

**News cuttings**  
**Judith Gordon**  
**1974 to 1990**  
**Department of Education**  
**then Department of Church Development & Education**  
**(Churches of Christ)**

**J**udy Gordon of New South Wales will visit Darwin church in November. In her consultation with the church she will discuss a wide range of educational and related issues. Singles, youth, children's and family ministry, worship and adult work will be among the themes. The visit will be financially assisted by the Board. During October under Board sponsorship, Judy Gordon and Robert Combridge, the State Minister in South Australia, will consult with the Western Australian Department of Christian Education. Youth work, camping and leadership training will be the issues considered. Board staff and representatives will also confer with Western Australian Department members during Federal Conference. These moves represent new Board initiatives to assist in making greater use of state staff around Australia.

## Worship Project Initiated



Judy Gordon

Judy Gordon of the N.S.W. Department of Church Development and Education, and Alan Niven, Minister of Werribee, Vic., church, will head up a major new initiative of the Federal Board of Christian Education. At the Board's Conference in May, plans were made for the project to get under way later in 1984.

It is envisaged that the resources will cover a wide range of worship issues including biblical backgrounds, worship in the history of the church, Churches of Christ perspectives, and contemporary experiences. There will be training segments and questions for consideration. The new materials will assist congregations in evaluating their worship experience and provide resources for use in services and special observances. It is proposed to draw on personnel from all states to assist in the project.

A basic aim will be to relate

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She is currently seeking to further her special interests. Alan holds degrees in Arts and Divinity and currently lectures on worship studies at the College of the Bible. He is proposing further study in this specialist area.

to the needs of all churches, irrespective of size. Tape and video resources are also planned to accompany printed materials. The project will be the most ambitious ever undertaken by the Board. Preparation is expected to cover a two year period and will involve interstate meetings and consultations by the project leaders.

The project team is keen to receive suggestions or comment. Contact Judy Gordon at the Department of Church Development and Education, P.O., Box 149, Carlingford, N.S.W. 2118, or Alan Niven, 45 Mossfiel Drive, Hoppers Crossing, Vic. 3036.

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## Judy Gordon in Perth

2/2/85

Judy Gordon, Field Director of the New South Wales Department of Church Development and Education, conducted Teacher Training and Family Worship Seminars in Perth recently.

40 participated in Teacher Training Seminars at the Wembley church. A number of Perth churches were represented at this Seminar.

Judy was particularly impressed with the Sunday School work at the Warwick church. This church is unique in that it has two Sunday Schools, each one running at

the same time as each of the morning services.

Judy also conducted a Family Worship Seminar at the Wembley church with participants coming from all over Perth. Ken Laffer from the new church at Noranda, shared in the leadership of this Seminar.

During his Theological training at Carlingford College in New South Wales Ken and Judy worked together in developing concepts on family worship.

"Ken has been very effective in developing and applying the models that we established at Carlingford", Judy said.

Judy also had consultations with the Bassendean church in its youth and Sunday School ministry, and shared ideas with the members of the West Australian Youth and Christian Education Committee.

Rob Combridge and Dean Sander, from South Australia, also conducted seminars for youth leaders at the same time as Judy's visit. This is another evidence of the encouraging relationship and co-operation between the various State Departments of our Australian Brotherhood.

## PEOPLE

2/2/85

### Judy Gordon in Darwin

Judy Gordon, Field Director for the Department of Church Development and Education in New South Wales, conducted a number of training sessions and other programs for the Darwin church recently.

She held training sessions and consultations with the leaders of the Explorers Club, and the Sunday School teachers. Judy was most impressed with the creativity being shown by the teachers and leaders and their commitment to the work.

The Explorer's Club is for all children aged six and above and is held at the Malak School one evening per week.

Judy also ran an Adventure week for school children at the Malak School. 123 children attended this program, 81 of them stated they did not go to Sunday School anywhere.

The Darwin church is now working hard at visiting these children and their families, trying to establish a continuing relationship following the initial contact made at the Adventure week.

Jeff Weston, the minister of the Darwin church, interviewed Judy on his weekly radio program. This program runs on Darwin F.M. Radio between 11 pm and 2 am each Sunday evening.

It is a talk-back program which reaches many people in Darwin. The format also includes interviews and comments by people on relevant issues.

Several church members assist in choosing records for

the program answering the telephones and generally helping it get to air.

Judy also spoke at the morning service and participated in a creative worship experience on Sunday evening. She was impressed by the Darwin church's serious attempt to relate worship, creatively to the needs of that unique community.

Judy said that the work at Darwin is challenging because of the amount of work that has to be done there. It is also discouraging because most of the members are transient and eventually leave to go south, leaving the church to build up its membership and leadership again. Judy was impressed with the excellent Child Care Centre conducted by Mrs Heyhoe. This Centre makes excellent contacts for the church in the community.

Judy's visit to Darwin was made possible by the New South Wales, Department of Church Development and Education and the Federal Board of Christian Education, each of which contributed 50% of the air fare.

**First Woman Scholar**

Christian Projects and "The Australian Christian" are pleased to announce that the winner of the 1987 Australian Christian Foundation Scholarship is Judy Gordon. Judy is the first woman to win the Scholarship.

Judy is currently Field Director for the Department of Church Development and Education in New South Wales. Her work with the Department involves her in the Christian Education field work, research and workshops on worship and other aspects of local church life and involvement in the establishment of new church work in new and growing suburbs of Sydney.

Her travel plans involved in the Scholarship are to visit the United States during 1988 to meet significant people in the area of Christian education and also to meet and discuss with people involved in helping churches plan, prepare and present effective worship services.

The Australian Christian Foundation Scholarship has been financed by Christian Projects for the past 10 years. The concept of the Scholarship is to allow leaders within Churches of Christ around Australia to travel overseas for a short period to receive skills training that they will be able to share with the Brotherhood upon their return. The Scholarship currently worth \$2,250 to the scholar, is to help leaders who would not otherwise be able to travel and gain valuable experiences.



Judy Gordon

WESTERN CHRISTIAN  
SEPT 1985

**WESTERN AUSTRALIANS AT FEDERAL BOARD CONFERENCE**

Five Western Australians participated in the Federal Board of Christian Education Conference in Melbourne. Pictured (sitting): Jeff Pope, W.A.; Judy Gordon, N.S.W.; (standing): Brian White and Graham Hyman Federal Board staff members. Plans for the national Youth Convention at Deakin University in January 1986 were reviewed. Registrations are already coming to hand with strong support from W.A. Churches. Prior to the Board's Conference a meeting of 64 State youth leaders was held in Canberra. Important discussions took place on the future of youth work in our Australian Brotherhood. The Board has initiated a number of important projects including resources for elders and worship.



Barry McMurtrie has completed a study book — Build My Church. Copies are available from the Board and the State Office at \$2.00 each. In 1985/86 a commencement will be made on new video training materials, for Youth and Sunday School leaders. A special bulletin has been produced for Church leaders to consider youth ministry issues. A National Conference on education in the Church is planned for 1987. New resource materials on discipleship, the nurturing of new converts and home visitation programmes are to be prepared. The Federal Board of Christian Education invites the support of W.A. Churches.

**New Sunday School Material**

"New Living Faith" has just been released. The Federal Board of Christian Education and State Departments of Christian Education have received sample kits of the material and initial reactions are very positive.

Visually it is outstanding. Splashes of modern colours and contemporary art styles will make it very appealing to children. The step by step teachers' books will simplify the task for teachers. The worship resources and help for ministers give endless ideas for relating the Bible passage of the day to children's involvement in church services.

The desire of the publishers

has been to respond to the need for Biblical teaching and to link both worship and learning to the same Bible passage. There will be a good deal of enthusiasm over this new material. Presentation and cost are very competitive with overseas publications.

Quite a number of Churches of Christ writers have participated in the production of the material. Judy Gordon from the N.S.W. Dept. of Church Development and Education, Linda York, Epping N.S.W., Brenda Webb, Prahran, Vic., George Warren, Balwyn Vic., Marjory Keating and Fay Comrie from Nunawading, Vic. have all contributed.



Writers Judy Gordon (D.C.D.E.), Brenda Webb (Prahran) and George Warren (Balwyn) in consultation with Brian White (F.B.C.E.).

## *N.E.W. '87 aims achieved*



**Workshop Group Leaders — Judy Gordon (Children), Jeff Deuble (Adult Education), Brian White (Family Ministry).**

40 participants nominated by their State education committees left the **National Education Workshop** with a firm feeling that aims for the three day consultation had been achieved. The Workshop was sponsored by the **Federal Board of Christian Education** with the aim of developing an educational strategy for the 1990's. Participants worked in one of the three task groups — Children's Ministry, Adult Education and Lay Training, and Family Life Ministry. They were asked to develop objectives and strategies for national, state, and local church planning.

The Workshop was held on the Queen's Birthday weekend at **Camp Waterman, Monbulk**. It began on the Friday evening with an introduction by the Board's chairman, **Dr Cliff Warmbrunn**, and an address by **Principal Randall Edwards**. Members met for the first time in their groups and shared in

Saturday morning **Don Stewart** gave one of two **Bibles Studies**. **Peter Burnham** and **Don Smith** gave introductory addresses. Participants spent the remainder of the weekend working hard in their groups. At a final session on the Monday the reports from the three groups were presented and adopted. Many of the recommendations have important implications for our church life. The group reports and recommendations are quite extensive and are currently being considered by the **Federal Board of Christian Education**. A report will be available in due course. The workshop is being seen by the Board as among the most significant national events ever held for our churches.

## Lesson Trial in Churches

Lessons for a new Sunday School curriculum to be introduced in 1988 are currently being tested in Churches of Christ around Australia. Greg Strack, A.C.T. and Robert Combridge, S.A. while attending the annual conference of the Federal Board of Christian Education discuss material written by Judy Gordon with Colville Crowe and Jim Spiker of the Joint Board of Christian



Education. Judy, in association with a team of contributors, has written a series of new kindergarten lessons which have been well received in trials. Included are new songs written and composed by Linda York. Other Churches of Christ authors will contribute to planning and writing sessions this year. Churches of Christ contribute to this joint venture through our Federal Board of Christian Education.