

THE AUSTRALIAN

1898-1997  
100  
YEARS OF PUBLISHING

# Christian

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

Vol. 100 No. 19, 1 November 1997

PRINT POST APPROVED PP349181/00418

## *Evangelism*



## *Church Planting*



Vol. 100 No. 19, 1 November 1997

THE AUSTRALIAN

# Christian

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

Editor: Don Smith, Production Manager/Sub Editor: Nigel Pogram Issue 15 November Deadline 6 November; Issue 29 November Deadline 20 November; Issue 13 December Deadline 4 December. Address for All Correspondence PO Box 101, Essendon North 3041. Telephone (03) 9379 1219, Fax (03) 9379 0015, E-mail aceditor@ozemail.com.au Member publication 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); Tom Glynn (NSW); 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 0004-8852. Advertising Rates: Displayed: \$5.50 per column centimetre, Classifieds: \$14.00 for the first 25 words and 25c for each additional word.



# Editorial

## Evangelists

DON SMITH

Wagga Wagga Church of Christ, NSW, is featured on our cover. The photograph was taken at the end of a Hinrichsen-Morris mission. Our feature on Tent Missions pays tribute to the work of our foremost evangelist in this century. These missions left a legacy of optimism in our church life, especially through the dark years of the Depression. These comments take into account that not everyone was enamoured with the technique, but it was clearly the dominant approach and well-supported by every State Conference. The presentation of the message which reflected the ideas of the time was also grounded in the concepts of our Movement. \* Australian society has changed since then. The hymn writer says "New occasions teach new duties" and "Time makes ancient good uncouth". Paul Kelly, an Australian journalist, in his book *The End of Certainty*, describes fundamental changes introduced by recent governments of both major parties, and notes the move from a white Australia policy, deregulation, a reduced role for government, low protection, centralised and decentralised wage systems and industrial relations as examples. \* A similar grand list could be drawn up about changes in the church since the heyday of tent missions. Today we have a smorgasbord of options in church life. Life seems not nearly as easy as it was when churches could call in an evangelist. Our society is more complex with multiculturalism, changing values, new technology and a far less dominant position for the Christian Church, though some clerics still act as though nothing has changed. \* The evangelistic challenge for our Movement is to develop new interpreters, new insights, a new imagination and new initiatives. E. C. Hinrichsen, in his youthfulness and incalculable energy, gave our churches a stimulus that served them well. \* We need to elevate the concept of "evangelist" to an honoured position. The evangelist will be one who understands and interprets contemporary Australian society. The message will be marked by intellectual rigour, drawing on the best of Biblical scholarship and grounded in an awareness of our heritage with its relevance for today. These are exciting times for a church with leaders and members with a will and a vision. \*





## Evangelism and Church Planting

**Evangelism and church planting: what is happening today? We also review some history.**

- Church Planting—Why?* 11
- Pastoring in a New Church* 12
- Friendship Evangelism* 13
- The Big Evangelistic Hook* 15
- Tent Missions* 16

## News

- Sign of the Times* 5
- Provoking People* 5
- National Conference of Australian Church Women* 6
- New Community Centre* 7
- Leadership and Church Health* 9
- Striving for Excellence* 9

## The Bible Code

- Two authors put their perspectives on an issue which has many people's attention.**
- The Anti Bible Code Panic* 18
  - God's Code or No Code At All?* 19

- A Time for Restoration** 20
- Greg Rees tells of the advantages of camping and retreats.**

**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.**

## Pamphlet Club

To the Editor,  
I commend Debra Hirsch on her endeavour to "walk us through the world of the homosexual" (*Pamphlet Club* 395). "Daniel's Story" was very helpful. How quick we in the church have been to "proof text" our very limited and mostly faulty understanding, and thus fail to hold the tension between grace and morality. Our judgmental attitudes and rejection are most likely even more sinful than the sins we are so quick to judge. Thank you Debra for challenging us to get out of our "homosexual ghettos" and face our wrong attitudes and faulty preconceptions, and endeavour to walk the middle path through the minefield of con-

trovery, bickering, and misunderstanding. No doubt it will be very "scary", but let's extend the same grace we ourselves have received from God.

—Sylvia Thompson,  
(Dareton NSW)

## Pamphlet Club Again

To the Editor,  
I was very interested in Peter Corney's *Pamphlet Club* supplement in the "AC" of 18 October: "Leadership and the Changing Face of the Australian Church". It seems that Peter is the Alvin Toffler of Australian church life, and his assessments and forecasts are to be taken seriously. So we must welcome change if we are to be relevant. And, inevitably, there will be new structures and methods and programs, so we had better get used to them. And with post denominationalism under way, it looks as though we will end up with an amalgam of the lowest common denominator of evangelical traditions dressed up for the 21st Century, if that is what we want.


But I can't help wondering if there is anything to be said for the idea of Australian Christians getting round to losing themselves totally and taking up their crosses of sacrificial self-giving and really following Jesus Christ who is already out there where it is all happening. It might be what the Australian church should really be on

about!

—Gordon Stirling  
(Boronia, Vic.)

## Graceful Message

To the Editor,  
Janet Thompson's "Saying Grace" ("AC" 4.10.97) was simple yet great. When I say grace, which I have been doing for maybe 70 years now, I find it difficult to use the words "For what I am about to receive". Seldom do I sit alone,

THE AUSTRALIAN


# Christian

SEND THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN TO-

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED:\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**A GIFT FOR 1998 COSTS JUST \$32**  
WE WILL SEND A GIFT CARD SAYING "THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN IS FROM"

PAYMENT CAN BE MADE BY BANKCARD, VISA OR MASTERCARD

PLEASE CHARGE MY-  BANKCARD  VISA  MASTERCARD

NUMBER

EXPIRY DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

**A Christmas Gift that lasts all year**

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN PO BOX 101, ESSENDON NORTH 3041

for over the years I have heard that grace in the plural. "For what we are about to receive" and my mind goes to those who eat their meals alone, and use Janet's word 'I' instead of 'we'.

Then, too, the matter of which grace to say! If at a church luncheon or an outdoor meal my personal home-made grace is "God bless the tucker we are now gunna eat" or to say "Thank you God for the tucker we are now gunna eat, bless it to our hands, head, heart and feet, we ask this in the name of Jesus, Amen". This seems more appropriate for the occasion.

Maybe I should use it as a pre-worship prayer, too. "Thank you God for this service. Bless it to our hands, head, heart and feet during the coming week."

A friend who had returned from India told me the story of an early morning when he and two other friends hired a rickshaw. Feeling sorry for the man pulling them along they invited him to share breakfast. His reply, "No thankyou. I have eaten today," shocked them. Thankyou Janet, for saying grace with us in such simple terms.

—Harold C. Wheaton  
(Kaniva, Vic)

## Bible Code

To the Editor

I thought that it was a pity that the article by Randall Edwards ("AC" 20.9.97) seemed to be confined to Drosnin's book. Psalm 14:1 tells us God's opinion of a man who says there is no God. However, many other researchers including Christian author Grant R. Jeffrey have validated the code. His book, *The Signature of God* tells us about the remarkable occurrence of "Jesus" encoded in Isaiah 53:10. The strong message that believers need to take out of Drosnin's book is that we live in

the last days. Scaremongering can only be effective amongst those who fear the return of Jesus. The hard truth is that many churchgoers do not want Jesus to return. They may say with their mouth they believe, but in their hearts, like the man in Matt 24:48, backed by the hard currencies of money, time and pride, they are the scoffers of 2 Peter 3:3-4.

Reject Drosnin, but the code is real! Get ready for the return of Jesus.

—Robert Merrells  
(Helena Valley, WA)

[This topic is addressed by two articles in this issue. —Ed]



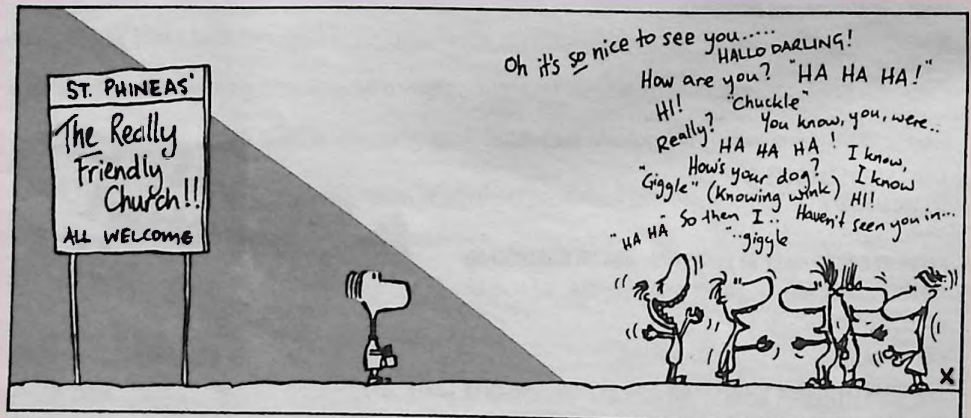
**GREENWAYS**  
**RETIREMENT VILLAGE**

330-350 Frankston-  
Dandenong Road  
Seaford Vic 3198  
Phone (03) 9786 8679

Managed by  
**Church of Christ**  
**Frankston**

1- and 2-bedroom villas  
Motel-type lodge suites

Waiting list open



## Update

Dear Readers,

In this issue we have introduced **Making News** on page five as a means of sharing very recent happenings for which no news report has been compiled or is to hand. This space will be restricted to items seen to be of special significance.

Our cover photo is of the Wagga Wagga, NSW, church with a March, 1942 date. It was supplied by Alan Morris, son of the late Vic Morris, song leader for Hinrichsen missions for 18 years. We were appreciative of material relating to Hinrichsen missions provided by readers in a number of states. One significant omission was the lack of a suitable photograph of the tent. The Wagga photo was the best we had for reproduction purposes and we were glad to use it. On our close-of-copy day a letter came to hand from Mona Smith of Queensland. Here was a photo of the elusive tent which certainly captures the typical scene. So after some months of searching a photo arrived. Mona's father was Albert Hinrichsen who had great affection for his beloved nephew E.C.

Hinrichsen. One of the technical problems with reproducing old photos of white tents is that the white tends to merge with the sky. We were fortunate to find one surviving copy.

Donations from churches and readers are coming to hand each day. Some personal donors have not identified themselves, so we shall be unable to send a personal letter of thanks.

Delivery of the paper by e-mail in Adobe Acrobat format is under consideration. Interested readers should contact us.

Such is the pressure of material and advertising to hand we have now been forced to add a further four pages on three recent occasions, including this issue. A good sign!

Scripture quotations in Craig Spalding's article from the Holy Bible New International Version are copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society.

*Alan Morris*

# Sign of the Times Provoking People

Free advertising on national television Qld Churches of Christ Conference



*Marion, SA, caught many people's attention with their recent Grand Final message*



*Rob Warwick invites ministers to accept their certificates of appreciation*

## Making News

### Launceston, Tas

Over four nights, 17–20 October, total attendances exceeded 14,500 at the Launceston Silverdome for a Youth With a Mission sponsored "Impact World Tour", conducted by a group of co-operating churches. Craig Spaulding, senior minister of Launceston Church of Christ says the church has been overwhelmed by the response, with many referrals. A report will follow.

### Nillumbik Community Church, Vic

Milton Oliver reports 200 attended a new church launching on 18 October, with Municipal and Conference representatives in attendance. At the first service on Sunday 19 October, 52 attended, with one faith commitment and a \$1,200 offering. Grant Taylor, minister.

Always on the look out for a current topic to feature on its huge neon sign, Marion, SA, church had the ideal opportunity when pre-Grand Final football fever hit Adelaide in a big way!

The message shown in the photo was the result—and everyone loved it, except visiting Victorian holiday-makers!

And for the second time in its comparatively short history, the sign appeared on national television when it was featured on Channel 9's *Nightline*.

## Bentleigh

Church of Christ, Vic  
will be closing on  
Sunday,  
21 December 1997

If you would like to renew your association with the church, feel free to attend one of our Sunday morning services, at 11.00 am, until 21 December.

Numbers were up and so were expectations at Sunstate 97. Following last year's well-received change of format, this year things were even bigger and better. More than 400 people attended what has become the highlight of the Churches of Christ calendar in Queensland.

The three-day event was off to a great start when 225 enthusiastic people enjoyed good food and fellowship at the convention banquet. During the evening, ministers who had served in Queensland for ten or more years received a personalised certificate to commemorate and to express appreciation for their ministry. Churches of Christ Care sponsored the dinner and produced the certificates of appreciation as a support to the Advisory Board. Keynote speakers from a variety of backgrounds challenged the delegates. Cynthia Hale and Trunell Felder, from the Ray of Hope Church in Georgia, USA, stirred all present with their call to be a "Pentecost church", like the church in Acts. Milton Oliver, Church of Christ minister from

Melbourne, spoke passionately about God's dream of a living church and the believer's part in building that dream. He urged each person to see the Cross as more than a vertical beam (their relationship with God) but also as a horizontal beam (their relationship with others as they reach out to love and care for them). Karl Faase, Baptist pastor from Gympie, NSW, emphasised that "the main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing". Drawing on Mark 1:29–39, Karl illustrated that Jesus kept his focus by keeping close to the Father, and working out the Father's will in his earthly ministry. Karl urged each believer to follow Jesus' pattern for living.

Sunstate attendees were provoked to think about things in new ways or were reminded about things perhaps forgotten. There was good fellowship, and the food and facilities were great (thanks to Conference President Rob Warwick and the wonderful folk at Boonah Church of Christ). All in all, Sunstate '97 was a special experience!

# National Conference of Australian Church Women

**Three Qld Churches of Christ women take office**

The National Conference of Australian Church Women, held in Canberra 22-26 September, appointed three Queensland Churches of Christ women to serve in the new term. They are (pictured left to right) Joan Trudgian, national treasurer, Brisbane North, Averil Jell, minute secretary, Redlands and Aileen Mortensen, national president, Wynnum.

They were installed at the conference dinner and took office at the conclusion of the conference, which was attended by approximately 80 delegates and observers. President of the Canberra Conference was Evonne Sullivan AM JP.

The Conference theme was "Jesus Christ—the 'Way ahead'". Reverend Illuminada Acuna-Domingo, Executive Secretary of Asian Church Women's Conference, based in Manila, was a resident guest of the Conference and addressed participants on "Who is the Asian Church Woman?" She shared thoughts on how we, as a member body of Asian Church Women's Conference, can be supportive of her.

An Ecumenical service was held at the Church of St Andrew and attended by over 200 people, including Senator Margaret Reid, representing the Prime Minister. The occasional address was given by Janet Wood, former Chairperson of the National Commission for Mission of the Uniting Church.

During the working sessions of Conference, reports were received from all areas of Australian Church Women's work, together with the work of denomi-



*New National Conference of Australian Church Women office bearers—(l-r) Joan Trudgian, national treasurer, Brisbane North, Averil Jell, minute secretary, Redlands and Aileen Mortensen, national president, Wynnum*

nations and affiliated groups. Issues addressed in debate included the formation of a national mission statement for ACW, reconciliation and rights of parents and children.

Current holders of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship sponsored by ACW gave brief focus spots on their work and studies. Senator Jocelyn Newman, Minister assisting the Prime Minister

for the Status of Women addressed one of the working sessions.

Delegates and observers were received by Sir William Deane, Governor General of Australia, and Lady Deane, for morning tea at Government House.

The next National Conference will be held in Brisbane in September 1999, with the theme "Faith Works!"

## Here and There

**Polish Churches Exceed Target**  
The Christian Bible Institute of Churches of Christ in Poland set a goal of 200 students by the year 2000. This year the goal has been passed with 214 students enrolled, 154 are undertaking correspondence studies and a further 60 are doing Advanced Certificate studies. A service to mark the commencement of the academic year was held in Warsaw on 3 September. Letters from students expressing appreciation of the courses continue to be received. One student noted that upon completing his studies he aims to plant a church in his village.

## Lutheran Openness

Almost 500 delegates and 100 visitors participated in the Twelfth General Synod of the Lutheran Church of Australia. A number of the key decisions made were regarded as evidence of a greater spirit of openness, signalling the end of what some have described as the Lutheran Church's past isolation. The most obvious was the reversal of their stance of separateness from the National Council of Churches in Australia. Other issues considered included women's ordination, reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous people, sexual abuse and the use of the new Australian Hymnbook.

## Newbigin Lectures

Lesslie Newbigin, distinguished English missions statesman, minister, theologian and ex-missionary in South India, lectured in Alabama, USA, in June. Newbigin has been a prolific writer with titles published as recently as 1995. His lecture theme was "Truth to Tell: The Gospel in a Pluralist Society". What makes this all the more interesting is that Newbigin is now 88 years old.

## Bethel Funerals

The Caring Australian Alternative



*A unique Christian funeral company supporting the work of missions*

24-hour, 7-day service

Pre-arranged and pre-paid funerals

(03) 9877 9900 (all hours) fax (03) 9877 0544

107 Koonung Road, Blackburn Vic 3130

## New Community Centre

Major step forward in church's mission

A new community centre and church rapidly taking shape in Melbourne's Bayside suburbs, represents a major step in the mission of Southern Community Church of Christ.

The \$1.2 million complex will house the church's worship centre as well as its new counselling centre and neighbourhood house, all under the one roof.

Built adjacent to the century-old chapel in Chesterville Rd, Cheltenham, the new complex is part of a dream that began with the amalgamation of the Cheltenham, Hampton St and East Bentleigh congregations five years earlier.

Senior Minister, Gerald Rose, said that after intensive planning the congregations formed a strategy to further the unique ministry of the church in the region.

Careful research was conducted into the needs of the suburbs in the region along the Nepean Highway between central Melbourne and Frankston, Gerald said.

The church considered moving out of the increasingly downtown location to some broad-acres site in the nearby green belt, but after researching the needs of the wider community and the church's own unique gifts of ministry, it was decided to remain in the present central location and function as a regional church seeking to serve the needs of the community in the central South Eastern Suburbs.

The church was able to begin the project with money raised from selling properties belonging to the three congregations and consolidating on the Cheltenham site, where the church already had a strong ministry to the community through the Cheltenham Neighbourhood House and Chesterville Retirement Village.

The research into the community highlighted the need for more low-cost counselling in the area, so the church established a coun-



The new complex taking shape: worship centre (left), community centre and offices (centre), neighbourhood house (right)

selling service staffed by professionals and trained volunteers from the congregation.

The church also has begun planning further initiatives to take advantage of its proximity to Westfield's Southland Shoppingtown, which is soon to be expanded to become one of the biggest metropolitan shopping centres in Australia.

The buildings will be dedicated with a weekend of special events on 29-30 November.

On Saturday night past minister Gordon Moyes will host a retrospective. On Sunday Vic-Tas Conference President Lindsay Dewberry and Conference Executive Officer Lynette Leach will dedicate the buildings, and in the evening Russell Croxford will be guest speaker at a youth event.

A grand community gala opening is planned for early February, with the launch of the neighbourhood house and counselling service programs for 1998.

### Considering Missionary Service?

We have the following exciting opportunity available to begin in 1998.

#### Primary Teacher/Literacy Worker

Located at Chungribu on the Ramu River PNG. This role involves assisting with the Bible translation program and overseeing the education of missionary children.

A duty statement for each position is available from the Executive Director, Australian Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board, 180a Gray St, Adelaide SA 5000.  
Phone (08) 8212 4446 Fax (08) 8212 6388  
E-mail <omb@netadvantage.com.au>.



### Full-Time Minister

We are a growing congregation of around 250 English-speaking Asians, with a children's ministry of 100.

We are looking for an experienced, born-again, evangelical minister with:

- formal theological training
- strong vision for growth and outreach
- ability to lead a strong lay ministry support team
- spiritual gifts in teaching.

Please forward your application to:  
The Pastoral Search Committee  
PO Box 29  
Glen Waverley Vic 3150.

Closing date 31.1.98

Initial enquiries can be directed to tel/fax (03) 9803 5409 or e-mail <jyklm@netspace.net.au> or <khmc@skynet.net.au>.

## PNG—An Experience

Jack Edwards tells of his visit to PNG to attend Conference



*Jack Edwards and Levie, one of the men who gave the Gandep land to Conference some 20 years ago, standing in front of the first building at Gandep*

From 8–25 July Jack Edwards and Jeff Weston travelled to PNG to visit our mission workers and to attend the Annual Conference and AGM of Churches of Christ in PNG. Jack writes the following report.

We found just as the tourist brochure for PNG says that PNG is the land of the unexpected. To get to Tasibu, the village in the Schrader Ranges where the Conference of 80 delegates and possibly 800–900 attenders was held was no mean feat. After arriving at Madang we travelled 450 km by three-ton truck, 10 hours up the Ramu River on a fibreglass canoe with a 25 hp motor, flew 7 minutes on a MAF plane and walked 1½ hours through ankle deep mud, crossed three waist-high creeks and several log crossings before being greeted by 250 people all lined up singing hymns to welcome us to that village.

Over the eighteen days we visited and shared in depth with all our mission workers, spent three days at Conference and I spoke at two of the seven meetings. But the

highlight was getting to know the members of the Conference Executive: Toni Waulik, Conference Chairman; John Kitimun, Vice Chairman, and Yabru Jerry, Pastor of the Madang church. They are all great men of faith with a forward looking vision. Please pray for them in their responsible task of leading the churches into the future.

The faith and spirituality of the people has made a lasting impression on my life. They have an enthusiasm and desire to know Christ and are actively reaching out to make him known. In their

worship they are no longer bound by how the missionaries showed them but express a real freedom in their worship of God. I was touched by the simple faith and lifestyle of Patigin, the man who cared for us, provided food and water and things we needed while at Tasibu.

There is a growing acceptance of the Conference Executive and church leaders for the responsibility for the work of the Conference of some 200 churches, and a great desire to keep the churches vital, alive and growing. It's a tremendous task. Within the area reaching from the Sepik River round to the Schrader Ranges and across to Madang, there are over 60 different languages. The medium of communication and evangelism is Tok Pisin (Talk Pidgin). Many new villages desiring to embrace the gospel must first be taught to speak and read Tok Pisin which takes two years. Then a pastor supported by Conference is sent to live with them and teach the gospel. When a suitable convert is found he is sent to Bible college for two years and comes back to his own village who supports him as their pastor. This task up to five years.

The major task before the PNG

Conference at the moment is the establishment of a new Bible College and Conference Centre at Gandep. This is between the Ramu and Keram Rivers, but closer to the Keram. Work has commenced and plans are for the College to open in February 1999. The Bible School at Momonup will reopen in February 1998 because of the delays in opening Gandep. The Bible College at Gandep will provide a higher standard for those training as pastors and for leaders among the women. Bill Buli returns to PNG from Vanuatu to take up the task as Principal.

And what has been the effect of this visit to PNG on my life? I have been challenged by the simplicity of their lifestyle, their down-to-earth faith and their gratitude for salvation. They know from what they have been saved. As Jesus taught, "He who is forgiven most, loves most."

I have a renewed love of the Scriptures, a greater awareness of the effectiveness of prayer, and a deep desire to promote "mission" in our local churches. I would appreciate the opportunity to speak to our churches in Victoria and Tasmania.

—Jack Edwards



### Help Make the News!

*"By including 'The Australian Christian' in your will, you can help make the news for years to come. A bequest will help ensure that your newspaper continues to provide news and information to our future readers."*

—Lindsay Mott, Treasurer

A bequest to The Australian Christian can be made through your solicitor or contact us for the appropriate wording.

## Leadership and Church Health

### US speaker for leadership seminars

Dr LeRoy Lawson, a prominent minister within the Christian Church in America, will visit Australia early next year for a series of special seminars on the themes of leadership and church health. Dr Lawson is in the unique position of being both a highly successful local church minister and the Principal of a large Theological College. Central Christian Church in Phoenix Arizona, where he is the Senior Minister, has Sunday attendances of 4000; while Pacific Christian College in southern California has one of the best reputations among our US colleges when it comes to training men and women for ministry.



*Dr LeRoy Lawson will be leading seminars in Australia in February 1998*

"How he holds down both roles is beyond me," comments Graham Agnew, who is arranging the visit in association with some of his Senior Ministry colleagues and Christian Projects. "I have met the man on several occasions and he is a human dynamo," Graham says. "I'm sure he will be received enthusiastically here in Australia and his proven ability to straddle the world of theological education and coal-face ministry is sure to provide a special blend of insights which

should have appeal for both ministers and lay leaders alike." The dates for Dr Lawson's seminars to be held in Churches of Christ locations are as follows: Saturday 7 February, Wollongong, NSW, Saturday 14 February, Marion, SA, Monday 16 February, Blackburn, Vic. Further details will be released in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, Graham is urging churches to mark the dates and plan to attend. The seminars should have special appeal to those ministers who have been involved in Leadership 2000.

## Striving for Excellence

### Joint anniversary celebration with church and school



*Balaklava High School's a cappella choir helped during the joint anniversary celebrations, singing a song and providing the benediction*

On the morning of Sunday 12 October 430 people assembled in the Balaklava Town Hall for an anniversary service with a difference.

Not only was the Church of Christ celebrating 120 years of witness, but the local high school was holding its seventy-fifth reunion weekend.

At the suggestion of the church elders, one of whom, Terry Howard, was a member of the school's planning committee, it was agreed that a combined thanksgiving service be held as a part of the weekend's program. There were a number of reasons for suggesting a joint celebration. When the Balaklava High School commenced in 1922 classes were held in what had been the Church of Christ chapel.

Second, the Secretary and Treasurer of the initial school council was the then Church of Christ minister, Pastor W. Ewers.

And third, when one reads the early history of both the church and the school, mention is made of the energy, dedication and vision of their respective early leaders.

"Excel today to challenge the future" is the school motto. With this in mind, together with Paul's exhortation to the Ephesians in 4:11-16, old scholar and minister of the Horsham Church of Christ, Steve Blacket, presented an inspiring message on "Striving for Excellence" in all aspects of life. Special features of the service included an opening trumpet voluntary by one of the high school music students, items by the school's a cappella choir and the school chaplain doing the Bible reading.

More than fifty of the local church congregation had support roles in what was an emotional and uplifting time of celebration and commemoration.

—Grant Spangenberg

### REQUIRED

## Christian Psychologist & Speech Therapist

to form part of a multidisciplinary team with Christian chiropractor and podiatrist in Pakenham, Vic.

Phone Practice Manager on (03) 5941 2055.



# 1997 Graduation

Churches of Christ Theological College

## & Ordination

National Council of Churches of Christ

"Celebration Services"

CAPTURE

A  
FRAME  
OF THE

FUTURE

Friday 28th November 1997, 7.30-9.30pm

Blackman Hall, Hawthorn Institute of Education  
442 Auburn Rd, Auburn Vic (Melway's Map 59E2)

Guest Speaker: *Graham Agnew,*  
Minister, Marion Church of Christ, SA

# LANGFORD CONSTRUCTIONS

**RBP**

Specialists in  
Restorations & Extensions



Reg. Building Pract. DB-UI2054

**(03)9888 6458**

12 Albert Street, Surrey Hills Vic 3127

or **0412 276 170**



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

Sunday

9.00 a.m. & 11.00 a.m.

Worship & Communion  
Services

7.00 p.m.

Gospel Celebration

Wednesday

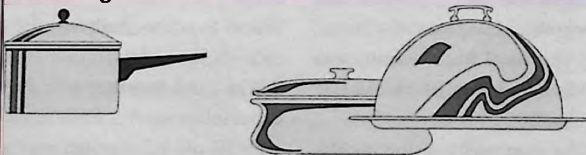
1.15-1.45 p.m.

Lunchtime Service

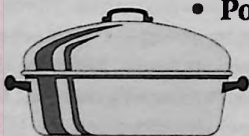
For further enquiries, please ring (03) 9663 3884

# Welfare Needs

Vic-Tas Community Care urgently needs the following items for our welfare services:



- Towels
- Linen
- Blankets
- Pillows
- Cutlery
- Pots and pans



If you can assist, call Stuart on 0419 378 426, or leave the goods at:

- 77 Capel St, West Melbourne
- 30 Grant St, Oakleigh
- 48 Parkhurst Dve, Knoxfield.

## Annual Meeting

### Christian Fellowship Association

Members are advised that the  
**62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting**

of the  
Christian Fellowship Association  
has been scheduled  
for

**Thursday 20 November 1997  
at 7.00 pm**

in the  
Board Room  
at

77 Capel St, West Melbourne

Your attendance is welcomed to receive the reports  
and deal with the general business of the  
Association.

We look forward to seeing you there.  
Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

Please register your attendance/apology with Kerryl  
by 18 November 1997 on (03) 9567 1177.

# Evangelism

## Church Planting—Why?

MILTON OLIVER

**W**hy do we want to plant churches? Do we carefully think that through before we start? Church planting, in its purest form, is hard, sacrificial work. It is born out of mission. Yet, tragically, three out of four church plants in Australia collapse within two years, and formerly passionate planters are discouraged and disillusioned. Why? \* One reason is because we have lost our sense of mission and forgotten what is

*Mission forms, hones and challenges the church to meet new needs and seize opportunities*

church. We're no longer passionate about mission and we often substitute program for church. We've forgotten how mission forms, hones and challenges the church to meet new needs and seize opportunities to extend the kingdom. Dr Jesse Bader once said, "The church exists by mission, as a fire exists by burning." No mission no church. Many of our churches are sick because they are not engaged in mission. Not really. \*

Church planting is about redemptive mission that forms entirely new communities of faith that then interface with the surrounding culture seeking to redeem it. It was never about establishing enclaves for believers who have moved to the urban fringes. Most Churches of Christ are barely growing, if at all, by conversion growth. Our autonomy is more sacrosanct than the mission of Christ. Many do their own thing and never grow—and state con-

ferences cannot hold them accountable for the resources they squander. \* New churches were spontaneously formed out of the mission enterprise of the apostles. Later, considered strategies were undertaken, but mission had primacy—and the church grew. It burned brightly. Mission gives rise to church. When church planters passionately carry within them something of the incarnational ministry of Christ and proclaim it in word and ministry, with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, new churches form and grow. Such is the power of the Gospel. The church plant grows if it is committed to the **biblical nature** of what is the church—as will any church. \*

The church is the Body of Christ. Growth occurs when believers are motivated, equipped and organised to do ministry in such a way that their interdependence, organic unity and spiritual gifts are used under the Lordship of Christ. It is interesting that very few Churches of Christ know anything about spiritual gifts and their proper use in ministry. They are unheard of in our colleges, yet are crucial in redemptive ministry. The church is also the Household of God. It grows when believers who were once "alien" to each other begin to relate in such a way that they extend the borders of the new community to embrace unbelievers, enfolding them lovingly into the faith. \* The church is God's Temple. It grows when we learn to celebrate in worship the transforming reality of the Spirit's indwelling presence. This must be done so as to communicate the reality of the living Christ to unbelievers. Such worship is an awesome experience for unbelievers. \*

The church is the Bride of Christ. It grows when the church advocates and



demonstrates moral transformation and functional change in a way that reflects the purity and purpose of Christ in the world. The ministry of change! \* In the past we haven't ignored what church is, but we've often failed to respect all that Christ intended it to be. These four motifs contain dynamics essential to mission. They must again become the dominant influences that shape church. They must be reflected in church-planting strategies or we will simply clone our mistakes, planting infertile new churches. \*

A strong church-planting movement is emerging in our Victorian churches. Planters, ruthlessly committed to mission, are advocating a radical rethink of how we do church. They are grappling daily with the challenges of reaching unchurched people with meagre resources. Yet, the bulk of our conversion growth comes from them. God is doing something! Their ideas about mission and evangelism are working and will influence and challenge our existing churches for the better. We can learn much from them about reaching our culture for Christ, and building churches that unbelievers will want to join. \*

Milton Oliver is Director of Church Planting for Vic-Tas Conference.

# Evangelism

## Pastoring in a New Church

SALLY LEWIN

**H**ave you ever said, "Lord I'll do anything and go anywhere in order to serve you." I'm sure you have! However if you're like me then you are very quick to add, "but I don't want to live there and I couldn't possibly do that!" \*

Those words are exactly what I said to God when my husband Brad and I explored the possibility of pastoring a church. \*

When I married Brad in 1994, he was already a trained pastor, but not in ministry at that time. I believed that God would lead Brad back into ministry but I wasn't so sure about being "The Pastor's Wife!" \*

*It's important to establish and encourage the core group*

Brad felt a leading towards the most northern suburbs of Perth, but I had grown up in the south. He felt excited about a new area with new houses and lots of sand, miles from anywhere. I love old houses, trees and wanted to be close to family, friends and work. I could see that God had some work to do in me! \*

In April 1997 Brad and I accepted the call to pastor North Coast Community Church on a part-time basis. The church meets in a local community hall and sees 50-60 people meeting each Sunday. So we moved to the most northern suburbs of Perth's metro area and rented a new house with no trees and a backyard that has weeds, limestone and lots of sand! \*

Along with this, Brad also works part-time on the team at Warwick Church

of Christ, which will finish in December. One of the difficulties in pastoring a young church is that they can often only afford to pay a pastor part-time. God has really blessed us in being able to work at Warwick during this year. While being involved in two churches has its difficulties, it has also been an encouraging and learning time for us both. \*

I have continued my job as a nurse in palliative care at a hospice. However, I made the decision to only work on a casual basis as I am wanting to spend more time with the church and found the 45-minute drive to work tiring. I am very grateful for my "secular" job and the skills I have learnt which are invaluable in ministry. \*

Pastoring a church that is only two years old is a demanding but very exciting challenge, and a new one for both of us. \*

I really enjoy living in a growing community and seeing the enthusiasm this brings to the church. It's important to establish and encourage the core group of Christians in the church so we then can reach the unchurched people in the area. \*

Visiting both Christians and non-Christians is a great way to do this. Brad and I like doing this together and believe it has been vital in building relationships with people. We are currently in the process of buying a BBQ as a tool for hospitality. \*

As the pastor's wife, I enjoy working with the pastor! We try and work together as a team in order to support each other and believe God has given us differing gifts so that we can complement each other in the ministry. \* One area I feel passionate about in ministry is in supporting and encouraging the women. \*



There are a lot of young families in the area struggling in many ways. Through Bible studies, coffee mornings, etc, I am praying that the Christian women can nurture each other and in turn touch the women who live around them. \*

*We are currently in the process of buying a BBQ as a tool for hospitality.*

Last Sunday Brad and I baptised a young mum, in the ocean, who has experienced this in her life. I have felt so privileged to be a part of this. \*

I am learning in ministry about living a balanced life. Pastoring a new church can be very tiring because there is so much that can be done; so many people who have needs. \*

My vision is for the long-term and I want to run the race with joy and energy knowing God's power at work within me to see him touch and change our community. \*

## Mission

## Education

Equipping  
Leaders

Discipling  
Believers

# Building the Future

Achieving  
Vision

Nurturing  
Communities

## Ministry

## Revitalisation



**L**eadership is vitally important for the present and future church. Since the start of the Conference restructure (May 1996), a highly committed and energetic team of leaders has formed to provide daily assistance to churches. In one month recently, 30 churches received on-site help. Some staff work full-time for Churches of Christ, others part-time. With the Board and other Conference agencies, they are engaged in a strategic planning process to ensure a strong and vigorous Church. Mission, leadership development, efficient use of resources, worship, spirituality and flexible structures are the main priorities.

I commend these leaders to you for prayer and financial support.

**BREAKING NEW GROUND**

# MISSION AND REVITALISATION

**Alan Hirsch**, Director of Mission and Revitalisation, leads a creative team which

- consults on-site with churches for planning
- leads retreats for church boards
- conducts a leadership development program
- enlists existing churches in the Refocusing Network to rediscover their purpose
- equips churches with ideas for outreach
- integrates new churches into our Conference
- initiates new mission and training models
- articulates different discipling models
- visits churches to preach
- supports the Asian Ministry Council, chaired by Chek Chia, which coordinates Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Indian and Indonesian churches and pioneered the appointment of an Asian restaurant mission worker



**Tim Corney** (Evangelism)

- experiments with new media to communicate the Gospel
- is the contact for the Alpha program
- developed the new Cafe Church model
- publishes on-line magazine *Shoot the Messenger*
- administers the Lausanne Emerging Leaders' Network



**Cheryl Johnson** (Singles)

- conducts seminars on divorce recovery
- offers counselling for singles
- arranges camps for singles and one-parent families
- resources interstate churches and other denominations in singles ministry
- is minister of the Williamstown Church of Christ
- in 1998 will provide seminars for children and youth in understanding grief and will train leaders in separation and divorce recovery ministry

**Ashley Barker** (Urban Neighbourhoods of Hope)

- ministers to minority and marginalised groups
- trains urban and cross-cultural missionary interns
- works with the Indigenous Ministry group
- will assist with organising the Gathering for Indigenous Australians
- developed the *Trainers for Transformation* program



**Milton Oliver** (Church Planting)

- coordinates church planters in a network
- trains new church planters
- pioneers strategic church plants
- is minister of the Sunbury Community Church of Christ



# EDUCATION

## Andrea Salmon (Kidsmin)

- trains children's leaders
- assists with implementing the Code of Practice for the protection of children
- works with the Kidsmin Committee to resource groups (boys, girls, Kidsclubs, Sunday Schools, playgroups); arrange camps; organise children's events; produce *News, Clues and Ideas* for leaders
- in 1998 will establish a parenting program



## Paul Fry (Camping) and the Camp Managers

- provide high-quality ministry to church, school and other camps (singles, families, youth, Kidsmin, retirees and adventure)
- maintain properties at Banksia (Gippsland), Waterman (Monbulk), Acacia (Halls Gap) and Seaview (Bicheno, Tasmania)
- in 1998 will oversee major upgrades of camp-sites to meet accreditation standards

## Tim Corney (Youth and Training)

- is assisted by Andy Brough (Youth Administrator)
- liaises with the Youth Vision Committee which arranges highly successful camps and events for young people
- in 1998 will conduct a Youth Ministry Course at CCTC Mulgrave to develop leaders for youth ministry



## Janet Woodlock (Women's Ministries)

- is contacting every church to promote women's ministries
- has a vision for outreach and discipleship
- in 1998 will set up a database of women's ministries; produce *Women in Action* bulletins; establish prayer support groups; develop a strategy for evangelism; organise spiritual retreats

# MINISTRY

## John Gilmore, Director of Ministry, commenced in May 1997 and

- visits churches to preach and consult on ministry appointments and reviews
- advises ministers on appointments and salaries
- works with church boards in resolving conflicts
- leads church seminars on planning and goal setting
- coordinates accreditation process
- combines this role with his position as Director of Field Education at CCTC Mulgrave

In 1998 he will

- organise a Ministers' Summit
- establish regional pastoral groups
- complete the Code of Ethics for ministers
- initiate crisis care for ministers
- conduct an induction camp for new ministers





**“The new missionary church of the West seeks those who will have the courage to light a new beacon, one which will illumine the age which is to come.”**

—Martin Robinson, *The Faith of the Unbeliever*

**Your gift will enable more churches to be mobilised and equipped for mission and ministry.**

Forward your gift to: Churches of Christ Centre, 77 Capel St, West Melbourne Vic 3003



**Church Offering Day  
Sunday 23 November 1997**

- We wish to support the mission and ministry of our churches by our gift.
- We wish to make a thanksgiving gift for the help we have received.
  - \$100    \$250    \$500   Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

**Here is my personal gift**

to support urban and rural mission and ministry in Victoria and Tasmania.

\$10    \$25    \$50    \$100   Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque/money order enclosed (Make payable to Conference of Churches of Christ)

Please charge my

Bankcard    Visa    Mastercard (minimum debit \$10)

Card Number

Expiry \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

# Evangelism

## Friendship Evangelism

CRAIG SPAULDING

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists and some to be pastors and teachers.” (Eph 4:11, NIV) \*

It is a great pity when the word of God is used as an excuse more than as an encouragement. The above verse is one of those that often leads in that direction. “Don’t ask me to evangelise, it’s not my spiritual gift!” I would be the first to agree that if we hold up the Billy Graham’s of this world as the model, I have never met an evangelist in our church. So the question is how can evangelism be done in the local church by the whole body? \*

*None of our efforts will amount to anything without prayer and the moving of God’s Spirit.*

First, I do believe there are people with the spiritual gift of evangelism, and that is great but we need to give all people the opportunity to be a part of reaching others with the good news of Jesus Christ. In our church we have chosen the friendship evangelism model to assist to this end. \*

People can invite friends to activities such as a young mums’ craft morning or an aerobic workout for all ages. Every six weeks or so we hold a friendship service. We all receive invitations to give to our friends. The church is committed to providing a worship experience that will not be embarrassing to us, or our friends. The other consideration is that this service cannot be

totally different to any other service, especially the one next week should they come back. We have considered carefully the call for the church to be authentic. Some times this has meant cutting back on the “special” content of a friendship service. These are usually evening services followed by Kingdom Cafe. Here our young people serve a variety of well-prepared, well-priced snacks and desserts. \*

Baptisms and child dedications also provide an opportunity to give out printed invitations. This, followed up with a special letter thanking them for sharing the special event with their friends, always makes a good impression. \*

According to the national church life survey, over 50% of our respondents had invited a friend to church in the last twelve months; 90% believed they should. \*

Through a series of community seminars, our church’s profile was dramatically lifted in our city. Toddler taming, ADD, grief, aged care, along with the annual SIDS memorial and Alzheimer carer services are some of those used. We try to use these occasions to show the community that they are special and important. We spend a lot of effort in producing a well-run seminar or service. These occasions are never used for quick-hit evangelism. \*

I would love to say that we had everything under control but that would be wishful thinking. We still have a lot more to do in the area of equipping people to be able to share the gospel; independently of the pastor, or a church service being the vehicle of communication. \*

With so much discussion about modernity and post-modernity and how we will communicate the gospel in the last



stages of this millennium and beyond, I believe that friendship evangelism must be the front runner of effective forms in being able to communicate the gospel. \*

By the time that this article goes to print, our church will have participated in a city-wide evangelism event called Impact World, run by the YWAM group. This has fitted our invitational style. At present we have a large banner in our chapel area displaying a cross surrounded by the names of over 2000 family and friends that we have been praying for, over the past six weeks. \*

Finally, I believe that the obvious must be stated. None of our efforts will amount to anything without prayer and the moving of God’s Spirit. \*

We are, as a church, seeking to lift the prayer temperature across the whole church; whether as individuals, in prayer triplets, small groups or corporately. I believe that God has already begun answering our worship and the cry of our hearts to see people brought into a love relationship with him. \*

Craig Spaulding is one of three lay pastors who staff the Launceston Church of Christ. All have been appointed from within the congregation.

# A top choice for Car Insurance



## **ANSVAR** I N S U R A N C E

Choice Magazine is known for accurate, unbiased information, so when it rates ANSVAR highly, people listen.

The most recent issue of Choice not only lists ANSVAR as one of the few companies it suggests Australians contact for motor insurance, it also rated ANSVAR's additional policy features so highly they topped the list in three States.

As well as a great motor policy, ANSVAR also offers excellent household insurance - and all with the backing of a strong, fast growing company with a real commitment to our community through drug and alcohol education programs for teenagers.

So if you're looking for insurance which rates highly, call today and find out why ANSVAR is the Australians' Choice.

### **VICTORIA**

(03) 9650 9711

### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

(02) 9683 4166

### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

(08) 8338 1900

### **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

(08) 9321 6291

### **QUEENSLAND**

(07) 3221 8449

### **TASMANIA**

1800 657 761

# Evangelism

## The Big Evangelistic Hook

GRAHAM JOHNSTON

**W**hen I began at Subiaco church as pastor, the expectation was high to grow the church evangelistically. "You're the expert fisherman. Now throw your big hook over the pulpit and start bringing them in," expressed the unspoken sentiment. Looking back, the church has experienced growth, but not the way people initially envisaged. \*

Why is it that some churches attract unchurched people to Christ? The an-

### *Why is it that some churches attract unchurched people to Christ?*

swers lies not exclusively in the person standing behind the pulpit, but in the people lining the pews embracing God's calling for their lives. This is called "body evangelism". What do congregations need to understand to reach people for Christ as we enter the twenty-first century? \*

First, surveys show that 85% of regular attenders rate themselves as "warm and friendly". The same surveys indicate that outsiders rate the churches at a lowly 15% as truly friendly. The message outsiders feel is, "If you become one of us, then you are okay." The first obstacle to body evangelism is that the uninitiated do not feel welcome. \*

Second, I recall a conversation with an unchurched man in his 30s. "Do you ever attend church?" "Not really," came the reply. "Do you ever wonder about spiritual matters?" "Well yes, who doesn't?" So I proceeded, "If you have questions about spiritual matters, don't you feel that the church could address

those issues?" He gave an intriguing response, "The church is for those who already believe, not for people like me." Unwittingly, we can be communicating that those who are not already committed to Christ need not apply. The unchurched person concludes, "They're not speaking to me." The second obstacle to body evangelism is that the uninitiated feel they don't belong. \*

Third, churches need to realise that bringing people to faith is more of a process than an event. In his book, *How to Reach Secular People*, George Hunter III addresses the difference between being "fishers of men and women" versus "keepers of the aquarium". The unchurched individual generally forms a relationship with Christians prior to a faith commitment. And, unchurched people require time coupled with authentic friendships to process the implications of faith in Christ. They need to understand a bigger picture of Christianity and see it being lived out. Fellowships must be structured to allow for the evangelistic process and not rely on one-off events; guest speakers, or non-relational approaches to evangelism such as mail drops or posters to reach people. The third obstacle to body evangelism is that the uninitiated require time; dialogue: and authentic friendships to come to commitment. \*

How can a congregation cultivate body evangelism? The people need to grasp the every member-ministry concept. Ministry is not left to the "experts" but is the role of the believer. The attenders need to engage newcomers as a part of their worship experience. (Eph 4:12) Worship services should reflect the appreciation for the unchurched mind. Learn to speak, not just to the "regulars", but to those whom you are hoping will attend. Guard against jargon. \*



For ministers, allow preaching to take on a dialogical form. Anticipate issues and doubts arising in your message and address them apologetically. Acknowledging a person's question goes a long way toward disarming doubt. It also tells the sceptical listener, "I know you are present." They feel that they've come to the right place. \*

Don't make assumptions about newcomers. I generally greet newcomers with a non-threatening question like, "Do you live in the area?" I don't want to communicate an expectation that they already profess Christ. We openly say, "This is a safe place to seek". \*

Newcomers must connect with people in relaxed ways, preferably those who share some common interest or background. Think strategically about how newcomers are enabled to establish friendships within the fellowship. \*

Finally, congregations that develop a sensitivity to unchurched people will find that regular attenders will develop confidence to invite friends along and newcomers will remain long enough to give consideration to the claims of Christ. \*

Graham Johnston previously served with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and on Leighton Ford's ministry team.

# Evangelism Tent Missions

DON SMITH

Churches of Christ entered the Twentieth Century with a spirit of optimism. The 1890s had seen the beginnings of Overseas Mission work and the establishment of a national journal, *The Australian Christian*. Soon to follow in 1907 was the new College of the Bible, Glen Iris, Vic, with a vision for ministry training. These reflected a passion for evangelism and advancing the ideas of the Movement. \*

Development of special evangelistic initiatives was an American influence highlighted in two Melbourne examples. In 1912 Charles Scoville, from the USA, led meetings in Wirth's Hippodrome, resulting in 1208 decisions. In 1923 Dr Jesse Kellems visited Australia and a similar event in Melbourne recorded 490 decisions. Australian names like H. G. Harward, Thomas Bagley, Thomas Hagger and Gilbert Chandler were appearing. Each man was a fine orator, passionate about the evangelistic task and a successful missionary. \*

But there was a name to emerge in the 1920s that was to eclipse all these. E.C. Hinrichsen came



*Men's Gathering Hinrichsen-Morris Mission, Rockhampton, Qld, 1930s*

from Queensland to the College of the Bible. While a student he showed promise in evangelism. Upon his graduation from College in 1920 he was called to be Victorian State Evangelist. The Victorian Conference Report of 1925 noted there had never been a year in our history when evangelistic activity was so marked. We recorded 1182 additions, with 515 directly due to missions conducted by E.C. Hinrichsen. His services were in constant demand. \*

Thus began a whole new era in evangelistic activity under E.C.'s leadership as he soon became known. Mostly meetings were conducted in a large tent, hence the name "tent missions". Later E.C. was to visit England and New Zealand with spectacular results. E.C. and song leader Vic Morris were in New Zealand for 18 months in 1931-32. Alan Morris, Vic's son, at seven years of age, recalls attending schools in each place where the mission was held. In 1935-36 the team was in England, with the family staying in Australia. Alan Morris comments that the two leaders could be heard within the tent and by those standing or seated outside. There was no amplification! \*

Bert Combridge, in *They Carried A Torch*, comments that the technique was developed rather

than a theory exploited. Bert says that he had ardent admirers as well as severe detractors. Most who tried found it difficult to assess the reasons for his unusual powers. Ideas ranged from hypnotic powers and salesmanship, to the conviction that he was called by God. \*

W.W. (Dick) Saunders, now in his 90s, recalls the success of the ministry in Western Australia. At Kalgoorlie in 1926, while E.C. Hinrichsen was still in his early twenties and on his honeymoon, there were over 300 decisions. Les Brooker was the song leader. The Kalgoorlie church grew from 69 to 325 in just six weeks. Dick was enthralled with the man, his messages and the results, and in 1927 entered the College of the Bible partly as a result of E.C.'s example. \*

Tent missions continued through the 1930s with success in all states. E.C.'s services were eagerly sought by Home Mission Committees. Stories abound of storm damage to the tent, repairs and hasty re-erection. Vandalism was another hazard. The Gympie mission of 1929 saw the tent set alight one night. Little damage was done as the site was opposite the fire station! With the coming of World War 2 the activity was curtailed. After the war results similar to those of earlier dec-

ades were never quite achieved. In his ministry of some 35 years there were 30,000 decisions. Some 50 new churches were started from the missions. \*

The writer recalls hearing E.C. Hinrichsen at the centenary of the Prahran, Vic, church in the early 1950s. By this time he must have been only a shadow of his former greatness, but his gifts in oratory and debating and passion for evangelism were still strong. He died in 1956. Debating and presentation skills were much valued in these earlier years. They were one part of his successful identification with the period. \*

These are events remembered today by only a few. We should not grieve their passing. We can affirm the positives, the focus upon evangelism and the church planting strategies. An appraisal of the last five decades reveals a multitude of approaches, which of course included the Billy Graham Crusades. No one method has brought the success of E. C. Hinrichsen. The decades have been far more complex and reflect some of the most revolutionary in the last hundred years. The tents have long since disappeared. E.C. Hinrichsen's outstanding contribution must be acknowledged. Today's challenge is to develop initiatives appropriate to our times. \*



*Vic Morris and E.C. Hinrichsen*

# An Englishman, An Irishman and a Chinaman ...

VINEY LONGTHORP

**H**ere are three first-class movies now in circulation. With one possible exception they could be described as "feel good" offerings. \*

The first of these certainly is. When the audience came away after viewing the *Last of the High Kings*, an usher remarked, "They always come out of this one smiling." And no wonder. This movie has gentle romance, a rich array of characters, some of them madly eccentric, a most engaging story and some hilarious scenes. \*

All this is what we would expect of a film that is the product of the burgeoning Irish film industry. \*

*He sets out on an hilariously disaster-prone search for independence*

So ... here is Frankie Griffin, just 17 years of age, and the year is 1977. It is a time when Dublin is rocked to the music of Thin Lizzy and the world of teenagers (and others) was stunned by the death of Elvis Presley. Frankie is plagued by his fiery anarchic mother who survives on Guinness, ciga-

rettes and her burning sense of Irish nationalism. She is convinced that her children are the direct descendants of the High Kings of Ireland. \*

Thus Frankie has to constantly escape from his rampaging mum as well as being caught between acne and adulthood. He is broke and obsessed by rock music and dreams of Californian beach girls. He sets out on an hilariously disaster-prone search for independence—after all, when school ends, life begins. Then to add to Frankie's woes, he is convinced that he will fail his end of year exams, thus putting his dreams of the future on the scrap-heap. \*

Some of the vignettes in the film are both full of charm and a certain Gaelic menace. Thus the scene where the volatile mother has an altercation with her Protestant neighbour is more than a hint of the political tragedy which is modern Ireland. She says: "Get back to where you came from and leave us Irish in peace." To which he replies: "I'm not British, I'm Irish, I was born here. This is my home." \*

Then when Frankie shows disturbing interest in a couple of "Prottie" girls, mum asks dad to talk to him about "the facts of life". Dad, an itinerant actor can only quote from Hamlet: "This above all, to thine own self be true." This may be good advice,

but it is not quite what Frankie wants to hear. And one of the richest ingredients in the film is the Irish speech itself; whence comes the subtlety, richness and volatility of Hiberno-English, as John Banville calls it. \*

To all young people who are waiting for exam results or falling in love (or both) I'd say, don't miss this one. "It may revive distempered spirits." \*

The English offering is *Brassed Off*. One hears many people commend it. It is set in the closing years of Mrs Thatcher's administration, where the Grimthorpe colliery in Yorkshire is facing imminent closure. The miners are asked to vote whether to take a golden handshake or accept the alternative. What makes the choice so cruel a dilemma is that many miners belong to the colliery brass band which is of national standing. \*

The setting is Hetty Wainthrop territory, of gritty north country humour, accents, and characters. This is the quintessence of Britain's dying industrial heartland where not even Hetty's "little grey cells" can avert that decline which is made in London. \*

Music lovers especially will feel good about this film. There is a glorious rendition of the "Trumpet Concerto" by Roderigo; some lovely snatches of Elgar; a moving rendition of "Danny Boy". Then, in the Albert Hall we hear the prize-winning rendition of Rossini's inspired gallop—the "William Tell Overture", no less! \*

A rare combination of the Yorkshire religion—"baptised stoicism" as Dean Inge called it (himself a Yorkshireman) and the sonority of booming brass,



will send you away feeling, "We shall overcome." \*

*Foreign Moon* is a Chinese-English film, written and produced by Zhang Zeming, the first of his productions to be made outside China. \*

It is a warm and sensitive portrayal about three Chinese immigrants from different generations who have to come to terms with the harsh realities of life in the west. \*

The whole story takes place in modern London. There is the optimistic and energetic Deng Lin, a Chinese boxer who has thoroughly taken to the liberal "Western" life-style and is determined to buy a foreign passport. But the newly arrived Lan Lan, suffers cultural confusion and shares the naive dreams of millions of young people in China—to leave and live in the west. Then the older and traditional Su Tong, a former Red Guard, finds it difficult to reconcile his socialist beliefs to the materialism around him. \*

This is a bitter-sweet film. All the characters struggle with their new life. All have to accept imperfect compromises. \*

But one feels that somehow they will survive in that antheap, which is the capitalist west, with its post-industrial, post-modern, post-just about everything else. And so one hopes will we all. \*

## Gardiner Church of Christ

Our next

## Hymn Singing Hour

will be held on Sunday 9 November at Malvern Road, cnr Scott Grove, Glen Iris, Vic.

**Come and enjoy singing your favourite hymns.**

**All welcome.**



# God's Code or No Code At All?

JOHN OLLEY

**D**rosnin's *Bible Code* has proved to be a best-seller since it was published in June. Its claim, building upon earlier Jewish work, is that there is a code in the Bible now revealed through the use of computers. Some have seen it as evidence of divine authorship, although

words may be read backwards. The result on a grid (whose size depends on the words "found") is akin to common word puzzles in appearance. The earlier Jewish work claimed to find words (in Hebrew) such as "Torah", "God", and the names and dates of 66 significant rabbis. Drosnin finds many other people and events (musicians, writers, and assassinations). \*

Much is being written, and on the Web several sites have sprung up—reviews appear there quicker than in printed journals! \*

Some points need to be

made: scripts. His method requires a standard text, with no variation in spelling. He ignores the existence in old manuscripts of common differences in spelling (consonantal text), akin to differences in English between "favour" and "favor", but that itself renders his method invalid: one chooses the manuscript that gives the answers looked for! \*

- In the same interview he said, "I don't think the code makes predictions. I think it reveals probabilities ... You can only find what you know how to look for—you must have some idea what you are looking for." That is important! It seems to be a case of "seek, and you shall find", especially with possibilities opened up by computer scanning. At the same time, his book appeals to people who like "predictions" of the future with specific dates, despite Jesus' own teaching. (E.g. Matt 24:36; Acts 1:7.) \*
- The meanings Drosnin gives to Hebrew words confuse ancient and modern meanings. \*
- A "code" which can only be deciphered using a computer, and knowing the names you are looking for, sits strangely with a view of God who communicates clearly to peoples of all ages and cultures. \*

There have been many critics. Drosnin himself said in *Newsweek*, "When my critics find a message about the assassination of a prime minister encrypted in *Moby Dick*, I'll believe them." (*Newsweek*, 9 June 1997). Brendan McKay at ANU used the method on *Moby Dick* and has already found details for Indira Ghandi, Rabin,

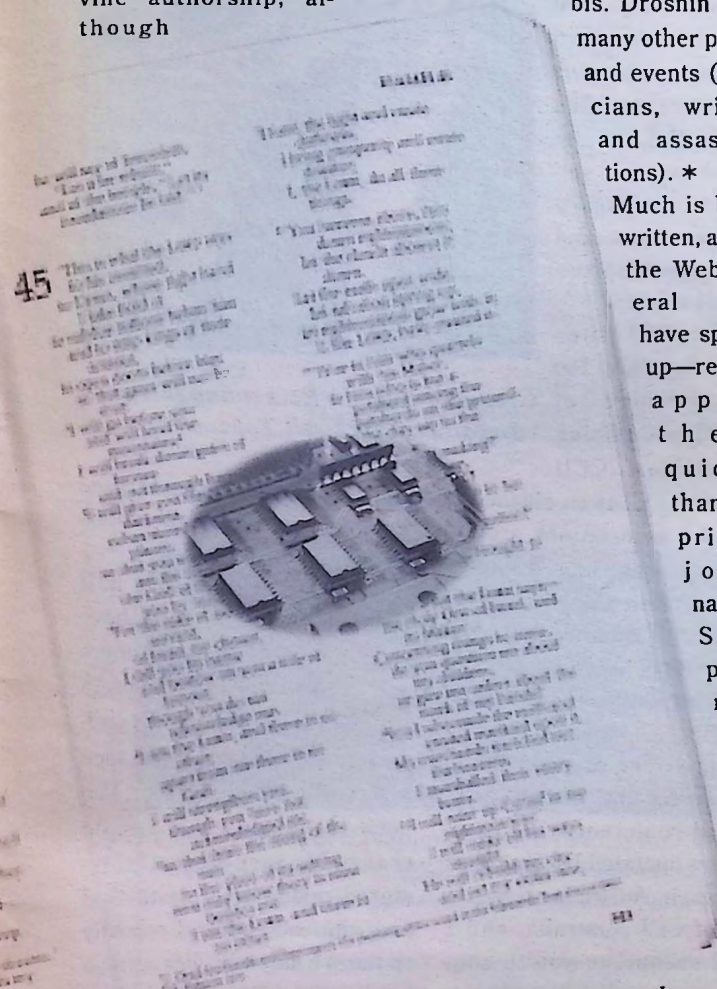
Leon Trotsky, Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and even Princess Diana! He went on to comment:

*No laws of probability are violated here, or even stretched a little. That is also true of Drosnin's book, which is the whole point of this page. Once you learn Drosnin's rules (none) and the method (a bit of messy programming) you can find things like this anywhere. The reason it looks amazing is that the number of possible things to look for, and the number of places to look, is much greater than you imagine. \**

*It seems to be a case of "seek, and you shall find"*

Sadly, some people are led astray by such searches and pseudo-answers rather than believe the truth that is clearly revealed (without requiring a computer and special software). Even among Christians there is often an attraction, especially when a method seems to confirm divine inspiration (but what, when that method also works with *Moby Dick*?). Or is the attraction the predictions of future events? The words of Paul to Timothy about people who "devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies" would seem relevant. They divert people from "God's work, which is by faith". (1 Tim 1:4) \*

**Dr John Olley is Senior Lecturer in Old Testament Studies at Murdoch University, Principal of the Baptist Theological College of WA and was previously involved in research in nuclear physics.**



Drosnin himself does not believe in God and sees the work of an extra-terrestrial intelligence 3,000 years ago. \*

The code uses a method called Equidistant Letter Sequences, in which letters are read an "equal distance" apart, which may mean one letter separating each significant letter, two letters, three ... One name "found" uses 4772 letters apart! Some

- In an interview on CNN News Chat 4 June 1997 Drosnin said, "There is no doubt that all Hebrew language Torahs that now exist are the same letter for letter." This is not true. It can only be said in general of Torah scrolls used in Synagogues since the middle ages. It does not apply to other early manuscripts, nor to Qumran material, nor indeed to all medieval manu-

# A Time for Restoration

GREG REES

**T**he modern world in which we live is full of pressures and problems. Yesterday a friend who had just come home from a camp for primary-aged kids told me of the issues that today's children have to deal with. Scary stuff!

On a recent trip into the inner suburbs of Sydney I was surprised to see the number of homes with steel bars fitted to windows, and solid steel doors fitted to new units being built. I observed these things from the playground of a primary school. In fact the school itself looked more like a gaol than a place of learning. As governments con-

time was somehow similar to what we face today. There were rich and poor. A family needed income for food, clothing, education and housing. Income tax was as much an issue then as it is today. Get the picture?

As we study the life of Jesus, and strive to be more like him, there is much to learn. As Jesus travelled from town to town he preached, healed and ministered to many people. But there is another dimension to Jesus' ministry. In Luke 5 we read how Jesus "healed many as the news about him spread". Then in verse 16 we read "But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed".

Jesus knew the value of retreating from the pressures of life. He needed time on his own to rest, to pray, and on other occasions to spend time with his mates, the disciples. We need to spend time with God every day. Both Jesus' example and our daily walk with God make that abundantly clear. But have you ever thought about the options we have today for retreating, not only to spend time alone with God, but time with our families and church families?

Within Churches of Christ there are nine camp and conference centres across Australia. There are another 200 centres Australia wide that are either owned or affiliated with a Christian denomination or organisation. The range of facilities vary from fully catered en-suite accommodation, down to single bedroom cottages (or shacks, depending

on where you live). Some sites offer fully supervised activities for the duration of your stay, some will offer an activity to supplement your program, while others will offer the use of their facilities so you can run your own program. Locations range from suburban residential, to secluded outback settings, to beautiful island locations, and every possible variation in between.

Of the 210 sites across Australia, 160 are members of Christian Camping International (CCI)

Australia. CCI is an alliance of camping associations around the world that includes Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Korea, Latin America, New Zealand, Philippines, Russia, Southern Africa, United Kingdom and the USA. CCI exists to support and encourage one another in the ministry of Christian camping and conferences. Most of the sites operated by Churches of Christ in Australia are members of CCI Australia, and I would encourage you to con-

sider using CCI affiliated sites for your next retreat or conference.

During my eight and a half years at Stanwell Tops, I have seen thousands of men, women and children drawn closer to God. I've seen hundreds of children and teenagers come face to face with a living Saviour. I've seen hundreds of people changed forever because of restored relationships with God and with each other. I recently spoke to a lady who was arranging her mother's funeral. I expressed sympathy for her loss, but she wasn't sad. She explained that a few weeks earlier at her church camp God had restored the relationship between her and her mother. Their weekend together was special, with memories to treasure forever.

God has used, and continues to use retreats and camps to restore relationships and to touch people's lives. Do you need restoring?



Greg and Sharon Rees manage our Christian campsite at Stanwell Tops, NSW

*We continue to be swept along life's freeway blindly paying the toll and ignoring the exits.*

tinue the push to attract people into our cities, as society increases spending on gambling, alcohol and drugs, as we continue to strive for ownership of "the great Aussie dream", we continue to be swept along life's freeway blindly paying the toll and ignoring the exits as we rush by.

As I read the New Testament I get the feeling that life in Jesus'

Sydney  
Adelaide  
Local  
Country

**BEAR'S** 

- Free quotes
- Packing
- Insurance
- Storage

7 Swift Way,  
Dandenong Vic 3175


**Moving and Storage Pty Ltd.**  
Member of the VRTA

**Twice weekly to Qld (03) 9706 5616**

**L. C. F. Higgins**

7 The Parade  
Norwood SA 5067  
Phone (08) 8362 1665

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



**Chartered Accountant**

# Experience Life!

Imagine tastefully designed rooms surrounded by native Australian bushland, teeming with wildlife. When you look at the horizon you can see a glorious coastline with the beach less than five minutes' drive away.

On site you have a full range of recreational facilities and an abundance of space.

It's not a resort, but could be the destination for your next conference.

Only 56 km south of Sydney, set on 38 beautiful hectares, Stanwell Tops is one of Australia's premier destinations for Christian groups, schools and community organisations.

For over 25 years we have been hosting all manner of retreats, camps and conferences.

For value accommodation and a unique setting you simply can't beat the Stanwell Tops experience.

The recreational facilities at Stanwell Tops are extensive. Outdoors you can play most popular sports—tennis, volleyball, baseball, rugby, netball, soccer, cricket, swings and things for kids, basketball and swimming at the on-site pools or at Stanwell Park beach.

Inside are table tennis tables, board games, ample space for playing cards or even indoor cricket. There are also televisions and VCRs available for those who want to take it easy.

The conference facilities can be adapted to your needs. Whatever size group you are we have a package to suit your conference.

For very large meetings there is an auditorium with eleven hundred person capacity. Groups of smaller sizes are able to meet in a number of other facilities on the grounds.

Each facility is equipped with a television and VCR, overhead projector and whiteboard.

What's more, we know you will find our rates very reasonable.



- Accommodation for over 500 people
- Auditorium seating 1100 people
- Children's playgrounds
- Bushwalks with magnificent lookouts
- Tennis and basketball courts
- Sports oval
- Small group retreat accommodation available
- Close to Royal National Park
- Hang-gliding and public golf courses nearby



Freecall 1800 816 496  
 Fax (02) 4294 1432  
 PO Box 55  
 Helensburgh NSW 2508  
 E-mail <stccc@ideal.net.au>

A ministry of Churches of Christ in NSW.



EQUIPMENT FAILURE HOME AND CONTENTS FIRE AND PERILS

GLASS BREAKAGE DESTRUCTION CAUSING LOSS OF OFFERINGS

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY WORKERS COMPENSATION DIRECTOR'S AND OFFICER'S LIABILITY

## CHURCHES OF CHRIST PROVIDENT FUND—NO. 1 FUND

announces the appointment  
of

Rupert Taylor Insurance Consultant Pty. Ltd.

as

Insurance Consultant Coordinator

The purpose of this appointment is to raise funds by way of "commissions" on insurance transactions. All policies will be underwritten by **QBE Insurance Limited**, a wholly owned Australian underwriter, where the premiums and profits remain in Australia. **QBE** has branches in every capital city and many major country towns where a fast claims service is provided.

All churches, conference committees and facilities, together with church members are invited to seek quotations when you receive your next current renewal notice. Simply telephone Rupert Taylor on the toll-free number, i.e.

**1800 023 270**

Rupert Taylor has been acting as insurance advisor to the Churches of Christ in NSW for over forty-five years and has been instrumental in raising well over \$1,000,000 in commissions that have gone into the Lord's work.

Your insurance transactions can be of assistance to the Churches of Christ Provident Fund—No. 1 Fund. Accordingly we invite all ministers, church and conference officers as well as church members *who are not committed to other worthy causes* to seek professional advice on their insurance transactions from Rupert Taylor. By doing so you may save on premiums, you will keep your insurance premiums in Australia and you will assist the work of the Churches of Christ Provident Fund—No. 1 Fund.

Jim Ashley  
Secretary

Nicole McGing  
Office Manager

PUBLIC LIABILITY PRODUCTS LIABILITY VOLUNTARY WORKERS COVER BURGLARY MONEY LOSS

# Classifieds

## DEATHS

**RANDALL, Ruby** Loved wife of Ern (Dec), dearly loved mother of Lorraine & husband Keith, and cherished Mama to Meredith, Warren and wife Sharon. Passed away peacefully, aged 92. Forever with the Lord.

## IN MEMORIAM

**FAULKNER, Gweneth Lucy OAM** 3 November 1995. Loving wife of Lawrence (dec) and Edwin, mother and mother in law of Barbara, Olwyn, Peter, John, Penny, Linda, Mal, Judy and Dean. Mutie to Joshua, David, Kate, Elizabeth, Adam, Daniel, James Sarah, Emily, Zachery and Rachel. Actively involved in the Ainslie Church of Christ and CWF Federal President 1974-1975. Sadly missed by all.

## 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.

**BELAIR** Overlooking the Adelaide lights. Uniting Church owned self-contained units for hire. Phone Nunyara (08) 8278 1673.

**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) 8365 1153 or (08) 8540 5250 or write 7 Gameau Rd, Paradise 5075.

**SUNSHINE COAST, CALOUNDRA, QUEENSLAND** Two bedroom holiday unit for rent. Ground floor, lockup garage, pool, short walk to shops and beaches. Phone Trevor or Gayle on (08) 8339 2198.

**VICTOR HARBOR AND PORT ELLIOT SOUTH AUSTRALIA** Uniting Church 2 and 3 bedroom self-contained units available for hire. Phone (08) 8552 1657.

# Pastoral Care You Want to be a Chaplain

GLEN WEGNER

In recent years there has been a strong interest in chaplaincy and pastoral care. Twenty five years ago, when I was in college, interest was modest and a small range of subjects were available in this field. But this has changed and at present one may say that pastoral care is "The flavour of the month". \*

Pastoral care courses are now very popular, attracting large



*One may say that pastoral care is "The flavour of the month".*

numbers of students. While pastoral care has always been an expression of the church's ministry, it's mainly since about 1960 that this discipline has been researched and appropriate ministry skills identified and developed for the task. \*

A decade or so ago, it was difficult to find suitably skilled people to fill chaplaincy positions. There was even a view in some quarters that if a person could not make a success of pastoral ministry in a church, then there might be a place for such a person in chaplaincy. This has changed. Today chaplains are expected to have advanced personal and professional skills, along with post-graduate training. \*

On rare occasions when a vacancy occurs in chaplaincy, many applicants seek to fill it. \*

I frequently receive inquiries from people interested in em-

ployment as chaplains. I advise that few opportunities are available for full-time employment, some opportunities for part-employment arise, while there is an abundance of opportunity for well-qualified volunteers. \*

I can understand why many are interested in this field of ministry. It is personally rewarding. It provides opportunity to engage at depth with people and to be a part of the healing process. \*

There are times when it calls one to journey with another through the shadows and to be available to help with support during a crisis. \*

It invites one to be as Christ to another, to laugh with those who are happy and cry with those who are sad. \*

It calls us to be fully present when someone is at the cutting edge of life, and draws us to work on our theological development and integration. \*

Because of the nature of life, I'm sure there will always be much work for pastoral carers. Unfortunately, resources to support full-time paid chaplaincy are limited, and likely to remain so while the present climate of economic rationalism prevails. \*

For all your car requirements see Ken Geyer

# Ken Geyer

SELECT USED CARS

LMCT 6549

## Ringwood Auto Gas

Accredited LP gas conversions  
Ring for an obligation-free quotation

## Ken Geyer Automotive

for reliable service or repairs  
on your vehicle

Phone (03) 9879 4004

47 Bond Street, Ringwood 3134

## CHANGES

**ARANA HILLS, Qld**—Minister Jim and Ann Deutschmann, 34 Kesteven Street, Albany Creek Qld 4035.

**LIVERPOOL COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CHRIST, NSW**—Secretary Elaine Olsen, 30 Murray St, Merrylands NSW 2160. Phone (02) 9635 6860.

## BAPTISMS

•Tanya Greenshields, Balaklava, SA  
•Dawn Holley, David Treddinick, Mary Walker, Rebecca Powell, Joanne Leddy, Frankston, Vic

## MARRIAGES

•Marion Spencer and Reg Coldman, Monique Jacques and Allen Roberts, Mile End, SA •Kim Sheather and Owen Howlett, Castlemaine, Vic •Robyn Desailly and Kevin Muller, Horsham, Vic

## DEATHS

•Cliff Heath, Carnarvon, WA •Kath Blair, Caloundra, Qld •Anna Garfield, Frankston, Vic

## QLD

**CALOUNDRA (Rick Joseph)** Attendances increased by 66% since July 1994, to 112 ... Evening contemporary service has attracted musical group & young folk ... Allan Bird

(elder) and Ray Gallas (secretary) joined Board ... Three youth groups cater for 115 children weekly ... Men's & women's ministries well supported ... Church disappointed to receive resignation of minister effective December ... Board seeking replacement to continue excellent progress experienced with Rick & Carol Joseph.

## SA

**MILE END (Barry Benz)** CWF Devonshire Afternoon Tea for senior citizens well attended ... Fortnightly fellowship group has commenced at Harry & Doreen Dunnings ... Weekly training class continues to provide training in Bible study, prayer, evangelism, public ministry & living skills ... "Double Headed Project" begun to provide funds to enlarge hall & contribute to the needs of others throughout the world.

**VICTOR HARBOR (Graeme Rogerson)** Rowland Croucher led a weekend seminar on "How to Grow a Happy Church". Participants included members of other churches in the district. All were challenged to rethink their roles ... Sunday School celebrated anniversary with a puppet musical "Antshillvania". Children & teachers did a great job ... Eddy & Maureen Milne celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary recently.

**BALAKLAVA (G. Spangenberg)** Steve Blackett guest speaker at 120th anniversary held in Town Hall 12 October

in conjunction with 75th anniversary of Balaklava High School ... SWAP (sold with a purpose) Shop, operating Wednesday & Thursday each week, provides finances for outreach & people with a problem can find support ... Tent at the Balaklava Show, supported by five local churches, was the venue for providing light refreshments & free scriptural handout material.

## TAS

**HOWRAH (Louis Clun)** Church in good heart & enjoying ministry & fellowship ... Leadership team selected to work with Louis: Ron Akhurst, Philip Biro, Graeme Geard, Dirk Petrusma ... Baby Rebecca Clun dedicated at service 6 July ... Dinner hosted by young people 9 August ... Three small groups, Children's Church & Girls' Brigade functioning effectively ... Some members sick & others have undergone surgery... Howrah continues Living Link missionaries Mike & Ruth Folland, Vanuatu ... Two new subscribers to "AC".

**DEVONPORT (Peter Willis)** Many prayer sessions & planning meetings held to promote forthcoming Bill Newman Rally ... Natalie Smith, recently returned from working with World Vision in Sierra Leone, will be sharing experiences at special evening service ... Children from Kids for Christ program along with adults have begun work on musical to celebrate Christmas ... Building options task force winding up their 12 months research into solving space problems.

## WA

**ALBANY (John Spencer)** John & Heather Spencer enjoyed 3 weeks holiday at Peaceful Bay ... Speakers in John's absence were K. Ewers-Verge, V. Sprigg & J. Abraham ... Robert Handasyde retired from being elder & Ken Ewers-Verge elected as elder ... Charles Bayer, visiting lecturer from USA at CCTC, Mulgrave, visited Albany 25-29 Sep-

tember & shared in tea & led a study with church leaders.

**CARNARVON (Gavin Law Davis)** Ladies welcomed the CWCI safari team, leader Joy Ingham & speaker, Dianne Williams, sharing with all churches ... Visit of Rod & Nerida Holmes much appreciated. Family tea held at Ken & Trish Moore's home ... Ladies' ministry commenced under leadership of Shirley Birch ... Latest resident in Olive Laird flats is Violet Lewin (nee Foley) the first child taken in care at Carnarvon mission by David & Doris Hammer.

## VIC

**SWAN HILL** Recent speakers were John Gilmore (CCTC, Mulgrave), Gordon Owers, Colin & Lew Mitchell & Bruce Cockroft ... Church has reverted to one morning service at 9.30 am, followed by fellowship & a cuppa ... Board members dedicated during morning service on 5 October ... Heather & Doug Chislett (ex Robinvale) welcomed into fellowship ... Exterior of chapel & hall complex repainted.

**CASTLEMAINE (Ross Bourdon)** AGM held ... G. Runell & M. Best re-elected as deacons ... 70% of fellowship involved in small groups ... Stage 2 of redevelopment getting closer to commencement ... Reg Kuhle stood down after 28 years service as deacon & elder ... Several banners made to enhance walls of worship centre ... Lindsay Dewberry recent guest speaker.

**FRANKSTON (Tom Ede, Jason Potter)** Geoff Bullock coming Saturday 8 November at 7.00 pm ... Gavin Brown from Celebrate Messiah spoke about work with Jewish people ... New constitution approved ... Lea Morrissey & Raquel Embling transfer in from Manila ... Monthly PSA held at Greenways ... Diane Casey shows water colour paintings to Drop In ... Garfields thank church for prayer & concern after sad loss of daughter Anna.

### Strack Removals

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

**David Strack**  
(Proprietor)

Office and Store  
45 McIntosh Street  
Airport West 3042  
Telephone (03) 9370 3737  
(03) 9330 2211  
Fax (03) 9330 3039  
AH (054) 27 0472

"Service since 1907"

### David Johnson

### CARPET CHOICE

167 Main Road  
Blackwood SA 5051

Phone (08) 8370 3899

All carpets, vinyls,  
tiles, remnants,  
timber flooring  
and cork.

Free quotes  
all suburbs and hills.

# Exploring the Day A Bit of Peace!

JANET THOMPSON

I stopped at the bottom of the steps and looked for my car key. As I stood there I became aware that I was surrounded by stillness and near-silence. \*

This is most unusual. I live within earshot of two main roads and the new freeway which has been under construction for several years. \*

All day the air is filled with noise—trucks changing gear as they climb the hill, the loud beeping as they reverse and unload, the rumble of road-rollers and the constant drone of the traffic. \*

I scarcely notice emergency vehicles, squealing brakes, or the odd backfire. But for some reason nothing was moving and I was startled by the quietness. \*

It couldn't last, so I took a deep breath and relaxed into the moment, determined to savour every second. I didn't even think very much; I just let myself feel the stillness—soaking up every bit of it! \*

It lasted longer than I had expected, and I had an appointment, so I got moving. When I am in a hurry, interruptions annoy me, but this pause was a bonus. I didn't feel as though I had lost any time, because it had been so refreshing. It was a gift in a busy day. \*

Most Australians live in cities and suburbs, but the images we use for relaxation are drawn from the country or the seaside. This can make it difficult to think of stillness in noisy places. \*

Sustained quiet is hard to create without the benefit of sound-proofing, ear plugs, or a



padding cell! I read the Psalms that speak of peace and think how lovely it would be to have my soul restored beside still waters. \*

To be fair, I have had more than my share of tranquil times in idyllic settings. Mountain tops, secluded streams, endless stretches of beach, sunsets that would delight a photographer ... I've been there and gloried in it! \*

But this moment in my front yard was equal to any of them. \*

Tranquillity is an inner thing, and it has little to do with places. \*

It depends on being prepared to grasp the passing moment and explore the gift that is within it. \*

It's not new—and it is always reassuring. \*

## The Last Word

Christ, grant that in me  
others may see  
Your glory,  
Your grace,  
Your goodness,  
Your presence,  
For without you, I am  
nothing.

—David Adam

*Doctors bury their mistakes,  
lawyers hang theirs and journal-  
ists put theirs on the front page.*

*Clerk (to Boss): Please could I  
have next Wednesday off?*

*Boss: It's very inconvenient now  
we're getting busy again. What  
do you want it for?*

*Clerk: It's like this, my fiancée  
and I want to get married on  
that day and I would like to be  
there.*

*"And on this tour, ladies and  
gentlemen," explained the guide,  
"We shall be going where the  
hand of man has never set foot."*

*"How should I have played that  
last shot?", the bad golfer asked  
his partner.*

*"Under an assumed name."*

## Pontius' Puddle



*Much as pastor Irving  
appreciated having his  
sermons taken seriously,  
he feared parishoner Bob  
hadn't fully grasped the  
admonition to become a  
fisher of men.*

## Introduce Your Friends to an Australian Christian

**Christian**  
NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHRISTIANITY IN AUSTRALIA

We would be happy to send them three issues on a trial basis. Simply fill in their details below (with their permission) and send this form to, The Australian Christian, PO Box 101, North Essendon Vic 3041.

Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

