

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

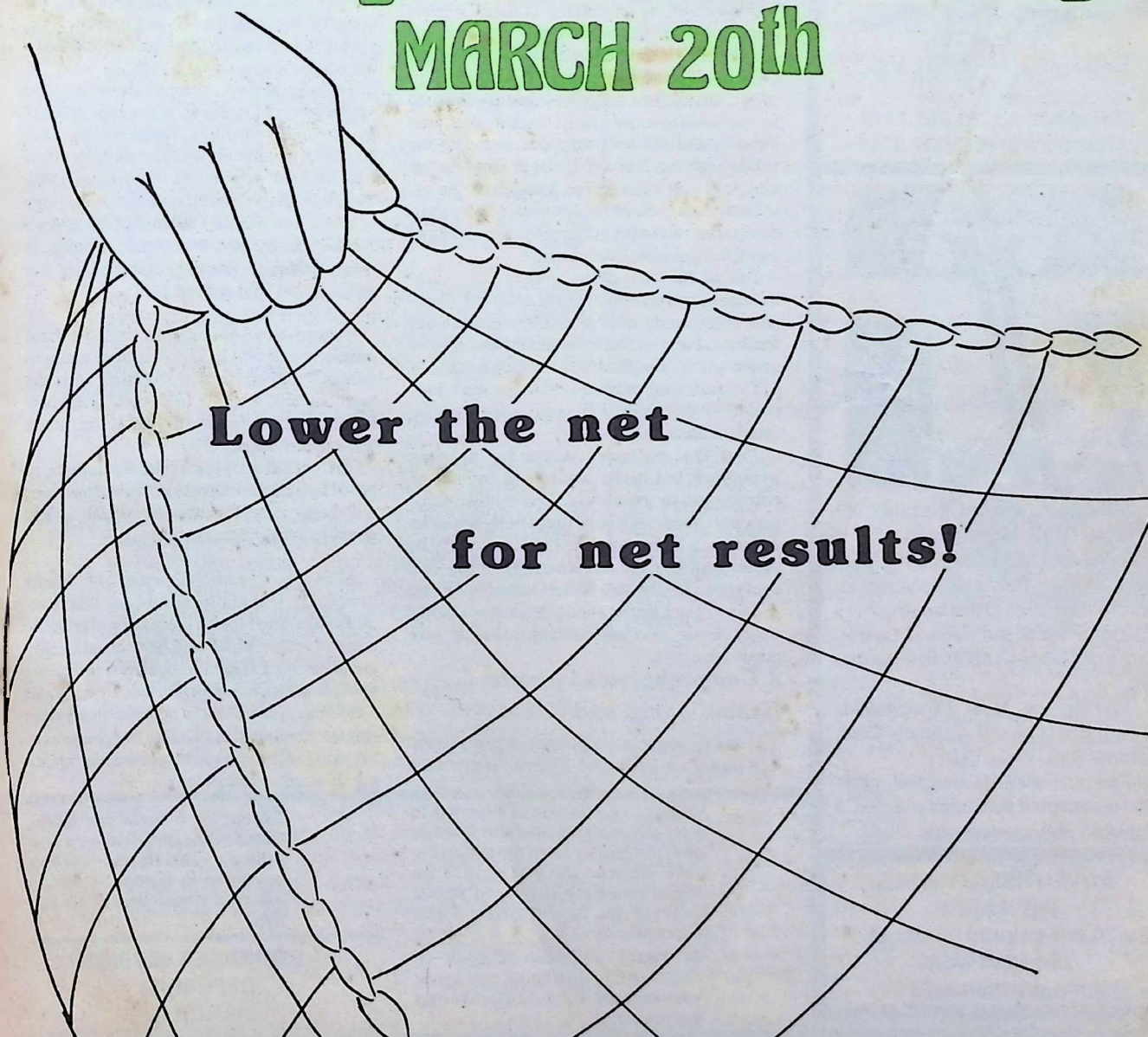
NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

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Aborigines Annual Offering MARCH 20th



Lower the net

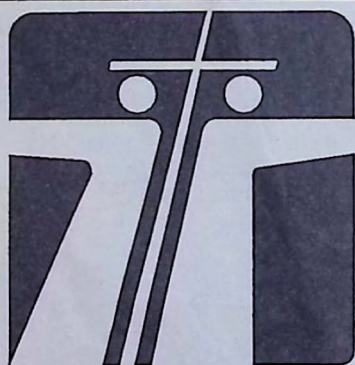
for net results!

"Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find."

Managing Editor:
CHRIS AMBROSE

ISSUE	DEADLINE
March 5	February 24
March 26	March 16
April 16	April 6

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COMMENT

Music in Worship

Expressing the depth and vitality of the Christian faith.

- I. E. Allsop

When we visit and worship in another church we make a judgement within the first few minutes of just what is the nature, style and spiritual depth of that local church.

The music, the language, the mannerisms of the president, the choice of hymns, the attitudes and conversation of the people, the furniture, seating arrangements and general architecture of the building all create an impression and either help or detract from our worship.

Local churches which have a depth and meaning within their spiritual life are able to let us know very quickly. They tend to create an atmosphere largely through the use of good music which communicates faith to us.

Because of the importance of music in worship and the importance of worship itself in the life of the Christian church some Churches of Christ members feel a concern about the quality of hymns and the current selection as published in the Churches of Christ hymnbook. That concern and the following debate led to the motion at the Hobart Federal Conference where it was agreed that a taskforce be established to look at future music and hymn resources and to investigate the feasibility of publishing a new hymnbook.

During 1987 one of the more exciting committees of our churches was established. Composed of people with a love for music both traditional and modern the nature and role of music within our churches was discussed.

The following recommendations were presented to the Federal Executive and will be acted on during 1988 -

That the real need is not for another hymnbook but better awareness and use of existing music resources. Committee members were aware of a large range of hymnbooks and music which is excellent and can readily be made available for our churches. They felt confident that the key factor was simply that people did not know about, or else could not easily locate new and suitable worship and music resources.

A Comprehensive Index to Hymns, Songs and Tunes

It was agreed that we publish a completely new index or listing of hymns, songs and

other worship resources both traditional and contemporary which can be used in our churches to overcome this situation. Such a listing will be available on computer disk as well as printed and will provide information under theme, time of year, alphabetical first line, author and tune. Such a resource will help organists and choir leaders to locate a range of highly suitable but otherwise unknown hymns and songs.

Music and Worship Seminars

The committee agreed that when key leaders in the local church have heard good music, have located the resources for its introduction and are confident in their ability to teach the congregation that new music is used. Until such happens new hymns will not be introduced.

To help achieve greater awareness and appreciation of music in worship a series of Music and Worship Seminars, in part funded by Federal Conference Executive, will be held in our churches from 1988. Content will cover such areas as the theology of music and worship, various music styles - contemporary and traditional, training in song leading, conducting, orchestra, accompanying and solo work.

Various new hymnbooks and overhead projector sets will be introduced so that participants will be familiar with the "what can be found and where". In particular the new supplement to the Australian Hymn Book will be introduced.

The overall purpose of these seminars, to be led by outstanding musicians and teachers, will be to raise the standard of music and worship in our churches.

Although a new Churches of Christ hymnbook will not be published, this committee has developed a program and possible areas of action which will have considerably greater impact. If its work is effective we may well see an emphasis on music in worship and a determination to allow our church services to reflect a quality and vitality which communicates the Christian faith and enables meaningful worship to happen.

Except for Albania and Malta, Greece has the fewest evangelical Christians among countries in Europe - 10,000 out of a population of 10 million.

**ABORIGINES MISSION
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Militantly Muslim Iran is reported to have allowed thousands of Jews to leave the country since the 1979 revolution. Sources say that in 1979 the Jewish population numbered 80,000 but over the past 8 years it has dwindled to 30,000.

St Paul's Anglican Church in Jerusalem has suffered two arson attacks within a fortnight during December.

GROWING SPIRITUALLY

What Me? A Holy Person!

The Apostle Peter wrote: "Be Holy in all that you do, just as God who called you is Holy." (1 Peter 1:15)

Holiness is the distinctive goal of a Christian which is reflected in our approach to life. The Christian faith calls us to stand apart from the world and walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Jesus has shown us the holiness of God whilst touching every aspect of life with his presence:

- our **social life** by attending the wedding party at Cana;
- our **physical well-being** by healing the sick;
- our **political world** by reaching across known cultural and racial barriers as with the woman at the well;
- our **spiritual lives** though his conquest of sin and death on the cross.

In so doing, he called upon his followers to be like him in their own lives.

As I reflect upon what this means to me in practical terms, I see it as **personal integrity** - for I am ultimately answerable to God. Personal integrity is expressed in what I do and the way I think. It is expressed in such things as promise-keeping, love, just and fair treatment of others.

God is the holy one who keeps his promises and remains faithful to us (Heb.9:15). Likewise, our relationship with God and with one another ought to be one of sincerity, honesty, faithfulness and love.

Secondly, **God is a God of righteousness and justice** (Ps.72:1; 99:4). Jesus said of himself "I am the way, the truth and the life." as he pointed to a life of righteousness in his relationship with others. He taught us not to focus our attention upon our own needs (Matt.5:25f), but develop a Kingdom mentality (v33) that focuses upon the just and fair treatment of others. Just consider how often in our 'fallen state' we are tempted to please ourselves - in the things we buy, the food we eat, those little 'extra' pleasures we grab.

Holiness, therefore is a discipline of the heart that turns our attention from ourselves towards God and others (an act of repentance). Holiness allows us to see others through the eyes of our Lord - to appreciate their God-given image; their need for self respect, hope, liberation and a sense of belonging. Holiness occurs as we put on Christ and act in the power and presence of his Spirit.

I still find it hard to accept that I can be a holy person - but that is the implication of having faith in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour

- Keith Ridge
(Croydon S.A.)

Christmas Luncheon



Attentive listening at Christmas Luncheon

Christmas provides an opportunity for the church to reach out to the community in a number of special ways.

The Ainslie, A.C.T., church invited those community groups using the church halls during the year to share a "Guest Christmas Luncheon". About 60 attended including representatives from the Nursing Mothers' Association, the Adoptive Parents' Association, the Exercise Group and those who attend the Creative Living Centre. Regular customers to the weekly "Op Shop" were

also guests. After an excellent luncheon, catered for by the women of the church, Ian Kerr, Director of Scripture Union, spoke on family life and the need for a firm foundation based on Jesus Christ.

Ainslie also participated in a letter box drop, with nine other churches, covering North Canberra, inviting residents to a special Christmas celebration on December 13 at Rugby League Park in the inner city. These invitations publicised church locations and meeting times.

CP Awards

Christian Projects Chairman, Ian Henry, has advised that the Executive of the Australian Christian Women's Fellowship has agreed to act as the selection panel for the CP Award of Excellence and the CP Encouragement Award.

The CP Award of Excellence is reserved exclusively for lay people who have unselfishly given of themselves in Christian service. It recognises worthwhile effort and achievement and will be rewarded by a Certificate.

The CP Encouragement Award will be given to lay people under 35 years of age who have exhibited leadership skills and potential and who wish to engage in such studies as will advance their abilities for further service. Four of these Awards, valued at not more than \$500, will be offered each year.



"The Australian Christian" has played a valuable role for the past 10 years in recommending the Australian Christian Foundation Scholarship for overseas study. Christian Projects are confident that the A.C.W.F. will be just as successful in their recommendation for these new awards.

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Ruby Anniversary of Ministry



Joyce and Harold Long

On January 17 a special thanksgiving service was held to mark the anniversary of 40 years of full-time ministry of Joyce and Harold Long and to mark their entering retirement.

The service was held in the Hawthorn, S.A., chapel where the seating capacity was taxed. The service was chaired by Trevor Gordge with Colin Dredge, Conference President, Wendy Ridge, Women's Conference President and Frank Hunting, a life-long friend and brother minister, participating. Graham Knight, Hawthorn's secretary, made a presentation of a 'Book of Memories' containing written testimonials from all areas where Harold and Joyce ministered.

An item in song was provided by their grandchildren (14 in all) and another by their immediate children (four sons and one daughter), many of whom travelled from interstate to be present.

Harold Long studied at the

College of the Bible from 1944 to 1947 and during this time he conducted student ministries at Wedderburn and Burnley. For the last three years of World War II Harold served in the Army Medical Corps.

Harold married Joyce Fraser in the Georgetown, Newcastle, N.S.W., church.

Upon graduation Harold and Joyce served the York St., Ballarat, Vic., church for five years and then spent 18 months at Warrnambool which they had to leave due to ill health. Harold then served two years as the N.S.W. Home Mission Committee Secretary and was an associate with Carramar. An eight year term with Epping followed during which time Harold had the honour of serving as N.S.W. State Conference President in 1968.

The next 10 years were spent ministering with the Australian 'Mother Church', Grote St., Adelaide, S.A. Whilst at Grote St.

"Journeying On — Together"



Don Smith congratulating Marj Buckingham

"Journeying On — Together" is the theme Marj Buckingham has chosen for her first full-time ministry with the South Eastern Suburban Regional Church in Melbourne.

The induction service at Caulfield on January 31 was well attended by members and friends of the Bentleigh, Caulfield and Malvern churches of the Region. Don Smith, Executive Director of the Department of Mission, Education & Development,

Joyce had the honour of serving as President of the S.A. Woman's Conference. Their last eight years of ministry have been with the church at Hawthorn, S.A.

After a short vacation Harold and Joyce will commence a part-time ministry with the Semaphore, S.A., church

gave the induction charge and address. He challenged the church to Journey on under Marj's positive leadership, recognizing the many strengths that older congregations have to offer, and working together to create a new vision for the future.

A time of fellowship was enjoyed at the luncheon which followed.

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CHURCH ON THE MOVE

The Southport Church of Christ is moving as from the 3rd April, 1988 and we desire to advise our regular visitors to the Gold Coast to take particular note of our new address, which will be Parkland Drive, Southport, off Smith Street Connection between Gaven Way and Gold Coast Highway. We are opposite the new College of Advanced Education (CAE). We have also changed our Morning service times as follows:

9 a.m. Communion and Worship (One service only)
6.30 p.m. Gospel Celebration

Grand opening and dedication will be held on Sunday 12th June, 1988 at 3 p.m. during the Churches of Christ South Queensland Convention.

Enquiries: Pastor Noel Newton (075) 31.4353
Administrator Ray Rittmeyer (075) 32.5660

COME AND WORSHIP WITH US IN OUR NEW COMPLEX

VISITING CANBERRA? Stay with a Church Family

A number of Canberra church families offer accommodation in their homes at basic bed and breakfast rates to help raise funds for "Home Mission" extensions in the ACT.

If you would like to enjoy friendly "one of the family" hospitality in Canberra write for particulars to:

Norm & Dawn McKay, 22 Morgan Cres.,
CURTIN, ACT, 2605.
Phone: (062) 81.2681

Barbara Kennedy, 6 Sharp Place,
MELBA, 2615.
Phone: (062) 58.1360

Tour of Parliament House



The photograph above was taken in the foyer of the Queensland Parliament House when members of the Camp Hill, Qld., church held a barbecue followed by a tour of Parliament House. The evening was arranged by the Camp Hill Ladies Fellowship and the facilities were made available by Craig Sherrin MLA, a board member of Camp Hill.

Bible". Children aged from 3 to 16 presented plays, poems and songs around this theme. The church was comfortably full with 120 present.

"Mr Eddie Bear" (alias Wayne Henderson dressed in the Cadbury's Chocolates Caramello Bear costume which had been lent for the occasion) together with the minister, Gordon Henderson, presented the talk with thoughts from the Bible on our need to 'bear' one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2), to 'bear' good fruit (John 15:2) and how our Lord came to 'bear' the sins of man (Heb. 9:28). The talk was a great hit with both children and adults.

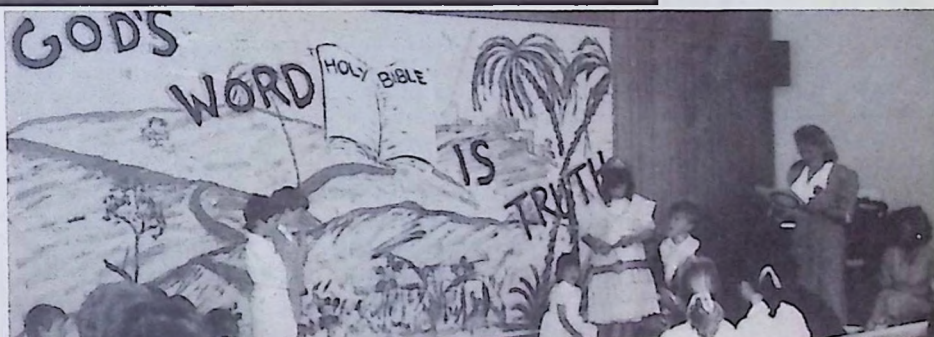
"Mr Eddie Bear" then helped the Sunday School teachers pass out the various book awards to the children.

—Halia Bloomfield

Southern Anniversary

The Nubeena, Tas., church is the most southerly Church of Christ in Australia. Nubeena is situated on the Tasman Peninsula and is the main centre on Peninsula. It has a population of 1,100 and is just a few kilometres from a notorious settlement of Australia's early history - Port Arthur.

Recently the church held their Sunday School anniversary (December 13) with the theme "The



Children presenting play

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Naturalized

On January 22, at a special Australia Day ceremony held in Ipswich, Qld., Ralph and Barbara Bennett were naturalized as Australian citizens.

The Bennetts, with their three children, arrived in Australia in 1970 to help in the commencement of a new work at Nowra, N.S.W.

They later moved to Queensland where their ministries have included Annerley, Hervey Bay and two years as missionaries in Papua New Guinea. They are presently ministering with the West Morton Circuit.

Ralph will become Queensland Conference President in 1988-89 and Barbara will become

Queensland Christian Women's Fellowship President for the same year.

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Flag Competition

The Social Service Dept. in Queensland has been running a competition for the design of a Departmental flag that can be flown at its various facilities. 11 entries were received from around Australia. The Department has judged the entries and awarded the prize to the entry from John Balrd, the Administrator of the Maryborough Regional Committee.

The flag is on a green background with gold and white which are the colours the Department has been using.



**ABORIGINES
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C.C.A. affirms programs

On December 30, 1987 the head office of the Christian Council of Asia, based in Singapore, was closed down by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The action was taken under the Societies Act. The Minister of Home Affairs claimed that the C.C.A. was subject to manipulation by Marxists and had engaged in "issues which have nothing to do with the Christian faith". Files, records and funds of the C.C.A. were seized and an "Assignee" of the Singapore Government was appointed to wind up the affairs of the C.C.A. in Singapore.

The Christian Council of Asia

is a Conference of 15 national Council of Churches and 101 member churches throughout Asia including Councils and churches in Australia and New Zealand.

The Programme Committee of C.C.A. met in Thailand, January 18—23, and issued the following statement: "We carefully examined our program bearing in mind the recent expulsion of C.C.A. from Singapore and the accompanying allegations of Marxist manipulations of C.C.A. We find these allegations to be totally unfounded and we categorically deny them. We have, instead, af-

firmed our commitment to our work and we have agreed that it must continue if we are to be true to God's mandate and maintain the integrity of our faith."

The stated functions of the Christian Conference of Asia are:—

A). The development of effective Christian response to the challenges of the changing societies of Asia;

B). The exploration of opportunities and the promotion of joint action for the fulfilment of the mission of God in Asia and throughout the world;

C). The encouragement of Asian contributions to Christian thought, worship and action throughout the world;

D). The development of mutual awareness, fellowship and sharing among the churches in the region and of relationships with other regional Conferences and the World Council of Churches;

E). The promotion of common study and action in such fields as evangelism, service, social and human development and international relations; and

F). The stimulation of the initiatives and experiments in dynamic Christian living and action.

The C.C.A. has undertaken to

hold a major Conference on the mission to the struggling and suffering people of Asia in 1989.

Anonymous Gift

Thank you to the anonymous reader of "The Australian Christian" who sent \$100 to the Vic-Tas. Department of Mission, Education & Development for the work of the Kensington Christian Network.

Index

Free copies of the 1987 Index to "The Australian Christian" are now available from the office. All who have requested a copy in the past will be sent the 1987 index. If you would like a copy of the index please contact "The Australian Christian" at P.O. Box 101, Essendon North 3041 or phone (03) 379.1219.

The US Federal Communications Commission, trying to track down dealers in telephone pornography, rang one dial-a-porn number. A recorded message told them the office was closed in observance of Good Friday.



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Wednesday

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Further CP 1000 Grants

The CP 1000 Selection Committee have approved additional grants to churches. These are additional to those announced in "The Australian Christian" of February 6.

The next meeting of the Selection Committee will be probably held in March.

The new grants are: **Portland, Vic.**, \$700 for support of minister in working towards Graduate Diploma in Ministry; **Parkdale, Vic.**, \$125 for Bibles for special campaign; **Salisbury East, S.A.**, \$1,000 for an outreach program and the development of a Thrift Shop; **Doncaster, Vic.**, \$1,500, for Mission to Schools and CYF rallies; **Tasmanian churches** \$2,000 for a trial television program hosted by Gordon Stirling; **Nambour, Qld.**, \$1,000 to underwrite part of the campaign to bring Dr Medford Jones to Queensland and **Australian churches** a grant of \$1,500 to underwrite the campaign to bring Herb Miller to Australia.

Christian Projects embraces only those activities which are not being carried out by Departments, or which are not in any way competitive with them. The CP 1000, which is only one of the CP operations, is designed to encourage Churches of Christ growth and influence, particularly that of local churches.

The main objectives of Christian Projects are:

- 1) To encourage leadership qualities and build leaders ministering to Churches of Christ in Australia;
- 2) To assist Churches of Christ in Australia to develop programs which will encourage local membership, growth and vision; and
- 3) To support and initiate such activities that will increase the witness and profile of Churches of Christ throughout Australia.

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Sod turned at Ararat



A turning of the sod ceremony was held after the morning service on December 6 at Ararat, Vic.

This marked the beginning of a new building to be used jointly as a Counselling Centre and manse, right next to the chapel.

Two members who were involved in the church in 1919 shared the honour. Mrs Grace Ross, who travels from Glenelg and has been an active though sometimes isolated member, and Will Erwin, the present church organist.

The church has owned the vacant block for some 25 years and the proximity to the chapel is seen as a means of evangelising through counselling and friendship.

Observing the sod turning are (from the left) two Elders Les Gason and Ron Selwood, Viv Selwood, Gwen Searle and Daisy Laidlaw (also a member since the early 1920's).

The contract price and coverings is expected to be over \$100,000 which is expected to be fully met by the time the building is ready for use in April.

At present the minister is Stan Bannon, ably assisted by his wife Irene who was also a College of the Bible student.

— Frank Gason

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The Letters to the Editor limit is 200 words.

BRITISH CHURCHES

To the Editor,

I am disappointed and concerned that for quite a long time we have seen only references to the continuing British Churches of Christ.

As a visitor to that country, and as one concerned with events in other places, it should be recorded that many churches of ours opted to become part of another church (United Reformed Church). Just recently I was heartened to receive these words from one who has long been associated with the ongoing work of the denominations. She said in part: "This year (1987) has just flown for us — all kinds of church events culminating in the best of all on Monday. The four denominations in Dalton and Askam sign an Ecumenical Covenant, formalising what has been happening for years in our working and worshipping together."

Such people have worked for years and have cared and prayed for the church in all its fullness. May God bless them, and also be with those who have remained outside of the present union. We in Australia owe them a debt indeed. Many have risked all for the sake of themselves and the church of today.

— Bruce Burn
(Morwell, Vic.)

THOSE CRAZY ANNUAL APPEALS

To the Editor,

Back in the 1940's there may have been good reasons for restricting appeals by our Brotherhood agencies to our churches to a particular month each year.

It was based on a bit of bad theology that God's resources through his people are limited.

We are now in the crazy situation where non-Churches of Christ Christian agencies may have unlimited opportunity to appeal to our churches for financial and prayer support while our own organisations are limited to "their month".

Recently at one of our Federal Agencies the Chairman indicated that as a representative of an outside agency he has year round opportunity to approach our churches, and does so with a handsome response; but in his capacity as a representative of a Churches of Christ agency he may only appeal on "the month set" with a much more meagrely response.

It says to me that we do not believe in our own work!

Let me assure you that I do!, and I think that you do too!

I want this crazy bureaucratic restriction removed. Will you help me to do it?

— Dr Donald E. Stewart (Qld.)

PUNISHMENT OF ABORIGINES?

To the Editor,

Further to R. D. Clark's letter ('A.C.' Feb. 6) I have to respond.

That God told Captain Cook to discover Australia with a view to disenfranchising a people from their heritage and culture might be a novel and innovative view of this gentleman's role in history were it not so serious or so sad. It could follow that a further punitive action on God's part would be the simultaneous visitation on Aborigines of alcohol, tobacco, diphtheria, influenza, refined sugar, materialism and eventually junk food. A modern day seven plagues with Cook replacing Moses.

The population hypothesis is exasperating. One would have thought that conserving a population to a comfortably sustainable level would be the means by which we avoid throwing children to crocodiles. There is, of course, one positive and logical twist to this theory, i.e. Having well established our security in materialism over the subject 200 years, we could now lower our standard of living and allow a much greater intake of refugees and immigrants to share the abundance of our development.

Finally, that we have "provided the same opportunity for them to

live as we do" is a responsibility of which I am in trepidation.

— Lynn Dugay,
(Doncaster, Vic.)

PUNISHMENT OF ABORIGINES?

To the Editor,

I refer to R.D. Clark's letter ('A.C.' Feb.6) I would like to take issue with him on several points.

Firstly, it is a strange assumption to believe that we are demoralizing the Aboriginal peoples by acknowledging their prior tenancy of the land. Surely the very least we can do is acknowledge the truth.

Secondly, to claim that God took the land from them "in line with the parable of the talents" assumes our culture to be superior to theirs. Much of this particu-

lar argument comes close to assuming white Europeans to be the 'master race', not just one of the many God has ordained to inhabit this earth. Mr Clark also seeks to make the Aboriginal peoples responsible for the earth's ills and therefore subject to God's judgement for this (a strange argument). The aboriginal culture could teach us a lot about moral values such as respect for the environment, and respect for spiritual and communal values.

Captain Cook's voyage was probably not motivated by God but by greed and a materialistic desire for expansion as were the founding of most of the colonies.

Lastly, I would say that the Aboriginal peoples will never be the same as they were 200 years

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

Heirs of the Father.

To the Editor,

I'm not so shook on some of the choruses they sing these days. But one has impressed me. It goes, "We are heirs of the Father, We are joint heirs with the Son." The words make me feel good; that is until I discovered that they come from Romans 8:17.

You see there's a bit in the Romans verse that they didn't put in the chorus. It says, "We are heirs of the Father and joint heirs with the Son, provided we suffer with him." The last bit makes quite a difference.

I'm not too sure what the words mean though. I've heard of saints contemplating the sufferings of Christ so much that the stigmata of the nails have formed on their hands and feet. But most of us aren't in that league. And I don't think that was what Paul meant by 'sharing his sufferings.'

Then I remembered something our Minister said in a sermon. He said that there was nothing unique in the physical suffering of Christ on the cross. Thousands of Jews were killed on crosses. He said that the uniqueness of Jesus on the cross was that he was suffering all of the hurts and pains and griefs and sins of every one who had ever lived and who would ever live.

So sharing his sufferings must mean sharing the pains and hurts and broken hearts of people. That seems to make a great deal of sense of the verse. But I wonder why they left that bit out of the chorus.

Maybe we'd sooner remember the heirs bit than the suffering bit. Come to think of it, most choruses are more into comfort than they are into the cost.

TERTIUS

ago. Much of their culture and many of their peoples are lost forever. I feel that it is important in 1988 that we set history straight and acknowledge the truth of the desecration of the aboriginal peoples by the European invasion and the continuing hardships the Aborigines face as a people. They do not have the same opportunities as we do and never will whilst prejudices are upheld by arguments such as those of R. D. Clark. As Christian I believe we should be supporting the Aboriginal people in their struggle to regain their identity and dignity.

- Gordon Bannon.
(Richmond, Vic.)

PUNISHMENT OF ABORIGINALS?

To the Editor,

You've shaken me out of my torpor again! Congratulations! I don't think I'm angry; I prefer to call it righteous indignation. I refer to the letter ("A.C." Feb. 6) by R.D. Clark of Chinchilla, Queensland, which suggests - no, which uses holy scripture to declare (!) that God deliberately used the European settlement of Australia to punish and destroy the Aboriginal race.

Which God? The God of love and peace and brotherhood? The God of Jesus Christ? My God? I think not!

My God would not send men from Sunday worship to shoot Aborigines for "sport" on Sunday afternoons. My God would not permit the lacing of food and waterholes with terrible poisons to cause agonising death. My God would not advocate the rape of little girls or other men's wives, and the spreading of sexually transmitted diseases in the process. My God would not manipulate people, enslave people, discriminate against people.

Apparently R.D. Clark's God would! Why, then, is he writing about it in a Christian magazine? These things are the work of Satan!

My God is also a forgiving God. In this Bicentennial year, may he

Ministry and Training

All of our Colleges are currently gearing up for the new year. I note from the report from the New South Wales Theological College that they are facing record numbers this year. At the recent College of the Bible Garden Party it was reported that they also will have a record number of students this year.

I am also aware that the Federal Conference Executive, following a motion passed at the last Federal Conference, is setting up a Theological Education Task Force. This Task Force will be looking at the current situation, possible future needs and making recommendations about our development of theological education in the future.

As a Movement we have always had an emphasis on the Priesthood of all believers. Our primary biblical reference for this view is 1 Peter 2:9 ("But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light"). Because of this conviction we have never given a special distinction to those among us who are ministers by having them use special titles or special clothing.

In the pages of "The Australian Christian" last year we had a debate over various styles of church management. Much of the debate really related to the role that the various sides saw the minister playing within the congregation.

In many of our churches today there seems to be an unspoken attitude that it is the minister that controls what is to happen. As the leading light in the church it is true that a church will develop its ministry to the community in those areas where the minister has gifts and strengths. There is nothing wrong in that. In churches where there is no minister they develop their ministry style generally patterned on the strengths of the leading lay people.

Two weeks ago in Melbourne Alf White spoke to a group of ministers about his ministry over the years and the things that influenced him to be involved in ministry. He made the point that all Christians are called to minister. He was making a stress on the fact that we are all sent to a task rather than being called. He saw areas where ministry today is much more difficult than when he first went into ministry (such as the lack of young people in many churches) as well as some areas where ministers today are better off than when he commenced in ministry (some conditions of employment).

Another factor that needs to be thought through is the large number of trained Churches of Christ people who are involved in various chaplaincy ministries. We seem to have a much greater proportion of people involved in chaplaincy than our numbers would indicate. Why are these people ministering in this area and not as full-time workers in a local congregation?

Do the normal members of congregations in our churches have a particular view of the minister that people just are not able to live up to? Have we too many expectations of ministers? Do we expect gifts in all our ministers that they may not necessarily possess?

Hopefully the Theological Education Task Force will be able to look at all the various expectations and hopes from all in our churches in relation to ministry. They will need to talk to all the various opinions and take these views into consideration when coming up with recommendations.

One point I was interested in at the recent C.O.B. Garden Party was the number of students who were entering College at a later stage of life and who were intending to hone skills to assist them in lay ministry. Is this an increasing trend? How much do we expect from the ordinary member sitting in the pew? What role should they be playing in ministry?

If we are to be a force in Australia then Churches of Christ need to examine now our expectation of ministers and lay people. We then need to develop the training techniques and facilities that will enable us to be true to what we see as the biblical model of ministry. This may mean making some very hard decisions but if we do not start to look at the issues then we will lose any relevance that we have.

look on us with forgiveness for our terrible treatment of our Aboriginal brothers and sisters. May he forgive those who misquote or distort scripture for their own ends. And may he forgive me! Because I've changed my mind -

I'm angry!

- David Allen
(Boronia, Vic.)

**KEEP IN MIND
ABORIGINES MISSIONS
MARCH 20**

8 countries, including Australia, were represented in an African Enterprise team which saw 4,000, including 50 Muslims, profess faith in Christ during a 2 week mission in Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi.

BOOKS

WELL INTENTIONED DRAGONS

by Marshall Shelley (Word Books) \$21.00.

Marshall Shelley takes up an important theme for the church in looking at those well intentioned people who can be devastating for the ministry of the church. Many ministers will find comfort in identifying some of their personal "dragons" and some suggested ways in which these dragons may be dealt with. Those who are not in ministry will gain some insight into one of the areas of dilemma that ministers really can not talk about to people in their congregations.

There are the Virginia's who keep handing out assignments to the minister and then turning up his guilt if he has not carried out the assignment or if it has not been achieved to Virginia's satisfaction.

Shelley provides us with some dragon identifications. There are the "Bird dogs", "Wet Blankets", "Captain Blusters", "Fickle Financiers", "the Sniper", the "Legalist", etc. He warns that dragons often work overhard initially at befriending the new minister, that dragons are sometimes bred in counselling.

Shelley goes beyond identifying the problem to some positive suggestions about what can be done about these dragons. The best defence is a strategy of prevention, and he provides some good strategies. He also provides some second-best defences and goes on to remind us that sometimes the dragon may be right.

He concludes with some useful advice about the use of confrontation and the problem when there is no resolution.

I consider this a very useful book on conflict in the church, dealing with what can be a vexing issue for many pastors. It will not be difficult for ministers to identify with the issues and find some assistance from the suggested solutions. Board members should also read this book to enhance their own ministry to their pastor.

—Don E. Stewart

HOW CAN IT BE ALL RIGHT WHEN EVERYTHING IS ALL WRONG?

by Lewis Smedes (Lion Paperback) \$4.95.

This is one of the best paperbacks I have read for a long time. The style is racy. It is down to earth where most of us have to live our lives. In spite of some people's misconceptions, Christians are not exempt from troubles and pain and questionings and doubts and feelings of forsakenness and insecurity. This book is about God and these things. Most of us wonder where God is when we feel forlorn or bewildered. We ask our questions about what is God doing when our friends are having it rough. Smedes, a teacher at Fuller, gives no slick answers to our questions, but helps us to discover more of the meaning of God's gift of grace to enable us to handle life and its questions. His chapter headings are compelling, such as "You Don't Have to Live in the Doghouse", "You are Only an Earthen Vessel but God has a Market for Cracked Pots" and "If You Fall into Hell You May land into the Hands of God". The book has lots of sermon starters for preachers. Good reading for everybody. If you want to give it as a present Beacon Hill Books have it at 8 — 12 Station St., Mitcham 3132.

— G.R.S.

THE PRICE OF SUCCESS

by J.B. Phillips (Hodder & Stoughton)

Through this autobiography the many who have read, enjoyed and used his translational and other works come to appreciate J.B. Phillips' work even more. The book is an undisguised self-portrait: "My emotions

as I approached ordination were not at all those of a truly dedicated ordinand"; "I spent several years disbelieving in any kind of God at all". He writes of "the daily grind of parish work", of his indebtedness to his wife Vera, C.S. Lewis and others, of broadcasting, lecturing, television and travelling, of his movement from a "cover-to-cover-dictated-by-God" view of the Bible to confidence that no one could damage a faith which had endured his own fiercely critical attacks. He states the principles by which he worked in translating the Scriptures. There is acknowledgement of applause and criticism and the dangers of success. We learn of his pain and suffering and note his significant quotation of the words of a friend: "The people who are most used of God frequently pay a very high price for it in personal suffering."

— F.B.A.

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

by Jeremy Maas (Wildwood House) \$8.95.

There were three versions of "The Light of the World" painted by Holman Hunt. The original version was painted in 1851-53 and is now in Keble College, Oxford.

A smaller version, now in the Manchester City Art Gallery, was painted by Holman Hunt with a "great deal of help by his friend". Holman Hunt's eyesight was rapidly deteriorating and he needed assistance.

The last picture was a life size version, best known, but considered the least satisfactory artistically by some, and was painted in 1900-01. After an extended tour of the British Empire where it was viewed by 7 million, it was hung in a strategic position in St. Pauls Cathedral, where it is to this day.

In some countries it was viewed with some indifference, in others the crowds were very large, but it was in Australia that it received the largest crowds and the most enthusiastic reception.

Holman Hunt was deeply religious but did not attend church. Looking for a theme for his picture he came across Revelation 3:20. This was to be the symbolism in his painting of "The Light of the World". He deliberated considerably before putting brush to canvas and thoroughly worked out every detail in advance.

Because Holman Hunt was a follower of the Pre-Raphaelite school of painting his work suffered a great deal of criticism, some unfair. However the inspiration and message got through to many people, and has done so through the ages. People young and old have been strengthened in their faith by the Christ who will not intrude himself into our lives but waits to receive the invitation.

— L.W.S.

JOIN THE NETWORK ABORIGINES MISSION OFFERING MARCH 20



Dear God, please make Grandma well so she can send me some more presents.

—Roma Mudford (Gilgandra, N.S.W.)

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Bought and Paid For

— Graeme Batley

(Samban, Papua New Guinea)

In past years tribal fighting was rife in Papua New Guinea. Even hostilities between clans in the same village was a common occurrence so the matter of marriage arrangements became a delicate affair. The problem was solved by the introduction of the bride-price, the means whereby the woman's family was to be compensated for letting the woman transfer to the man's family.

Sometimes the bride-price was met by a sister of the man being willing to marry a brother of the woman as an exchange deal. Frequently though the bride-price was satisfied with money, pigs, cows, gifts of food - whatever. In reality the transaction meant that the two parties were both giving and receiving something, thus goodwill was engendered between two potential enemies.

A short time ago here at Samban we witnessed Boron buy his wife Mendin. It was not as though they were newlyweds, far from it! Boron and Mendin have been married for over 20 years and have nine children, three of whom have since died.

Now however, with the sale of a cow, and a little assistance from his male relatives, Boron was able to give about \$249 to his wife's elder brother. This money was then later divided amongst the bride's brothers and sisters to the exclusion of the parents. They had received their payments when

their sisters were of marriageable age.

The occasion was also marked by the two families sitting separately and exchanging gifts of food in festivity. Boron was obviously delighted as now Mendin is truly his. Until the bride-price was paid the wife technically still belonged to her family and her brothers could legitimately interfere in the marriage. The six surviving children would have been regarded as belonging to the wife in the event of a marriage breakdown. Now Boron can claim his wife and children completely. After more than two decades of taking Mendin to be his wife Boron had paid his debt and his marriage could now be considered secure!

We may smile a little at this story but it contains a good teaching point for Papua New Guinean Christians. That is that the church is betrothed to Christ and the bride-price has already been completely satisfied. Christ has not bought us with the means that Papua New Guineans use but with his precious blood (1 Peter 5:19) and we can rest secure in our relationship with him.

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Diamond Jubilee

— Bhimrao Thavare (Secretary Conference of Churches of Christ in Western India)

Recently the Conference of Churches of Christ in Western India celebrated its Diamond Jubilee (November 14-18) at Daund in the State of Maharashtra, India.

The Conference has a long heritage of dedicated missionaries involved with the Overseas Mission Board who have worked in this part of India for the last 82 years. Many faithful missionaries have come and gone but still Miss Edna Vawser, Miss Hazel Skuce and Miss Dorothy Geyer are serving the Lord and encouraging his people.

Rev. Francis Sunderaraj, General Secretary of the Evangelical Fellowship of India, and Dr Brian Wintle, Principal of Union Biblical Seminary, Pune, were the main speakers for the Jubilee celebrations. All churches, fellowship groups and past Conference workers and leaders attended. The main theme of Conference was "Church, the Body of Christ".

Many of the past students and orphans from our schools and hospitals have told about the development of their lives and how Conference has helped them physically, mentally and spiritually.

On November 14 there was a special thanksgiving meeting for

Thank God for Missionaries

— Julie and Doug Walladge

Missionaries minister to missionaries as well as the national church.

On a recent visit to Banmatmat, Peter and Kerry Schulz provided us with much needed Christian fellowship in our native tongue. Kerry helped with cooking and cleaning. Peter built a new window in a dark room of our house. Kerry gave us all hair cuts. Peter and Kerry encouraged Luke and Kristina with their water confidence and learning to swim.

So along with the national Christians we would join in saying: "Thank God for missionaries."



Bhimrao Thavare

the 60 years of service of the Ashwood Memorial Hospital, Daund. The following day was mainly set apart for the thanksgiving service for the total work of Conference. It was followed by an exhibition of Conference work.

The following days, until November 18, were taken up with the annual meeting of Conference.

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Bible translation and preparatory linguistics studies are currently in progress in over 1,100 languages worldwide. There are 5,665 known languages. Of these, up to two thirds may still require a translation, or major revision, of the scriptures.

The Christian ship "Logos" ran aground on January 4 in the Beagle Channel at the southern tip of South America. All 141 crew members were saved. The "Logos", which operated a literature based evangelism program in 107 countries over 17 years for Operation Mobilisation, has been declared "beyond commercial salvage".

The rise of the Hispanic population in the US by 30% since 1980 is already impacting the church and its programs according to a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) executive. Luis E. Ferrer said he had had an increase in requests from regional ministers for programs and resources for Hispanics.

The government of Israel has conferred its prestigious title "Righteous Among Nations" on Erik Mygren, a Swedish pastor who helped save the lives of Jews in Berlin during World War II.

Richard McKnight, who is married and the father of 2 children, is the first former Anglican priest to be ordained to the Roman Catholic priesthood in Canada. Since bishops in the US have changed guidelines about 40 Anglicans, most of them married, have become Roman Catholic priests. During the same period about 200 Roman Catholic priests have become Anglican priests.

Roman Catholic bishops of the US have approved a 5,000 word statement describing US aid to the anti-government forces in Nicaragua as "morally flawed".

In India an investigative report recently in a local daily newspaper accused some Christian missionaries of being part of a series of land grabs in the Dumka region of Bihar and conspiring with local politicians to acquire property.

Pastor Nicanor Tamang, the Nepal church leader detained for organising an international meeting, has been released on the condition that he leave Nepal within 7 days of his release in late January. He hopes to continue to focus his ministry-in-exile on the needs of Nepal. He and his family will move just over the border into India.

The Pope has called for closer co-operation between the Bible Societies and the Roman Catholic church for the advancement of Bible distribution.

Saudi Arabia has launched a program to intensify distribution of the Koran all over the world. It hopes that Islam's holy book will soon be available in every language. The initial plan is to distribute 9 million copies per year. There are also plans to standardise translations of the Koran and replace translations which are the work of non-Muslims.

In the UK membership of the Church of England is expected to drop by 8.6% from the 1985 total to 1.81 million in 1990.

About 80% of Madagascar's estimated 10 million people face starvation unless rain falls on this Indian Ocean island according to an authoritative church source.

"Eternity" has an annual Book of the Year poll. The 1987 winner was "The Closing of the American Mind" by Allan Bloom

(Simon & Schuster) with 137 votes. Second was "The Cross of Christ" by John Stott (InterVarsity Press) with 83 votes. Publisher of the Year was Zondervan Publishing House with 5 books in the top 25.

The Australian Association for Urban Mission's third national Congress is being held at the Salisbury Uniting Church, S.A., June 10 to 13. This year's title is 'Telling God's Story In Urban Australia — You have told your story before — what next?'. The two keynote speakers will be Sister Veronica Brady and Ross Langmead. Information on the congress from Peter Whittington on (08) 258.2675 or write to the AAUM Congress, P.O. Box 490, Plympton 5038.

The number of practicing Muslims in West Germany has increased substantially since 1985. According to the Central Islamic Institute their number is now 1.9 million and there are 894 mosques or places of prayer. 70% feel "committed to their religion" compared to 58% in 1985. The largest ethnic group is the Turkish (1.4 million), followed by the Arabs (130,000) and then Yugoslavs (100,000). There are about 50,000 Muslims of German nationality.

Women now have the right to inherit property under African customary law according to a landmark case in Zimbabwe.

Recent reports from Norway point to increasing interest in religion among young people. In one survey 60% of 18 year olds saw themselves as Christians. In another survey most young parents wanted kindergartens to teach their children religious traditions and values.

New restrictions have been placed on open-air preaching in Jinja,

Uganda's second largest city, and the impression is that they are likely to spread. A directive from Godfrey Mamukuma, civil intelligence officer for Jinja, states that "all public preaching and all other forms of worship in future be conducted in recognised places of worship." The directive further indicates that no permission will be granted for religious gatherings in private houses, schools, hotels, parks or stadiums.

In a recent speech in America Ted Koppel, host of the American Broadcasting Corporation's "Nightline" commented that the guidelines God set out should not be lost in a mass media haze. "They are not the Ten Suggestions, they are the Ten Commandments — and it's are, not were. They are the standards of moral human behaviour, not just for then, but for all time.

According to information just reaching the West, 5 pastors and 3 lay members of the Evangelical Church of Vietnam have been released from imprisonment. 3 of the released pastors are former military chaplains of the pre-1975 Army of South Vietnam who have all been detained since 1975. They were released in Nov. 1987, apparently with a larger number of Catholic and Buddhist chaplains. Their release leaves 14 pastors of the church known to be still in detention.

A letter in a magazine: "We noticed the following signs on Caves Road between Busselton and Dunsborough, W.A. They were: Uniting Church Family Camp, Inter-school Christian Fellowship, Assemblies of God State Camp, Busselton Assembly Youth Camp, Catholic Youth Camp, Churches of Christ Camp Site, Four Square Youth and Family Camp site, Baptist Youth

Camp, Anglican Camp Site, Apostolic Church Camp Site and Adventist Camp. Our comment: 'In my father's house there are many mansions ... and apparently many camp sites!'

Only 9% of the world's population speaks English, but 94% of all preachers minister to them, according to World Outreach International.

The US dairy industry is planning to market fizzy flavoured milk to woo non-milk drinkers.

According to their statistics there are 748 Baptist churches in Australia with an additional 68 fellowships. Total membership as at December 1987 was 60,024, however the last Census figures indicate that 196,782 Australians consider themselves Baptist.

Creationist speaker and author Dr Duane Gish, Vice President of the Institute for Creation Research in America, is visiting Australia for a ministry and lecture tour during March. Information and dates are available from the Creation Science Foundation, P.O. Box 302, Sunnybank 4109. Phone (07) 345.8122.

During the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, Canada, Luis Palau's evangelistic booklet "What is a Real Christian?" will be distributed by more than 500 volunteers from Youth With A Mission, three Christian colleges and several Canadian and US denominations. 15,000 copies will be distributed to spectators, journalists and athletes who express interest in knowing more about the Christian faith.

**Become Involved
Aborigines Offering
March 20**

Drive Way Church

During January the Cowandilla, S.A., church held Sunday evening services in the drive way which leads from the street into the church property. The gatherings were called the Drive Way Church and provided the opportunity for anyone passing by or in the park opposite the church to hear the gospel. There was also the invitation for passersby to stay and share in the service. Visitors were present on every occasion and two of these have commenced attending other church services.

Through the singing of well known hymns, a Bible story using Flannel board, presented by Elva Hall, and a brief gospel message preached by Ron McLean, the good news of the Kingdom of God



Elva Hall, assisted by Dorothy Pearson, presents a Bible story.

was proclaimed.

Enthusiasm for the Drive Way Church has resulted in services being continued into February, or longer, weather and other circumstances permitting.

CWCI International speaker for 1988 is Helen Cooke from England. Helen will be visiting NSW, Vic., SA and WA. The first convention she will speak at will be held at Stanwell Tops Conference Centre March 11 - 13 and she will conclude her itinerary at the Orange Grove Convention (near Perth) April 15 - 16.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP TOUR

APRIL 1988

Be a part of Israel's 40th Birthday

Limited space is still available on two unique group tours due to depart Melbourne early April.

Tour 1 — 31 days — Now departs

Thursday April 7

Includes 14 days Israel, 6 days Turkey, 5 days Greece and 3 days Jordan.

Tour 2 — 29 days — Departs

Wednesday April 6

Includes 14 days Israel, 9 days Greece and 3 days Jordan.

Tour leaders: Dr Cliff Wilson and Pastor Harry Brice

For further information contact:

Dani Katz

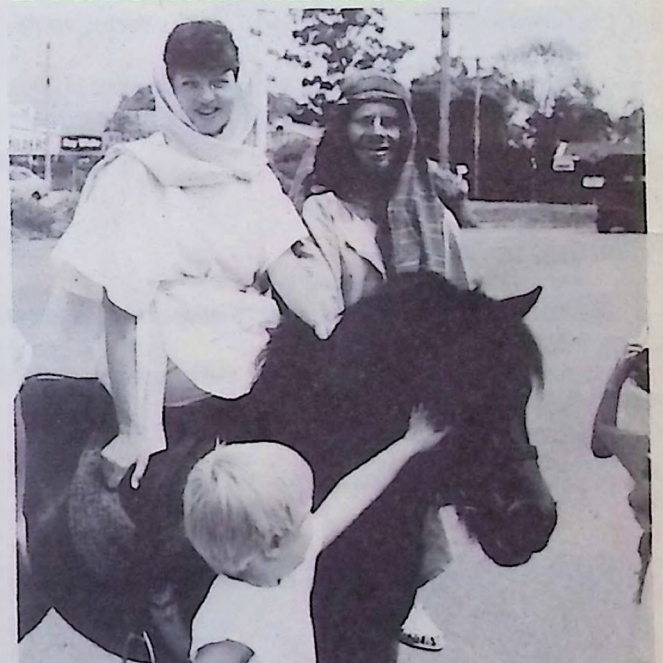
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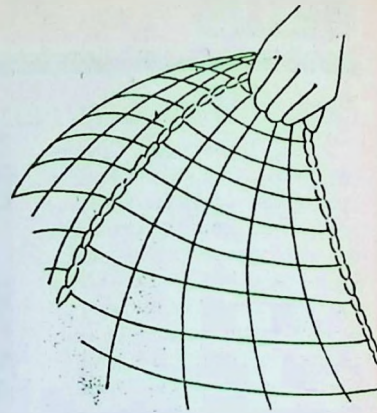


The Pine Rivers, Qld., church was transformed on December 6 into a market of the time of Jesus' birth. Sonya and Robert Flood are pictured arriving at the church for the market.

The National gathering is a time when thousands of Christians are expected to converge on Canberra, May 7 and 8 (the weekend prior to the official opening of Parliament House) for celebration, reflection,

thanksgiving and prayer for the nation. Sponsored by many Christian organisations details can be obtained from the National Office, P.O. Box 61, Watson 2602. Phone (062) 41.5500 or 41.2627.

ABORIGINES MISSION



The Federal Aborigines Board Face Challenging Days

- In are strategies to—
- establish churches
 - train pastors
 - develop Aboriginal responsibility and spiritual leadership.

The last 10 years of F.A.B. ministry have seen unparalleled growth in Aboriginal Churches.

Your Federal Aborigines Board Seeks Your Full Support

- New areas and opportunities, never before presented, have opened up
- Aboriginal churches are growing
- Aboriginal leadership is developing

But At a time when we should be casting the nets our deeper, we have been forced to Rein In.

The Federal Board proceeds with a confidence that Churches of Christ in Australia will continue to identify with their missionaries and prayerfully give the resources needed.

Further Opportunities Exist

- to immediately place 10 pastors in centres as far apart as the Kimberleys area in W.A. and Cairns and Canberra in the Eastern States
- to become involved in a training programme that includes the planning and development of a Bible College to—
 - * train pastors
 - * prepare future church leaders



Staff and Board Retreat, Roelands, February 1987



Baptism, Normanton Qld



Cheryl Garlett, Carnarvon

In tough times we praise God that our churches are missionary-minded people.

We currently have
50 Missionaries working in the field and many are working in isolated areas in harsh climatic conditions. Some are denied the benefits of a constant supply of electricity, and thus cooling and refrigeration.

Why do they go?
Of course they go in response to the Great Commission of Jesus. They go on your behalf. They identify in a lovely way with the people they work amongst.

They are looking to you to work with them.



Geoff and Colleen Hannah, Brisbane

The F.A.B. needs your **Total Support** if it is to continue its vital ministry. Anything less could mean that—

- many may never hear the Gospel- some may never have the opportunity to respond
- many could be ushered into a Christless eternity.

Missionary Work Doesn't Come Cheap

But the Results Are Priceless

The Board has successfully reduced its dependence on bank loans. Although strict budgetary guidelines are adhered to, and operating costs have been cut to a minimum, it remains highly likely that some fields will close **Without Your Full Support**.

Keep A Missionary

Many churches and many missionaries testify to being blessed through their continuing participation in the "K.A.M." program.

K.A.M. doesn't cut across the need for churches, church auxiliaries and individuals to support the work amongst Aboriginal people through **Annual Offering**.

K.A.M. is an ongoing commitment towards the salary of each missionary. Currently it costs the Federal Board approx. \$350 per week to keep a missionary family on the field (including associated living and holiday costs).

KAM Allows

- a personal contact with missionaries
- you to stand with them
- for greater involvement with a particular field
- for your specific prayer

Churches, Auxiliaries, Individuals

Are you willing to support a missionary for—

one day a year?	\$50
two days a year?	\$100
..... days a year?	\$.....

Contact the K.A.M. Co-ordinator,
Mrs D. Moyle,
P.O.Box 267
Mount Lawley, W.A. 6050



Muriel Holt, Carnarvon

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For Net Results?

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With the Right Equipment

A Guaranteed Catch



Dennis and Maureen Atkinson, Mooroopna

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March 20th
Let Us Lower the Net Together
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Please accept my offering and my prayer support.

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BIRTHS

RATTEN (BAILEY). David and Julie welcome with love Andrew Peter, born 7th January at Mildura, Victoria. Caitlin, Glen and Bethany also delighted with their new brother.

WILTON (EDMONDS). Malcolm and Anita announce the birth of their daughter Susan Elizabeth. We thank God for her safe arrival at Frances Perry House on February 2nd.

ENGAGEMENTS

SANDY — MARCHANT Both families have great pleasure in announcing the engagement of Christine (Tina), daughter of Don and Helen Sandy, to Daryl, son of Brian and Merle Marchant. May God bless them in their future lives together.

APPROACHING MARRIAGES

MOORHOUSE — HICKEN. Keith and Beverley are happy to announce the approaching marriage of Rhonda Joy to Danny Moorhouse at Croydon, Vic., Church of Christ on Saturday March 12th at 2.30 p.m.

SILVER WEDDINGS

HICKIN (THOMAS). Keith and Beverley celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary on March 9th. Married in 1963 at Mitcham Church of Christ by Ted Heard.

DEATHS

GAIRNS Alan James. Passed away Sunday January 31, 1988. Loving and loved husband of Phyl and dear father of Marilyn, Berenice and David. Loved father-in-law of Richard and Roslyn. Beloved brother of Len and Joy. Loving grandfather of Mark and Ashley. In God's loving care.

GAIRNS Alan James. passed away Jan. 31. Dearly loved father of Berenice, loved father-in-law of Richard. Loving Papa of Mark and Ashley Watson, Canberra. A beautiful man — one of God's best, and a wonderful father. May the angels take you to Paradise dearest Dad.

VAN DESSEL (THOMAS). Beryl. On February 2nd. Loved daughter of Charles and Alma. Sister of Bill.

WANTED

PIANO NEEDED URGENTLY for the Warragul Church of Christ Sunday School. If you have a piano in reasonable condition and can help us please ring Sue Brooker on (056) 23.6131.

PIANO by Happy Valley, S.A., Church of Christ for use in our new Church Building. If you can help our growing church please contact Russell Allison, minister, on (08) 381.7907.

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JOIN THE NETWORK ABORIGINES MISSION OFFERING MARCH 20

Scripture Union in NSW held a 'Cricketers Camp' in January for 18 primary school boys. One person involved in teaching cricket skills was former Australian Test batsman Brian Booth.

The Queensland Division of Men's Work are holding a musical concert for the whole family at the Annerley church on March 26.

A Hungarian psychologist has called for attention to a new movement among young people in the country who worship Satan. They refuse any positive values which society can provide them and totally oppose everything. They believe Satan is the only one who can help them.

Churches of Christ Tour to the Holy Land with



Chaplain Ron and Joy Sansome An all inclusive tour to Israel.

* Includes Athens and Greek Islands Tour

May 18th — June 1st, 1988

Full colour brochure available by telephoning Toll Free (008) 07.4426.

Register NOW — Full Payment by April 15th
Total price \$3,785 (includes airfare Olympic Airways; all meals; accomodation; all entrance fees; boat ride on Sea of Galilee; tour of Athens and Greek Islands; Australian Airport Departure Tax; new airconditioned coaches).

Church of Christ

BORONIA

67th.,
Anniversary
MARCH 6TH,
1988

SPEAKER:

PHYL DAVIS

"Reach Out. Now!"

Everyone Welcome

Sports Banquet

Margaret Court, Christian and Australian woman Grand Slam tennis champion, is guest speaker at the Sports & Leisure Ministry's banquet on March 15 in Sydney. Attendance is open to anyone interested in sports and sports ministry (see advert this page).

The banquet is the first evening session of the inaugural National Conference of Australian Sports Ministry, an organisation which has been operating for five years. Sports & Leisure Ministry is a part of the Specialised Life-Oriented Ministries (SLM).

Sports chaplains now serve 44 professional sports in Australia in addition to an encouragement/discipleship ministry to elite sports men and women who are active Christians.

The Conference is being run in Penrith, N.S.W. and commences at 2 p.m. March 15, concluding with a final evening rally on March 17.

The opening session includes Rev. Ross Clifford who will speak on the sociological and

philosophical aspects of sports ministry while Rev Ken McDowell will speak on the biblical and theological spheres.

The banquet includes a number of Australia's leading athletes who are Christians giving their testimonies. Margaret Court will be speaking on ministry to top sport in Australia and as a Christian how God has led her personally over many years.

The Wednesday and Thursday mornings will be devoted to workshops and seminars on sports ministry with contributions from various chaplains and sports ministries.

SLM includes tourism and executive ministries and these will be included in Thursday's program. Also on that day Dr Gordon Moyes will be speaking on his ministry at the Calgary Winter Olympics.

The cost of Conference is \$130 and contact needs to be made by March 7 to SLM, "The Study", 3 Shelley Rd., Wallacia 2750 or by phoning (047) 73.8594.

The Zambian government has expressed deep concern about the mushrooming of splinter churches in the country, some of which are operating illegally. It is feared the proliferation of such churches, if left unchecked, might result in confusion that could easily disrupt the country's unity.

Christian Women Communicating International (CWCI) is operating at least 2,300 Know Your Bible classes around Australia.

The combined national Conference of the Australian Student Christian Movement and Tertiary Young Christian Students, held at Healesville, Vic., Dec. 29 - Jan. 5, stated that the Australian Government's first priority this year should be the "proper settlement of the claims of Aboriginal people for full recognition and justice."

SPORTS MINISTRY BANQUET

Speaker: MARGARET COURT

Christian & Grand Slam Tennis Champion

Venue: Panthers Conference Centre, Mulgoa Rd., Penrith

* Tuesday 15th March — 6.30 for 7.00 p.m.

* \$45 double, \$30 single. RSVP 7th March (047) 73.8594.

The Banquet is part of the National Sports Ministry Conference sponsored by the "Sports & Leisure Ministry", from 2 p.m. on the 15th — 17th March.

The Sports & Leisure Ministry serves Australia's Pro Sports with Chaplains in addition to a Christian ministry to elite athletes.

Any one interested in Sports & Sports Ministry is welcome to attend the full Conference. \$130 includes accommodation. Enquiries (047) 73.8594.

1988 I.C.E.M. PROGRAM INSTITUTE FOR CONTINUING

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

A co-operative program of in-service education by the College of the Bible, the New South Wales Churches of Christ Theological College and Kenmore Christian College.

Financially supported by the Christian Projects Trust.

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MINISTRY

Brisbane:

Kenmore Christian College

27th June — 1st July BS 1.05

Psalms

Lecturer — Randy Edwards

MS 12.05

Ministers' Personal

Growth & Skill Development

Lecturer — Dr Cliff Powell

Melbourne

College of the Bible

27th June — 1st July BS 8.05

Matthew's Gospel —

Proclaiming the Message Today

Lecturer — Greg Elsdon

MS 5.05

Pastoral Care and Pas-

toral Intervention in Crisis

Lecturer — Gerald Rose

MS 13.05

Use of Drama in Worship

Lecturer — Gwen Steele

Sydney

NSW Theological College

4th — 8th July BS 7.05

The Charismatic Move-

ment & 1 Corinthians 12-14

Lecturer — Randy Edwards

MS 12.05

Ministers' Pastoral

Growth & Skill Development

Lecturer — Dr Cliff Powell

Adelaide

Maylands Church of Christ

4th — 8th July BS 8.05

Matthew's Gospel —

Proclaiming the Message Today

Lecturer — Greg Elsdon

MS 5.05

Pastoral Care and Pas-

toral Intervention in Crisis

Lecturer — Dr Graeme Griffin

Perth

Dalkeith Rd. Church of Christ

22nd — 26th August MS 2.05

Communicating Faith

Through Preaching

Lecturer — Tim Hanna

TS 6.05

Theology of Mission

Lecturer — George Mathieson

Fees: \$40 a Subject or unit whether or not taken for credit towards the Graduate Diploma in Ministry. Accommodation and meals extra where needed.

Enquiries: K.J. Clinton, I.C.E.M. Director,
College of the Bible,
7 Elm Rd.,
Glen Iris 3146.

Obituaries limited to 100 words

HEIDEN, Emily (Emmie) Caroline (31.12.87). Baptised in the Maylands, W.A., church during the Manning Mission in 1909, Emmie built her life around her faith in Christ. Active in many capacities, she was a member of North Fitzroy, Gardenvale and Bambra Rd., Caulfield churches until her death at 88 years of age. An encourager and loyal friend she described herself as one destined to serve and not marry. Emmie cared for her mother and then her sister's family and took an active interest in many other people and organisations. A reliable correspondent, she wrote to missionaries, friends and past ministers, sharing her commitment both to her Lord and to his church. Her funeral at Bambra Rd. was attended by many. Ours sympathy and love go to her nephew Mervyn Trim and her family.

— John Gilmore

MOGG, Laurence Leslie (12.1.88). We extend to Olga and her family, Diane, Lynette, Judy and Philip, our deepest sympathy, and share with her in the loss of a dear friend and leader, Laurie. Many hundreds gathered to share in a tribute to Laurie and were inspired by the words of Lawrence Hose and Ian Tippet. They spoke of his zeal for the Lord and the excellence in which he participated in all interests. Born in Ashgrove, Qld., Laurie was a person who enjoyed life to the full and his involvement in a variety of groups and organisations will be greatly missed. He was 56 at the time of his death. In addition to his responsible position as Postmaster of Warrambool, where his fairness commended him, he showed community concern through Rotary for nearly 20 years, assisted the distribution of scripture with Gideons International, and exercised spiritual leadership as an Elder. Laurie and Olga have served the Warrambool, Vic., church with energy and enthusiasm for 17 years since their arrival from Robinvale. Until ill health forced retirement, Laurie served as secretary/treasurer for many years. He served diligently and demonstrated wisdom, knowledge and graciousness.

— Lawrence Steel

NSW

CHATSWOOD (Ian Alves). Dixon family farewelled at special social evening after an effective & helpful two year ministry ... Chatswood church members take part in historic inaugural meeting of the Chinese Evangelical Free Church of Australia on Jan. 17 in chapel ... Rosalie Rofe on furlough, addresses church ... Church members expectant & excited as Ian & Jeanine Alves commence ministry on Feb. 7 (induction service).

THORNLEIGH (F. Elliott). Special feature of Christmas celebration service at Dec. 13 am service were items by the Choir, setting aside of newly elected deacons, the dedication of Kristyn Moffat, the daughter of Bruce & Lyn. Guest speaker was Rick Lewis. 190 shared ... Over 200 shared in Christmas Day service which was led by John Ellerby ... The Christmas offering was set aside to assist COCOA & NSW Christian Television Association. Offering now stands at \$2,362. **ALBURY (Rod Foster)**. Neil & Lyn Dickinson accepted by Churches of Christ Theological College at Carlingford ... Allan Blyth endorsed as lay minister for one year ... "Step Out in Faith" weekend to include public rally, Albury Civic Theatre, Feb. 6 with guest speaker Dr Gordon Moyes ... Sunday service includes faith offering to support missionary work & help meet college fees of the Dickinsons.

WA

MANDURAH (R. Ryall). Several members manned display at "Forum" in Christmas appeal for

food, toys & cash for needy families. On Jan. 10 A. Urquhart (CWC) thanked church for excellent response ... Roger & Betty had fortnight's holiday early Dec ... Guest speakers were K. Morgan, A. Morris & K. Duffy ... Among holiday visitors have been three other ministers, several folk from interstate as well as WA people.

WEMBLEY DOWNS (J. Somerville). Four young members who had attended National Youth Convention in Sydney reported glowingly to congregation on their experiences ... Worship centering on Christians role in bicentenary year ... Training program for counselling for Leighton Ford Celebration undertaken ... Elders & board planning retreat to be held shortly ... Dot & Allan Cant farewelled as they left on four month trip around Australia.

VIC

NORTH BALWYN (P.B. Burnham). Sunday evening eight young people were baptised. A packed church of family, friends & members shared in this significant event ... Church Choir has planned an extended program for 1988 ... Andrew Barr appointed new Bible School Supt ... Max Witt has completed three years as secretary. This follows a previous term ... Jan Geyer & John Andrews elected as new board members.

MONTROSE (Neil Galbraith). 120 parents, children & teachers shared picnic tea followed by Carol Tableau service for Church School Christmas break-up ... Christmas Eve family worship entitled "Images of Christmas" enjoyed by packed church ... Neil Galbraith leader of a Banksia family camp ... Good number of families attended camps during Jan. holidays ... Large number shared BBQ picnic afternoon & tea followed by service of praise at Camp Waterman, Feb. 7.

OAKLEIGH (L.S. Dewberry). Church sympathises with Mr & Mrs Dewberry on death of Les' sister Mrs Dorothy Pearson ... End of year functions well attended especially Christmas morning service ... T.V. Weir's services as pastoral visitor recognised fol-

lowing his resignation from that position ... CWAFF office bearers re-elected: Cath Maydom Pres.; Noni McLean Sec.; Linda Gillespie Treas ... Recent speakers Ern Sherman & Ed Roffey.

YORK ST., BALLARAT (Roger Risson, Robert Mason). Catering committee raised \$950 from two functions for church building fund ... \$1,500 raised at mini fete ... Shekinah Youth Group organised 'Old Folks Dinner' prior to Christmas ... Inbetweens held BBQ at Lake Wendouree for breakup ... Carols by Candlelight well attended at Eureka Stockade. Over 300 attended ... Special Sunday night offerings raised \$516 Christian Blind Mission & \$288 Haggai Leadership Institute.

CHELTENHAM (G. Rose, D. Brooker, M. Hinton). Ordination & induction service for Marilyn Hinton conducted by Ian Allsop ... Ian Webber from World Vision led Summer Series on Prayer during illness of Gerald Rose ... Des & Alan Punell farewelled on service completion as associate minister & assistant treasurer ... 131st year has the theme Christians Alive, following thought provoking 130th church anniversary, followed by successful Thanksgiving Day.

EAST KEW Records are not something we compete with in church work but when exceptional faithfulness to a task comes to our notice we believe a little recognition would not go amiss! Doris Elliott of the East Kew Ladies Guild has retired from the position of Treasurer after 45 years service.

SOUTH EASTERN SUBURBAN REGION (M. Buckingham, A. MacMillan). Ian & Julie Adams & family farewelled Jan. 3 ... Marj Buckingham inducted Jan. 31. service taken by Don Smith followed by fellowship luncheon. Both these functions well attended by members & friends of the three congregations ... Caulfield saddened by the homecall of Miss Emmie Heiden ... All auxiliaries have commenced for 1988.

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From Death into Life.

- Doug Walladge (Banmatmat, Vanuatu).



Baptisms at Banmatmat.

The day reflected the occasion. It began overcast with steady driving rain, and it ended with the sun streaming over a tranquil sea. The rain stopped in time for the beginning of the baptismal service on the beach at Banmatmat. Eight young people were baptised on December 13 - the last day of Youth Camp.

The camp began uncertainly, and the leaders learned of God's provision as day after day, need after need, was met. God used his generous family - a father, pastor Gordon Lala, came to leave his child and stayed all week as cook. A local Christian was called when the local food was collected and he quickly packed a bag, came, and stayed all week. The food provided by two churches was

more than adequate for the whole week. And so it went on.

The studies on being good steward of the body were given by Andrew Aru, a Banmatmat Bible College student on practical experience. The camp was ably led by Peter and Kerry Schulz of Ndulndul. These three were assisted by Doug Walladge. Pastor Ian Bule, a lecturer at Banmatmat, was the guest speaker.

The four boys and four girls who were baptised came from Santo, Ambae and Pentecost, and were representative of the three areas from which the 32 campers came. Peter Schulz summed it up, "It was a great camp!"

Slum Dwellers involved in Self Help

In 1984 the Australian Government responded to the needs of the slum dwellers of the capital of the Philippines, Manila, by contributing \$500,000 towards a rice subsidy program. Many of these people earn less than \$9 a month. Administered by the St James Foundation the program purchased rice, sold it at a subsidised price to poor families, and used the proceeds toward community projects in the slum.

In order to give the program a stronger emphasis on self help the program has now changed direction while still concentrating on the poorest families.

In place of subsidised rice, families may now borrow money from a revolving loan fund for setting up shops and other small enterprises.

One aim of the program is to assist the "informal sector" of the economy - the myriad street vendors and small businessmen and women who form an integral part of the slum economy. The program will help them to identify and develop income generating projects.

Another aspect will be supporting local community groups to work for improvements such as footpaths, sanitation facilities and playgrounds.

Force Ten is aiming to raise \$40,000 to set up the loan fund. The Australian Government will provide some funds for admini-

stration and training courses in management, accounting, community organisations and leadership. For further information contact Force Ten on (02) 29.2215.

Every Home for Christ is working with churches and mission organisations including Operation Mobilization, Youth With a Mission, Youth for Christ and the Salvation Army to deliver gospel messages to families, hospital patients, prison inmates and university students throughout Mexico. The thrust is in 10 major cities and the aim is to reach 1 million homes by the end of 1988.

In the Western press recent reports of persecution of Baptists in Romania, have been dismissed as misleading and inaccurate by the Rev. Vasile Talpos, General Secretary of the Romanian Baptist Union. He said that recent reports of the arrest and interrogation of Romanian Baptist pastor Paul Negrut were false.

A recent survey in Scotland has shown that only about 10% read the Bible daily and that 80% of men and 70% of women seldom or never read it.

1989 AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Christian Projects through "The Australian Christian" is providing a Scholarship available for overseas study during 1989.

The Scholarship is for a short-term period of study for up to one year.

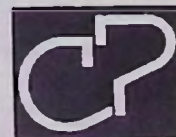
The Scholarship is open to any member of Churches of Christ in Australia for any area of study that will assist the Scholar in their sphere of service within Churches of Christ.

The Scholarship is designed to assist applicants who would be otherwise unable to travel overseas.

Applications close May 1, 1988

Application forms and conditions from:

The Australian Christian,
P.O. Box 101,
Essendon North 3041.
Phone (03) 379.1219.



Easter Passion in Christmas Birthplace.

Human suffering in the Holy Land and adjacent regions has sparked forthright comment from World Vision's executive director, Harold Henderson, who recently visited Israel, Lebanon and Egypt.

He believes our recent Christmas in Australia 'could have had extra relevance for Christians if more had identified with human suffering in the region of Christ's birth.

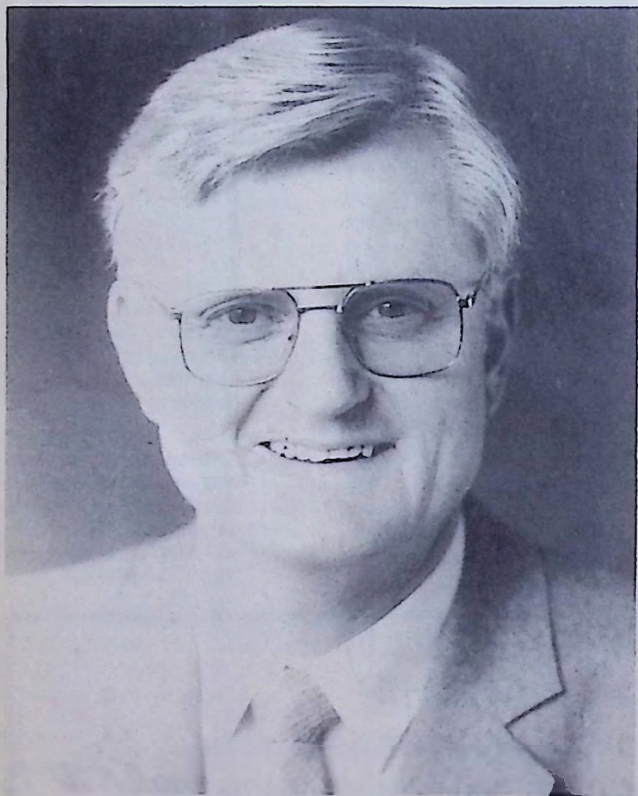
"Lebanon is the human tragedy

-Harold Henderson.

have lived together for centuries, has been turned into an arena of conflict, deprivation, suspicion, human rights abuse and terror."

"The holocaust is a continuing reminder that anti-Jewish feelings and actions are unworthy of human dignity. But similarly, anti-Palestinian feelings and actions are sub-human and degrading for the perpetrators as well as the victims."

In Lebanon, he met with President Amin Gemayel, and the



that the world wants to forget; human suffering in the Israeli occupied territories is the story that nobody wants to believe; the extent of poverty in Egypt is the story nobody has heard about."

Harold Henderson visited the troubled region to examine World Vision project work and to meet with political and church leaders. Each place deeply disturbed him, none more than Israel and the occupied West Bank/East Jerusalem area.

"A land where Arab and Jew

leader of the Druze people, Walid Jumblatt, as well as a number of patriarchs and other senior church leaders. The impression he gained is that there is mounting pressure among the people for an end to the violence and destruction and for the removal of the Israeli and Syrian forces of occupation which they see as perpetuating divisions within the country.

He travelled along the green line that divides Beirut, meeting a new generation of displaced people, many of whom have

1987 — The Year of the Homeless

Speak not
Of the homeless
Their need and despair
It's nicer
Not knowing
It's best not to care ...

And When I
Look out from
Warm room — easy chair
I try not
To see them
All wandering there ...

When each
Long day closes
I drive to my door
Close it fast
On all worries
And problems that bore ...

With T.V.
And slippers
Good food and a drink
It's safer
And easier
Never to think!

I know that
The foxes
Have holes, birds their nest
Who is it
Still plagues me
He's "no place of rest?"

Homeless
And hungry?
Neglected and cold?
Imprisoned
And lonely?
Please see I'm not told.

— Helen Oatley (Blackwood, S.A.)

camped in bomb-damaged and abandoned buildings.

"In one apartment, I was invited inside by a family. The mother showed us the small flat, but hesitated and said that we should not go into one of the rooms. However, the woman opened the door and I could see bullet holes splattered over the walls. The room faced the green line and was exposed to the nightly warfare that rages between political and religious factions."

There remain deep divisions between and even within the religious groups, but there are many instances of dialogue and co-operation which are never reported in the outside world. He said that World Vision projects, often, but not always in partnership with

church groups, assist Christian, Muslim and Druze alike.

Walid Jumblatt appealed for aid from Christian sources to be distributed even more even-handedly and encouraged Christians to resettle their abandoned villages in the Druze area.

Commenting on Egypt, he said the impression that it was one of the more affluent nations in the region was a superficial one.

"One businessman told me that affluence accounted for about 5% of the population. Few people equate Egypt with poverty, but the needs of the poor are as real and urgent as anywhere in the two-thirds world. The story of this nation's poverty and injustice has not been heard.

•Continued on Page 21

Water, Water, Water.

Over the weeks there have been many articles on the problem of water. There is either too much water (floods), or not enough water (drought).

We here in Maharashtra belong to the latter category. I wonder if any of you can imagine what it feels like, when people beg you for a drink of water, and you have to refuse saying, "This water is for the children." Yes, I know what it's like, because I have had to refuse people on these grounds during famine.

Earlier this year we were short of water on the compound; we had arrived at the rock bottom of our well.

During this period there were



Water delivery by fire engine.

— Hazel Skuce (Pune, India)

20 trucks besides bullock-carts carting water to the villages where there was no water. Baramati proper was also rationed with water and some areas were very bad. We were fortunate, during this period of having no water, that the municipality arrived with their fire engine and filled our tank a couple of times.

In many villages and vastis the situation is still very serious. After drilling for 240 feet, one cannot even get a cup of water. So far with our tube well program, we are having success and we have only had one failure. Some tube wells in certain areas have gone down to 400 feet.

Let us pray that these people in Maharashtra will soon have their needs met, but also that they will come to know the one who gives the Water of Life.

I encourage Australians to step up giving through government aid as well as via private agencies like World Vision. I also support the suggestions of an international peace keeping force, with Australian participation, to replace the Israelis and Syrians who should withdraw because both have a vested interest in the areas of Lebanon they occupy."

**Keep in Mind
Aborigines Mission
March 20**

Churches helping Refugees



Salvadoran refugees making tortillas.

Emilina de Garcia is a Salvadoran woman and the mother of four teenage sons. Three of them were arrested and tortured by security forces. They were church layworkers who dared to criticise the torture, disappearance and murder which takes place daily in El Salvador.

The Garcia brothers are among the estimated half million Salvadorans who have left the country to escape the violence and repression. Another half million Salvadorans remain displaced within El Salvador.

The churches in Central America have been at the forefront of responding to the needs of refugees. Force Ten is supporting the work of Diaconia El Salvador, an organisation whose membership includes the Lutheran Church, the Emmanuel Baptist

Church and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Salvador, and the refugee work of the Episcopal Church in nearby Costa Rica.

Both these organisations provide refugees and displaced people with emergency relief such as food, shelter and medical care. Both tend to other needs through pastoral counselling. Diaconia also runs a housing program, a network of rural schools for displaced and dozens of primary health clinics.

Diaconia and the Episcopal Church in Costa Rica aim to give refugees a chance to become self-sufficient. They support hundreds of small agricultural and dairy co-operatives which provide food, milk and work.

For more information contact Force Ten, Box C199 Clarence Street P.O., Sydney 2000.

Easter Passion

•From Page 20

We can incorporate the birth of Jesus Christ and his message of peace and goodwill into our festivities, but ignore devastation and death that continues to scar the birth place of Christmas. A dominant part of the reality of Christmas in the Holy Land is hatred, victimization, violence and grinding poverty. Christ, and indeed Easter, will begin to have relevance for us only if we are prepared to stand in solidarity with the victims of terror and human rights abuse in the Middle East and do what we can to help overcome their poverty.

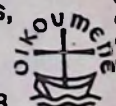
INFORMATION OFFICER

- The Australian Council of Churches is seeking a capable person to communicate the concern and activities of the Council to its member churches and the wider community.
- The person will have proven skills in communication, the ability to write press releases and promotional material, a knowledge of church and secular media and a commitment to the aims of the Council.
- Applications marked "Confidential" to:

**The General Secretary,
The Australian Council of Churches,
P.O. Box C199, Clarence St.,
Sydney 2000.**

Applications close March 18, 1988.

- A job description is available from the above address or by phoning Judy, A.C.C., on (02) 29.2215.



CHRISTIANITY AND ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIA

The Zadok Centre have released the first paper in a new series on the history of the relationship between Aboriginal people and the church.

In understanding the true history of Australia, the history of Aboriginal and European relationships is vital. A significant part of that history is the church, with its story of tragedy and joy, failure and success and, despite so many mistakes, the movement of God's Spirit.

The first paper, "Christianity and Aboriginal Australia: Part 1. The Earliest Christian Missions", deals with the little known era before 1840, when Christian missionaries first started to work with Aboriginal people. It is essentially factual and based upon careful historical research.

The author, John Harris, is a well known writer on education and culture, particularly Aboriginal education.

The paper, Zadok Series 1, S35, is available from the Zadok Institute for Christianity and Society, Blackall St., Barton 2600 for \$2 plus 78 cents postage.

BOOKS

NOBLE TASK

Eldership and Ministry in the Local Church

by Neil Summerton (The Paternoster Press)

It is encouraging to see a whole re-emphasis on lay leadership and ministry within western Christendom, and hence a recent rebirth of interest in eldership. A growing number of books and resources specifically geared to elders and lay ministers augers well for the future oversight of our churches. No doubt this book will have its place and contribution to make.

It had its origins in a series of articles which appeared in "Harvester" in 1984-85. Neil Summerton is writing from a background and to an audience of the Brethren Churches in the U.K. While many of the issues and much of what he discusses is pertinent to our situation, the book is significantly limited by this context. Many elders and elderships will feel they have moved beyond where Summerton is coming from. For example, the last section on full-time congregational ministry is either elementary or largely irrelevant. There is a tendency towards lengthy doctrinal arguments and scriptural substantiation which, although sound, will not be particularly helpful or relevant to many.

To his credit Summerton is neither narrow nor uninformed. He demonstrates an openness, good intellectual grasp and theological competence in the issues he discusses. The reader will appreciate the overall clarity, soundness of advice and maturity of perspective. Little gems of insight and distilled common sense are scattered throughout.

Two helpful sections in the book deal with the five-fold task of the elder (pastor, teacher, ruler, leader and intercessor) and the dynamics of collective leadership within the local church. A systematic listing of books and resources at the end is most impressive and useful.

In all, a thorough and competent treatment of some of the more basic issues of eldership.

— Jeff Deuble.

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Follow through two ... ISLAND IN THE SON

by Bill Gaunson (Vital Publications) \$3

This booklet has been written for personal use by new Christians, or for group Bible studies or for the older Christian who wishes to pursue the goal of our salvation "everyone perfect in Christ" (Colossians 1:28). There are 10 studies which follow through the fight between God and the enemy until he is fully defeated and the person is fully living the God filled life.

This booklet is a follow up to Bill's booklet written for those who have just rededicated their lives and has been available for almost two years.

It is available from The Secretary, Federal Literature Dept., Mrs E.M. Rankine, 5 Atkins Ave., Glen Iris 3146 for \$3 plus postage.

GOOD NEWS AUSTRALIA

New Testament from the Good News Bible
Australian Bicentennial Edition

(The Bible Society)

During 1988 a special outreach program for the Bicentenary has been instigated. Part of this Operation Good News '88 program is the availability of Bibles, especially printed, available at low cost for selling to people who have little contact with the church. The program is designed to be a visitation program that will offer these special Bibles to householders. The Bible Society has produced a special edition of the Good News Bible while the World Home Bible League have produced a special edition of the New International Version.

This Good News Version contains all the characteristics of the Good News version which has been such a good seller in Australia. The text has been Australianised a little. This is not an ockerised version but sensible differences such as using Australian currency and the use of words that are easier on our ears than English or American words. The interesting line illustrations are retained.

The final 10 pages contain an excellent introduction to the Christian faith and a call for a faith decision that all would benefit from reading.

This edition is available at the special price of \$1 per copy but only in cartons of 40 copies from Bible Society offices in each State.

WHAT WOULD FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE DO?

by Olive Dare Watson. \$8.

This is a book of 21 short stories. They are not religious but neither are they irreligious. In every case the great Christian values win out... not self-consciously but as a part of daily life.

Olive Watson is a member of the Box Hill, Vic., church and a percentage of the proceeds from sales goes to the church. Olive is a good story teller and knows how to use the elements of suspense and surprise. She has kept eyes and ears open to the life styles, attitudes and speech of ordinary Australians, the characters of her stories. At 73, it is surprising how much she knows about contemporary young Australians. The fact that formerly she was a nurse comes through in several of the stories.

This book is available from the author Olive Watson at 103 Shannon St., Box Hill 3129 for \$8 (Includes postage).

— G.R.S.

CHURCHES RESPOND TO B.E.M. : VOLUME IV Official Responses to the "Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry" Text

Edited by Max Thurian (World Council of Churches).

This is the fourth volume in a planned six volume series of the official responses by churches around the world to the Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry document from the faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches.

The excitement of this book is the quality of the debate about these three crucial areas of the faith of the church. Responses have come from the Burma Baptist Convention, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Great Britain, The Salvation Army, Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren, a range of Evangelical Lutheran churches, United and Uniting churches from a number of countries as well as an Orthodox response from the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

After reading this book it is possible to be aware that churches are moving forward in renewal, mutual enrichment and an ecumenical commitment to God's call and mission and a rediscovery of meaning for baptism, the celebration of the Lord's Supper and ministry.

— Ian Allsop.

Theme Hymn for Federal Conference

The Arrangements Committee for the 42nd Federal Conference of Churches of Christ is seeking entries for a theme hymn to be used during Conference January 15 — 22, 1989 in Canberra.

The following criteria need to be observed.

1. — The hymn/song should develop and/or illustrate the Conference theme "God's People, God's World". Bible passages which lie behind the theme include — Psalm 8; Psalm 24: 1-2; Micah 6:8; Amos 5:24; John 1:1-5; John 3:16-17; 1 Peter 2:9-10 and Colossians 1:15-20.

2. — The hymn/song shall not be more than 24 or less than 18 lines in length, versified in appropriate manner.

3. — The music, either original or existing tune, shall be suited to playing an organ and/or piano. Guitar chords would be desirable.

In addition the selection panel will consider (a) theological content; (b) poetic value and standard; and (c) suitability for congregational singing.

The rights including copyright of the entries shall pass to the Federal Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia.

Entries should be submitted to the Federal Conference Theme Hymn Panel, C/- 82 Limestone Ave., Ainslie 2602. Closing date for entries is July 31, 1988.

Australia Day Tennis

One of the annual features of the Western Australian Brotherhood calendar is the Australia Day Tennis Tournament.

This year it was an excellent day with 122 pairs playing at McCullum Park. The weather was warm (38°) and the fellowship of city and country tremendous. Warwick topped the entries with 53 players. Harvey excelled in winning the competition.

The trophies were presented by Conference President, Ken Duffy. Drinks and eats were supplied by Mrs Finnerty's Coffee House at the Midland church.

Winners on the day were:

Men's A Grade — Greg and Richard Esmond (Harvey); Men's A Reserve — Donald and Robert Marshall (Harvey); Men's B1 — Gary Beavis and Richard Whimbley (Kingsley); Men's B2 — Michael Moody and Allen Christie (Cottesloe); Men's C — Peter Gillham and Trevor Cooper (Harvey); Junior Boys — Jason Lamb and George Petrou (Nollamara); Ladies A — Linda Wesley and

New Sports Chaplains

Two Sydney Churches of Christ ministers have joined the growing number of ministers involved in the sports ministry movement. They have recently been appointed as chaplains to professional sports teams under the banner of Sports & Leisure Ministry a part of the Specialised Life-Oriented Ministries.

Paul Cameron, Carlingbah, has been appointed chaplain of the Sydney Swans VFL team while Tim Smith, Greenacre, has been appointed chaplain to NSW Tennis.

The previous chaplain to the Sydney Swans, John Rees, a

Baptist minister, had been transferred in his ministry outside of Sydney thus leaving a vacancy. Ken Bond, Campbelltown, who is also chaplain to the Western Suburbs Rugby league club suggested Paul for this position. Paul was introduced to the Sydney Swans administration and coaching staff before Christmas and since then has been actively involved with the athletes.

Tim Smith was introduced to the N.S.W. State Tennis scene late in 1987. He attended the N.S.W. Open Championship as chaplain. He is the third minister to fill this chaplaincy role.

These two appointments brings to seven the number of Churches of Christ chaplains to sporting teams. There are three in Western Australia (Shield Cricket — Barry Ryall, West Coast Eagles VFL — John Bond and Perth Wildcats Basketball — Bruce Eagles), one in South Australia (Motor Racing — Norm Carter) and the three in New South Wales. Bruce Eagles and Norm Carter also serve as SLM State Co-ordinators.

Let's Celebrate in '88



Holiday Bible Adventure in operation

Last year's Holiday Bible Adventure week at Goolwa, S.A., was such a success that a repeat was called for. Sunday Youth staff supplied a popular daily program for local and visiting children at this seaside town.

Held from January 18 this year's theme was "Celebrate in '88". An Australian flavour was

apparent with a puppet show of emu, kangaroo, koala and possum helping to tell the story of God's love and care.

Classes enjoyed craft work, choruses and outdoor and team games. The average attendance was in the mid 50's with an age range of 3 - 12.

— Fay Neighbour

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QLD

ROMA (Trevor Pedler). Church is looking forward enthusiastically to the year ahead expecting great things to happen ... Trevor & Susan Pedler were welcomed into the ministry at an induction service conducted by Trevor Meares on Feb. 7 ... Church attendances have been up over the last weeks with over 50 present at services ... The church invited "Cornerstone" to send a group of six to help reach out into the community this year.

CROWN STREET, TOOWOOMBA/WARWICK (Ron Green). Roger Wall & family farewelled ... Ron Green, wife Sue & two little boys commenced Feb. 2 ... Crown St. CWF have busy year planned. March meeting 'Parade of Parables' ... Norma Hass Super. of Bible School. Making tall ship "HMS Crown Street" ... Mini series on prayer conducted by minister at Bible studies well attended ... Charlie Woolf surgery in Brisbane.

NSW

SOUTH TAMWORTH (J. Howes). The fellowship was blessed by visiting ministers messages & grateful for their help in needy times ... J. Howes is ministering to us until such time as we have a full-time minister ... All auxiliaries have resumed for 1988 ... Shirley & Richard Pearce conducted the Country Style' singing service on Tamworth's Country & Music weekend with Richard bringing the message.

SA

GOOLWA (Graeme Ritchie). Ken Collins, from Victor Harbor, helped out as speaker during holiday time ... Adrian Clark, Victor Harbor minister, presided at induction service for Graeme & Ann Ritchie, with Keith Aird conducting actual induction charge. Lunch held afterwards as welcome to Ritchies, with members of other Goolwa churches joining in ... Elders presented studies on beatitudes at evening service following shared tea ... Sunday youth classes have resumed.

GROTE ST. (Allan Lochhead). Church luncheon held for 25th wedding anniversary of minister & his wife ... Midnight candlelight service held Christmas Eve well attended ... New Year's Eve social great success as we prayed the New Year in ... School holidays Kid's Club excellent attendances ... Friendship Centre, Christian video theatre & coffee shop plans under way.

WA

BRUCE ROCK, MERREDIN (Don Sonsee). Welcoming communion service held Bruce Rock for Don Sonsee, Jill, Matthew, Tim & Ben, Feb 7. Messages good will thanksgiving from Shire President & ministers of surrounding churches ... Both churches to maintain contacts with Scarborough & Kalamunda ... Merredin Bible study commenced with Stewardship by Lyall Williams ... Clothes packed for Welfare Centre by CWF.

DIANELLA (John Spencer). On Jan 31 John Spencer was inducted as our new minister. The service was arranged & led by Elders & Jack Sewell led the induction & was speaker. The church was full. All members were present except for two who were ill & there were 75 communicants ... Nola Stowe underwent an operation for a tumor in Jan. We give thanks that it was benign & she is now fit & well.

KALAMUNDA (Tim Hanna, Mark Proud, Dean Smith). Evaporation cooling in worship centre much appreciated ... Kim Roberts student at Carlingford, home for holidays, shared in services ... Antony Cook & Kevin O'Brien also studying at Carlingford Theological College this year ... Anne Cottam studying part-time at PBC ... Claire Cook returned from Sydney after attending Discipleship Training School with YWAM & returning for further two months outreach ... Tim Hanna to attend pastor's conference in Sydney.

VIC

FRANKSTON (Allan Avery, P. Bowers, D. Wesley). Australian Bicentennial celebrated over four

Sunday evenings in Jan., with Mayor, State Member & President of Chamber of Commerce taking part, among many others. Series proved very successful ... Following graduation from COB Don Wesley inducted into full-time ministry ... Congratulations to Judy Avery, the third member of her family to attain Bachelor of Education degree ... Six young people were successful in HSC & are going on to tertiary institutions ... Merylyn Bertram also attained her Bachelor of Education.

REDCLIFFS United Christmas service was held in our church ... At half-yearly business meeting it was decided to engage Rex Sharard for six months part-time ministry to commence in March. He was formerly a School Chaplain ... BS has commenced new year with Mrs S. Griffen as Supt ... Recent speakers have been M. Milne, L. Melberg & D. Slawian-ski.

YORK ST., BALLARAT (Roger Risson, Robert Mason). Cornerstone played special part in gospel service as a final ministry before disbanding. Church overflowing for service & following concert. Tribute paid to Philip

Johnstone for his work with the group ... Eldership team spent weekend retreat at Lorne with Robert Mason, new associate minister ... Family open air service at Kirk's Reservoir. Induction of Robert Mason. Picnic lunch followed.

NORTH ESSENDON (Robyn & Hannes Schaefer). Hundreds of books & magazines donated to Saturday stall, also cakes, crafts, plants & white elephants, raising over \$900 ... Carols evening at Essendon church ... Many members attended Frankston for funeral of former Elder Bill Ellison. Norman Peebles read a sermon Bill had prepared to preach at North Essendon on Jan 24 ... Opportunity Shop opened in Airport West. CWF assisting.

RED HILL (Ian Cartmel). A well attended & most enjoyable family picnic held at Devil Bend Reservoir ... Church farewelled two of our much loved members, Keith & Joan Jenner, who have moved to Frankston ... Many happy reunions as visitors on holidays attended our services ... Enthusiastic scholars resumed Sunday School ... Eldership Seminar planned for March 18.

CHRISTOPHER'S BAND and other stories

by Kathleen Crawford (Scripture Union) \$4.45.

This is a collection of short stories to be read aloud to those under six years of age. Written in an English context it means that sometimes words need to be translated into an Australian term, e.g. anorak. The stories are not too long and relate well to the experiences of children of this age such as going to school for the first time, going to the beach, working with grandpa in a garden. There are other similar books published by Scripture Union which, if they are like this book, should be very readable. I was impressed by the way that Christian faith and the church were a natural part of the story and the Christian emphasis was not forced on the reader.

— C.R.A.

DEEP ROOTS AND HIGH HOPES

The story of Glenelg, S.A., Church of Christ.

by Don Beller.

In November 1987 the Glenelg, S.A., church celebrated its centenary. As part of the celebrations a history of the church was written by Don Beller. This informative booklet covers the various eras of the church's history and some of the well known South Australian, and Australian, personalities that have been involved with this leading South Australian church over the years. Although Glenelg was developed later than many South Australian churches it has made a significant contribution to our churches and this history will be of interest to any former members and those interested in the history of our churches in South Australia. It is well illustrated.

Copies are available from Don Beller at 3 McGlasson Ave., Glenelg North 5045 for \$8 (this price includes postage).

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DISCIPLES

•Margaret Loftus, Peter Loftus, Nunawading, Vic. •Michelle Hears, Launceston, Tas. •Kevin Waldhelm, Camp Hill, Qld. •Murray & Scott Hermann, Pine Rivers, Qld. •Norrie Rix, Albert Park, S.A. •Shirley Smith, Shepparton, Vic. •Grant Freebairn, Norma Snowball, Andrew Stevenson, Victor Harbor, S.A. •Phil Brown, Happy Valley, S.A. •Claire Short, Diedre Short, Jenny Wilson, Louise Wilson, Jodie Wood, Julie de la Fronde, Stuart Trompf, Graeme Jimpani, North Balwyn, Vic.

MARRIAGE

•Jennifer Pampa to Simon Atkinson, Nunawading, Vic. •Lynne Aistrop to Steven Little, Camp Hill, Qld. •Jeanette Starr to Rohan Norman, Yarrowonga, Vic. •Esther Laing to John Whitman, Happy Valley, S.A.

DEATHS

•Mervyn Sulzberger, Launceston, Tas. •Miss Emmie Heiden, Caulfield, Vic.

Changes of Address

REES, D. — C/- College of the Bible, 7 Elm Rd., Glen Iris, Vic. 3146.

HAWTHORN: Minister — Ron Hewitt, 61 Angas Rd., Westbourne Park, S.A. 5041. Phone (08) 373.1651.

The Council of Churches in Namibia has condemned the South African government's decision to extend forced military service under the South African Defense Act, to Namibians.

Actual, an Interdenominational street ministry based in Paris is combining with Every Home for Christ to evangelise the throngs of tourists who visit the city from all over the world.

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QLD

CAMP HILL (D.F. Smith). 300 attended "The Christmas Hap-pening" under the big marquee in the church grounds. Live animals, billy tea & damper were special features. Richard & Shirley Pearce were guest artists. Our minister presented a gospel chal-lenge ... Married's Fellowship had barbecue break-up at Hopkin's home & sang Christmas carols in the back yard ... Final Sunday before Christmas student minister Graeme Scott put on puppet show on the true meaning of Christmas.

PINE RIVERS (Greg Murphy). John & Hazel Bassett, who were serving an interim ministry with us, left on Dec. 6 to go to PNG as missionaries ... Greg & Judy Murphy have been ministering with us over Christmas period ... Murray & Scott Hermann were baptised recently ... The church was transformed, to the time of Jesus' birth, to hold the Bethle-hem Markets on Dec. 5.

SOUTHPORT (Noel Newton, David Capuano, David Mur-ray, Doug Holloway, Shirley Condon). Thrilling Dec & Jan. 25 first-time commitments. 600 at-tended Carols by Candlelight with 10 commitments. 800 at two Christmas Day services. Offering \$7,579 given to Churches of Christ Overseas Mission. Christ-mas greeting scheme raised \$2,000 for missionaries we sup-port ... Herman & Sharon Teunis new house parents Irwin Blowers Emergency Home on retirement of Alan & Carol Bickell after five years service.

EAST IPSWICH (Bruce Roberts). Dec. 20 five young people baptised, also previously young married man, all welcomed into fellowship ... Don Cranston, Conf. Pres., brought greeting, also congratulated Don Stewart on obtaining the degree Doctor of Ministry ... Youth Choir pre-sented musical "The Birthday Party" ... Men doing landscaping in front of chapel ... Greg & Jenny Wright leading YP group ... Home fellowships in good shape ... All auxiliaries held Christmas func-tions.

TOWNSVILLE (Greg Muller). After two years without a minister

an induction service was held for Greg Muller as pastor. Service had a distinctively North Qld. flavour being attended by minis-ters from Normanton on the Gulf, Mount Isa & Charters Towers ... Church blessed by influx of young families & couples. We praise the Lord for the sound of little feet in the aisles!

SA

ALBERT PARK (Steve & Catie Ogden). On Jan. 17, Barry Grear, representing State Board of Conf., addressed congregation & in-ducted Steve & Catie Ogden into full-time ministry. Members Grace Perrott, Gretchen Carter, Ron Mudge & Marj Ryle assisted Barry in the charge of ministry of evangelism, pastoral care, serv-ice, teaching, counselling, prayer & worship ... Highlight during Advent services was baptism of Norrie Rix, 80 years of age! ... Bawdens from Santo, Vanuatu, spoke to church Feb. 14 at 7 pm.

PROSPECT (G. Payne). Jan 24 Sunday morning service followed by shared lunch, afternoon tea was held at the Botanic gardens. Guest speaker in the evening Greg Shaw, Brooklyn Park ... Australia Day Bicentennial prayer break-fast ... Farewell to Margaret, Andrew, Beth & Joanna Mount have moved to another district ... George Bonney is making a slow recovery. Others on the sick list Vera Jennings, Ros Denton ... Friendship Club recommenced ... Aerobic Class will commence in the evenings.

DULWICH/ROSE PARK UNITED PARISH (Ted Bray, Roger Brown). At parish dedica-tion service Colin Dredge, S.A. Conf. Pres., was preacher. Alan Hartley gave children's talk on

prayer & vampire bats! ... Com-prehensive program of Christian Education groups extending throughout 1988 has begun in conjunction with three other dis-trict churches ... Thursday Club for children's craft, games & devotional has begun another year; Vei Koto is newly appointed co-ordinator.

VICTOR HARBOR (A. Clark). Bible School anniversary fea-tured musical "The Prodigal Son", a modern version created by Ken Collins, BS Supt., songs were written by members, dialogue by Ken. Beginners class sang in af-ternoon, presentations were given to children & basket tea shared before evening program ... Rob Combridge conducted "Adven-tures in Evangelism" seminar in three sessions over weekend training members in relating their faith.

HAPPY VALLEY (Russell Allison). Phil Brown baptised followed by shared lunch at Har-old & Nita Bagg's home ... John Whitman & Esther Laing married in Jan ... Colin Dredge, Keith Bowes, Keith Home guest speak-ers while Russell & Dorothy on leave ... Martin Keith elected Elder ... Social afternoon at Allan & Margaret Jessup's on Feb. 1 ... SS Enrolment Day Feb 7.

TAS

LAUNCESTON (Gordon Stirling). On Dec. 13 church packed for SS presentation of the musical "The Gospel Train" ... Choir's presentation of "Festival of Christmas Music" & combined Christmas service with Margaret St. Uniting Church well attended ... Family tea of those doing Mis-sion Tas. studies when group leaders reported, held Dec. 13 ...

Wilma & Henry Dubbeld & daughters farewelled for 12 months exchange teaching in Scotland ... Thelma & Jenny Daniel spent Christmas with Ker-risons in PNG.

NUBEENA (Gordon Henderson). Sunday School anniversary went off well with full church of about 120 ... 60 attended ladies Christmas eve-ning ... 100 at Christmas morning service & Christmas Bowl appeal \$241 ... After evening service members attended Carols by Candlelight at Port Arthur ... Six of our members are attending Bible studies in NSW ... Bring a friend night was held Jan. 10 & supper followed.

ULVERSTONE (Tom & Ruth Edge). Peter Broadbent guest leader family camp at Kooya ... Rev. Trevor Byard (retired Unit-ing Church) conducted nine weeks interim ministry ... Many holiday makers from Launceston & mainland during Dec/Jan ... Feb. 17 Gordon & Lesley Stirling inducted Tom & Ruth Edge into joint ministry ... Further upgrad-ing of manse with paving & some new furniture.

LAUNCESTON (Gordon Stir-ling). A commissioning service held on Jan. 24 for Phillip & Annette Orr as they go to Halls Gap & presentations made to them ... Max Viney farewelled as he goes to COB Glen Iris ... Gor-don Stirling holding discipleship classes & classes to help those preparing talks ... Many visitors during holiday period.

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VIC

SOUTH YARRA (A.B. Clark). Student minister Mark Thompson, Anthea & family welcomed into fellowship Jan. 10 ... Mr & Mrs Clark visited Horsham Jan. 3 for baptism of granddaughter Katherine. Mr Clark preached pm ... CWF met Feb. 2 to arrange year's program ... Christmas service held with Prahran & Cheryl & Steven Town helping Gospel Singers Christmas program was a feast of good things. Attended by Mayor & representative Councillors.

NUNAWADING (E. Keating, J. Wright, G. Harris, S. Ludgater, C. Bentley). Christmas celebrations included "An Old Fashioned Christmas" — musical presented by young people, "Walk through Christmas story" — series of tableaux in church grounds, "Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols" presented by church choir, Gwenda Steele narrator ... Well attended services on Christmas Day ... Series on social issues at evening services during Jan ... Church regrets decision of Garry Harris to terminate his ministry Dec. 1988.

STRATHMORE (K. & R. Luttrell). Rhonda ordained Nov ... Successful Sunday School camp, elections & Homecoming held ... Church rejoiced in dedication service & baptism ... New bus purchased ... Board accepted Task Force proposal presented by Louis van Laar ... AGM & family camp to be held March ... Ministers refreshed from holidays & church looking to a great year in the ministry for our Lord at Strathmore.

YARRAWONGA. A farewell was tendered to Ken & Jean Stothard, appropriately combining with BS award night, as Jean had given 13 years of consistent leadership in the Kindergarten. They also supported every church activity, including eldership & regular preaching. Gifts were given by church & auxiliaries including a painting of a local scene. They have gone into ministry with Essendon ... A kitchen tea has been given to Jeanette Starr. **SHEPPARTON (John Inman).** John Inman was inducted into ministry on Jan. 17 by Principal

Dr. W. Tabbernee during the morning service. John, a graduate of the College of the Bible, was ordained into ministry in 1987 and moved immediately to Shepparton, being joined in ministry by his wife Nora and their three sons Nathan, Joshua and Mathew ... Church welcomes into fellowship Shirley Smith following her baptism & Bob Price, transferred from Cheltenham.

WEST PRESTON (Chris Field). Ages 13-18 years participated in Christmas play. Music &

words by Chris Field ... Cake & cordial distributed at local corner for Christmas ... Christmas Day service combined with Northcote, Thornbury & Preston. Packed chapel ... Evening services recommencing Feb. 7 ... Sunday School going on possum hunt ... Dec. 13 no sermon. Testimonies given as to how Jesus has been working in lives of congregation in 1987.

NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn). Church commencing 10.30 am during Feb. & March as an experi-

ment ... Children's Ministry program commencing at 9.45 am part of overall service ... Some still away after accidents & ill health, others making good progress ... Mrs M.A. Huggan celebrated 102nd birthday at Fred Combridge House ... Men of church presided at communion service at FCH.

**Keep in mind Aborigines Offering
March 20**

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Our God is Faithful.

We would like to thank all those who prayed for our daughter Ruth over the period of nearly six years.

She was struck down with a mystery virus at the age of 11 and as a result developed myalgic encephalomyelitis. This disease has been written up quite extensively in recent months. Articles have been featured in the "Womens Weekly" and in the "Age" newspaper during November.

Ruth's symptoms included severe headaches, muscular pain, extreme fatigue and bowel disturbance.

Prior to this she had been a well adjusted, sports loving child. She had no social problems or difficulties with her school work. There was simply no basis for believing that the sudden onset of these symptoms was due to psychological factors.

In due course it was established that Ruth had developed severe allergies and that her immune system had been severely damaged. She was virtually allergic to the 20th century as we had to try to isolate her from car exhaust, newsprint, gas, all perfumes and deodorants, man-made fibres, etc. Water for bathing had to be filtered and her list of foods was progressively reduced despite strict rotation. In September of this year Ruth was able to eat only six or seven foods (this included no cereals, meat, eggs, or dairy food). It was at this time that a member of our church (Croydon, Victoria) had a vision that Ruth would be healed. It could be during the first week in December but before that she would be reduced to only three foods.

We accepted this as a prophesy from the Lord and it sustained us in the coming days when Ruth's system rejected one food after another.

On December 6, our minister (Wally Gibney) invited people who wanted prayer to go forward. Ruth asked for prayer for healing and Wally Gibney invited family members and close friends to join with him. The remainder of

— Irma and Alan Rackemann

the congregation was asked to support the prayer team.

The prayer ministry continued for probably half an hour during which time Ruth had a beautiful experience of God. She has described to our local congregation the physical sensation of the Holy Spirit in her body. This was followed by such an awesome encounter with God that she had to kneel and then to prostrate herself before him.

Then followed a sense of glorious peace as she rested on the chapel floor for perhaps another half hour. During this time God's love was just flowing out to those around her.

As a family we rejoice in the fact that our God is faithful. We want him to receive all the glory.

We know from experience that God does not always heal in such a dramatic way. In fact, the lessons we have learned in recent days are that God cannot be "put in a box" and that the work of the Holy Spirit should not be limited by man's rituals. Our mighty God will work according to his will and his timing is perfect.

1988 marks 75 years of Leprosy Mission activities in Australia. There will be two Thanksgiving Rallies at which Bill Edgar, International Director of TLM, will speak. One will be in Sydney on March 12 and the other in Melbourne on March 20 at the Collins St., Baptist Church at 3 pm.

The persecution of Christians in Ethiopia appears to be intensifying with at least 7,000 Christians in prison. Tasgara Hirpo, an Ethiopian pastor who was President of the Mekane Yesus Church, but has now sought asylum in West Germany, claims that 2,000 Protestant church have closed since the 1974 revolution.

THE LAST WORD

Encouragement after censure is as the sun after a shower.

— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

"There's just one difficulty about taking dictation from my boss," the secretary said, "and that's the fact that you have to take such a lot for granted!"

★★★★★

She was really pleased with the result of her bargain hunting. "Look at this!" she said to her husband. "This dress was marked down from \$75 to \$50! Now, what shall I do with the money I saved?" And her husband said, "Show it to me!"

★★★★★

Two Australian university students were on an exchange scheme at Yale University. At the graduation day ceremony one of the speakers chose the word 'Yale' as his topic. He spoke for half an hour about Y for Youth, then went on to A for Ambition, then L for Loyalty. During his final half hour, which was devoted to E for Endeavour, one of the Australians turned to the other and said: "Aren't you glad he wasn't the guest speaker at the New South Wales Institute of Technology?"

★★★★★

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"But you had a new one only last week."

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