

Being encouraged

In 1969, I enrolled in a correspondence course in journalism run by Christian Writers Institute, Illinois, USA.

Prior to that, my theological training helped prepare me for 33 years of writing this column. But I wasn't given a lot of encouragement.

First, theological colleges in Australia train mainly for pulpit ministry. In my experience they never mention Christian journalism.

Second, even the pastor of my local church didn't think much of my Christian journalism idea.

Third, one Christian leader must have seen my writing potential. He told me I should write a book! Later, a girl who had overheard his remark, jeered at the idea.

Fourth, I told my American tutor at Christian Writers Institute that what I really hoped for was to have my own newspaper column. He wrote back, saying, "Forget it! Such regular columns are only given to professional journalists."

But, **fifth**, God intervened! In 1985, quite unexpectedly, he opened a door for me and I was offered this regular weekly column.

Looking back, I can see that people who could have encouraged me either did no such thing, or actively discouraged me!

The great lesson in all this – don't let anyone discourage you from following God's call!

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“Encourage one another.” 1 Thessalonians 5.11.

Ken Packer