1987

The Australian Church Record 1987

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National goals and direction inc.

A grant of $50,000 has been made to National Goals and Direction Inc. by the Australian Pentecostal Council. The grant was made at a Reception and Press Conference in Sydney on Wednesday 27th November.

We are very pleased to be part of National Goals and Direction Inc. which demonstrates the Biblical Home of Living Together said Mr. Harry Gregory, Chairman of the Council, making the presentation. We want 1989 to be a national wake-up call for every individual and community group to see how they can best contribute to making Australia a better place in which to live.

"As the Bicentennial year approaches Australians must define goals and

David J. Du Plessis

Fellowship (now World Pentecostal
early summer of 1986.
ended a battle with cancer waged since
ordained at 23, and for two decades
Plessis (du-PLESS-ee), known as "Mr.
Press Conference in Sydney on
Wednesday 25th February.
Australian Bicentennial Authority and

Rev. Robert Maxwell has been appointed
the chair of the parish at Flagstaff/Netanya.
Rev. Robert Grant, became assistant in
the Parish of Daroona in December last.
Mr. Ken Williams was made deacon to
St. John's Church, New Town in February to
an Honorary Deacon in the Parish of St.
Johns, New Town, where he has been a
for many years and has been the
Rev. Alex Adamina was ordained on November 20th.

The faith of a president

Corazon Aquino. C.

There can be no doubt that Corazon Aquino — a devout Roman Catholic — is the
leader of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is plainly evident in the personal statement he made in God which he
as a National Prayer Breakfast held in the
Grand Hyatt in the completion of the
Complex of the Philippine Plaza Hotel, Manila, on
December 15th.

Invitations to this function had been sent to distinguished Filipinos by the
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Dr.<br>
Cardinal Jaime Sin, and the Governor of the Nation was President Corazon Aquino.
The function was to be held at the
President's residence.
The present were all the president's
officials, cabinet ministers, dignitaries,
and a number of other friends who
gave us all the kind of dignity and prestige that belongs to them. It is evident that God
is a right place in personal lives and the
affairs of the Nation.

.functions for the

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Rev. Robert Barnes
Rev. Paul Arnott
Rev. Cyril Dall
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Opposition grows to NSW Govt’s Education Bill

Christian schools threatened

The new Education and Public Instruction Bill 1987 sets out to control and standardise and discipline in non-Government Christian schools. The NSW Parliament cannot take any action that is contrary to the provisions of the non-Government schooling sector and prevent its expansion.

The Bill requires school authorities to submit reports on the work of the school to the Minister for Public Instruction. The reports are to be made public. The Bill also makes provision for the appointment of a Commissioner to investigate complaints against teachers and other school staff.

The Bill comes as a response to the growing number of complaints against teachers and other school staff. The Bill is seen as a way to ensure that the standards of education in non-Government schools are maintained.

Michael and Margaret Hore

Numbulwar

This was a big step backward after many years of progress. They were not able to hear the good news of the Kingdom of God and to be counted among the faithful children of God. They were not able to understand that the Kingdom of God was not just for those who had the right words, but for those who had the right attitude. They were not able to understand that the Kingdom of God was not just for those who had the right ideas, but for those who had the right actions. They were not able to understand that the Kingdom of God was not just for those who had the right words, but for those who had the right heart. They were not able to understand that the Kingdom of God was not just for those who had the right ideas, but for those who had the right actions.

Michael and Margaret Hore
Science and Religion

Soviet atheism Disappears American scientists and Soviet people are now free to discuss religion and religious matters without fear of retribution. This openness is seen as a significant step towards greater understanding and cooperation between the two countries.

Humanity needs God Cambridge underline debate

The Cambridge Undergraduate Union debate on 'The Warfare of Science and Religion' and 'The Claims of Science and Religion: the conflict or the compromise?' was a significant event in the ongoing debate on these issues. The debate was held at the annual conference of the Cambridge Union Society, where a panel of leading scholars and scientists discussed the relationship between science and religion.

'Blessed' now are they!

The term 'blessed' now refers to those who have received the gift of faith and are living in accordance with their beliefs. This term is used metaphorically to describe people who are living a life of service and love, following the example of Jesus Christ. The use of this term highlights the importance of spiritual growth and the need for individuals to pursue a path of personal development.

American red light bhappening

The term 'American red light bhappening' refers to the phenomenon of religious influence in the political arena. This term is used to describe the situation where religious leaders and organizations are exerting considerable influence on political decisions and policies. The term highlights the need for greater accountability and transparency in the political process.

Bible not popular in Sweden

Two thirds of the population never read it

A recent study conducted in Sweden found that only one third of the population regularly reads the Bible. This is a significant drop from previous years, and highlights the need for greater emphasis on religious education and literacy in the country.

WORLD REVIEW

40th Anniversary of IFES

World student link

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES). IFES is a global network of young people who are dedicated to spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. The organization has grown significantly over the past 40 years, and today has chapters in more than 150 countries around the world.

South African church uneasy

Concern over 'two political parties' policy' is leading to tension within the South African church. The policy has been seen as a threat to the independence of the church and its ability to make decisions without political interference. This has led to a growing sense of unease among church leaders and members.

English laity vote on type of Bishop

The English laity will be voting on the type of Bishop they would like to see in the Church of England. The vote is a significant step towards greater participation in the decision-making process of the church. The vote will take place on November 11th, with results to be announced later in the year.

Church growth theology

The term 'Church growth theology' refers to the use of quantitative methods and statistical analysis in the study of church growth. This approach has been criticized for its lack of qualitative understanding and its focus on numerical data. The term highlights the need for greater emphasis on the spiritual aspects of church growth.

GROWTH IN MINISTRY

Church Growth

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**International Counselling Conference**

Melbourne University venue for global gathering

Professor Karen Krause will fly into Melbourne from opposite corners of the globe in mid-August to speak at the 5th International Congress on Pastoral Care and Counselling later this year. The conference will be held at Melbourne University from August 20-26.

Professor Krause, who founded several years ago, is one of the foremost Christian thinkers on pastoral care and counselling today.

Australians attending the conference will include the theme speakers on pastoral care and counselling issues.

Australian Association for the Counselling and Pastoral Care is based on the University of Melbourne.

The Counsellor Training camp will be held at the Moonah Chalet for candidates on the shores of Port Hacking.

Camp Howard will be running camps from 10th-26th April.

If you're interested in obtaining further information about the conference, send your name and address to the conference office at 1 Cross, St., Toowong, Qld. 4066.

**Bible College of Queensland's record enrolment**

40th year of service

Another record number of students has enrolled in courses at Bible College of Queensland in 1987 which is the 40th year of its existence.

Prof. Ken Newton, Principal of Bible College of Queensland, said, "We would particularly invite those past and present members of the College who have not been in touch with us for many years to be reminded of the College's special efforts in the last few years to rekindle the spirit of our most important decisions. Where should we begin to rekindle the fire of our spiritual life?"

When we consider the lessons of the past, one of the key factors is spiritual vision: an expansive view of God, and his eternal purposes. From Bible times to the present, this was shared by all who made an impact on society. In any age, when men and women are troubled by depression or neglect, there is the need to motivate them to belong to the passing world. Then the impossible does not present itself as an impassable barrier (Psalm 89:25-36).

Now, as in the past, the great temptation for the people of God is to take refuge in traditions, organisation, and history, rather than in the creative and life-giving forces of community and personal faith and practice.

Ideas and actions that have been shaped by the very spirit of the past are great motivating forces. But, if we are not careful to adapt these to the present needs, they will become barriers to the life-giving forces of the present. We must be prepared to face the future with courage and faith (Psalm 90:17-19).

**NUNGALUNGA COLLEGE, DARWIN**

Applications are invited for the position of PRINCIPAL

Nungaloo College\n
Applications are welcome for the position of Principal, Nungaloo College, from all qualified persons, trained for leadership in a comprehensive educational institution.

Nungaloo College is a non-denominational, non-profit educational institution whose aims are to provide for the educational, spiritual, religious, and social needs of the student body, and to be a model of Christian practice for the whole community.

The college is under the direction of the Church of England in Australia and is supported by the Church of England in England.

Nungaloo College has full recognition from the Australian government and is accredited by the Council for Quality Education.

The college is situated in Darwin, the capital of the Northern Territory, and is close to the sea and the city centre.

The college is a co-educational institution with a student population of approximately 1500.

The college is committed to providing an education that is both academic and spiritual, and to preparing students for life in the community and in the workforce.

The college has a strong commitment to the development of its students, and offers a wide range of courses and activities.

The college is well-equipped with modern facilities, and has a strong commitment to using technology to enhance the learning experience.

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Wilderness program lives again

YACS withdraws objections

The NSW Department of Youth and Community Services has withdrawn the application for a "wilderness" program to the Sydney City Mission Wilderness Programme. The decision was announced after months of discussion with Departmental Officers and the General Secretary of the NSW Department of Youth Services. Mr. Agnolo, who was also present to support the program, said that this decision was made in line with the policy of the NSW Department of Youth Services, which stresses the importance of outdoor activities in the development of young people. The program, which was to take place in the wilderness areas of the state, was not allowed to proceed due to concerns about its potential risks and the need for proper supervision. However, the decision to withdraw objections was seen as a positive move towards a more inclusive approach to youth services in the state. This positive move may provide a chance for the future outside the institutional framework of the system.

Leeanor Davidson
Leanne Davidson for World Evangelisation (YACS) member Fred Maghanah, in a visit to the Philippines, has shared his insights on how God at work in the Philippines and the rest of Asia.

It was my privilege as a young pastor to attend the first world congress on evangelism (YACS) and be present in the Philippines. The congress was a wonderful event that brought together people from different parts of the world to share their experiences and learn from each other. As an Asian young leader, I was able to experience the power of God's love and the importance of sharing it with others. I believe that the congress has been a significant moment for the growth of the church in Asia and the rest of the world.

We are also thankful in the Philippines because we are beginning to see a significant increase in the number of churches and members. This has been a result of our efforts to reach out to the unreached people groups and to offer them a message of hope. We are proud to say that we have more than 400 churches in the Philippines and we are working hard to increase this number. We are excited about the future of the church in Asia and the rest of the world.

Korea is unique and some of you know what the secret is

State and to the rest of the Western World. It's practically a non-issue. The only portion of the world that has not really experienced a major movement in the last 20 years is Asia, which is the most populous region of the world.

I believe that we are beginning to experience a revival of God in Asia. Because that circle will have to be completed before the Lord Jesus returns to take His Church. It is exciting to see how the church is growing and how we can pray for our brothers and sisters in Asia and the rest of the world.

by Fred Maghanah
The Twelve Minor Prophets

John Calvin, J. Vo, Banner of Truth Trust.

The Old Testament has not been well served by modern commentaries. Far too often those that were produced were either too simple to be of much use to the serious Bible student, too detailed to be of use to the busy Bible student or too liberal for the student who actually believes that the Bible is God's word.

The Banner of Truth Trust continues its reprinting of Calvin's Commentaries with these volumes on the Minor Prophets. They are:

Volume 1 — Hosea
Volume 2 — Joel, Amos and Obadiah
Volume 3 — Jonah and Micah
Volume 4 — Habakkuk, Zephaniah and Haggai
Volume 5 — Zephaniah and Malachi.

These Commentaries are important historical documents. Written in Latin originally, they show something of the scholarship of the Reformation. One does not expect to find modern critical analysis discussed but it is surprising just how much scholarship is included. The Hebrew text was used and is referred to often with words and word meanings carefully explained. It is interesting to see just how much the modern church owes to the scholarship of the Reformation era.

The translation used is that of John Owen made between 1646 and 1649. Anyone who knows anything of that great man's life and ministry will wonder that he could ever have found the time to translate more than 200 pages of Latin text. Yet he did and he did it well. Owen was a good communicator that his translation has survived more than 300 years to still appear fresh and readable today. There are some difficulties, of course, but these are surprisingly small in number.

But these commentaries are more than just historical documents. They are fine examples of how a great theologian approached the text of the Bible. They are fine examples of how the serious Bible student, too detailed to be of use to the busy Bible student or too liberal for the student who actually believes that the Bible is God's word, can be found.

The Banner of Truth Trust are to be commended for these reprints.

D. Kirkaldy

Thinking About Faith: A Beginner's Guide

David Prior

David Prior has created a stimulating book to encourage thinking about one's own faith. He aims at standing on page 10 in these words, "To clear the ground and to equip people for evangelism and ministry. Cook seeks to achieve that aim by helping "students, thinking Christians, anyone interested in Christianity and philosophy to begin to face up to the philosophical questions which "challenge faith in Christ." (p. 9/10). He does not pretend to give all the answers to this or to any beginning — some ways of thinking through the challenges and responding to them.

There are fourteen chapters in the book with the longest chapter about 23 pages in length so that each topic is handled with a minimum of padding. In these the book seeks to deal with issues such as:

• Can faith be proved? (What is faith? Real faith or claimed faith?)
• So you think you've got problems? (a discussion of evil and suffering)
• Has the Bible been corrupted? (can't leave this one out)
• Do people need God to be good? (a study of morality)

The book provides a number of helpful features for the reader. At the end of each chapter Cook lists the key words discussed in that chapter and gives a reading list which is generally well selected rather than overwhelming. A "Who's who?" list of people fills out the names encountered in the book.

Well then, will this be a number 1 seller? I doubt it but it's worth reading if you wish to do some hard thinking about your faith. The last line of the book sums up Cook's concern when he writes, "So think, for God's sake!" (p. 202). This is a very welcome plea when so often people want quick and easy solutions.

I am thankful that some cobwebs in my own thinking were cleared away by this book. Yet there are some criticisms which rate a mention. (Sorry, Mr. Cook but you did clear the cobwebs before starting this book with no real philosophical background then the last chapter (Philosophy — the big question, I point out) would have been more of help as the beginning chapter. This would enable someone to have a framework or context to start their thinking within. Cook's opening lines seemed somewhat stark to encourage continued reading: "Any distinction between faith and reason depends on the distinction between known and unknown." The chapter I found the least satisfying was "Religion: a good mystery?" Cook attempts to discuss the issue of mysticism/mystery in religion but offers only a limited philosophical critique in comparison with other chapters. For example, he deals heavily on the work of R. Otto as found in the book, The Idea of the Holy but he does not give any real critique of Otto's concerns. But the more significant omission was the absence of any adequate discussion of the relationship between revelation and mysticism. The states on p. 201 that he is using philosophy as a "means of reflection on theology itself on theology's own terms." It would appear that this aspect has been forgotten in the chapter on mysticism.

Cook acknowledges that he leaves many questions unanswered yet it was a little frustrating reading a chapter with no clear insights as to how I might answer the issues raised. Overall the book does begin to open up the area of philosophy and Christianity and is worth a read.

Gary Nelson

Living by Faith: Abraham

David Prior (Hodder & Stoughton 1986)

David Prior has written a very readable book dealing with a most important subject: living by faith. We are reminded throughout the Letter of Romans that "justification by faith alone" (cf 1:16, 17; 3:21-26; 4:6-25; 5:18). But what does it mean to live in this way? How does it work out in the daily grind of life? Overall then it is a book which offers valuable and relevant lessons for us today.

As well as these positive statements about the bottom line to guidance hinged on a verse from the Letter of Paul (The father of all who believe), Romans 3:21-26; 4:16ff; 5:1ff). But what does it mean to grow in faith not by insisting on the grace of God (p. 21-2) but by being pointed away from our circumstances or our own feelings to trust in the grace of God? Prior has sought to take the example of Abraham ("The father of all who believe", Romans 4) as the model for the message of faith. He wants to show how the examples of Abraham and Sarah are valuable and relevant lessons for us today: "Abraham provides a rounded portrait of someone driven to disobedience by faith in God, but also riddled with doubt, driven to disobedience by fear — 'a servant is not a master — fear — like you and me'" (p. 10). The author presents Abraham as an ordinary person not a detached saint.

The book is divided up into 12 chapters which reflect his desire to highlight the relevance of Abraham for believers today. Some of these are:

• A beginning: a friendship
• Learning from failure
• Dealing with doubt
• Change our priorities

One theme that Prior has tried hard through the experiences of Abraham to emphasise that living by faith is not something where "everything works out smoothly, without any hitches or complications", (p. 37). It is certainly an attempt aimed at dealing realistically with what it means to be a Christian. These themes of the book are some helpful reminders of the life of faith. These include the following:

• Who's in faith, and we help others to go on faith not by insisting on the importance of faith, but by dwelling on what God has already done for them (p. 21).

Looking at their faith — is friendship with the Lord God seen? And is the gift of God, . . . (p. 23)

— is a matter of knowing God, knowing God's gift of God, (p. 39)

— is naturally bound up with a rich understanding of God's eternal purpose (p. 141)

As well as these positive statements about what faith is, David Prior has provided some warnings of what faith is not:

• Living faith by faith not by gaining worry about not having enough of it, but by being pointed away from myself to Jesus, the 'author of faith' (cf p. 21-2)

• Living by faith does not give us now all that God has promised. We do need to be open to the questions which circumstances or our own feelings to make our endeavours run smoothly and hence invalidate our living by faith (cf p. 37)

• Living by faith cannot grow strong and sure if I am not writing God's promises into the very foundation of my daily life. Prior warns that we have produced a generation of Christians who are not learning the promises of God and thus missing out on their privileges. (p. 38)

• Living by faith needs to be exercised when we are well off as when we had relatively little, otherwise this is certainly a challenge for us who live in such a "well off" country!

Well, after all this one would expect an unserved 'up by this book' but there are some shortcomings. Firstly, Prior has not interpreted Abraham sufficiently in the light of the whole of Scripture. This leads the author on a number of occasions to make much of little in the text (cf. p. 73 and p. 113).

Secondly, his own experience often becomes the filter through which Abraham is viewed and this becomes less helpful to us. In his chapter which deals with great expectations and disappointment, Prior's confused picture results from this methodological failure. He speaks of the bottom line to guidance being friendship with God rather than the specifics of life. He even uses the term "faith" in place of specific verses, yet his own example of guidance hinged on a verse from the Old Testament. Finally, he has sought to set up God's dealing with Abraham in the now as a way which really bypasses the fact that we have the Old Testament.

Overall then it is a book which offers encouragement and help in living by faith today. But it is not a book to have as the "pattern" for interpreting the Causal material on Abraham.

Gary Nelson

Oral Roberts’ 8 million dollars

Bookmaker gives favourable odds

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (EP) — A Las Vegas sports bookmaker says the odds are 11-10 in favour of evangelist Oral Roberts raising $15 million in 1988 when it was needed to extend his life and ministry, and has

The Australian Church Record, 12/03/87

The scholarship fund is needed to help extend life and ministry, and has

asked state gaming officials for permission to accept bets on Roberts' fundraising effort.

George Meier, owner of Little Caesars Sports Book placed the bet Feb. 20, but said no money would be wagered unless gambling officials consented. Bert Jacka, who heads the state's Gaming Control Board, said, "I think it's fair to assume ... that an answer would be no."

Roberts has already received pledges for about $7 million of the $8 million needed for a scholarship fund for students at Oral Roberts University planning to serve as medical missionaries. In January Roberts announced the Oral Roberts City of Faith — Health — Care Center — which includes a 200-bed hospital,客房, and medical research centre — has not lived up to expectations, and the facility has been a continuing drain on his medical resources.

The announcement of this "ultimatum" that God told him the medical research centre would produce a miraculous cure for cancer if his followers raised $240 each to the effort, but no cure has been forthcoming. (p.22)
Anglican welfare agency appoints new communication team

The Anglican Home Mission Society (HMS), one of Australia's largest welfare agencies, has a new Director of Communications. The appointment went to Mr. Graeme Cole, a former journalist with The Australian.

Mr. Cole has replaced Mr. Steven Butcher, who retired at the end of last year.

The new Director has had wide experience in the media. He began his training on a major suburban newspaper Sydney's south after completing a Bachelor of Arts honours degree in Government at Sydney University.

While working on the paper Cole covered local and state politics and gained a reputation for tackling social and environmental issues.

Mr. Cole rose to the position of acting editor before moving to the Special Features section of The Australian, where he was employed as a reporter and sub-editor.

He later moved to the general news section of the paper as a reporter, specialising in industrial relations and employer groups.

Mr. Cole has freelanced on Sydney radio and is NSW editorial associate for On Being, a national Christian magazine.

He is an active member of St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Cronulla, a southern Sydney beachside suburb, and has been involved in youth work in the area for eight years.

He has a keen interest in new mission, Australian church history, and social issues. He sparred time with friends, surfing, watching rugby league or films, reading or writing.

Last year he completed a Post Graduate diploma in Communication at the NSW Institute of Technology.

Mr. Glenn Williams, a former cadre journalist with The Daily Telegraph, has been appointed as Director to the Society's Communications Department.

Mr. Graeme Cole, who takes over from Miss Heather Wright, was a feature writer on The Daily Telegraph, specialising in entertainment.

During his time at The Daily Telegraph, Mr. Williams was also an editor of The Daily Telegraph's supplements section and real estate pages and has worked as a sub-editor for the Daily Mirror.

Mr. Williams is an active member of St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Hornsby, on Sydney's northern beaches.

His interests include surfing, athletics, and long-continued collecting and photography.
New schools work opening up in Indonesia

Donation enables project to begin

Scripture Union in Indonesia has been asked to take over some existing schools and to start a network of new schools in Jakarta and in other large towns of Java and Sumatra. Once the projects are in full swing, the Union will build more schools in areas such as Yogyakarta, West Java and Central Java. The Union will also help the government to develop its education program and to set up a scholarship scheme for students who want to study in the region.

The project will be carried out in cooperation with the government and local partners. It is expected to benefit 50,000 children in the first year and 100,000 in the second year.

"We are delighted that we can support this important work," said the Rev. Dr. Arief, the Union's Asia Area Director. "Scripture Union has a long history of working in Indonesia and we are proud to continue this legacy.

Eleven churches in Jakarta are already involved in the project, and for the first year the work will be supported by a donation of $100,000.

Soviet states erect their own death camps

Seven religious prisoners released

Late last year numerous religious congregations in the Soviet Union were suppressed by the authorities, including the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Baptists and the Pentecostals. The HYDRODESIGN project was closed down, and the Russian Bible Society was banned.

The project had been working in the Soviet Union for 14 years, and it is believed that the authorities have arrested around 100 members of the project and have imprisoned them.

"We are deeply concerned about the situation of these religious individuals," said Dr. Peterman, the project's director. "They have been arrested and imprisoned for their faith, and we call on the international community to support them.

The project has received support from governments and international organizations, and it is hoped that this support will help to ensure the release of the prisoners.

UK Bible society leader visits Australia

Church growth consultant

When the Rev. Dr. Roy Peterman came to Australia in February, he had a daunting task: to help the Bible Society and the Churches of Christ in Australia to grow.

Dr. Peterman, a former Australian, was appointed to this role in the United States and has been working in the Australian Churches for the past year.

At the invitation of the Bible Society and the Churches of Christ, Dr. Peterman conducted a series of seminars in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

"Our staff is enthusiastic about the potential for growth," said Dr. Peterman. "We have a great team of people working together to achieve this goal.

Dr. Peterman said that the Bible Society and the Churches of Christ have a unique opportunity to reach out to new people and to make a difference in their lives.

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Top English tourist visits Australia

JOCEY HUGGETT, the best-selling English author is making a four-week visit to Australia during March and April.

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