



# A MIXED BAG

By Barbara Allen

Do you remember bags of mixed lollies? As a child, I would rush to the little corner milk bar with a 20-cent piece, and come home with what seemed to be an enormous bag, filled with sherbets, choo choo bars, milk bottles, mint leaves, columbines, jaffas... what were your favourites?

A congregation is a bit like a bag of mixed lollies (in a nice way!) Our God-given gifts are to equip and enable us to carry out Christ's mission. Sometimes stresses in a church family arise (as in our own families) because we are different; we need people who look at the small details, but we also need the big picture folk as well. That is why there are occasional disagreements.

## *Reflection:*

*'For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ...'(Romans 12: 4-5)*

*Thank you God for making us different, but serving as one. May we share the sweetness of faith with others. Amen.*

We see things from diverse perspectives, but all of us, together, make up the body of Christ.

Perhaps a liquorice allsort illustration would help. We are unique- we are the coloured pieces of the liquorice allsort, but the glue that sticks us together, or the reason we are ONE- is the liquorice section-that is our faith. God is our adhesive.

Perhaps the bag which holds the mixed lollies could be the church. Each of us is needed for that special assortment, but, ultimately, it is God that keeps us together. There is a bit of God (or faith) in each one of us. Perhaps you could reward yourself with a lolly, for you are part of the church, God's sweet family!