

# PASS IT ON

***training  
courses  
and one day  
conferences  
on eleven  
methods of  
evangelism***



# NEIGHBOURHOOD VISITATION

Brian Johnson

This booklet has been prepared by the staff of the Anglican Information Office for the Synod-appointed Billy Graham Crusade Preparation Committee. Costs of printing and wide distribution through all parishes in the Diocese of Sydney have been borne by the Standing Committee of the Diocese as a contribution towards evangelism.

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"If they go with an experienced visitor, they soon get confidence to speak about Christ." Brian Johnson, rector of St Paul's, Wentworthville, was speaking about the 20 lay people who had engaged in door-to-door visitation evangelism.

Within the parish there are two kinds of visitation going on — one modelled on the "Evangelism Explosion" method of the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in the United States. One layman trained in the St Ives training course late 1976, has trained two others, and they in turn will train some more. (See page 6 for an outline of the home visitation evangelism based on the Coral Ridge pattern.)

It is the door to door visitation which is distinctive in the parish of Wentworthville. Brian Johnson says: "I've been wanting some lay people here to visit for some time but it only became possible when we engaged the Rev. Bert Bovis (formerly rector of Harris Park) for three months early this year to do some visiting for us.

Often when he went out, he took people with him and this engendered a lot of enthusiasm. I would not say the results were anything fantastic, but it has been a very worthwhile work. We are still experimenting with the best time to go, but visiting first with an experienced person gave us the words to say and the method to use.

"The visitors always identify themselves as coming from the local Church of England, and as wanting to be available to talk with people about the Christian Faith."

They take with them a range of tracts and Bible selections to leave behind, but as circumstances vary so much at the front door, they "play it by ear, and let each experience help the next one."

In the four months the visitation programme has been going on in Wentworthville, there have been several really good opportunities of discussing the Christian Faith. The system also feeds contacts into the Kennedy style of visitation by appointment, so it keeps opening the field for evangelism.

This topic of neighbourhood visitation will be pursued in training courses at West Wollongong, Gladesville and Penrith. See page 14 for details and page 16 for enrolment form.

## PERSONAL EVANGELISM AND APOLOGETICS

Margaret Lamb

Margaret Lamb, Editor of "In Touch" the Wollongong regional paper, is convinced of the importance of getting into the hands of non-Christians some *written* basic material designed to stimulate interest and provoke further inquiry.

It is therefore an exciting prospect that to this end, a special tract along these lines is being compiled by a lecturer from the University of N.S.W.

The emphasis is on simplicity, attractiveness, and an easy to read style. This is to be a leaflet that could be used as a starting point for instance for the coming Billy Graham Crusade. The sort of thing that could be handed out to friends and neighbours and distributed in many other ways through churches, youth groups, etc. as something in the hand that is easily understood.

### Reaching out to Women

The mother of four girls ranging in age from 14 to 20 years, Margaret Lamb is a little concerned that in the current battle for women to be equal with men, "Women may have been sold out in some of the important areas by this line of thinking" she says. "I am, of course strongly opposed to a woman being a 'door-mat' but at the same time feel that from the home there is so much to do in establishing and developing relationships."

She would print this tract as an insert in "In Touch", seeing it as an opportunity to reach women readers with the indisputable fact that we are each one important in God's sight no matter what the daily pattern of our lives.

"In Touch" is an Anglican publication distributed throughout the 41 churches in the Sutherland/Milton and Tablelands areas with a circulation of 2,000.

Margaret Lamb sees also a grasp of Apologetics as essential for every Christian seeking to pass on their faith. One must know 'why' one believes and be able to give an answer to anyone who asks.

A course on Personal Evangelism and Apologetics will be run at Windsor from October 15. See page 14 for details and page 16 for enrolment form.

## EVANGELISTIC WRITING

Heather Wearne



Mrs Heather Wearne, a mother of two children and trained nurse, has only recently had dropped into her lap the task of editing the parish paper for St Michael's pro-Cathedral, Wollongong. Her task: revamp the parish paper to more effectively evangelise the people of Wollongong.

After she got over the shock, she responded with enthusiasm, calling together a team of talented parishioners with bold and imaginative ideas.

What does Mrs Wearne hope to achieve with the parish paper?

"I hope we can reach the ordinary person in the street and show them there really is a better life if they allow Jesus to take personal control of their lives. We want to show them that Jesus is a friend and He can meet their problems and help them overcome them. We want to tell them they are not alone.

"But we want to present the Christian message in a style they understand which relates to life; displaying that the Christian life is a happy, joyful life — even if they do then reject it.

"Our objective is to speak to them in their own language, at their own levels of understanding, dealing with their problems, showing that the Bible is relevant and up-to-date.

"The parish paper needs to be entertaining, without church-launquage, presented in a free and relaxed way.

"It should give solutions to problems, be a guide to living. It should show we really care for them as persons.

"The audience we are aiming for is that great fringe of people outside the church; that wide band of people between the hardened pagans and the committed Christians."

Heather seems to have come face to face with her destiny — writing for Christ, which at one stage seemed an impossibility.

Stricken with severe arthritis she was brought to her knees physically and in prayer as a result of her affliction. It seemed the remainder of her life would be lived out in a wheelchair.

However, by determination, and a natural diet she licked arthritis and now is as active as runner.

## HOME VISIT EVANGELISM

Michael Bennett

The particular programme which Michael Bennett has introduced into his parish of St Mark's, Yagoona, is an adaptation of the "Kennedy" style Home Visitation Evangelism (used at Coral Ridge Church, U.S.A.), modified to suit the Australian culture.

There are four teams who go out visiting every Thursday night. The visit will on occasions last up to three hours. People are more inclined to ask questions in the security of their own homes — they feel less threatened. The teams meet for half an hour before they set out, to have a time of prayer and discussion on the objects of the visits and a briefing on methods of approach.

Those involved in the programme are trained over a period of three to four months. While in training a "trainee" goes out with a "trainer". The visit is prearranged by telephone so that co-operation and entry to the home is assured. This is quite a different approach to door-to-door visitation.

"Although one sometimes has to talk about the TV — competing with Starsky and Hutch, for instance, it is still very worthwhile" says Michael Bennett. "Often the first visit or two may be just getting to know the folk. The Gospel is not presented unless it is felt that the time is right."

If interest is shown or questions asked, literature and tapes are offered to these people and they are invited to join one of the Home Bible Study groups that are running parallel but at different levels.

The groups concentrated on and proving to be the most fruitful are: people who attend church regularly and irregular worshippers who are not well known, baptismal enquirers, Parents of Sunday School children; GFS: Boys' Brigade; and confirmees and Parents of children in scripture classes in schools.

Michael Bennett likes to think of this Home Visit Evangelism as a low-key, long-range programme that will develop into ongoing Christian maturity for some of the people visited. During the two years it has been in operation ten people have been converted, some of whom had been attending church services for as long as fifteen years.

## SMALL NURTURE GROUPS

Tom Wallace



The Rev. Tom Wallace, Director of Education for the Diocese of Sydney, believes that small nurture groups provide a helpful context in which people can learn and grow towards Christian maturity and as such are especially helpful to new Christians or even non-Christians, who are searching for a real faith to live by.

One of the most vital aspects of nurture groups is to have well-trained mature leaders who can guide a group along a planned programme of study, yet who are flexible enough to allow the group to follow up some important point which is of interest, even if it is off the beaten track.

The small group in a congregation facilitates learning and growing as Christians, but to be effective it must encourage an atmosphere of trust, acceptance and mutual caring. For a person to really learn — the climate is essential.

### Environment vital

The environment in which small groups meet is very important. Some groups meet in homes. In other parishes where it is not the normal custom to meet in homes, groups meet on church property. If that is the case, it is very important that the Church provides a small room conducive to easy, informal discussion.

For the sake of stability and trust the same people should continue together for at least a ten-week period.

A successful leader will have a personal concern for people and a realisation of the basic objectives of the Nurture Group. He/she needs to be a "caring catalyst". A good grasp of the Bible is essential to the leader.

It is also helpful if the Nurture Group is "plugged" into the general programme of the Church, so that which is learned in the group is complimentary to that which is learned in Sunday Services and other Church groups.

"One of the greatest needs we have is for Christian people to come to grips with the meaning and application the Bible has for everyday life. These Nurture Groups," says Tom Wallace, "are a most important way of reaching this objective."

## CHURCH-CENTRED EVANGELISM

Brian Richardson



"I am still committed — even if it's against the trend — to the parish congregation and the church service as vehicles for evangelism. I have never been embarrassed about indrag."

Brian Richardson is Rector of St Matthew's, Manly. Guest services are an occasional feature there, and he has recently re-instituted Youth Services after a break of over two years.

The way it works is that he chooses an appropriate occasion such as a Carol Service for a special evangelistic outreach.

A group of willing parishioners take printed invitations ("St Matthew's is warm in winter, the service is easy to follow") on a saturation visitation of part of the parish. It's too large to do it all every time. The invitation also has a Bible verse or idea which links with the planned theme of the service (Home and Family, or Easter).

The result is an enlarged congregation, with, at the end of the service, an appeal "in the restrained Anglican style" for enquiries to stay behind after the service to hear more. When John Chapman preached at such a Guest Service last year at the end of two weeks in the parish, thirty people stayed back to hear more about following Christ.

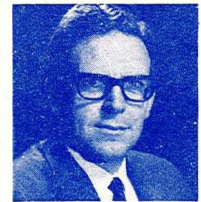
"I'm still against regular guest services. If you ask the congregation too often they get embarrassed when they run out of friends to invite," explains Mr Richardson. "But if it's four times a year or so, they will normally respond."

He is quite sure other parishes are doing a lot more, and he is looking to the schools of Evangelism to see what's happening.

This topic of Church-centred Evangelism will be pursued in a one-day conference at Sutherland and Drummoyne. See page 15 for details and page 16 for enrolment form.

## LETTER BOX DROP

Donald Howard



The Rev. Donald Howard, Rector of St Peter's East Burwood, maintains that one avenue for evangelism that is often overlooked is the letter box.

"Not everything that goes into it is read," he says, "but a high proportion must be. Think of how much mail you get and the percentage of it that you read. Business houses spend large sums on advertising via the letter box because they know that it produces good results."

"Direct mail is out of the question for most congregations, but the post office will distribute unstamped mail at a reasonable rate. It is prepared to drop a letter at every house, every second house or on one side of the street, but not to specific numbers."

Don Howard says that the cheapest approach is to recruit a few volunteers from the congregation and drop a leaflet in every box. Leaflets ought to be professionally produced. "The days of cheaply-duplicated sheets from a battered machine in the vestry are over. Better to do the job properly or not at all," he says.

If the aim is to invite people to a meeting, the letter drop needs to be part of a co-ordinated campaign using advertising in the local press and posters in the shops. Otherwise it has little likelihood of success.

Whether distribution of a "gospel message" is to be used must depend a lot on one's local knowledge of the people — their religious background and ethnic group in particular. When dealing with those who speak another language, there is no doubt that they generally read what is in their native tongue.

Another possibility, being tried by one parish currently, is to contact people of known background with a letter. This is personally addressed and mailed — in other words, the approach will be one of "selection", not "saturation". The letter advises the householder of the need for the Christian message in the critical times in which we live. Those who visit after will be expected, and will have a definite aim in view: presenting an outline of what it is to be a Christian.

## MINISTRY AMONG TURKS

Erol Ozer

Pyjamas belonging to a baby girl were missing from a clothes line. The baby, for no medical reason that could be discovered, fell dangerously ill. The diagnosis: black magic.

The location: Haiti? Brazil? The Belgian Congo? No, it is suburban Sydney in 1977.

This is one extreme of the kind of problem facing Erol Ozer, the Anglican Church's welfare worker in Sydney among Turkish migrants.

Since October 1975, Erol has been working among the 15,000 migrants from Moslem Turkey. Born in Turkey himself, he grew up in Germany and married a German girl. Together they ran a dancing school for upwardly socially mobile Germans, until they were both converted to Christ and decided they should sell the school.

Later they went to Turkey as evangelists and worshipped with a small group of evangelical Christians in Istanbul. But pressure by devout Moslem groups in the city made life intolerable, even dangerous.

Three years as an evangelist among Turkish migrant workers in West Germany led Erol to the International Congress on World Evangelisation at Lausanne in 1974. There he met Bishop John R. Reid, of Sydney, who invited him to Sydney as a welfare worker among the Turkish migrants, who, it was said, were having more difficulty than any other migrant grouping in settling into their new environment.

His life is a busy round of interpreting in courts and hospitals, counselling families, assisting in industrial problems, visiting individuals and giving briefing sessions on Turkish customs and lifestyle to groups such as nurses and doctors at Auburn Hospital.

"Among Turkish people", Erol explains, "there is high unemployment because of lack of skills and problems about hire purchase and health. And a lot of other problems based on the fact that Christian love is missing.

"There is a lot of black and white magic and future-telling. All babies carry a blue stone because of fear of harm. Adults often carry messages written on paper pinned to their underwear to protect them from evil. This is not just a custom; it is really belief."

## EVANGELISM IN APARTMENTS AND HIGH-RISE

Tony Michael



"One person wanted us to start with a hymn and a prayer, but I said No, it's our concern which will show Christ — or not."

Tony Michael, Anglican clergyman who was formerly an army chaplain, was speaking of the motives, and some of the misunderstandings about "Thursday At Two", a project at Saint Stephen's, Eastlakes.

"Thursday At Two" is a three-hour programme once a week of games like skittles, discussions, picnics, craft and "other days we sit and natter."

It is designed for people in high-rise units of the Eastlakes area — formerly the Rosebery racecourse. Nearly all of the "regulars" need transport because they are incapacitated or elderly. "There are a lot of lonely people around here," says Tony.

The origins of TAT (as they call it) are two simultaneous streams of thinking within the parish of Mascot-Eastlakes.

Alison Reid, social worker and wife to the Bishop, led a series of Bible studies for women in the parish on how Jesus met people at the point of their need and how Christians can meet those needs today. It was at this time the ladies felt they should proceed with some positive steps.

At the same time, Tony Michael was having talks with Kristine Chips, social worker with the Anglican Counselling Service, on how the empty church buildings could be put to better use during the week. Together they talked with the local Health Centre staff about whether the parish hall at Eastlakes would be useful for some kind of counselling or group work.

These two streams met happily with the inauguration in November 1975 of "Thursday At Two". It is a happy amalgamation of the resources of the parish, the Counselling Service, Eastlakes Health Centre and "Botany Care" which helps to provide transport each week for the incapacitated.

As to the motivation of the Christian people involved, Tony Michael says: "I believe, and I think they believe, it's a means of outreach and evangelism, although we don't do anything you would call religious."

## HIGH SCHOOL EVANGELISM

John Kidson



John Kidson is a big, bushy-bearded leader-trainer with the Anglican Youth Department in Sydney. He completely and naturally identifies with the young people with whom he works, whether they are Christian or not.

Within the classroom situation John kicks off the first meeting by personalising the Gospel. During ensuing meetings he focuses on the Life of Christ and allows the discussion to ebb and flow in an unstructured way, allowing the students to determine the direction.

The other approach in school halls is to present Christian concerts with the musical artists and street theatre unfolding the basis of the Christian faith. John acts as compere/comedian and seeks to draw out Christian truths as he introduces each item.

The team of youth-ministers, trained at Moore Theological College are also used in schools and present multi-media presentations using film, music and dialogue.

Outside the school the *modus operandi* is to "hang around the local milk bar and if someone looks at you twice, you smile or wink and start a conversation. There are all kinds of risks in this form of evangelism but it's often worth it," says John.

"The most important point about youth evangelism — indeed any evangelism — is to be where the people are.

"The other aspect of my work is to encourage Christian kids to get involved in community-based football teams rather than church-based teams, so they can pass their faith on to non-Christians.

"We also hold conventions and seminars based on the pop music scene; bringing out of the song moral teaching on social issues from a Christian viewpoint.

"Vital issues which the kids are discussing, such as drugs, pollution, jobs, uranium, the economy, are all launching pads to evangelism."

## STREET THEATRE IN SHOPPING PLAZAS

Doug Sewell

"Drama is a neutral kind of springboard. And it can work very well."

Doug Sewell, a layman who has been involved in Street Theatre on and off for the past three years, does not have inflated ideas of its value. "You have to get a crowd, and this is one way of doing it," he says.

He has tried it in Balgowlah Shopping Centre, the Warringah Mall and in the Corso, Manly, and other people have tried it in other shopping centres. It works best when it is used as an adjunct to a wider outreach programme, not as an outreach by itself. And it works better with a team of 12 to 20 people supporting it, and helping to draw a crowd.

Doug Sewell says: "Street Theatre is a springboard to drawing the attention of a crowd in a shopping plaza for the purpose of communicating one idea very simply. It has to be something which is visually dynamic, which draws attention to itself with costume and mime. It needs even more movement than the musical *Godspell* if it is to get the attention of people in a large space like a shopping plaza.

"And its success depends largely on the scripts that are used. The most successful we have used were about two minutes and they communicated only one or two basic points about the Gospel."

One of these dramas depicted people in an invisible box trying to break out and being unable to. One Man is able to move in and out of the box and invites others to follow him out. At one point everyone in the box turns against him and he is killed. But he gets up again after a moment of silence and goes back into the box to help people out. It took only one and a half minutes, but it was enough to dramatise one aspect of the Gospel. Members of the team handed out a leaflet specially produced which explained the parable and also promoted a local Church mission.

You can find out more about evangelism in shopping plazas by going to the one-day conference described on page 15.

## COURSES AND CONFERENCES

The Billy Graham Preparation Committee has organised the following Courses and Conferences to help you with evangelism at the parish level, and also to help prepare for the 1979 Crusade.

- ★ It is hoped that parishes will be represented at all those Conferences.
- ★ A \$2.00 registration fee will entitle you to attend any or all of these (with exception of No. 4 where the cost is \$35.)
- ★ Please mark these in your diary **now**.

### COURSES

#### 1. Neighborhood Visitation

(Chairman — Canon John Chapman) Phone 20642 Ext. 282.

- (a) St. Michael's Cathedral Wollongong, July 29, August 5 — 7.45 p.m.
- (b) Christ Church Gladesville, September 13, 20 — 7.45 p.m.
- (c) St. Stephen's Penrith, October 20, 27 — 7.45 p.m.

*This course is designed to show several different models which people are using in visitation with a plan for action to follow.*

#### 2. Personal Evangelism & Apologetics

(Chairman — Rev. John Webb) 20642 Ext. 282

St. Matthew's Windsor, Sept 15-Oct 6 — 8 p.m.

*This course of four successive Saturday evenings is designed to equip people to be able to speak with their friends about the gospel and to give an answer to questions which people ask.*

#### 3. Evangelistic Writing

(Chairman Rev. Alan Nichols) Phone 20642 Ext. 235

- (a) Soldiers' Memorial Church of England Cabramatta, September 9, 16 — 8 p.m.
- (b) St. Stephen's Willoughby, October 21, 28 — 8 p.m.

*This two week course is to help those who write for parish papers, articles for local papers, and evangelistic tracts. It will help you to see how these could be used more extensively.*

#### 4. Home Visitation Evangelism

(Chairman Rev. Dudley Foord) Phone 449 6769

St. Ives, September 23-28

*This course is designed to train people in the "Kennedy" style Home Visitation Evangelism. This course is a 5 day*

*course and must be attended full time. It will be conducted by Rev. Archie Parrish from Coral Ridge Church U.S.A. Those who attended last year found it of great benefit. Cost is \$35.*

#### 5. Training Trainers for the setting up of Nurture Groups

(Chairman Rev. Tom Wallace) Phone 20642 Ext. 271

St. Andrew's House, Sept 13-Nov 1

St. Mark's West Wollongong, Sept 15-Nov 3

*This course of four evenings is to train people who will help parishes set up nurture groups, for fellowship, teaching and pastoral care; and who will also be able to train leaders for these groups. It is an 8 week course. The people who enrol for this course should have the endorsement of their minister and should have had some experience of working with people in small groups. This course should be seen in the light of No. 1 in "One Day Conferences".*

### ONE DAY CONFERENCES

#### 1. Church Centred Evangelism & Follow-up

(Chairman — Canon John Chapman) Phone 20641 Ext. 282; (Rev. Tom Wallace) 20642 Ext. 271

- (a) St. John's Sutherland, July 14 — 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- (b) St. Bede's Drummoyne, July 28 — 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

*This course is for clergy and full time lay workers to talk about the Guest Service, Church Centred Evangelism, the Evangelistic Sermon and the setting up of Nurture Groups.*

### PLEASE MAKE THIS CONFERENCE A MUST

#### 2. Letter Box 'Drops'

(Chairman Canon John Chapman) Phone 20642 Ext. 282

St. Peter's Burwood East, Nov. 25 — 7.45 p.m.

*Many people have used this method and we will make available their material and any 'feed-back' they have received.*

#### 3. Evangelism & Ethnic Groups

(Chairman Rt. Rev. John Reid) Phone 20642 Ext. 233

St. John's Darlinghurst, November 10 — 7.45 p.m.

*This course is designed to help you to reach out to migrant groups. It will specially help those with large ethnic groups in your parish or with migrant people where you work.*

**4. Evangelism in Flats & High Rise**

(Chairman Rt. Rev. John Reid) Phone 20642 Ext. 233

St. Stephen's Eastlakes, August 18 — 7.45 p.m.

*The people who will be sharing in this course have done some very interesting and imaginative work in outreach in high rise apartment blocks and amongst flat dwellers.*

**5. Evangelism & The High School Student**

(Chairman Mr. John Kidson) Phone 20642 Ext. 324

St. Luke's Concord, September 14 — 10 a.m.-3.30 p.m.

*This course is designed for Clergy, full time workers and R.I. teachers. It is designed to help you encourage christian students to evangelize and to suggest ways to train them as well as using the present situation in schools evangelistically.*

**6. Evanelism in your Shopping Plaza**

(Chairman Canon John Chapman) Phone 20642 Ext. 282

St. Stephen's Normanhurst, October 15 — 2 p.m.-7 p.m.

*Many of us live near large shopping complexes and Christmas and Easter offer us unique evangelistic opportunities to evangelize in them. At this conference we will be showing:— 'Walk through' Seminars, Street Theatre, Tract Distribution and using films at them.*

**ENROLMENT FORM**

Please enrol me in Course No. ....

Conference No. ....

I enclose cheque for \$2 to cover costs. (This entitles me to attend any or all of the Schools.)

Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Teach this section off and post it to:

**Dept of Evangelism**

**St Andrew's House**

**Sydney Square, N.S.W. 2000**