, the actual experience of community life was deeply educational. \*

Everyone intuitively knew their place within that little house, and there was a basic health in the corporate life of that little group of people that has so long evaded me in my ongoing efforts to intentionally create and sustain an authentic community with other Christians. This disturbed me and continues to do so in my search for a genuine expression of life together in South Melbourne. \*

All in all, this was a deeply educational and moving trip. One that will continue to exercise an influence on my spirituality, ministry and missiology. \*

Alan Hirsch is Director of Mission and Revitalisation Division of Vic-Tas Conference and is Executive Director of the Australian Board of Church Development and Education.

## OBITUARIES

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

### ATKINS, Annie May

250 people attended the Horsham, Vic, funeral of Annie Atkins on 6 December 1996. Born at Warracknabeal, 11 September 1915, Annie attended the Baptist church until her marriage to Herb Atkins in 1934. The couple were baptised at Horsham by Cec Jackel in 1942. An active church and CWF attender. The loved mother of Bob and Bill. Annie was the loved grandmother of seven. She served as saleswoman and manageress at Bob's furniture store and as President of the ladies' committees of the Horsham Brass Band, the Horsham Football Club and the League of Ex-Servicemen. We honour her husband Herb for his love and devotion to Annie during her declining years.

—H.A.L. Clark

### HOLMES, Harold William

(2.12.96) A Thanksgiving Service conducted by Bruce Butler recalled the life of this much-loved man. Harold was one of five children born in Dromana, Vic, to Robert and Edith Holmes (nee Barker). His life was one of service to his family, church, community and his Lord. Harold was an orchardist who

was talented and in much demand for his grafting skills. Later on Hal became the caretaker at Mornington High School, now Secondary College. He worked with the Red Hill Show Committee and played cricket and football with Red Hill. Hal is survived by Betty his loving wife of 51 years, daughter Glenys and son Trevor and families.

—Berta Smith

### LAWRIE, Mervyn Thomas

(26.11.96) Born and educated at Pinery, SA, Merv left the family farm to enter C.O.B. Glen Iris in 1930. Merv and Mercy Payne met at College and married during the first year of ministry at Gawler, SA. Ministries followed at Wudinna, Kadina, Tumby Bay, Kaniva, Beverley, Pt Pirie, Fullarton and Victor Harbor. Merv's visitation and practical care endeared him to many. Victor Harbor became a special place in "retirement" where he was involved in preaching, as elder and Board member, hospital chaplain and community work. A car accident in October 1992 severely limited him and he and Mercy moved to Parkrose Village, Adelaide. Although his health deteriorated Merv acted as an elder in the Village until his sudden death.

—T.F.L.

### NEIL, Samuel Lindsay

(23.11.96) Born in Brisbane 17 April 1912, Lindsay spent his early years in Roma, returning to Brisbane in 1936 after his marriage to Ida Waldron. Until 1995, Lindsay and Ida had been active members at Albion, Redcliffe and Ann St churches. Lindsay is remembered for his quiet, loyal support and dedication of his practical skills to local churches and Queensland State Conference. At the funeral conducted by Jay Bacik, Ida, daughters Gail & Gillian, son Dennis and families paid tribute to Lindsay's commitment to family and church.

—G.B.

### TAYLOR, Spencer John

Born 1921, son of John Henry and Ethel Maude. Spen enlisted in army, serving in Darwin and New Guinea. Spen developed diabetes, persisting 50 years. Married Cynthia at the Mile End, SA, church, 1949. Children, Ruth, Stephen, Margaret, Robyn and Jenny. Eulogy shared with Len Ingham. Sunday School Superintendent 1964—

1976. Board member at Torrensville, SA. Annual meetings will never be the same. Did the joinery work on hall and maintained the church. "the other half that makes your life complete". Farewell "Tinkerbell" and friend. —D.S.

### TURNBULL, Muriel Rose

(2.1.97) Aged 81, Muriel had lived in a Horsham, Vic, nursing home since early last year. Previously she'd lived with her son, Bill Green and daughter-in-law, Joan. Muriel was born in Northam, WA. She had three sisters, Lillian, Bertha (dec) and Ethel, and three brothers, Septimus (Sep), Les and Norman. Following their father's death, the family moved to Melbourne when Muriel was 15. At the age of 20 she married Albert Green, who died in 1942. They had three children: Bill, Les and Judy. Muriel had 8 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She married Edward Turnbull in 1950. He died in 1975. Muriel was involved in Churches of Christ at Moreland, Coburg and Croydon.

—Julie Trinnick

### POSITION VACANT

#### Southern Community Church of Christ OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

(Full or part-time)

#### Qualifications

Extensive experience in:  
Office administration and dealing with the public;  
Church affairs and activities.

#### Excellent skills in:

Organisation of office and church activities;  
Computer, specially working in a Windows environment,  
word processing desk top publishing and spread sheets;  
Telephone answering and handling a wide range of inquiries;  
Book keeping is also desirable.

The successful applicant will be highly motivated to work in a church environment. The position will preferably be full-time but may be shared with the existing Administrative Secretary.

Application in writing with suitable references by Monday 10 February 1997, addressed to: The Senior Minister, Southern Community Church of Christ, 4 Chesterville Rd, Cheltenham Vic 3192. Phone (03) 9584 8499. Fax (03) 9584 2185 or (03) 9583 0095. Enquiries to Gerald Rose.

## Calendar Photographs Wanted



The National Literature Department invites the submission of colour slides for possible inclusion in the very popular Churches of Christ Calendar for 1998.

Photographs are needed from all states and territories of Australia, and from PNG and Vanuatu.

Criteria for selection include photographic excellence, variety of subject matter and the church year.

(Please include location of scenes.)

Forward to: National Literature Department  
PO Box 101  
Essendon North Vic 3041  
by 31 March 1997.

## CHANGES

**NORLANE, VIC**—Secretary Mr Rob Wingard, c/o 50 Biddlecombe Ave, Corio Vic 3214. Telephone (03) 5275 7733.

**BALGA, WA**—Minister David & Heather Akesson, 43 Cockman Road, Greenwood WA 6024. Phone (09) 343 5603.

**GAWLER, SA**—Minister Kim & Heather Thoday, Lot 51 Main North Road, Willaston, 5118. All mail c/o PO, Willaston SA 5118. Phone (08) 8523 3803.

**WOMEN'S MINISTRIES—CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA (formerly ACWF)**—Coordinator Mrs Elsie Taylor, 200 President St, Kewdale WA 6105. Secretary Mrs Lynette Armstrong, 1 Waverley Place, Dianella WA 6062. Treasurer Mrs Bronwyn Patterson, 4 Castlefern Way, Duncraig WA 6026.

## BAPTISMS

•Liz Cox, Katie Pollard, Metro North Christian Centre, NSW •Amanda Brohier, Erin Wright, Greg Mclean, Melissa Smith, Andrew Smith, Shaina Hills, Tammy Hills, Sheree Koch, Brenda Tepford, Leanne Lawson, Manifold Heights, Vic •Joanne Stowe, Janet Martin, Bayswater, Vic •Jackie Brench, Megan McCormack, Wangaratta, Vic •Cameron McPherson, Mt Clear, Vic •Tom Manallack, Dale Gurr,

Montrose, Vic •Michelle Forbes, Katharine Chase, Henley Beach, SA •John Rivett, Greg Edwards, Rosemary Edwards, Jim Dunlop, Marie Dunlop, Suzanna Volcevska, Warwick, WA •Karen Richards, Stacey de Grave, Cheryl Allen, Jacqueline McDevitt, Ashley Kelley, Denise Dixon, Tuggeranong, ACT •Sabrina Ebenschweiger, Maria Black, Taree, NSW

## MARRIAGES

•Julie Steele and Ben Zambra, Bayswater, Vic •Eileen Alice Coutts and Darren Craig Hornsby, Horsham, Vic •Collette Keenan and Sean Hadley, Wangaratta, Vic •Jenny Taylor and Brett Wood, Torrensville, SA •Sarah Hudson and Peter Bullard, Warwick, WA •Lisa Birtwistle and Darren Sullivan, Keryl Thurlow and Bradley Robinson, Launceston, Tas •Leonie Filippe and Derek Summersgill, Kylie Dowrick and Andrew Barnett, Mt Clear, Vic

## DEATHS

•Annie May Atkins, Horsham, Vic •Simon Healy, Mt Clear, Vic •John Salter, Dalby, Qld •Cyril Clare, Marion James, Lucy Horn, Frankston, Vic •Muriel Rose Turnbull, Horsham, Vic •Spencer John Taylor, Torrensville, SA •Harold William Holmes, Red Hill, Vic •Alf French, Ainslie, ACT

## WA

**DIANELLA (Tony Armstrong)** Tony & Lynette spent Christmas with family in Tasmania ... Thanksgiving Dinner 22 November ... Part-time Youth Minister Rod Clarke farewelled. Rod will be married in January ... Two baptisms & six child dedications in November-December ... Congratulations to parents of three new baby girls ... Several new faces elected to Board & as committee chairpersons ... Master Christmas card prepared for distribution to all members, \$1.00 involvement cost to Christmas Bowl.

**WARWICK (K.R. Bowes, R.J. Ratcliffe)** Special functions/services 19 & 31 January, 2 & 9 February enabled Village & church to reminisce & express appreciation to Graham & Freda Carslake for 23 years' ministry ... Trevor Booth & Brad Lewin to provide additional part-time ministries until arrival of Jim Longbottom & family in July ... Twelve young people involved in outreach coffee shops & beach missions at Busselton, Esperance & Margaret River ... Theme for 1997, "New Beginnings!"

**CARNARVON (Gavin Law Davis)** Several folk "bussed" around town on Christmas Eve singing at pensioner flats, shut-ins, etc ... Church has appreciated preaching ministry of Michael Birch, on holidays after first year at Perth Bible College ... We look forward to forthcoming ministry of Gavin Law Davis, arriving with wife Donella & son Jed from Adelaide. ... FAB missionaries Craig & Tanya Wilson soon move to Roelands Village, they have new son Justin. Wayne & Mary Bell continue to manage Olive Laird Hostel.

## VIC

**MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (Rick Wright, Richard Brohier)** Experiencing a time of growth. 10 baptisms, 4 first-time decisions preparing for baptism ... Encouraging time at Board Retreat (Theme: How God Builds) ... Cross-

roads Lodge continues outreach to people in need ... Continue to keep contact with Illingworths in USA (Study leave).

**BAYSWATER (P. Clayton)** Over \$3,000 raised for kitchen fund by working together on special project ... Church celebrated with Alan Clark 60 years since commencement of ministry with Churches of Christ ... Bob & Dorothy Staley welcomed into fellowship ... Church encouraged by recent baptisms ... Presentation to Ben Zambra & Julie Steele, first wedding in new chapel ... Chapel crowded for Christmas Musical, "God's Love Gift".

**MOUNT CLEAR (Dale White)** Community Carols Concert organised by church attracted 650 at Ballarat University auditorium ... 240 people attended Christmas Day service, \$1068 for COCOA ... CRE teachers organised Christmas concerts for Mt Clear Primary School ... Church saddened by death of 18-year-old Simon Healy ... Dale & Wendy White announced they would conclude 8-year ministry at end of 1997.

**SPRINGVALE (John Carmichael)** Kids Club & Playgroup both doing well with over 80 parents & children attending each break-up ... New "Student Focus" outreach to years 7-9 at Springvale Secondary College started with help of Youth Dimension ... Ron Wilkinson elected elder ... Christmas Day service had multicultural flavour with segments from Spanish, Ethiopian & Vietnamese, chapel beautifully decorated each Christmas by Vietnamese folk ... Congratulations to Cathy Matthews on ordination.

**MONTROSE (Harvey Clark)** 22 December great day, meaningful Christmas service in morning & successful sausage sizzle & Carols by Candlelight held on front lawn at night ... Church invited to lead Christmas Service at nearby aged persons home. Communion was celebrated, Harvey spoke briefly, choir sang carols ... Church inspired by two recent baptisms ... Church looks lovely after new carpet laid.

**KANIVA (Paul Bauer)** Many tributes paid to loved former member & local

### POSITION VACANT

## Chesterville Retirement Village MANAGER (Part-Time)

### Qualifications

Suitable or related experience in the care of the Elderly and management skills Accountancy and bookkeeping skills.  
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Extensive experience with Church affairs and activities.

The position is for 20 hours per week

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It is an outreach ministry of the Southern Community Church of Christ, Vic.

Applications in writing with suitable references by Monday 10 February 1997 to: The Chairperson, Management Committee, Chesterville Retirement Village, 14-24 Chesterville Rd, Cheltenham Vic 3192. Phone (03) 9584 5202.

# Church News

preacher, David Welsh, who died recently aged 96 ... Excellent presentation by children on theme of Creation to Christmas at anniversary of combined Sunday Schools ... Paul Bauer speaker & choir trained by Elsa Williams for combined carols night in Shire Hall ... Local speakers for services during minister's holidays.

**HURSTBRIDGE (A. George)** Sports-person breakfast with Steven Lawrence success ... Farewell luncheon to foundation member Ruby Clarke on her move to Tasmania ... Girl Guides helped in fun evening to fill the Empty Christmas Tree with goodies ... "Shepherds" wandering the local shops looking for the New-Born King raised much interest ... Andrew George & local Anglican minister led "Blessing of CFA volunteers & dedication of fire trucks".

**RED HILL (Paul De Wildt)** Minister Bruce Butler farewelled on 22 December & presentation made in appreciation of his four-year ministry ... Paul De Wildt commenced ministry 26 January ... Sunday School children took part in nativity play

and placed gifts under tree for children of families in need ... Shirley Daff & Valda Henley involved in packaging food parcels for needy... Ladies raised over \$1,200 at December market.

**FRANKSTON (Jason Potter)** Tom Ede appointed as interim minister from February ... Car boot sale raised \$574 ... Lucy Milner thanks church for concern over illness ... Sarah Scott & Liz Whiting having treatment for cancer.

## NSW

**METRO NORTH CHRISTIAN CENTRE (Franklyn Elliott)** Special features Sunday 15 December were School of Ministry Graduation Service at which a number of students received their Diplomas, Susan Larkins the Dean of the School was the speaker. At the pm service two young people were baptised by Franklyn Elliott at the Vineys Road property ... 120 shared in gala Christmas Banquet by candlelight & fireworks, Christmas day service led by Robert Garrett ... Final service

for 1996 was a combined with a number of churches with Franklyn Elliott as speaker.

**TAREE ((Interim) Redentor Reyes)** Church joined in a special morning tea to honour Lily Adams on the occasion of her 90th birthday ... Two baptisms in December, Sabrina Ebenschweiger, prior to her return to Austria, & Maria Black.

## QLD

**DALBY (Tony Ochse)** Tony accepted further four-year term from 1 April ... Jenny Vogler has been elected to Dalby Youth Council ... Two received into membership & two families moved from Dalby ... Christmas hampers again distributed ... New Year's Eve barbecue & evening fellowship enjoyed ... Local Fraternal conducted Carols in the Park.

## SA

**PROSPECT (Ruth May)** Special carols & readings evening & Christmas Day service were well attended & made a highlight for December,

\$415 raised for COCOA ... At a "Launching 1997" dinner new initiatives will be introduced ... Friendship Group had successful year, concluded with a wonderful luncheon ... New Playgroup had a good beginning & is reaching some young families who attended worship in December when Playgroup Sunday was held.

**HENLEY BEACH (Robyn Walsh)** Approx 200 attended Thanksgiving Service to mark closure of the church. Past & present members took part. Jeff May's message: "Thanks for the Memories" Special reunion for many. Sunday School students baptised during intergenerational service, making a banner depicting new life, students recited books of the Old Testament. Items by Kidsmin. Final service theme "Moving On". Decision made to keep in touch. Copies of "The Church on the Hill", memories of the church, are available State Office, cost \$5.00 plus postage \$2.00.

## TAS

**HOWRAH Alan Hirsch** speaker 3 November. Challenge of Change seminar with Martin Robinson 4 November ... Christmas hampers given by congregation for Bethany Domestic Violence homes ... Paul Kerrison interim ministry concluded ... Ministry Selection Committee appointed seeking the congregation's expectations ... Retiring elders, Ian Cumine, Lester Bradburn & Stuart Noble's tireless & devoted commitment appreciated.

**LAUNCESTON (C. Spaulding, W. Kerrison, J. Ratcliffe)** Annual Business Meeting held 3 December, Paul Morrison elected to diaconate ... Janette Wright graduated with honours in Medicine from Uni of Tas ... Dedication of baby Sarah Thurlow on 12 January ... Sarah Roxburgh interviewed on 19 January concerning her first visit to China, teaching English during her long service leave



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- 6.00 pm **Formal Program**  
a time to launch the College year and introduce new students. A special program will be provided for children during this time.
- 7.00 pm **Back to the Black Stump**  
a time to reminisce—to reflect on the past, to rejoice and have a laugh;
- 8.00 pm **Youth Bash**  
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# Exploring the Day Shaping the Future?

JANET THOMPSON

**W**henever I worried about something that I had no control over, my mother-in-law used to say, "It will all be the same in 100 years." It was a comforting thought, something like saying, "It's no use crying over spilled milk," but a bit more lasting. 100 years from now life will still be moving along its appointed path, the sun will still rise, spiders will build webs in quiet corners, ants will be unwelcome guests at picnics, and  $2 + 2$  will still equal 4! Well, they are reasonable assumptions. And a gravy stain on the best tablecloth is unlikely to rate a mention in the annals of family history ... I hope. Then someone said to me, "The world will be a different place in 100 years, just because *you* have been here." I was surprised, and not inclined to believe it, but ... \*

Everywhere I go, everything I do brings me into contact with people, and, while I might not have a drastic influence on their lives, simply having a conversation changes the course of a day. A telephone call absorbs time which would have been spent in some other way (sometimes more beneficial, sometimes not!). A word, a letter, or a card can affect someone's feelings, change their plans, alter their actions. As the years pass, my path can be traced. The changes are probably minor, but they *are* there. \* The world is different today because *The Australian Christian* came into be-



ing 100 years ago. I wonder how much has been altered? This sort of journal has the potential to change many things. People learn a great deal through reading—and a small-circulation religious periodical can cover important issues, delve into great ideas, and keep its readers in touch with developments and diverse views. Articles and letters can shape attitudes and provoke action. \*

It's a bit of a responsibility, isn't it? As the writer of a column, I find it a challenging thought, and it could be quite unnerving for an Editor! The world won't be the same in 100 years. What sort of changes will be ascribed to *The Australian Christian* in 2097? Will there be more smiling faces because so many of us enjoy reading "The Last Word"? \*

## A Lasting Partnership

**I**t was a fledgling New Litho that tendered to print and mail *The Australian Christian* late in 1981. "Our printer is often late, so you'll have to not only offer us a



better price, but also mail on Thursdays," stated Editor Chris Ambrose.

We were successful and when the first edition for 1982 rolled off our presses a business friendship began that continues to this day.

The past fifteen years has seen the most dramatic changes in printing technology since Johann Gutenberg, the father of modern printing, printed his 42-line Bible in 1450.

The "AC" has in many ways been a trail-blazer in adapting to new technology. Among its peers in the Australian Religion Press Association the "AC" was able to be an early adopter to many of the time-saving, cost-effective benefits of technology.

Editor Chris Ambrose was acutely aware of looking after the cents. His accountancy background ensured that he was able to zero in on areas to save costs. He taught himself to paste-up the journal—doing a function of preparing pages that was normally the printer's role. Then as Desk Top Publishing dawned, Chris tackled this new technology and was one of the first to reap the benefits of bringing computerised page-make-up in-house. He even used this same computer to prepare and maintain his subscription data-base, and prepare the wrappers!

Again, in the early '90s, Chris was one of the first to digitally scan photos and present us with a complete digital file ready to print.

It's difficult to print a journal without glancing and reading its content from time to time.

To its credit *The Australian Christian* has always been a "salt of the earth" publication. Unpretentious, folksy, yet focused, with the unenviable task of being a national sounding-board, the journal has continued to keep its constituency informed.

—Paul Daley  
(Managing Director)

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