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WIN ARN IN AUSTRALIA

SEE PAGE 9



WORLDWIDE PHOTOS

NEW NAME

CHURCHES OF CHRIST "INGADA" VILLAGE. CARNARVON

Yes, it is the same place — Carnarvon Mission — and the address is the same but the name has been changed. The old term "Mission" which described the Children's Homes work over nearly 30 years ago no longer describes our present day set up.

The new name, "Ingada" means "Our People," the tribal name of the local aboriginal people and was chosen by Bob Williams.

"Ingada" village consists of 12 Children's Homes, 3 Hostels in the town, the Camping Area, and the Aged Persons Homes. As residents' ages range from infancy through to the very elderly the term "Ingada" Village is very fitting.

STAFF

David and Helen Solomon will retire as house parents at Orana Hostel within the next few months. They have done a wonderful work and we are aware of the tremendous responsibility that Helen has had. We rejoice in the fact that the Solomons will still remain in Carnarvon.

Don and Margaret Yarrow are on their way from Queensland to join the staff at Carnarvon. Arnold Baills, who served earlier in the year as single worker is returning to the work at Carnarvon July 26 after his marriage.

AERIAL OUTRACH

Mervyn Broad, Ray Schmitt, Joe Lanigan and Hansen Boxer left on June 6 for Cue. They had fellowship with Ian and Heather Foot over Friday and Saturday, sharing the film "Shadow of the Boomerang" on the Saturday night. At Meekatharra on Sunday the film was shown to 100 people.

Monday and Tuesday was spent in Jiggalong and a wonderful welcome was received. Graeme Wilson was very happy to meet friends again. Wednesday was off

A.C.C. OPPOSES NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The Australian Council of Churches is opposed to the acquisition by Australia of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons and rejects a concept of security based on mass destruction of civilian populations.

In recognition of August 6, 1975 as the 30th Anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and in response to recent calls by individuals and groups within the community for the acquisition of nuclear weapons by Australia, the A.C.C. Executive restated its policy.

The A.C.C.'s policy also "urges full and informed public discussion of the Australian Government nuclear policy, supports the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and expresses the connection that all nuclear weapons should be destroyed and prohibited by all nations."

to Marble Bar where the Fields (ex-Carnarvon Mission staff) are in charge of the Hostel. On Thursday the team went to Wittenoom, which according to local people was an answer to prayer. Almost all the aboriginal folk in the town turned out to the 3½ hour meeting which included two benedictions. At Port Hedland on Friday visiting was done and a meeting held in the Civic Centre. On the way the team dropped down at Yandeyarra Station where a real welcome was received, firstly by Norman Thompson and then many others. At Roebourne on Saturday the usual warm welcome was appreciated. Film and fellowship time followed a barbecue. Meetings commenced at the woolshed early Sunday, then a meeting at the Roebourne Christian Fellowship before taking off for Onslow where again the film was shown in the evening to a good crowd. Finally the team headed for Carnarvon after lunch on Monday.

GALLUP RELIGION POLL

The number of Americans who now believe that religion is losing its influence has been set at 56 per cent, according to a Gallup Poll taken last December. A similar poll taken in 1970 showed that 75 per cent of those interviewed felt that religion was losing its influence.

In the new poll, 31 per cent thought religion is gaining ground — in 1970, only 14 per cent said religion's influence was growing.

Gallup also found Bible reading up slightly, from 61 per cent who read the Scriptures weekly in 1970 to 63 per cent in 1974.

The Gallup survey was conducted in 300 U.S. locations. A significant increase was found in the number of young adults who believe religion's influence is gaining.

In 1970, 14 per cent of the young adults questioned felt religion was becoming stronger. The figure rose to 37 per cent in late 1974.

Gallup said that the increase in the percentage believing religion's influence is growing could be attributed, in part, to greater youth interest in religion and to adverse economic conditions.

One popular theory holds that religion's impact is stronger in "bad times". That claim, however, is disputed by some sociologists.

—"DISCIPLE"

INNER SPRINGS

Return to thy own house



Over the years I have witnessed the coming into the Kingdom of many. I have seen some grow in their love for Him and others fall by the wayside. About these latter ones I have always wondered what thoughts occupied their minds following baptism. Did they expect to be given some special ministry, some task to mark them out from all others? And not receiving it, have turned away from Him in great disappointment.

In recounting the story of the man freed of many devils, Luke does not leave it at the man's salvation. He goes on to say, "Now the man out of whom the devils were departed besought Him that he might be with Him: but Jesus sent him away, saying, 'Return to thine own house and show what great things God hath done unto thee'."

What a wave of sadness must have swept over his spirit at the words of Jesus. To be sent from that radiant Presence must have been almost unbearable. But love to Christ must also bring obedience to that love. "And he went his way and published throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done unto him."

We would do some great thing and He says, "Return to thine own house." Perhaps the most difficult ministry of all To practice the spirit of Christ amid those who are familiar with our faults and failings will often result in ridicule, unbelief, and misunderstanding as it did for Him. But with the same infinite tenderness with which He spoke to Paul He speaks to us. "My grace is sufficient for thee."

It may be on a kitchen floor
Or in a busy shopping store,
Or teaching, nursing day by day

Til limb and brain almost give way;
Yet if, just there, by Jesus thou art found,
The place thou standest on is Holy Ground.

PRAYER:

Gracious Lord, we thank You for those whose witness has drawn us closer to you. May we in turn so act that Your image may be seen in us, amid all our varying circumstances.

Luke 8:26-40

Amen.
FLORENCE ROSIER

REACH-OUT PLANS FOR MELBOURNE

Arising out of the impact of the Lausanne International Congress on Evangelism has come a unique program of in-depth evangelism which will be launched in Melbourne in November 1975.

Some 30 church leaders, representative of almost all the major denominations in Melbourne, met in November 1974 to consider this proposal and to develop the project. Dr. Leon Morris, Principal of Ridley (Anglican) Theological College, chaired the conference.

FOCUS ON LOCAL CHURCH

The primary focus of the Melbourne Reachout approach will be on the local church. The Reachout process will differ from the traditional evangelistic campaign, in that evangelism will be emphasized as an indigenous life-style, not something you import from outside. It will be aimed at helping all Christians to discover their spiritual gifts and utilise them.

In the traditional evangelistic campaign, emphasis is placed on the role of the evangelist and his team. Training is given to an elite group of campaign counsellors, with a view to enlarging the evangelist's audience, and no attempt is made to mobilise the church in witness.

In the Reachout process, emphasis is put on the role of every Christian in witness. Attempt is made to engage all Christians in mission. The fulfilment of the Great Commission requires the multiplication of witnesses to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to every person. The local church is the centre for this mobilizing force.

INTEREST IN CANADIAN PROJECT

This new approach to both local and area-wide evangelism is presently under way in Vancouver, British Columbia, where an exciting response on the part of church leaders has been evident.

At the request of Dr. Leighton Ford, Vice-President of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, the Baptist Union of Victoria agreed to release the Rev. Norman Pell for periods of time totalling seven weeks in the first six months of 1975, to act as a consultant to the churches in the Vancouver Reachout.

PROPOSED MELBOURNE PROGRAM

Dr. Leighton Ford, who is the evangelist heading up the currently running Vancouver Reachout, will report on developments in Canada when he speaks at a public Rally in the Dallas Brooks Hall on November 17, arranged by the Melbourne Reachout Committee.

It is expected that Dr Ford and his team will give assistance in the project envisaged for Melbourne, which, like the Vancouver Reachout, is likely to cover a two to three year period of initial implementation.

"PILOT PROJECT"

Local response to the enlarged concept has been positive and enthusiastic. Ford and his team members already are speaking of the Vancouver Reachout as a pilot project and a pace-setter for similar endeavours in other metropolitan areas.

Right at the outset of the Vancouver Project, Leighton Ford took to prime time television to enlist grass-roots support and participation. "The local committee and our team wanted to move the planning beyond the confines of a small group and share the vision with the whole Christian constituency", Ford explains.

About 1400 "home party groups" of four to twelve people gathered across the lower mainland on a stated Saturday evening to watch the hour-long presentation and engage in assessment and interaction.

Ford used the presentation, "People to People Reaching Out", to outline the rationale of the evangelistic project proposed for the Vancouver area.

The home groups spent the time before and after the television viewing in fellowship, reflection, and discussion based on material provided by the local committee and the Reachout office.

FIVE PHASES

The five phases, according to Ford, are **commitment, identifying people's needs, establishing Spirit-led objectives, reaching out and continuation.**

Christians and churches are asked to consider seriously and concretely their commitment. Genuine Christian commitment is more than a matter of counting heads, Ford explains. "We need a commitment to organic or body growth — the building up of the Body of Christ in truth and love; a commitment to incarnational growth — making the body more effective in witnessing and service; and certainly a commitment to numerical growth — growing out of the other two and reaching the unreached for Christ."

KEY FEATURES OF PROCESS

The Reachout process which is both adaptable and open-ended, will include:-

- ★ Research to identify people's needs, both spiritual and physical;
- ★ Careful setting of objectives, both on community and church levels;
- ★ A continuous training program for church leaders and members;
- ★ A multi-pronged, co-ordinated approach to communicate the content of the Christian message through small groups, specialised vocational approaches, and the use of mass media.

RADIO AND T.V. OUTREACH

A highlight of the process is expected to be the endeavour to utilise television and radio in the "Reachout phase", with Ford and other personalities presenting the Good News of Jesus Christ in programs designed to capture city-wide interest.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Another unique feature of the Melbourne Reachout will be the coupling of personal spiritual commitment with social responsibility. In the past decade, Dr Leighton Ford has become a recognised evangelical spokesman for this emphasis. Commitment to Christian action in helping to meet the physical and social needs of the community will be a Reachout objective, along with the invitation of personal commitment to Christ.

Ford believes it is imperative to join together both personal salvation and our responsibility as Christians in this world to the social order in which we live.

"There should be no distinction in our concern for physical and spiritual hunger. Spiritual hunger is deeper. Jesus ministered to the total man."

In statements like this, Ford highlights the wholeness of the Gospel, which has both personal and social implications.

INTEREST SPREADS IN AUSTRALIA

Interest in this new Reachout process is spreading throughout Australia. Enquiries have come from other capital cities about the project. The Canberra Ministers Fraternal has sponsored two briefing-type meetings with the Rev. Norman Pell.

It is expected Dr Leighton Ford will speak at a meeting in Canberra on November 19, during his brief Australian itinerary, later this year, as well as in Melbourne.

The Department of Home Missions and Evangelism for Churches of Christ in Victoria-Tasmania is involved in planning for REACHOUT.

CLIFF COWARD AND THE GOSPEL OF MONEY

CLIFF Coward is a North Ipswich butcher, who says happily that he put a fair bit of thought into making himself comfortably off.

But the difference between Cliff and the rest of us, is that when he turned his attention to making money for his church, he emerged as something of a financial wizard.

Within the last few years, the finance scheme that Cliff devised has enabled his own church, the Ipswich Church of Christ, to build a new \$34,000 church painlessly.

Not only that but it had been adopted by 21 other churches and allowed them to pay off debts and push ahead with new developments costing hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Quite simply Cliff's idea was that churches should combine into fund raising groups and ask churchgoers to lend money free of interest for a fixed term of two years.

It sounds idealistic. But when one considers what is involved in wholehearted membership of a church — a preparedness to give and to share and to want to see the church grow in strength — then it can be seen that the idea is also realistic.

Anyway it worked.

After a trial run at the Ipswich Church of Christ, which got a new church built, three churches joined forces for the second stage of the trial.

These were Ipswich, Annerley and Camp Hill. They worked out that between them, they could pay \$200 per week into a combined finance fund from what was given by the congregations in offerings.

In two years this would amount to \$20,000.

So the three churches went ahead and asked their congregations if they would lend the church \$20,000 interest free for two years.

Within a few weeks \$20,000 had been lent in various sums.

It was used to pay off a debt on Annerley church immediately. Had the Annerley church not been given the money, it would have had to repay \$49,000 to its bank, what with interest and redemption over a long period.

Then every week for two years, in came the \$200 from the collections and at the end of two years all the people, who had lent the churches money, got their money back.

Another \$20,000 loan was raised in the same way and the second church in

the group got \$20,000 to spend. Similarly after another two years the third church got \$20,000 to spend.

The whole point was that church members, instead of putting their money in the bank and getting interest for two years, agreed to forego the interest on their money as a contribution to the church.

It saved the church having to pay interest on its borrowings — which as every person with a mortgage on a house knows adds tremendously to the original cost of the house.

It meant the third church had to wait four years plus before it got its \$20,000, after having paid in with no return up to then.

But it was worth it because it meant each church could go ahead with a big project without getting into more debt than it already knew it was paying in for.

A committee of members from each of the three churches got together and worked out in which order the churches should receive the money.

Other advantages were psychological. Congregations who felt their churches were weighed down with debt and got very depressed about it, suddenly got a big lift.

They could see an end to their repayments in sight, and more important they saw that every cent they gave in the

collections to the church went to the church and not half or more to some outside lending institution.

They also felt that their burden of debt or development was shared and therefore easier to bear.

Almost without exception they got new heart and the weekly offerings started to increase.

Cliff Coward, the scheme's originator went around to one church after another until 22 churches altogether, in four groups, joined the scheme. Other denominations became interested and started their own schemes too.

But did Cliff sit back and smile as he would have been well justified in doing? Not at all.

He kept working out figures on his meat wrapping paper between customers at his shop — and came up with a new scheme. This one is just beginning now.

It not only helps the church with finance, it provides a funeral assistance plan for churchgoers.

To join this funeral plan, a person puts in what they want to be available to pay for their funeral.

It is suggested that this sum be around \$500, but if someone wants a less or a more elaborate funeral than that would pay for, they contribute to the plan accordingly.

They pay it in, in one lump sum or at \$2 a week or whatever they want over five years.

When they die the full amount that they have paid in, is available immediately to help with the funeral costs.

Meanwhile the money is being used by the church for its work.

The investors get no interest on their money — but again they are helping their church.

Also, and this is something most other funeral plans don't permit, the investors can draw their money out at any time if they want to withdraw from the plan.

(Continued on Page 5)



Photo by courtesy "The Queensland Times"

Cliff Coward figures it out!

◉ NAMBOUR, QLD.

THIRD OPENING IN THREE YEARS



For the third time in three years, the Church of Christ in Nambour has had an opening ceremony. In 1973 there were additions to the original chapel, in 1974 the new manse was occupied, and in June, 1975, the new chapel complex was opened.

Evan Adermann, M.H.R., chairman of the Board of officers, again shared in the celebration and outlined the history of the building programme, expressing thanks to the many who had given such splendid, sacrificial service.

The church at Nambour began in 1945 in the home of E. J. Kingston of Woombye. After a series of moves to the Palmwoods School of Arts, the Friendly Societies Hall, O'Keefe's Hall, and the Alhambra Hall, the young church, affiliated with Conference in 1951, purchased land in Coronation Drive for a chapel.

The chapel was opened in 1956 by C. F. Adermann, M.H.R. (now Sir Charles Adermann). The building was moved to the new site in National Park Road in 1973. As there was room for a manse on the new land, this was built and opened in 1974.

The new complex recently opened comprises the chapel auditorium seating 150, a hall accommodating 100, two smaller halls, a large foyer, modern kitchen, study, vestry, covered drive entry, manse and landscaping.

In his address, Mr Evan Adermann, son of Sir Charles, made special acknowledgment of the place played by prayer in the Nambour church as the congregation felt called upon again and again to meet the demands of a growing church.

Despite two openings in two years, Mr Adermann said "There were still problems — our chapel was barely large enough, we frequently had to take out the back panels so the congregation could overflow into the foyer — the Sunday School and the young people and auxiliaries needed more space for their activities. The only solution was the completion of the new chapel . . . The church was on its knees in prayer, seeking God's will, and ready to respond as His will and direction were to be revealed . . . again the empty coffers began to fill as again His people in love responded — the money

came in gifts and some interest free loans, virtually all from the local brethren and only a relatively small amount had to be borrowed from the Brotherhood . . . The faith, the prayers, the work, the trust, and the sacrifice of His people provided the place where the gospel will be preached . . . these are the tools, the materials which God needed and used to raise up this complex to His glory."

Mr Adermann expressed appreciation to Cr. de Vere, Chairman, Maroochy Shire, and his Council, and to some of the members: Horace Christensen, Harold Scholl, A. G. Leane, G. Hopson, Graham Page, Ed. Jackson, Mr Richardson, Mr King, and Mr Ardrey. But these were just some of the many who gave so much of themselves.

The President of Queensland Conference, P. Tucker, brought greetings and Mrs Fae Barber was soloiste.

The opening of the building was followed by the "Come Alive in '75" evangelism programme led by Dr Lloyd Jones, with Steve Rogers as solo song leader.

CLIFF COWARD

(from Page 4)

Cliff points out that if 200 people join the funeral plan at \$500 each, this would give the church \$100,000 to help new projects and causes.

Of course some money would be kept in hand to cover demands on the funeral fund.

Cliff got this idea from a woman who told him that she had money put away for her funeral, but she would happily give it to the church to use, so long as they looked after burying her when the time came.

As Cliff said "I thought about it, and felt if one person was prepared to do this, so might many others."

This funeral plan has another good idea incorporated. Each investor is given a form to fill in with his personal details — for example the names and addresses of the people he wants notified in the event of his death; where his insurance policies are; which bank he does business with; what kind of funeral service he wants, even to the hymn and Bible reading.

This form is either given to a solicitor or to the church minister or kept at home, so that all the information is available in the event of death.

Cliff says it saves the bereaved having to make decisions and get involved in all sorts of necessary business details at one of the worst times of their lives.

ALL ULSTER CRUSADE

Eric Leach, Executive Director of Youth for Christ in Brisbane, Australia, is the Ulster Crusade Co-ordinator. For him, the Belfast meetings are the climax of many months' preparation and hard work.

When interviewed by phone, Jim Kearce reported a steady response to the preaching night by night. "One of the highlights of this first week was the Lord Mayor's businessmen's breakfast meeting, Thursday June 19", he said. "Over 300 attended, including many influential business leaders of this city. Many commitments were indicated at the close of Dr. Haggai's message on that occasion."

The 'All Ulster Crusade' opened on May 18 at Portrush in Northern Ireland, the evangelist being the Rev. R. G. Jarrott from Brisbane.

The All Ulster Crusade in Belfast itself,

opened in the King's Hall, Balmoral, on June 15. Dr. John Haggai of the Haggai Institute is the evangelist, unanimously chosen by the organising committee.

The international team members include Don De Vos, as choir leader and compere. Rev. Reg Jarrott is associate evangelist.

Soloist is Jim Kearce of the U.S.A. where he produces radio and TV singing programmes. Jim Kearce was also soloist during the Brisbane Haggai Crusade of May 1974. —Ramon Williams

NO WORSHIP

A California appeals judge ruled as unconstitutional the closing of staff offices for three hours on Good Friday afternoon. The traditional closing enabled employees to attend worship services.

"Christianity Today".

"THE QLD. TIMES"

SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

PART 3

STANTON WILSON
WRITING FROM
OVERSEAS

Our flight from New York to Dusseldorf was smooth and swift, and to our delight, included a daylight touch-down at London's Heathrow Airport.

A FORETASTE

How good to stand, even as briefly, on the soil of this "sceptred isle" after an absence of six years! How good, coming immediately, as we did, from America, to hear English spoken with characteristic crispness. Not that everyone in Britain speaks the Queen's English — far from it.

For numerous social and historical reasons, Britons express themselves in a wide variety of local dialects. Often the inhabitants of two villages only 10 miles apart will have quite different forms of speech.

These phrases are reproduced as people in various regions of the British isles would say them:

STANDARD ENGLISH. The young lady coming from the school over there, beyond the cowshed.

COCKNEY. The little kid comin' from the skule over thar pas' the kar shed.

NORTHERN IRELAND. The wee gurl coming frae the school yonder past the byre.

SCOTLAND (LOWLANDS). Yon wee lassie coming frae the skuel yonder doon past the byre.

YORKSHIRE. Latle girl kumin frad skiewl yonder past cow house.

NORFOLK. The little moither a comin from tha shewel yin way, parst that bullock lodge.

CORNWALL. Li'l maid coming home vrum skule down there, past the shippen.

WELCOME — AND A PRESENT?

Our plane as though sensing our eagerness, bore us swiftly across the Channel and in minutes we had descended on Dusseldorf shimmering in the Summer sunshine on the banks of the Rhine — Europe's most important river, both historically and commercially. Here was our granddaughter and her parents. The welcome and emotional re-union was high-lighted by the presentation of flowers by Miss Three-Year-Old who, in an obviously practised voice said "Welcome to Germany" and then added the unrehearsed question, "Have you brought me a present?" Of course, her expectations were amply fulfilled. Like all grandparents we strive to attain to the high standards of this happy estate. (The reader is recommended, at this point, to read the statement "A Grandmother Is..." published elsewhere in this journal).

HOME AWAY FROM HOME.

Dusseldorf is now our home-base while we are on this Sentimental Journey. The city is finely laid out and often attracts an elegant and international society. Its impressive street *Königsallee* (King Street) is renowned for its fountains and ponds and beautiful chestnut trees under which are terrace cafes.

Near where we live is Neandertal, famed as the place where, in 1854, what Professor Johann Carl Fuhbrott claimed were the remains of a pre-historic man were discovered. As a result of this the populations of the Last Glacial stage became known as Neandertal man.

ANOTHER HOME

Nearby also is Essen, the largest city in the Rhur, Germany's industrial centre. During World War II, more than half of the buildings of the city were destroyed. In a simply glorious

woodland park on the edge of Essen is Villa Hugel, originally the home of the Krupp family. The Krupps owned what was probably the largest concern for steel products and armaments of all time. The development of this business was closely connected with the political ups and downs of many nations. Alfried Krupp (1812-1887) was known as "The Cannon King". As early as 1860 his works employed 10,000 people. Under the direction of Friedrich (1854-1902) the firm enormously expanded to employ 40,000 people. Over the years successive members of the family directed the business. During World War I they invented and manufactured the long-range gun which in 1918 bombarded Paris from a distance of 76 miles. Under Hitler's policy of military conquest Krupp works flourished enormously. In return the Krupp factories were severely damaged in air-raids.

After World War II, under the Allied Deconcentration Law, the Krupp combine was split up. The Krupp Story is too long and too complex to be outlined here. Whole books are needed and indeed have been written.

On my visit to Villa Hugel I was completely overwhelmed by the beauty and magnificence of the Krupp home — far beyond that of many of the most famous palaces in Europe. I actually sat at the desk of Alfried Krupp and when I read the superscription above it: "The purpose of all labour is to be for the well-being of all", I left the Villa Hugel — speechless!

EAU DE COLOGNE — UNDER FAT HENS

The German city of Cologne (KOLN) is world-famous if only for its perfume — 4711. Because the name of the perfume Eau de Cologne is French it is not surprising that many people assume that Cologne is in France. The figures '4711' are the number of the street in which the perfume was first manufactured.

Cologne claimed my interest for quite different reasons. From earliest times it was an important crossing on the Rhine en route from England, France and Holland to Eastern Europe and of that between Italy and North West Europe. As early as 38 B.C. it was the site of a Roman Camp. In A.D. 50 it was established as a Roman Colony, named after the wife of the Emperor Claudius, it was called Colonia Claudia Ara Agrippinensis, contracted later to Colonia.

A Christian community existed there in the Second Century and a bishop known to be there as early as 313 A.D. In the Mediaeval period the city's prosperity abounded; arts flourished and beautiful churches were built. Great Scholars like Thomas Aquinas and Duns Scotus taught there. As late as 1794 when the French occupied the city, Protestant services were banned in Cologne and no Jew was allowed to stay overnight in the city.

In World War II Cologne suffered 262 air-raids. There were 20,000 casualties and 91 of its 150 churches were destroyed. Cologne's famous Cathedral, commenced in 1248 and completed in 1880, was badly damaged by air-raids in 1944, but has been completely restored.

On its High Altar are claimed to be the relics of the Three Wise Men brought to Cologne from Rome in 1164 and preserved in a solid gold shrine which is said to be one of the finest Mediaeval examples of the goldsmith's art. The cathedral with its twin spires towers over all the adjacent city structures — a fact recognised by the city fathers when they named the street beside the cathedral "Unter Fetten Hennen", which being translated is: under fat hens!!

WHEN TO SING — AND WHAT

We found it necessary to pay a second visit to Cologne Cathedral this time without our granddaughter. Our first visit was cut short by her failure to appreciate the purpose and personnel associated with a cathedral.

On entering the cathedral we were confronted by the appearance of a bearded red-robed priest with a large money box on a strap suspended from his shoulders. The box bore the words in German, "For the Cathedral". Miss Three-Year-Old with eyes of wonderment and a clearly audible voice exclaimed; "Oh, look, there's Father Christmas". She was unimpressed by my denial and explanation that he was really Father Christmas-In-Reverse in that he was there to receive gifts, not to distribute them.

But the culmination of this visit came when attracted by all the lighted candles on the alter she spontaneously burst into

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AT WORK AND WORSHIP,

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Amongst several visitors at June Auxiliary meeting, Mrs. Sonny Graham spoke of her work at Norseman, adding, "A joyless Christian life is a useless life." Mrs. Stella Walkington, back after two years in Canada, brought news from church women there. Mrs. Elsie Peacock, a member of W. A. Churches touring party to Asia, told of hospitality extended to them by a church in Kuala Lumpur.

"Women's Involvement" was the theme of the Balga Convention Day, when seventy five women, enjoyed wonderful Christian Fellowship. Mrs. Jean Armstrong shared a Bible Study on Esther, and Mrs. Delores Wells, wife of a Prison Chaplain, told of ways she is involved in ministry to prisoners.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

A Social Service Rally was main feature of the July meeting. Mrs. Joyce Long opened with thoughts on LOVE: "We can give without loving; but we cannot love without giving."

Guest speaker, Mrs. Justice Murray, a judge of the S. A. Family Court, was introduced by Mrs. Gordge. Mrs. Murray told of the foundation, aims and procedures of the Family Court, which commenced in April, 1973. It was a tremendous step forward in Social Law, being concerned with people and their

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WOMEN'S WRITE



Edited By Gladys Mackenzie

HOSPITAL COMMITTEE MEMBER HONOURED IN VICTORIA:

Regularly, quietly, lovingly and purposefully, on any day from Monday to Friday, 60 ladies of the Vic.-Tas. C.W.F. Hospital Visitation Committee, visit various hospitals and homes, twenty-two in all, in Melbourne and suburbs. One lady can report an association of over 60 years, another 50 years, others 20 years and more, whilst others are just beginning. All hospitals are most appreciative of visitation, gifts and entertainment.

One hospital — Hampton Rehabilitation — has expressed its thanks by conferring the status of Honorary "Life Governor" upon Mrs. Dulcie Henshilwood of

Hampton Church, as representing Churches of Christ C.W.F. Hospital Visitation Committee. Mrs. Henshilwood's association with Hampton Hospital goes back over 50 years, first, when it was known as the "Convalescent Hospital", then as a branch of the Children's Hospital, and now as a splendid Rehabilitation hospital. Mrs. Henshilwood arranges monthly entertainment, and she and her three helpers, Mrs. De Jager, Mrs. Birch and Miss McDowell attend to the supper on these occasions.

We congratulate Mrs. Henshilwood on the honor conferred upon her.

CHANGES AT ASHWOOD HOUSE

This Home, in spacious grounds at Pendle Hill, Sydney, was originally given to the N.S.W. C.W.F. by Miss Ashwood, and has been administered by a Board of Management, consisting of seven women elected annually at Women's Conference.

The capacity is 21 beds.

When the Department of Social Service saw the necessity for the third stage of their Geriatric Care i.e. a Nursing Home, they approached the Christian Women's Fellowship with a view to the amalgamation of Ashwood House and the proposed Nursing Home.

Miss Ashwood, realizing the change in administration of Nursing Homes today, agreed that the decision should be left with C.W.F. Conference.

At a special meeting of C.W.F. Conference, it was resolved to agree to the building of the new Nursing Home adjacent to Ashwood House. At 1975 Conference it was resolved that an agreement take place between the Social Service Department and the Christian Women's Fellowship for the amalgamation of the two Nursing Homes for administration purposes only, working under one Matron and controlled by a Board of Management consisting of six members elected by the Social Service Department, and three members elected by the C.W.F. annually.

When the new Nursing Home named "Coles House" was officially opened on May 3, 1975, Miss Ashwood was special guest of honour.

With 40 beds in the new "Coles House" and 21 beds in "Ashwood House" we now have a 61 bed Nursing Home. Ashwood House is being used for ambulatory patients and being retained for ladies only, as was originally intended.

It is of interest that five of the ladies who were serving on the Ashwood House Committee are now Board members.



LESLEY
STIRLING

NEW EDITRESS

It is a great joy to announce the appointment, made by the Federal Executive of Australian Christian Women's Fellowship, of Lesley Stirling, as the new editress of this page.

Lesley, born in Melbourne, attended the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, 1935-6. Here she met Gordon Stirling, whom she later married at Lower Hutt, New Zealand.

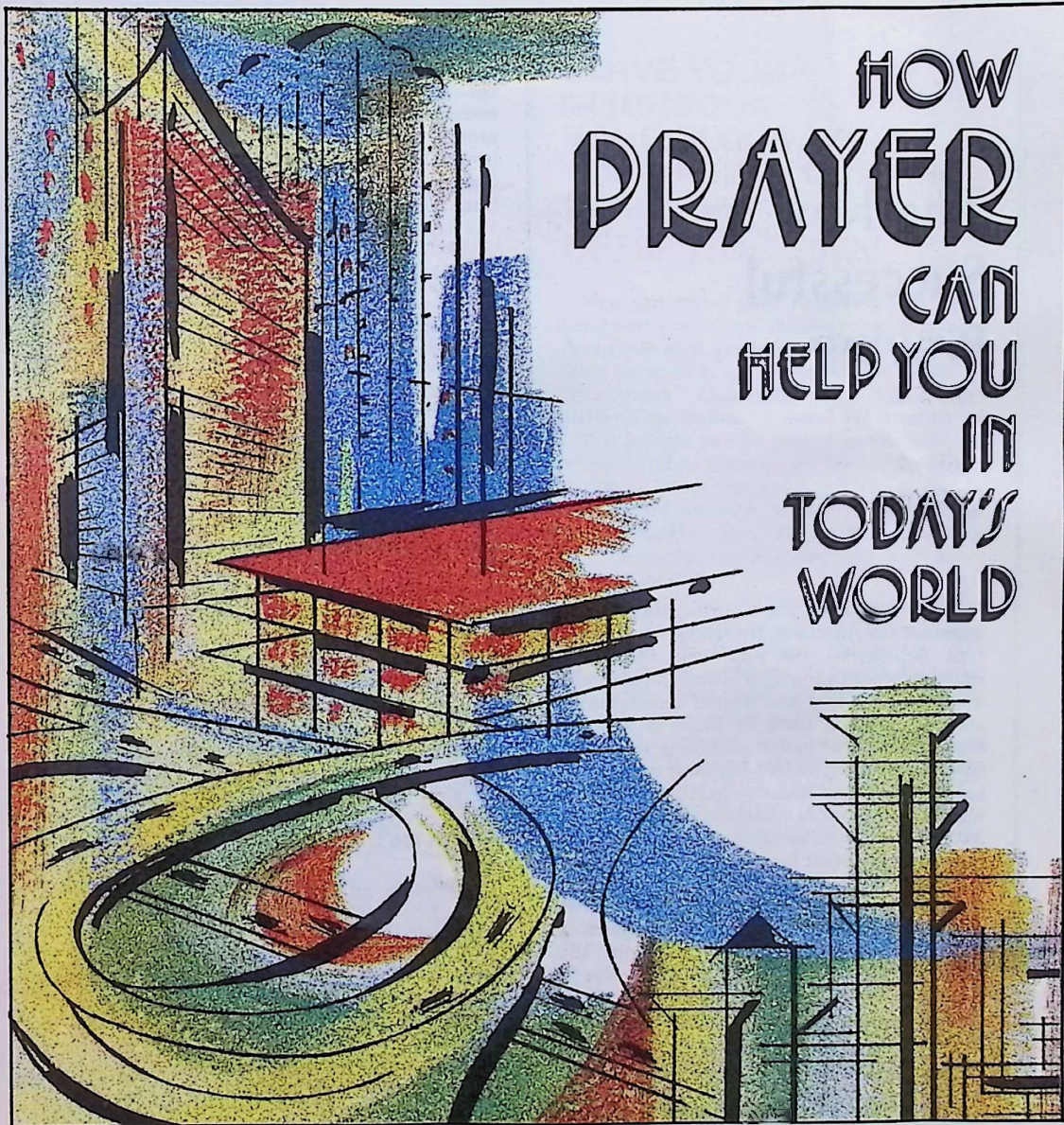
During the busy years since then, she has shared in ministries with Gordon, at Lower Hutt, Palmerston North, amongst young people in New Zealand and South Australia, where he was Youth Director, and pioneering the church in Canberra, 1954-69.

Mother of three married daughters, Lesley has always been very active and interested in girls club work, being the first Federal President of Girls' Brigade in Australia, and work with women. Since coming to Melbourne in 1969, when Gordon was appointed to the College of the Bible, as Vice-Principal, Lesley has served, with distinction, as President of Vic.-Tas. C.W.F. during 1973-4.

She is undertaking this new task with keen enthusiasm, and is desirous of involving women right throughout Australia, in making contributions to this page. Her address: — 79 Underwood Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156. Vic.

A very warm thank you to all who have assisted, encouraged and educated me, in the two most interesting and rewarding years I have been editress.

— Gladys Mackenzie.



HOW
PRAYER
CAN
HELP YOU
IN
TODAY'S
WORLD

Supplement to "The Australian Christian", August 9, 1975

Encounter

The Key to Successful Praying

by Richard W. Innes

Not so long ago I was returning home from a distant town and was travelling at about 70 mph (which, by the way, was the speed limit). It was raining lightly and the road was a little slick. I had just passed a semi-trailer and was pulling back in front of it when suddenly my car began slithering down the road like a snake. Before I knew it my car had turned about-face and was hurtling down the highway backwards completely out of control with the semi-trailer bearing right down on me. I was terrified for my life.

"Oh, God!" I prayed. Somehow my car suddenly flipped sideways out of the path of the oncoming semi-trailer and off the highway. But to my horror there was a decline at the side of the road and as my car went down the bank I panicked again and thought, "Oh no, the car will go into a roll now and I'll be killed."

So I prayed again. Split seconds seemed like minutes. Somehow my car survived the sideways-backwards skid over the bank, pulled around facing forward and then went hurtling through a field. Now I was terrified that I would smash into a tree and be injured or killed that way.

I prayed a third time and eventually my car came to a stand-still directly in front of some bushes. I backed up a few feet, turned around and drove away without a single bruise to myself or a scratch on my car. Needless to say I left that spot trembling from head to foot but very thankful to God that I was alive and unharmed.

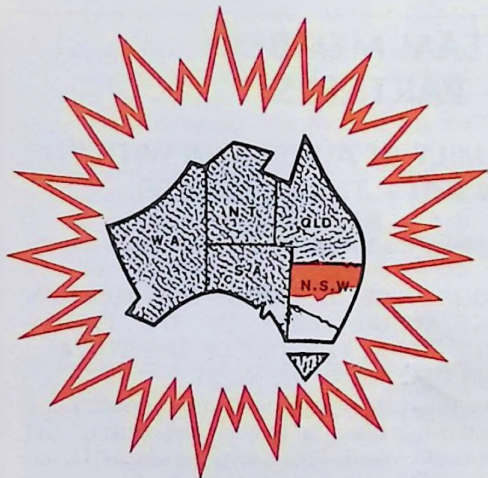
This is only one of the many answers to prayer I have personally experienced. Time and again I have seen God meet the little needs in my life as well as the big ones. However, the answers don't always come as quickly as the one just mentioned. Sometimes the answer is totally different from that which I had expected. And sometimes it seems as if God hasn't even heard my prayers at all.



Prayers that don't get answered

There have been times, I must admit, when I have wanted God to do too much for me, or when I have tried to use prayer as a "get-me-off-the-hook, God, I'm-in-a-tight-spot" kind of thing. I can recall all too clearly back in student days how feverishly I would pray at examination time for God's help, especially when I was inadequately prepared. I always managed to pass my exams, but certainly not because of my last minute praying. Those "prayers" were several months too late.

Whenever we want God to get us out of the jams we foolishly get ourselves into and deliver us from our personal responsibilities, or even make our decisions for us, we are attempting to manipulate God and set Him up as an over-protective, over-indulgent, neurotic Parent. Obviously it doesn't work. God will do for us what we cannot do for ourselves, but He simply will not do for us what we can and should be doing for ourselves.

Doing for others what they need to be doing for themselves, or making other people's decisions for them may make me feel important, but it can harm other people by keeping them over-dependent and immature.



-  Areas already reached with the Gospel
-  Next area to be reached by mail evangelism

REACHING EVERY FAMILY IN AUSTRALIA WITH THE GOSPEL

The goal of ACTS International is to reach every family in Australia with the Gospel of God's Word at least once by 1980. This is being achieved through a strategic programme of Direct Mail Literature Evangelism. Since commencing this ministry in 1969 in an extremely small way, we have posted a Gospel letter kit containing a copy of the booklet, *How To Be Sure You're A Real Christian*, to 815,017 families and have seen 16,045 replies. Of these 5,511 have marked on their return question form that they have understood the literature and prayed to receive Jesus Christ; 1461 more have said that they would like to be sure they were a real Christian, and 452 others said that they would like to receive Christ but needed help with a particular problem that they shared with us. In every area, wherever possible, we work with local churches.

To help reach every family in Australia and to help individuals and local churches reach their communities with the Gospel we are now offering a new outreach programme called Operation 20:20. The name is based on Acts 20:20 and is a very simple and effective way to "teach from house to house".

SERVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR YOUR BLOCK OR YOUR POST CODE AREA THROUGH OPERATION 20:20

You can serve your neighbour, or every family on your block, or every family in your Post Code area by giving them, or placing in their letter-box, or by posting to them an "Encounter" Operation 20:20 Community distribution leaflet.

The leaflets can be posted in the cities for 3c each and in the country for 5c. On orders of 500 or more the sponsor's name can be overprinted on each leaflet. Copies of the Gospel booklet, *How To Be Sure You're A Real Christian*, are provided free with every order of leaflets.

Two types of leaflets are available — Gospel articles and articles based on Biblical psychology to help your neighbours with their everyday problems. If people are given help in this latter area, we believe they will be much more receptive to the Gospel.

Titles available now are: "Does God Exist?", "Training up Children", "Living with Anger", "Why People Over-React", "Winning over Worry", and "How Prayer Can Help You in Today's World". Send for FREE samples.

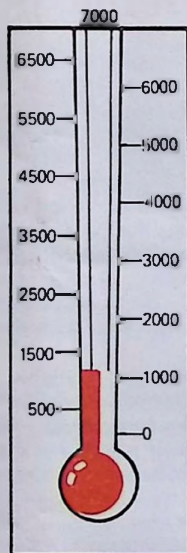
A sponsor is needed to reach every block and a sponsoring church to reach every Post Code area in the land as many times per year as possible. Every leaflet distributed is not an isolated witness but a vital part of reaching every family in Australia with the Gospel.

DOES LITERATURE WORK?

Wal Larson of Bright, Victoria, recently wrote saying, "You will rejoice in hearing that a young woman to whom you sent some copies of 'Encounter' found them extremely helpful in her search for some meaning to life, and is now rejoicing in being liberated in Jesus Christ her Saviour. What a joy indeed."

WANTED: 7000 TEAM MEMBERS AND PRAYER PARTNERS

**YOU CAN HELP REACH EVERY FAMILY IN AUSTRALIA WITH THE
GOSPEL BY BECOMING AN ACTS' TEAM MEMBER**



Arnold Toynbee, the noted British historian, recently stated:

"NATIONS RISE OR FALL IN RELATION TO THE MORAL UNITY OF THE FAMILY AND THE MORAL PURPOSE OF THE STATE — BOTH IN DECLINE IN THE WEST."

We believe the most urgent need in our country is a spiritual need — a need to publish the Gospel and teaching of God's Word. This is why here in ACTS we are working to reach every family in Australia with the Gospel through mail evangelism and Operation 20:20.

We have an effective way to communicate Christ to every family in our land. And that is our goal. However, we can only do this as concerned Christians stand with us in prayer and financial support. To achieve this year's outreach goals, we need a minimum of 7000 Team Members (a Team Member gives \$10 in any given year). So will you prayerfully consider becoming an ACTS Team Member and thereby play a vital role in publishing the Gospel of God's Word throughout Australia. Please may we hear from you today. Thank you for caring.

"ALL THAT IS NECESSARY FOR EVIL TO TRIUMPH IS THAT GOOD MEN SIT IDLE AND DO NOTHING."

ORDER TODAY

Please send me (number) Operation 20:20 "Encounter" leaflets

Title

Overprinted with my or my church's name and address
1000 @ \$35; 500 @ \$22.50 (min. no. overprinted 500) \$.....

Please list information for overprinting on separate sheet

Not overprinted: 1000 @ \$30; 500 @ \$17.50; 100 @ \$4 \$.....

Add for packing/posting: 1000 @ \$3; 500 @ \$2; 100 @ \$1 \$.....

I'd like to be an ACTS Team Member with my donation of \$.....

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Name ^{Rev./Mr.} (Please print)
_{Mrs./Miss}

Address Post Code

POST TO: ACTS International, P.O. Box 88, Norwood, S.A. 5067

Supplement to "The Australian Christian", August 9, 1975

Because God loves us and wants our highest possible good and our greatest growth, He will move heaven and earth to meet our real needs, but He will not do anything to keep us weak, immature or neurotically over-dependent. He will give us wisdom and guidance if we truly seek it, but He will not make our decisions for us. And He will stand by us at all times if we trust Him, but He will not do for us what we can and should do for ourselves.

Sometimes, too, when we are having difficulty with a personal relationship, or are suffering from depression, a physical symptom, or a habit that has us defeated, we tend to concentrate our prayers on the uncomfortable situation or symptom rather than praying about the actual cause of our difficulty.

Take Frank for example. He came to me very discouraged about a personal habit that has had him defeated for many years. He has tried to drop this habit. He has prayed over and over again, but nothing seems to help. So I asked him, "Why do you need this habit?" He didn't have an answer. He'd never thought about that. Without doubt, Frank's problem was a symptom of some inner weakness or unmet need. For years he has been praying the wrong prayer. Only when he is willing to look at the real cause of his habit and pray about that, will he find the answer to his problem. "You do not have, because you do not ask," declares the Word of God, and it continues, "You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly . . ." (James 4:2,3).

Symptoms very often are nature's way of letting us know that something is out of harmony at a deeper level and needs attention. So praying to be freed only from symptoms is useless. That is praying the wrong prayer and consequently it won't be answered. It would be unthinkable for God to remove our symptoms, and leave us with our inner needs unmet or weaknesses unresolved.

In actual practice many of us choose to hang onto our symptoms rather than face the causes behind them, so we are in fact getting

what we want the most, and our real prayer is being answered. This is because prayer is basically what we truly want deep-down — it is "the soul's sincere desire uttered or unexpressed."

Praying that gets results

On one particular occasion when my wife and I were making a move in our Christian work, we had a reasonably large financial need so we made it a matter of prayer. On one particular day we received a considerable gift for which I was very thankful, but my wife remarked, "Well, I'm disappointed. I asked God for \$1,000 today and we didn't receive it." Two nights later I was talking to a businessman about a completely different matter. Right out of the blue he said, "By the way, I'd like to help you. Here's \$1,000 toward your expenses."

In this situation we believed our move to be in harmony with the will of God for us and believed that God would meet our needs as He had promised to do (Philippians 4:19). We had shared our need and felt that we had done all that we could do. God then did the rest. And while God rarely answers our prayers in exactly the same way twice, we have seen innumerable other answers to prayer for similar specific needs.

However, if I have a friend and only go to him when I am in trouble or want something from him, I am using my friend and it isn't true friendship at all. Friendship involves the giving and sharing of myself. And if I only go to God when I am in trouble or want something, it is rather immature on my part. Don't misunderstand me, God is interested in all the details of my life and wants me to make all of my requests known to Him (Philippians 4:6). But asking for things is only a small part of prayer. In its deepest sense prayer is being totally open and honest with God and learning to communicate with Him at the feeling level.

Whether it is with God or people, true communication occurs only when we are willing to be open and honest beyond our

thoughts to our feelings. For example, it is one thing for me to say, "I think Joe is a striking personality," but quite another thing for me to say, "I think Joe is a striking personality and I feel very jealous of him." The first statement reveals only my thoughts but nothing of my real self. It is a very shallow level of communication. The second statement is risky, but it reveals the real me. It is true communication. It is open and honest. And when it comes to praying, God isn't interested in meaningless words (Matthew 6:7). He wants us to express the feelings of our heart, which He will always accept no matter what those feelings may be.

And in actual fact my thoughts and the words I say may not be my real prayer at all. For instance, if I pray that God will save my neighbour, but in my heart I don't really care about him, which prayer does God hear? He obviously hears what my heart is saying for that is my true prayer. It is so much wiser then to admit the truth to God and tell Him how I feel. He knows it anyway. Once I do this, I am free to ask God to help me grow in love toward my neighbour and other people as well. And because this kind of praying is in harmony with the will of God, we know it will be answered. God's Word says, "If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him" (1 John 5:14,15).

Jesus Christ also said, "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will and it shall be done for you" (John 15:7). That's quite a promise, but it is dependent on our having a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ. It goes without saying that if we are to communicate effectively with anybody, we need to have a right relationship with that person. Because of our sin, our relationship with God has been impaired. But because of Christ's sacrificial

death for us on the cross, our relationship with God can be restored by our accepting Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour and coming to God through Him.*

Long ago a blind man sat beside a dusty road, begging. He didn't have much to live for and even less to look forward to in the future. One day something very unusual happened. As an excited crowd came closer and closer, he anxiously enquired to find out what was happening. "Jesus is coming," he heard somebody say.

Immediately Bartimaeus began to shout out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And the more the people tried to quieten him, the more he shouted out the same message.

And the Bible says that when Jesus heard his cry, He stood still. The winds and the waves couldn't stop the Saviour, neither could the crowds. But the cry of a blind beggar did and that day Bartimaeus received his sight. He got what he truly wanted.

What is your deepest need, dear Reader, and what is it that you truly want more than anything else? If your prayer is honest and in harmony with the will of God; if your relationship with God is also right and if you pray believing, God has guaranteed to hear and answer your prayer. "Therefore I tell you," said Jesus Christ, "whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you receive it, and you will" (Mark 11:24). And again Christ said, "According to your faith be it done to you" (Matthew 9:29).

* NOTE: See booklet, *How To Be Sure You're A Real Christian*. Send for a copy and we will post it to you today.



Distributed as a community service by:
YOUR CHURCH'S NAME HERE

PLEASE list information for printing in this box on separate paper.

Your Street, Anytown

Minister: Rev. U.R. Welcome, Telephone: 123 4567

FREE: A free copy of the booklet, *HOW TO BE SURE YOU'RE A REAL CHRISTIAN*, is available on request. For this or additional help, please write or contact the above Sponsor or Publisher, ACTS International (an inter-church service organization), P.O. Box 88, Norwood, South Aust. 5067 : P.O. Box 27-104, Mt. Roskill 4, Auckland : P.O. Box 507, Albion, Michigan 49224.

OPEN FORUM

Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the management or editorial panel. Correspondents are requested to say only what is true, kind, necessary, and Christian, and to say it in no more than 150 words.

To the Editor,

With reference to Tertius on smoking, I have a "No Smoking" sign in my shower recess; however it is not there to turn people away from cleanliness, but to remind them of the dangers of smoking.

I have a "No Smoking" sign displayed in my surgery waiting room. I can assure you it is not there to turn patients away from the waiting room.

I also have a concern for saving people making people whole. Indeed if possible I would like to prevent them from destroying themselves. But my concern extends beyond saving souls, my concern is saving people — and that includes their lungs, or their hearts, or their stomachs or any other part of them which smoking helps to destroy.

By all means display the sign "Whosoever will may come" but keep the "No Smoking" sign next to it. In fact you may care to add this one "cancer cures smoking."

Hoping you aren't the same,

—Trevor Banks—MBBS, Vic.

ACCEPTING CHRIST

To the Editor,

Evidently Church of Christ ministers over many years have been leading me astray, for when preaching the Gospel, without exception they have stated that to be saved, one must make a confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour before witnesses, followed by repentance and immersion into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

"Encounter '75" — a supplement to the A.C. of July 12 states — "If you have never found God by accepting Christ, you can do so by praying wherever you are for Christ to forgive your sins and invite Him to come into your heart and life as personal Lord and Saviour."

Let us keep to the N.T. plan of salvation.

F. J. Winter, Qld.

BEYOND THIS LIFE

To the Editor,

Deeply enshrined in Christian tradition and belief is the doctrine of the immortality of the soul and its inevitable dread sequel, the eternal conscious suffering of the lost. This doctrine, fostered by Roman Catholicism and accepted by many Christian people is, in my humble conviction, not only a travesty of the good news of the Gospel, but also a misunderstanding of Holy Scripture. I would like to challenge every minister and the staff of our Bible Colleges to re-think if necessary their attitude to this great erroneous doctrine. Unfortunately, there is now throughout

Christendom a tendency and leaning towards the other extreme, i.e., Universalism, and this also I believe to be unjustifiable.

As with other subjects there is a middle course which does not minimise the seriousness of sin, nor does it do violence to the justice and wisdom of Almighty God. For all who refuse the offer of Eternal Life in Christ and who thereby judge themselves unworthy of God's goodness and love, Acts 13:46, the words of the Lord Jesus are clear and forthright, "fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Gehenna)

Eric Buckmaster, Vic.

FOR THE CHURCH BOARD AGENDA

To the Editor,

Could I respectfully suggest to church boards that they could have some exciting and lively meetings by deciding to buy a copy each of Gordon Moyes' two dollar paperback, "How to Grow an Australian Church" and use it in the following way!

1. First they would all read it in about the time that it takes to watch "Division 4."

2. Then they would agree to take ten items from the last chapter, "One Hundred Growth Ideas," and put them high up on the next ten agendas.

3. They would decide which of the ten items would go into three columns headed

"This we could do."

"This would be too hard."

"This would never work."

4. Finally they would decide to take one project from each column and plan to include the three of them into the church programme.

The rest of the business would then take about half the time it would have taken if it had been the only business.

G. R. Stirling, Vic.

"RIGHT NOW"

Western Australia is continuing in its strong evangelistic emphasis by promoting the "Right Now" Crusade with Gordon Moyes.

He has been engaged by the Home Missions committee from Sept. 28 — Oct. 5 for preaching meetings in the Christian Centre.

The emphasis is on local churches reaching out and to use these meetings as a climax to local effort.

Mr. Moyes then moves to Albany, from Oct. 7 — 9, and Bunbury, Oct. 10 — 12.

The local organising committee consists of Graham Carslake, Kevin Berston and Alan Morris. Members and interested folk throughout Australia will wish to join in prayer for this special effort and to write letters of encouragement as we seek to witness.

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

WIN ARN

To the Editor,

Our minister lined us up for Win Arn's Church Growth Seminar. It seemed reasonable to go because we haven't had a lot of baptisms lately. It was a good show. We memorised modules, drafted diagrams, grappled with graphs, and gleaned new words from the Glossary. We were told to want to grow, to win whole families, and to let our church boards know that they could possibly be interested in church growth. Every one had a good time and got very enthusiastic, and went home knowing for sure that what works in America won't work in Australia.

Win Arn is a nice man and means well, but some one should have told him that we have our own Australian methods of evangelism and church growth. For instance we employ a minister to do it for us; and if he doesn't do it very well, we can always watch our opportunity to get another one who can. We should have told Dr. Arn that sometimes to encourage the minister in his evangelistic work we let him have some one in for a mission. To support this professional soul winner we have a great deal of "lay involvement", putting handbills in letter boxes . . . at night to avoid embarrassing encounters with the householders. We should have told Dr. Arn that these days we don't get big results from all this because the Bible says that in the last days there will be a falling away and a hardening of hearts against the gospel.

And in any case talking to other people, one to one, about the Christian faith may be alright for brash Americans, but it simply isn't part of the "ocker image" for Australians to mention religion and politics to their friends.

Yours cautiously,
TERTIUS



WORD TALK

SLAVE

IN THE STUDY

Slavery was known in N.T. times in Palestine, although the economy of Palestine was not based upon slave labour. Other empires e.g. Roman and Egyptian, found their labour supply in slavery, but Palestine depended upon free labour.

However, there were slaves in Palestine at the time of Jesus. They were usually owned by very wealthy families. Such slaves were usually imported for domestic service rather than for work in agricultural or building pursuits.

There were slaves who worked in chains under the control of a gaoler and some slaves who rowed galleys. These were not usually Jewish nationals. The Jewish people prided themselves that they never ill-treated their slaves. Jewish people could sell themselves into slavery and slaves could be bought and hired basically as property. The law gave slaves certain protection. Jewish slaves were not in demand by the Romans. There was a Roman saying that "He who buys a Hebrew slave buys a master to himself".

There are five N.T. words that speak of aspects of service. John uses three. One word was drawn from "under-rower" of a war galley. He was a strong, hard labourer. It came to mean a lowly form of obedient service. Luke uses it to describe Marking on errands for Paul and Barnabus (Acts 13:5). John (7:32, 45, 46; 18:3, 12, 18, 22, 36; 19:6.) uses it of minor officials of the Scribes and Pharisees.

A second word covered the attendance at a meal such as the wedding at Cana and the meal at Bethany (2:5, 9; 12:2, 26). This was the word that was used to describe how Christians are to serve Jesus in following him.

The third word used by John, and used most frequently, was the common word for a slave — a person bound to his master for life and totally obedient to his master's will. This was the word Jesus used for our enslavement to sin (John 8:34) as opposed to the freedom that was to be found in his bondage. This term is used 120 times in the N.T.

Paul made the point frequently that we are either slaves to sin (Romans 6:17) or else slaves of the Lord Jesus (Rom. 1:1). **FROM THE PULPIT.**

In the near future Alexander Solzhenitsyn will be in Australia. This Nobel Prize Winner wrote on behalf of the Russian slaves of the past half century. He was a slave in Siberia

where 200 million Russians have suffered slavery since 1917.

He has been exiled and declared a non-citizen but he stands as a voice from bondage. Scriptures affirm that humans are slaves. One, we all live under some bondage. This bondage is usually referred to as the bondage of sin (John 8: Rom. 6). Two, but if we are slaves we can at least change our masters. When 5½ million Russians were released from Hitler's slave camps they expected release. However, most of them were shipped to new slave camps in Siberia. They changed from one master to another. Paul makes the point that we can come from sin to be slaves of righteousness. Three, when we take Christ as our master we find new freedom in our bondage. All other forms of bondage lead to death — mental, spiritual and physical death. But the bondage of Christ is perfect freedom. (John 8:36). "Make me a captive Lord and then I shall be free!" (Hymn 389). "Lord, it is coming to ourselves, when thus we come to thee, the bondage of thy loveliness is perfect liberty!" (Hymn 407).

In the O.T. the law was given (Exo. 21:1-6) that after six years of slavery the slave was given the opportunity to be set free. If the slave so desired he could choose a continual bondage but now he would serve his master as a free slave. Christians who hear the call of Jesus to take his yoke upon them choose him as their master and discover when they give him their life in surrender and service that they find perfect freedom.

AMONG THE PEOPLE.

There are two kinds of bondage commonly met. There is the bondage of the conformist who always does the same, goes to work on the 8.13 train, carries the same lunch each day, sits at the same desk and completes the same forms in a stifling and oppressive conformity. The young person who wears his Levi jeans and long hair and sneakers is equally a slave to conformity.

The second kind is the slavery of the libertine — the liberated person who drops out of society free, uninhibited, and unchained, but bound just as surely in outlook, habits and moral styles as any conformist.

Rousseau said "Man is born free but everywhere he is in chains".

Jesus Christ offers freedom to many a young person bound by the conforming pattern of his society; to men gripped by the habits of years; the women who spend their lifetime subject to fear. In every congregation there are slaves who need to be liberated and who desire new masters.

GORDON MOYES

WIN ARN IN AUSTRALIA (SEE COVER)

Dr Win Arn of the Institute of American Church Growth, Arcadia, California, U.S.A., received a warm response and a keen interest from those attending the first Church Growth Seminar of his visit to Australia.

Organised by the Churches of Christ, the first seminar was held at the Greenacre Church of Christ in Sydney, attracting an average attendance of 320 each night, over the the three night period.

Participants came from all over the Sydney area, and beyond. The response brought representatives of the Salvation Army, Baptist, Methodist,

Congregational, Presbyterian churches and Brthren Assembly personnel. Bible College students and missionary candidates were also noticed amongst the clergy, denominational leaders and lay members present.

A manual provided questions to be answered and reviewed at following sessions. Films were used, as well as the printed material before the meeting dispersed into discussion groups which met in nearby halls as well as various parts of this church's complex.

Dr Arn is a man who is primarily concerned with the growth of local churches. He has managed to understand

our Australian way of thinking and has bridged the cultural gap sometimes noticed with visiting speakers and lecturers, according to those attending the seminar.

— Ramon Williams

A report on Dr Arn's Australia wide seminars will appear in the next issue.

SINKING CITY

Mexico's City's huge 400-year-old Metropolitan Catholic Cathedral is slowly sinking on its foundations, and government architects warn that if urgent measures are not taken it will topple over someday. The entire city is sinking as the result of the draining of underground water, but the cathedral is sinking faster. It is several feet below the surrounding streets.

— "Christianity Today".

● OVERSEAS MISSIONS

ASSISTANCE FROM C.O.C.O.A.

A donation of \$2006 from C.O.C.O.A. was recently sent to the Australian Baptist Missionary Society for relief work in Bangladesh. In expressing appreciation, W.C. McFarlane, Finance Secretary of the A.B.M.S. writes:

"Please convey to all in your churches our deep appreciation of the continued interest and support for the relief of people in Bangladesh. It continues to be very much an area of need and will be so in the long term, as far as we are able to observe. One of the crucial things about the current period is whether or not the monsoon season will be a normal one or whether there will be excessive flooding of the country as happened last year. We pray that this will not be the case. It is an area of the world that is flooded annually, but a normal season will at least give the people opportunity to reap a reasonable harvest of rice.

"Because of the way that the Government of Bangladesh is clamping down on the media it is becoming more difficult for missionaries to report on the overall condition of the country. The Bangladesh Government recently announced that their taka was to be devalued 58% and the economic condition is still very serious indeed.

"In terms of a spiritual ministry, however, the situation is altogether different. We are experiencing, in terms of response, the most fruitful period in more

than nine decades of work in that part of the world. Muslims, Hindus, animists, are coming to Christ in unprecedented numbers. It has been quite moving for those of us with many years contact with East Bengal to read the sort of reports that are now coming to hand. We covet your prayers for literally hundreds of people who have been responding in recent months and have been baptised. Particularly are we anxious that the church will make them welcome. As you know, much of the Church is of Hindu convert background and consequently has been hesitant over the years to become too involved with Muslims. However, this attitude is changing and we thank God for it.

"Please convey to all in your churches our deep appreciation of their support of folk in Bangladesh."

Keith Skillicorn, an Australian Missionary who formerly served with the British Churches of Christ in India and in more recent years has been working with the Agricultural Community Development Project in Bihar, India, has also expressed sincere appreciation for relief aid from C.O.C.O.A. Mr Skillicorn writes "Really you have made more of a contribution than you could imagine toward this backwood place." Ruth and Keith Skillicorn expect to return to Australia next December for a two month's holiday.

STRAY CHILDREN

An interreligious Ethiopian relief agency has launched a programme designed to reunite children, lost in the flight from famine areas, with their parents or nearest surviving relatives.

The Christian Relief and Development Association of Addis Ababa, whose predecessor agency founded in 1973 had engaged in emergency relief measures, will concentrate on long term projects. The reuniting of families is one of the most urgent needs.

During the height of the drought-induced famine, many children were housed in camps in which international organisations in co-operation with local institutions undertook the feeding of starving people. A pilot project a year ago found that of 1,455 stray children registered in one district, 350 had no close relatives left.

An experimental program for locating homes for lost children in July last year in the hard-hit province of Wollo succeeded after only a few weeks in placing 120 of these children with 103 families.

Chairman of the Christian Relief and

Development Association is Berhe Beyene, finance director of the Evangelical Mekane Yesus Church. Deputy chairman is a Roman Catholic priest, Father Kevin Doheny. The children's project, already involving every camp for victims of the famine, is directed by Girmay Berhie, a young Ethiopian sociology student who co-ordinates the efforts of 13 other students.

Most orphaned children are found in the provinces of Wollo and Tigre. In Wollo alone 200,000 people starved to death at the height of the drought.

— E.P.S.

CATHOLICS AND HOMOSEXUALS

Homosexual acts are "intrinsicly evil and gravely sinful," and "no understanding of . . . civil rights can include . . . homosexual conduct (as) one of those rights." So decreed the priests' senate of the Catholic diocese of St. Cloud, Minnesota, in voting to oppose legislation giving legal protection to homosexual conduct. "Christianity Today"

JAY'S FOR JUNIORS

JAY'S JUMBLES

RICH JOE (one word) had a tumble because of the TEMP RUTS (one word). The oldest city in the world is the scene of this adventure in the book of Joshua, chapter 6. Have a go before you look it up. (Answer on page 18).

PATENTS

A Patent Office is where new discoveries are registered so that a discovery by one person is protected from being used by others without permission. The U.S. Patent Office was opened 185 years ago, but the first person with an invention did not show up for three months. Then, forty years later, one of the patent officers resigned because he said that everything has been invented!

How wrong he was! There have been more than two million inventions since then registered in that one office and they keep coming at the rate of 120,000 a year.

One fellow had a bright idea. To avoid train disasters he suggested putting a set of rails at the front of a train. In a collision, the other train would simply ride up the rails over the top. Somehow, I don't think it would work!

— "Lookout"

Florists: Petal pushers.

Q. If eight sparrows are on a roof, and you shoot one, how many are left?
A. None, the others fly away.



"I don't see how this is going to help my grades any. I won't even be able to sit down to study."

BOOKS TO READ

HOW ABOUT THIS?

by Colin Ray (Christian Endeavour Publications)

This is an incredibly helpful resource book. It contains numerous ideas for church programs for juniors, young people, and adults. The author sets out to make the book Experimental, Experiential, Creative and Challenging, and we think it comes off. It has sections about Praying, Learning by Playing, Working creatively, Developing Sensitivity, and examining Real Values. There are 124 ideas and not all of them will suit everyone. But we reckon that everyone will find some new and exciting ways to liven up the program of the church and youth activities in a way that will add meaning and depth to the Christian faith. Role-playing, simulation games, creative workshops, miming, and things to do with hands and paper, and this and that. Example: **Celebrate with Balloons.** Balloons were handed out to congregation with felt pens. Celebration messages were written: Rejoice, Today is your day, God loves you, Have a happy day. Then the Parable of the Balloon was read:

Did you ever try to play catch with a balloon? It doesn't work.

We can't control where the balloon goes, or who receives it, or the wind that carries it. Everyone was happy at the party but one little boy. He had all the usual problems that shy little boys have. He wanted to have fun just like everybody else, but something inside him always got tied up. He could never bring himself to reach out to others. The happiest times were lonely times for him. One of the other boys picked up a balloon and tapped it to one of his friends. But balloons don't always go where they are tapped. The wind took the balloon on its way until it touched the shoulder of the shy, frightened guy. He didn't know that the balloon wasn't meant for him, and for the first time he felt that he was a part of the party. He took the balloon and with great excitement tapped it back. Soon he was playing with the others. God's blessings are like that. Sometimes the blessing we tap to a friend never gets there, and he never knows we sent it, yet, by the wind of the Spirit, God may send our blessings to someone we didn't even know was there. (\$1.25 Post. 33c) See "A.C." 28.6.75.

THE PRESENCE OF THE KINGDOM

By Jacques Ellul (Seabury) P'back. \$2.50

If you are concerned about how the church is handling the pressures that are coming upon it, this book is useful reading. Originally written in French in 1948, it was only in 1967 that it was translated into English and is relevant to the situation confronting the church today. While Ellul has written a number of books since this one, many of them are enlargements of concepts that he has sought to spell out in this book. What he is asking is that the Church should not just go along with what is happening in the world ("letting the world write the church's agenda") but that it "ought to find its own way, given it by God, which it alone can follow". His chapters deal with the interaction of the church in the world, what is meant by revolutionary Christianity, Christian ethics in terms of "means" and "ends" and the importance of thinking out and radically questioning what we are to communicate. Ellul is not the easiest of writers to read but he does bring to the fore questions that must be considered as we seek, through Christ, to build the Church. Those who make the effort will find this book a valuable experience. —Don. E. Stewart.

BEYOND THE CROSS & THE SWITCHBLADE

By David Wilkerson (Hodder & Stoughton) \$6.70

The successful book became a well-known movie and the name of David Wilkerson became known throughout the Christian world and in the ugly world of the drug addict and drop-out. He led the team of Teen Challenge from Dallas, Texas, went travelling, speaking, and got busier and busier until the Lord told him through a Chinese who had been sent from Hong Kong simply to tell David that he was depending too much upon Wilkerson and not enough upon the Spirit . . . The author was persuaded. He cancelled his speaking tours and made a pilgrimage to some of the places and people who had been featured in his book, and he explored his mind for a deeper un-

derstanding of the way God guides and he wrote this book. "Beyond . . ." It is about drugs and teenagers and others but it is also about David and Gwen Wilkerson, their marriage, their fears, cancer and depression and the fact that no one has life easy but that everyone can have it right.

ANYHOW TRY GOD

Studies for P.Y.P. & Adults Groups (C.E. Publication).

Forty-three topics prepared initially for Christian Endeavour groups, but useful in many other study groups. Plenty of good ideas and a wide range of themes. Hints are given for guiding the groups but there is also plenty of room for flexibility. (\$2.30 Post. 33c) See "A.C." 28.6.75.

FIVE ARENA BOOKS

by William J. Krutza (Baker Book House) 65c each

These are popular treatments of current issues and they come through very well. "Decisions, Ouch!" deals with the difficulty of making decisions. Basic guidelines are suggested. 1. Analyse your feelings; 2. Get the facts; 3. Consider others; 4. Understand yourself; 5. Evaluate your interests; 6. Discover God's will. These guidelines are all developed. In "Getting Involved in Today's World," Krutza, an evangelical comes down strongly on the need for Christians to be involved in social concerns as individuals and in the community. He says: Begin in your own backyard: Use every legitimate means to expose your ideas; Keep abreast of the latest facts: Stick to one subject; Keep in constant touch with the scriptures, church, and pastor. Useful illustrations are given, but the books deal with principles rather than specific issues. Useful for personal help or general discussion. Other titles are "How Free are You?"; "Sharing the World's Greatest News"; Getting the Most out of Your Bible."

Unless otherwise stated, books reviewed on this page may be obtained from: The Baptist Book Store, 162 Russell St., Melb. 3000; N.S.W. Churches of Christ Book Shop, 69 Campbell St., Surry Hills, 2010; United Church Bookroom, 15 Mathers Lane, Hobart, 7000.

Church Chuckles by CARTWRIGHT



"There's a gossipy old hen in our church, but Christian charity allows me to give you only her initials!"

L.-R.
SHIRLEY BYARD
MARGARET &
NORM CARTER



BETHANY NEEDS . . .

The Bethany Home for Children in Hobart, Tas., received its new "parents" this year when Norm and Margaret Carter moved in with their own family — Derek, Nadine and Shaun.

Miss Shirley Byard is the other member of the Bethany Family.

Norm Carter writes:

We have been asked "What do you need? How can we best help you?" Well firstly, keep praying for us and all our children (14 altogether).

Secondly, income recently has slowed down to danger point and we need \$3.00 per day per person to maintain Bethany.

At the moment we have 3 major projects in mind.

1. Carpeting the bedrooms — Approx. \$1,900.00

2. An automatic washing machine. \$369.00

3. A fence — \$150.00 material only. We also have some less major needs in mind: — pressure cooker (large) large tupperware containers; money for books and remedial work; combs, hair bobbles.

The Children.

Three of the High School boys — Fred, Maurice, and Richard will be deciding on employment next year.

Ian and Neil are at High School — Ian goes on to 4th Year next year and Neil is in 1st Year.

Ray 11, Faith 11, David 10, and Kathy 6 attend Primary School.

Victor and Stephen are the "Old Boys" and go to work.

We would mention our friend and partner, Shirley Byard, who has become a

sister to us and has made the adjustment to our new home so easy that words cannot express our feelings.

The new 200 and 150 gallon electric water cylinders have just been installed. For this we give our humble and sincere thanks to the Christian Men's Fellowship for their willingness to underwrite the cost of supply and installation of the system.

So many of you have been involved in supporting us in prayer and gifts over a number of years. Thank you.

We look forward to hearing from you and if you happen to be near please don't hesitate to call in and see us.

The Vic.-Tas. Christian Men's Fellowship advises that they are still \$300 short of their \$1000 target. Men can still help by writing to Bill Burgess, 3 Vine St., West Footscray, Vic. 3012.

NEW GUINEA AIRFIELD

An advertisement has been in the "A.C." calling for Motor Mechanics and Tractor Drivers to assist in the construction of an airfield for our New Guinea Mission.

News has come from Papua New Guinea advising that the airfield at Samban has been completed and has been opened.

There is now no need for mechanics and drivers for this purpose.

● Australian Council of Churches ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS

The Australian Council of Churches has agreed to inform the Prime Minister of the Council's "concern that legislation for Aboriginal land rights has not yet been enacted and that he be requested to give the matter priority."

The A.C.C. has consistently fought for Aboriginal land rights over 15 years and is concerned that the matter may have been "shelved" after the Report of the Woodward Commission on Land Rights was published.

A.C.C. MEET IN BRISBANE

The 28th General Meeting of the A.C.C. will be held at the University of Queensland, in Brisbane in July 1976.

General Meetings are held at 18 monthly intervals to review the work of the Council and to set programme priorities.

MAIN FAMILY COMING HOME

John and Val Main and family will be returning home from India on furlough, arriving about mid-August.

DEATH OF FORMER SECRETARY

The Rev. Alan Scott, BEM, N.S.W. Secretary of the Bible Society for 20 years, died suddenly in Brisbane on July 1. Mr. Scott retired in March 1974, but has been Deputy State Secretary for the Bible Society in Queensland during recent months.

GUESTS ENTERTAINED (Box Hill, K. R. Bond). C.W.A.F. gave afternoon's entertainment to Oakleigh Christian Guests . . . Four more junior members have joined the Explorers. Seniors had convincing win in Indoor Sports....Mrs S. Holloway welcomed back after many months in N.S.W....Mrs Street very ill, P. Retchford and Jan Mitchell making slow progress.



THE GOVERNOR'S LADY

When the Governor of Victoria, Sir Henry Winneke, and Lady Winneke, visited the Mount Royal Home for the Aged at Royal Park, Vic., he took Miss Edna Clampett for a "drive" in the sun.

Miss Clampett, a resident of the Home, is a member of our churches.

Sir Henry, a patron of the Home, inspected most of the Departments of the Home, and talked with the residents and joined in activities with them.

Photo by courtesy of "Leader Associated Newspapers."

WHITE PAPERS

ON LIFE AND FAITH

SURVIVAL JOURNALISM Those who produce Christian journals are prone to concentrate on survival techniques rather than on the main task of communicating the good news of the faith and the ways in which that faith is expressed in personal and social relationships.

As production costs increase and salaries rise, church journals understandably find themselves thinking more of the profit and loss statement than of the charter for Christian communication. We have to live! When Napoleon was criticised for bartering some of his guns to the enemy for butter, he said, "It is important that we win the war, it is even more important that we live."

A Consultation, sponsored by the Communications Desk of the Christian Conference of Asia, met recently in Hong Kong to consider the role of Christian journals and to define the nature and functions of the Christian journalist.

The Consultation was disturbed by the mediocrity of Christian journals in Asia (we guess that includes Australia!) and called upon the Asian churches to note the low priorities given to CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATION. The failure of the journals to give effective expression to the churches' declared concerns has undermined the credibility of the churches.

It was agreed that Christian journalists must have "concern for the totality of the human person.....the salvation of the **total man**." This concern must reflect "sensitivity to Christ's love as it both judges and forgives, and identification with those who suffer as victims of injustice and exploitation."

There is no problem so long as we stick to national disasters such as famine, flood, and earthquake, and ways of sending help, but it is a different matter when we start identifying ourselves with the handicapped, oppressed, and deprived in our own land.

Of course, Australian church journals are often most expert in recognising injustice and exploitation in the Philippines, Korea, Vietnam, India, and China, but once we try to seek the mind of Christ in areas close to home — justice for Aborigines, migrant education and social acceptance, pensioner deprivation, strikes and lock-outs, unions and management, political poor performance, international relationships which bring us gain at the expense of the silent oppressed in far way lands — we soon find that the Christian journalist is no longer expressing his church's unanimous convictions. In such areas there are almost as many divisions in the church as in society.

We would like to pursue this important search for free, responsible, sensitive, forgiving, identifying, efficient, Christian communication, but we must process the latest batch of cancellations due to economic pressures and consider our survival techniques in the light of the latest savage mail increases. One must check the butter supplies before we turn our guns on the local enemies.



THE SPIRIT
"DESCENDS" ON
NOBLE PARK, VIC.

This is the symbol which appeared on all advertising posters in connection with the recent **WEEK OF PROCLAMATION** conducted by the Noble Park Inter Church Council. The aim was to confront the Noble Park community with the Christian message in a variety of ways and also to show that the Churches as a united body, were capable of doing something of major significance.

Over 500 attended the opening service in the Catholic Church at which the minister of our own Church, Graham Agnew, was the speaker.

On Monday a special Music Night featured The Gospel group "Ichthus" assisted by an impressive list of talented artists.

"THE
EARTH THE
IS LORD'S"

A RESPONSE

... Some ideas about this simpler life style. We are all so enmeshed in the consumerism of Australian society that it is difficult, if not impossible, short of 'drop out', to express a simpler life style other than symbolically. However I have come to realise that symbolism in solidarity with others is very effective and important. Now about the following...

★ Move towards greater family self-sufficiency... e.g. the backyard vegetable patch... renewal of contact with the soil (a real deficiency in modern urbanised life situations). The development of a 'do-it-yourself' life-style... we make all our own bread, muesli etc. — avoiding heavily packaged items which are so demanding of earth's resources in the packaging. No end to what one can do in this area with a little imagination.

★ The 'tenth-day-fast'... quite a biblical and spiritual exercise to fast. The current concept is that we fast on the tenth day of every month... using a little less of resources; growing a little spiritually as the fast becomes a fast or sacrifice of 'togetherness' with those who are forced to fast every day. Great danger here! That we feast on both the ninth and the eleventh days! To avoid this and allow for the weakness of the flesh we suggest minimal meals on the tenth day, perhaps rice only or bread (home-made). For the practical minded there is the extra of giving the saving in food costs of the 'tenth' day to some developmental, as distinct from 'aid' or 'charity', project. Some who now drive their cars to work choose other means of getting to work on the tenth day... walk, if distance permits, or cycle or use public transport... remarkable savings in energy resource over the use of the motor car.

★ Then these motor cars which we trade-in every two or three years. Couldn't we all keep our cars an extra year or two? Do we have to drive the latest model and keep up with Joneses? There could be real Christian protest in deliberately refusing to keep up with the Joneses.

The Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne, Doctor Frank Woods, was guest speaker at the Public Rally on the Wednesday. Father Gerald Dowling served as compere.

Hundreds of people attended the two drama nights when contemporary plays were presented by members of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches.

Our own youth minister, Miss Robyn Caudwell, assisted in the organisation of a giant Youth Spectacular on the Saturday night when members of the famous God Squad presented a real challenge to the many young people present.

A great inspirational service brought the week to a climax.

REVISED CHRISTIAN LIFE CURRICULUM

By IAN ALLSOP

It is with a very real enthusiasm that the Federal Board of Christian Education encourages the use of the Revised Christian Life Curriculum within Churches of Christ throughout Australia and New Zealand from 1976.

The extensive revision is a direct result of the evaluation of the current C.L.C. conducted throughout 1973 and within nine denominations. While most users were satisfied with the current material, the evaluation has had obvious impact in that the revised C.L.C. will feature a more direct use of the Bible and simpler session plans making the sessions more easy to teach and prepare.

NEW GRADE NAMES AT CHILDREN'S LEVELS

Children A (formerly Kindergarten), Children B (formerly Primary), Children C (formerly Junior), Children D (formerly Intermediate).

This will permit more flexibility in naming classes and also removes names that have been confusing in some places.

MORE DIRECT USE OF THE BIBLE

The revised Christian Life Curriculum features more direct use of the Bible. Understanding the message of the Bible has always been a C.L.C. objective. Now learners will read more passages in the Bible. The Bible itself, in a modern translation, is the text book for older children, (Children C and Children D), youth and adults. For younger children (Children A and Children B) the books of C.L.C. Bible Stories are recommended for use in class and at home. In class sessions the relevance of the biblical story for life today continues to be emphasized.

SIMPLER SESSION PLANS

Simpler, more straight-forward learning plans are a feature of the C.L.C. revision. Each plan provides for 45 minutes class time and contains one or two core steps covering the biblical teaching for the session (usually about 20 minutes) and other steps to choose from. There are fewer options but more help is given in adapting session plans for a wide variety of settings. Additional suggestions are given for classes having more than 45 minutes. The main organization of the learning plans is given in the pupils' resources leaving teachers' notes to concentrate on specific additional guidance for teachers.

There are 36 session plans per year for children's grades. Youth I has 27 session plans plus a variety of electives, and Youth II — Adult provides 18 session plans plus electives.

"NEW BEGINNINGS COURSE" ON THE BIBLE

A special one year course has been designed for use by Children D through to Adult in 1976. It offers an overview of major biblical events and characters. Nine central biblical characters (Abraham, Moses, Elijah, David, Jeremiah, Nehemiah, Jesus, Peter, Paul) and four events (exodus, incarnation, death and resurrection of Jesus, and pentecost) have been chosen to highlight the basic biblical theme that God gives new beginnings and we may learn to live a new life.

Separate learning plans are provided for Children D (36 sessions), Youth I (27 sessions), Youth II — Adult (18 sessions) in the "New Beginnings Course." All three levels study the same major events and characters in the Bible. There is practical encouragement to participate in shared activities between the different classes and to link this learning course with other church activities — particularly worship.

The syllabus for Children's grades A, B, and C has been revised in the light of the "New Beginnings Course" in order to build up a fund of stories about the nine central characters and to provide a broad understanding of the Bible.

After 1976 the "New Beginnings Course" will continue as a basic part of the Curriculum for Children D, and be available as an elective for Youth and Adult levels.

A unique feature of this "New Beginnings Course" will be a wall chart which illustrates the relationships between the continuing Biblical themes and personalities.

PLANNING FOR GREATER VARIETY

The revision of the Christian Life Curriculum recognizes the growing diversity in local church life and in patterns for Christian education within the churches. Through the teachers' books and *On the Move* magazine, help will be provided to use the curriculum in a variety of situations, such as Sunday School classes, clubs, youth groups, adult programmes, camps, family activities, self study, activities organized for several age groups, and groups which combine worship and learning.

Sunday Schools, churches, ministers and individuals requiring more information about the C.L.C. are encouraged to contact the State Departments of Christian Education or the Churches of Christ Federal Board of Christian Education, 52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne, Vic. 3000.

STANTON WILSON'S

SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY from P. 6

singing "Happy Birthday to You" and delighted with the resonance of her voice in those vaulted arches promptly followed it with "O! McDonnell Had a Farm"! There and then our first visit to Cologne Cathedral concluded.

But I've had second thoughts about our sudden exit. I've thought too about that passage in the Scriptures where it speaks of perfected praise out of the mouths of babes.

Perhaps her spontaneous songs heralded more acceptable praise and more of the sheer joy of living than the unnatural intonations of decorous devotees over the decades.

But then — you can't say or sing what you like in church — well not in Cologne Cathedral.

Give it some thought sometime. Meantime — Mizpah.

WOMEN AT WORK & WORSHIP (Cont. from P. 7)

problems. She emphasised that Government considered the family to be the basic unit of Society and the breakdown of families an enormous cost to Society. This court, which tries to be as informal as possible, combines justice with caring.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Wyoming Church was packed to capacity when three buses from Sydney, and one from Newcastle, arrived for Annual Convention Day, July 3.

Mrs. Hulme Moir, addressed morning and afternoon sessions, on the topics, —

"Caring or Careering", and "Being a Christian at Leisure."

Also featured were brief reports from State Superintendents on the work of the Committees, and a panel, chaired by Mrs. Gladys Bent, answered relevant questions.

VICTORIA

The first Country Council ever was held in the Dawson St. church, Ballarat, on Friday July 4, 1975.

160 Metropolitan members travelled by bus, and 118 country members represented Ballarat, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Colac, Geelong, Hamilton, Kaniva, Maryborough, Stawell, Warrnambool and Dimboola. They were welcomed by the President, Mrs. Loris Joyce.

The speaker was Matron Phyl. Davis, who related experiences from the Lausanne "Congress for World Evangelisation." Soloists were Mrs. Yoke Burnham and Mrs. Jan Oates from Ballarat. Country Representative, Mrs. Betty Keatch, was interviewed. Closing devotions were led by Pres-Elect, Mrs. Gladys Mackenzie.

A Committee Talk-back and Question Time enlightened all women on Departmental involvement and Christian Service.

The Council is grateful to Dawson Street, C.W.F. for their hospitality and organisational co-operation which added greatly to yet another chapter in C.W.F. history.

HOW TRUE IS THE BIBLE?

BY LEIGHTON FORD

A few weeks ago Time Magazine carried a cover story headlined: "How True Is The Bible?" After discussing the close study and sometimes hostile attack to which the Bible has been subjected in our lifetime, Time summed up its conclusion in the sub-title: "The Believers Gain!" In other words, the more the Bible has been scrutinized, the more evident its accuracy appears!

Of course, the Bible does not really need our defence. As Spurgeon once said, "You don't defend a lion . . . you just let him loose!"

Many contemporary people, however, are incredulous that there are those who still accept the full authority of scripture. I have had students ask me, "Mr Ford, you seem like an intelligent, educated man, Do you really believe in the authority of a book written so many centuries ago?"

My answer is: I do! With Paul, I am convinced that "all scripture is given by inspiration of God!"

If you ask me why I believe this, in the first place I believe it because of what Jesus Christ said. He taught clearly the full authority of the Bible. In the sermon on the mount He said, "till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will

pass from the law" (Matthew 5:18). He also said, "The scripture cannot be broken," that is discarded (John 10:34), and because I accept Jesus as Lord, I accept what He says about the Bible.

But, you may object, you accept the Bible because of what Christ says, but all you know about Christ you learn from the Bible. Isn't that arguing in a circle?

Not really. I begin with the conviction that the New Testament is reliable history, an accurate record. British Scholar, F. F. Bruce says, "There is no body of ancient literature in the world which enjoys such a wealth of good . . . attestation as the New Testament."

We have far more evidence . . . for the historical truth of Jesus than we have for Julius Caesar!

Now these New Testament records show me a Jesus who was fully human, but more than human. He performed miracles, healed the sick, raised the dead, forgave sins, accepted worship, and claimed equality with God! Accepting Jesus as my Divine Lord, I am bound to believe the Bible is true because of what Jesus Christ said!

I also believe it because of what I have experienced! Its truth has been proved in my own life! I can say with Jeremiah, "Thy words were found and I did eat them, and Thy words were unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart!"

But, you may say, that's your feeling. What about all the mistakes and errors in the Bible? Here, too, I find evidence to buttress my confidence in scripture. Last year, for example, we visited the famous pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem. John chapter 5, tells us that here Jesus healed a paralyzed man. For many years critics said that there was no such place. But then archaeologists excavated and found it — complete with five porches as the Bible described it!

Again, I am impressed by fulfilled prophecy. There are hundreds of predictions in the Old Testament about the Messiah. It tells us for example where the Messiah would be born, when and how (of a virgin): it tells us that He would be betrayed, mocked, pierced, crucified, and buried with the rich though He died with thieves! All of these came precisely true in Jesus, and the chances of just these eight prophecies I've mentioned coming true by sheer chance is 1 in 100 followed by 15 zeroes!

But perhaps the most impressive evidence I find for the truth of scripture is its power to change lives. The scriptures describe themselves as God's powerful word — a hammer that crushes; a sword that pierces, a flame that devours, a seed that brings forth life! And for over twenty centuries the message of hope in the Bible has crossed all cultural and racial barriers to transform man's life and society. Truly, it is a book for the world!

The message of the Bible is for all people. The message is that there is one God who has a plan for all things! That this God has made all men for Himself. That all men have rebelled and been cut off from the life of God. And that this Holy God of love sent Jesus His son to pay the death penalty for our rebellion, and give new life in God's Kingdom to all who turn to Him, trusting in Christ alone as Saviour, repenting of sin, and following Him as Lord.

One of the saddest things Jesus ever said was this: "You search the scriptures, because in them you think you have eternal life, and they testify of Me, but you will not come to Me that you may have life!" The bible calls us not just to believe that its message is true, but to act on that truth and turn to the Christ who is the centre of its message! Today, begin to search the scriptures, and you will find them to be a jewel box in which the greatest treasure of life, Jesus Christ, is to be discovered.

Leighton Ford is an associate evangelist with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. This is a condensation of a recent text for The Hour of Decision radio program.

A GRANDMOTHER IS . . .

A grandmother is a lady who has no children of her own. So she likes other people's little girls.

A grandfather is a man grandmother. He goes for walks with boys and they talk about fishing and tractors and things like that.

Grandmas don't have to do anything except be there.

They're old, so they shouldn't play hard and run.

It is enough if they drive us to the market where the pretend-horse is, and have lots of dimes ready.

Or if they take us for walks, they should slow down past things like pretty leaves or caterpillars. They should never, ever say "hurry up."

Usually they are fat, but not too fat to tie the kid's shoes.

They wear glasses and funny underwear. They can take their teeth and gums off. It is better if they don't typewrite or play cards, except with us.

They don't have to be smart, only answer questions like why dogs hate cats and how come God isn't married.

They don't talk baby talk like visitors do, because it's hard to understand.

When they read to us they don't skip or mind if it is the same story again.

Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television, because grandmas are the only grownups who have got time.

Written by 9-year-old Patsy Gray, Third Grade, Seattle, Washington



VICTORIA

CONCERN OVER B.S. (Shepparton, F. L. Van Laar) Concern is shown at B.S. attendance. Best type of programme being sought....Recent speakers were Ray Eldridge, Col Haynes, Max Goodman, Arnold Farrar and Mr & Mrs Frank Clarke who spoke on work in Irian Jaya for R.B.M.U....Whale Inn on June 22 led by Capt Barry Shearer of Salvation Army....Aranci Ndun sponsored for further year through World Vision....Ladies attended Christian Women's Convention film morning....Teenagers Leighton Gates and Keith Farrar training as counsellors at Mill Valley Ranch....Geoff Atkinson making miraculous recovery after heart attack.

CALL TO PEEL ST. (Ballarat, W. D. Mills). Harvey Clark of Harvey W.A., has accepted the call to minister here beginning 1976. W. D. Mills will begin a ministry at Yarrowonga, mid-September....Two Sing & Tell programmes were organised by Mr Mills. Guest artists have been Shalom, Kim Horsley, Peel St. Players, Victor Franklin, Hilary Clifford, The Living World and guest speaker Peter Burnham....A commissioning service was held for Ross & Ngaire Ward before they left for Elcho Island, Arnhem Land, where Ross will be the engineer for M.A.F....Recent guest speakers have been Daryl McLeod, John Birt, Vic. Berry, Trevor Giles (Home Missions), Mrs Phyl Lynch (Aborigines Mission), Tom Broderick (Leprosy Mission), Frank Richards (Overseas Missions)....C.W.F. raised \$120 from casserole luncheon for Chaplaincy in Schools. At Chat-N-Chew

programme by the C.W.F. they handed over a new crockery set to the church....25 members and friends participated in the World Vision "40 Hour Famine"....Barry Garnham was runner-up in the Ballarat U-17 Badminton Championships.

FIVE FEATURES (Berwick, Barry McMurtrie) Recent gospel services have included Bertie the Blowfly, Simon in Simon's Lucky Day, and Muhammed — the Moslem Emu, all part of new style Family Services at five...C.Y.F. attended Youtharama at the College...Youth Bible Study group meets on Sunday mornings...Church Tennis team made it to the semi-finals...Church Board plus others attended Church Growth Seminar...27 bales of paper were sent off in Paper Drive...Miss Louise Wilson is overseas for six months...Miss Kristine Fletcher is nursing in Warragul.

50th ANNUAL MEETING (Ormond, C.P. Clayden). Elders elected at church's 50th Annual Meeting were Messrs Cole, Keneley & Knee. Secretary is A. Knee. Treasurer is L. Hunt....Mrs Ruth Kay and Mrs Noreen Padey are recovering from operations....Some people participated in "40 Hour Famine"....On Aug. 2 C.Y.F. held a Coffee Lounge with "Soul Agents" Group providing entertainment. On Aug. 3 a representative of the "Gideons" was interviewed and the "Soul Agents" Group brought items....Carl Clayden exchanged pulpits with John Morrow of East Bentleigh....E.W.F. held a "Past Fashions" night in Hall....10 men attended the Interchurch Annual Men's Breakfast.



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7 p.m. Sunday, August 17,
1975.

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BIRTHS

BURDEN (Heard). Lyn and Peter happily announce the safe arrival of Stephen John at Box Hill on July 24, 1975. Ted and Dorothy together with Vic. and Ivy welcome with love their first grandchild.

MEYER (Whitmore). Muriel and Barrie give thanks to God for the safe arrival of a daughter Annette Kaye on June 25 at Q.V.H.

PHILLIPS (Garrer) Joyce and Bill welcome the gift of a son, Nathan Edward, born June 22, 1975 (12 Dean Parade, Rankin Park, N.S.W.).

WILSON (Hillbrich). Proud grandparents, Margaret and Reg. share the happiness of Judith and Adrian in the arrival of Bradley John. Brother for Julie, Andrea, Cathy, Sherryn and Susan.

ENGAGEMENTS

MANN - JOYCE. Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Mann of Hampton, Vic. together with Mr. and Mrs. H. Joyce of East Preston have much pleasure in announcing the engagement of Julie and Gary.

WAKEFIELD - FAGG Judith and Peter together with their parents Mr & Mrs M. D. Wakefield of Blackburn and Mr & Mrs H. G. Fagg of Belmont are pleased to announce their intention to marry.

APPROACHING MARRIAGE

Mr Trevor Holmes (formerly minister at Springvale Church of Christ) and Miss Marilyn Daddow have announced plans for their marriage at the East Kew Baptist Church on Saturday, August 30 at 2 p.m. Trevor is chaplain to the Canaan College Christian School and Marilyn is teaching at Bright (Vic.). The address of Canaan College is c/- P.O. Thoono, Vic. 3726.

IN MEMORIAM

BAKER Loving memories of Bill, 3.8.1967, and Colin, 17.8.1964. Loved husband and son of Dorothy, father and brother of Ralph and Philip.

KEMP, W.A. August 15, 1970. "With Christ, which is far better" but memories of his wit and wisdom make him still very much with us. Inserted by his family and on behalf of his many friends.

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WANTED TO EXCHANGE 3-bedroom house and car for same in Tasmania for three weeks Christmas period. Contact R. Bowie, 39 Carrisbrook Ave., Punchbowl, N.S.W. 2196. Phone (STD 02 70 3308).

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JAY'Z QUIZ

The city was Jericho and its walls fell when the trumpets of Joshua were sounded. (Joshua 6:20) See page 10.

Old established international mission society invites applications for the position of full time State secretary to carry out deputation and secretarial duties. The position requires travelling throughout the State of Sth. Australia and the visiting of churches of all denominations. Selected applicant will reside in Adelaide and be required to take up duties as from January, 1, 1976.

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CHURCH AT MA MA CREEK - QLD 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

THEME: "Crown Him The Lord of Years!"

Sept. 9th - 14th 1975

Tues. 9th, Wed. 10th, Fri. 12th at 7.30 p.m. (Latter youth rally)

Sat. 13th 10.00 a.m. "Time for Reminiscences" (Basket lunch)

5.30 p.m. Anniversary high tea.

Sunday 14th 10.45 a.m. "Home-coming and Thanksgiving Service.

7.00 p.m. Film "King of Kings."

Past Ministers, members and friends invited to join in this joyous occasion - If unable to attend send greeting - If coming advise Secretary by Sept. 5.

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82 1432.

SECRETARY: M/S 428,
E. R. COLE, Grantham, Qld.
Phone: (STD 075)
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hereby makes it known that our delegates to the recent State Conference were instructed to vote against the motion re the possible inclusion of the Roman Catholic Church to the V.C.C. and the Church continues to oppose such inclusion.

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AUG. 23
SEPT. 6

AUG. 15
AUG. 29

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MARRIAGES

- Ruth Handasyde to Arnold Baills (Qld); Grace Van Heck to John Hawley, Albany, W.A. ● Julie Booth to Geoff Ede, Camp Hill, Qld. ● Geraldine Lewis to Alan Williams, Shepparton, Vic.

DEATHS

- Miss E. M. Charles, Bundaberg, Qld. ● Alan Dusting, Castlemaine, Vic.

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QUEENSLAND

VISITORS TO TOWNSVILLE Visitors from southern states have been chasing and finding the sun here. About 50 members regularly break bread in worship ... Annual evening services led by both youth groups were well presented ... The women are well on the way to reaching their goal for 1975 to raise money to paint both chapel and manse.

CAR RALLY (Camp Hill, B. Cutchie) The Boys' Brigade held a car rally organized by Corps Officers, Mr. and Mrs. Graham Phillips ... Mrs. O. Phillips has retired after years as leader of the Girls' Brigade. Mrs. Ann Cutchie has taken over as Captain ... Robert Girard, author of "Brethren Hang Loose" spoke on growth patterns of his church in the U.S.A. He felt that some of his ideas would be useful for our churches.

EXAMS (Bundaberg, Barolin St., B. M. Nowitzke) S.S. pupils did well in recent exam from M.P.A. lessons ... C.W.F. displayed clothing for Norseman boy at morning tea ... W. G. Doeberitz, assistant to the minister, takes morning service once a month while Mr Nowitzke is at Avenell Heights.

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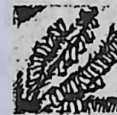
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VICTORIA

"NEW WINE" (Reservoir, K. H. Pitt) "New Generation Singers" presented the musical "A Taste of New Wine", June 21-22 ... Mrs. Joyce, C.W.F. Pres., spoke at annual C.W.F. Casserole Luncheon ... J. Gibbons of J.E.W. spoke at Men's Tea ... Mrs. Judy Smith of TV fame is conducting Floral Art classes for C.W.F. at the manse ... Ladies visited "His Master's Workshop" run by Scripture Union at Richmond ... Church celebrated 41st anniversary on July 20 ... Gordon Scambler, Conf. Pres., spoke recently, members and visitors stayed for luncheon ... A married lady has made her decision.

KIWI VISITORS (Burwood, K. J. Clinton) 260 gathered on July 20, 4 p.m. for a program provided by 'Maori Group', followed by a buffet meal catered for by the ladies. At 6.30 p.m. Jim Beggs, President, Waterside Workers' Union, testified to his faith and witness. Guitarist and tenor, Barry Porch, also contributed....Recent speakers have included Des Symes, Lance Fisher, Matron Phyl Davis, John Birt, Cyril Minns. Musical items have been given by Silvertones, Fred Strong, Glen Aires (John Lindsay, John Nellor and group) and Elizabeth Aughman....J. Stewart celebrated his 90th birthday....Midweek meetings have been held at Withers home....Ladies now included on 'Service Plan'.



NEW SOUTH WALES

CONTINUES (Greenacre, D. Nutt, B. Armstrong, D. Surtees). A.C.T.S. Second term: August 2 — October 12. A. W. Stephenson continues to lecture on Doctrine ... David Surtees has been granted 3 months leave due to illness. D. Nutt and B. Armstrong will share the pulpit.

GENERAL BUSINESS (Inverell, R. Powell). The Annual Meeting decided to hold general business meeting every four months. The first was held in July ... At Combined Fellowship Tea Miss Edith Ashley spoke on Scripture Union ... Ruth Rogan and Don Garnsey attended Kenmore House Party in Brisbane ... Youth for Christ presented a locally produced show, "Wheel of Death", in the Town Hall ... Mr. Powell attended the Ministers' Refresher Course.

SUPT. INJURED (Wyoming, E. K. Morrison) Harry Doherty had 22 stitches inserted in his head after an accident with a power saw. He is B.S. Supt. ... Jim and Heather Newton and family and Clara Dennis have arrived at Norseman Mission ... Special services have resulted in eight rededications and six primary decisions ... A Family Service featured the Primary Dept. ... Barb Spence is home from hospital, Jen Woodhouse is recovering from surgery, Mr Wimble and Mr Rich Sr. are in hospital.

CHURCHES COMBINE (Port Macquarie, J. Sedman) 280 crowded into the chapel for annual combined churches meeting. Many stood outside. Members and/or ministers from all churches in Port Macquarie took part ... Mrs. D. Hall has returned to Victoria to live. She was a foundation member here ... Recent visitors include Mr. and Mrs. Torode, Epping; Mr. and Mrs. Owen, Paddington; Mrs. O'Hare, Debbie and Jenny, Ipswich ... Ladies travelled to Taree for Christian Women's Convention. Speakers was Mrs. Hulme-Moir.

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COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE

ANNUAL OFFERING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH.

BUILDING TO BE OPENED (Warwick, G. B. Carslake) On Aug. 17 the first stage of building at Warwick will be officially opened by the Conf. Pres. Local men are doing the painting and landscaping of the area . . . Communicants average 80 each week. . . . There have been two decisions recently . . . Fortnightly informal house fellowship meetings are held on Sunday nights . . . The "A Grade" netball team won the State Lightning Carnival . . . Our minister is organiser for the Gordon Moyes Crusade in W.A. in Sept./Oct. . . . Instructors from the local church are teaching scripture to over 600 children each week in three schools.

HALL PROGRESS (Albany, K. Ewers Verge) After hold-up, tiles are now on roof of hall and progress will be faster . . . After youth tea on July 13 young people of various clubs took part in evening service . . . Two weddings have been conducted in our church recently . . . The State Executive visited the C.W.F. for July 30-31.

DECISIONS AT NOLLAMARA (A. J. Anderson) Geo Smith of Social Service Dept. was guest speaker at Men's Tea. Four men gave testimonies during following service and four responded to the invitation. At Youth Tea on June 29 the film "Time to Run" was screened. There was one decision. Sth. Perth Gospel Singers provided a musical programme on July 6. There were two baptisms. Afterwards 60 young folk crowded into Bambura Hostel for song and fellowship . . . At C.W.F. luncheon, the Conf. Pres., Mrs. Pallot, gave a devotional message and spoke on auxiliary activities . . . Ian and Lesley Polmear farewelled as they leave

to begin missionary service in Indonesia . . . Mrs. C. Goode has been appointed Chaplain to the Girls' Brigade . . . A. Thrussell and M. Banfield home from hospital . . . An anonymous gift of 8 tables and 40 chairs is much appreciated by the S.S. Primary Dept.

WOMEN HELPERS (Scarborough, K. J. Duffy). The women of the church have been incorporated into morning worship as presidents and readers . . . Combined service with Anglican and Methodist congregations held in our building. . . . A mission will be led by Bill Gaunson in August. The church has been led in two Bible studies by Bill Gaunson. . . . Young people presented a youth service here and also at the Bagot Rd., church.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NEW LIFE MISSION (Magill, R. W. Lawton) In combination with neighbouring Magill and Newton Methodist churches a New Life Mission was held with Homer Stewart of West Virginia, U.S.A., as missionary . . . He shared with the three churches for a week. 140 prepared for the mission by joining home study groups etc. . . . Bud Schaeffer, also from the U.S.A., was a visitor . . . A group of instrumentalists provided varied accompaniment to recent song service . . . Brian Phelps has been preparing cassette recordings of services for those unable to attend.

CHURCH VISIT (Pt. Pirie, R. L. Baxter) Col. Light Gdns church shared with us on June long weekend. A return visit is planned . . . Gerald Rose shared with us in Christian Educ. week . . . We joined with United Parish in New Life Mission

with Dr. Fallon, U.S.A., as preacher. Our choir took part . . . C.W.F. office bearers are: Lesley Baxter, pres.; Fay Williams, vice-pres.; Christine Edwards, sec.; Jan Hummery, treas. . . . House meetings are held on Sunday nights in winter months . . . Plans are progressing well for Centenary Celebrations.

VISITORS VIEW FILM (Park St., Unley, W. J. Philp). The film "Time to Run" was screened July 11. 115 present from surrounding churches . . . On August 3, the choir entertained local Senior Citizen's . . . Leith Bowes gained B.S. degree. . . . Miss Coventry is responding to physiotherapy treatment; Edgar Lawton continues progress back to health.

EVANGELISM (Hamstead Gdns., G. L. Lawrie) Members embarked on Visitation Evangelism Training Programme led by Norm Hayward. After a week of study followed by a 24-hour Prayer Vigil, ten couples visited church contacts on Sunday night at time of gospel service. Homes were visited each night in the week . . . The choir has sung at evening services . . . One lady has committed her life to Christ.

HALF TO HALF (Blackwood, L. Cooke) Half of The church families invited the other half to dinner with culmination in Sunday evening "Coffee Service" attended by 200. . . . Mr & Mrs J. Hemer in visiting Dr and Mrs D. Hemer in New Hebrides helped with phone installations and maintenance at Duindui. . . . Workshop held to assist presidents in planning Worship Program. . . . Mr & Mrs Cooke leading women in "Quiet Time" Studies. . . . 60 young people and leaders in camp at Pt Sturt, then shared experiences and highlights. . . . Church was shocked and saddened by death of 16 year old Helen Mugg in road accident.

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VICTORIA

YARRAWONGA MINISTRY Mr and Mrs Mills, now at Peel St., Ballarat, have accepted an invitation to minister here later this year ... Mr and Mrs Ken Stothard from England have been received into fellowship. Ken has been taking his turn in the pulpit ... The church will celebrate its 50th anniversary in Sept. ... R. Caldwell has resigned as treasurer due to ill health. Trevor Jones is new treasurer, Robt. Trainee is new deacon.

MAORI TEAM (Blackburn, E. C. Keating) The church combined with Mitcham at Mitcham High School hall for service with Maori Evangelical Group. Three decisions climaxed the service ... Lorraine Woodward's Catering committee provided 250 meals for the Dr Win Arn Church Growth Seminar. Bob Woodward organised the seminar. ... Ed Ots, Blackburn High School Chaplain, spoke recently ... 50 members shared in Family Camp at Anglesea ... Dr. Berg spoke to church on "Coping with Tension." Ladies' Choir participated.

CHURCH GROWTH SEMINAR (Essendon, C. S. Badcock) Mrs Doreen Strack and Jack Goldsworthy represented church at church growth seminar at Blackburn. Mr and Mrs C. Badcock welcomed home from their overseas tour. Mrs L. Kemp is making progress following her accident. George Strack (Snr.) again in service after surgery in Hospital. S. Hainsworth back at worship after serious illness. ... C.W.A.F. ladies visited Greenvale Geriatric Hospital. ... Recent guest speakers have been E. O. Stevens, Ron Hillier, and R. McKenzie.

TRI-A-WALK (Preston/E. Preston, J. Mannalack) All senior and junior Good Companions and Explorers, with their leaders, walked in Tri-a-Walk for Preston Community Aid Abroad ... 80 were at Preston C.W.F. 23rd Birthday Roaring Twenties Night to celebrate 23rd birthday. Mrs June St. Aubyn led devotions. ... E. Preston Junior Good Comp. came 2nd in zone indoor sports. ... E. Preston Junior and Intermediate Explorer Boys each came 3rd in indoor sports ... Every Thursday evening a communion service is held in the Preston chapel.

FURTHER TERM (Montrose, Alan Horne) Mr and Mrs Horne have accepted the church's invitation to minister for a further two years ... D.C.E. conducted training sessions for presidents and readers ... Lance Fisher was speaker in series on Christ's Second Coming. The film "The Rapture" was screened ... Outreach among elderly citizens led by Messrs. Beveridge and Swansborough includes visitation, Sunday outings, church teas, and special services ... Gwen Rogers addressed S.S. Supts. Seminar on our Thursday Church School, now in its third year ... C.W.F. donated \$100 to manse fund ... Seven attended Church Growth Seminar.

VISITATION (Croydon, A. B. Clark) John Bishop of Lay Institute for Evangelism instructed members in evangelism techniques prior to embarking on visitation programme ... When C.W.F. led the evening service, Mrs Barbara Healy spoke on "Discipleship" ... B.S. raised \$150 at a Hobbies Exhibition ... Five men were at Mitcham men's breakfast to share with team of Maori Christians ... Geoff and Chris Watson were received into membership. Suellen Hocking made her decision ... Kim and Jenny Wood conducted youth night service.

NEW SECRETARY (Castlemaine, J. Byrnes) Mrs P. Revell has been appointed as new Secretary to the Board ... Mrs L. Joyce, C.W.F. Pres., was speaker at C.W.F. 53rd Birthday ... Good Companions Conference Dept. held district training afternoon in B.S. hall. ... On moving to Dimboola Mrs H. Cattermole was farewelled as deaconess by sister deaconesses ... B.S. numbers are increasing. Each child participated recently in "Creatives" session ... Several members shared in 40-hour famine led by Mr Byrnes ... Monday men's group has recommenced ... Minister addressed Y.P. at Dawson St. ... Y.P. Camp was led by C.O.B. student Julie Reid.

FELLOWSHIP TEA (Hurstbridge, V. Quayle). Parents of scholars invited to fellowship tea. D. Horne gave a message concerning meeting people's needs. 61 attended ... Miss Merson, still patient at Mt. Royal; Mrs D. Taylor home after hospitalization. Shelley Harris, father of S.S. scholar, Lillian died ... Mrs. M. Holloway from Social Service Dept. was speaker at C.W.F. ... 100 attended Children's Fancy Dress Social Evening, as outreach for B.S. New scholars have enrolled ... Missionary Project giving for year has reached \$736 ... B.S. Missionary giving is specifically for work among children. Letters for thanks received from O.M.F. Taiwan Inner Tribal and T.E.A.M.

FAMINE (Dandenong, W. J. Edwards) Twelve young people participated in the 40-hour "famine" sponsored by World Vision ... Ten members attended Church Growth seminar ... E.C.W.F. provided entertainment at Wallara Mentally Retarded Training School ... 90 attended A.C.W.F. birthday celebration ... Recent speakers have been Neville Farmer, and Mr. Gibbons of J.E.W. ... A married couple have been baptized ... Junior Explorers won zone final of indoor sports and are zone champions.

MEDICS PRESCRIBE CHRIST (Horsham, R. T. Roberts) The evening service on July 13 was in hands of the medical profession. Dr. Howard Grey presided; Dr. Graeme Wood of Ararat and Mrs. Gawler gave testimonies. A nurse and two nursing aides sang in trio. Dr. David Gawler was preacher ... A married couple was baptized on July 20 ... Miss Jean Raddon was speaker at Christian Women's Convention Internat. with 120 present ... C.W.E.F. held 25th birthday meeting ... Coffee mornings held members' homes July 21-25 by Bryan Greenwood of O.A.C. ... Six attended Church Growth seminar.

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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL DECLINE

(Part 2). The point was made in the last issue that the difference between success and failure in the area of Christian Education is the difference between life and death for the church.

The day is gone when children filled our schools because it was socially expected or acceptable that they should have an initial Christian training even if their parents were indifferent to the church.

The proportion of children from non-church homes is probably lower now than at any other time, but the lasting results from such homes were perhaps not so great as we had hoped. We didn't notice the losses, because the S.S. was always full. The children came into the bottom end of the school and out at the top, without getting into the church. Or, if they did join the church, a great number were there for a short time only.

We cannot easily ignore the needs and claims of children from non-church homes, even if the responses are poor, and if we cannot break into a family circle, through its youngest members, at which point can we enter it? Dr. Win Arn told of a church which will not accept children in its school for more than a few weeks if the parents do not become involved! This seems drastic, but the point is well made, that without the parents our chances of holding the children are greatly reduced.

What are the prospects of a revival of the Sunday School?

When we put that question to Ian Allsop, Director of the Federal Board of

Christian Education, we found him surprisingly optimistic.

He feels that the downward thrust of the S.S. enrolment graph has been arrested and that there are signs of a recovery. Even for the traditional S.S., enrolments are increasing. This response is mainly among the children of church-related parents, but where a church is prepared to go out into the community, say with a bus ministry, many non-church homes are prepared to encourage their children to go along.

There are also many alternatives to the old-style S.S. Some are through boy or girl clubs, where Bible studies are incorporated with the physical programme. There are mid-week "Sunday" schools, or week long vacation camps where the work done is comparable with a whole quarter's programme in the old style S.S.

There is a big response to home and family programmes. Sales of "Exploring the Bible," a series of Bible Studies for children from 8 to 12, have increased by 300%. There are also other self-study projects.

More schools are turning to their Departments of Christian Education to gain on-the-spot help in developing their local programmes and there has been a strong response by teachers to the Revised Christian Life Curriculum of the Joint Board of Christian Education.

There is no easy solution to the problems faced by the local church in rebuilding its work with children and no one answer is likely to suit every church. But there is a positive word of hope for everyone. And that's the way we ought to be thinking. Positively!

Those churches which passively accept the depreciated S.S. as a sad symptom of evil times and do nothing to change it, are surely accepting the death of their church as well. Children in the S.S. do not automatically mean members in the church, but if there are no children, then our future is dull indeed!

(Next issue: We look at the second part of the double question).

THE LAST WORD...

The solution for human need is to be found only in worldwide development of the kind which enables the human family to develop and utilize the world's vast resources for the benefit of all mankind.

It is often said that there are in the world enough resources to meet everybody's need, if not everybody's greed...

LJ Endalkachew Makonnen

O Lord Christ, help us to maintain ourselves in simplicity and in joy, the joy of the merciful, the joy of brotherly love. Grant that, renouncing henceforth all thought of looking back, and joyful with infinite gratitude, we may never fear to precede the dawn to praise to bless and sing to Christ Our Lord.

The Rule of Taizé, France.



Hidden Meaning

To be wise like a serpent
Lends color and class,
Until freely translated
As snake in the grass.

—Paul Armstrong



Whether it be large or small, A tax cut's the kindest cut of all.



Their ages are a most Peculiar fact—
Which women won't admit
And men won't act.

LEONARD SCHIFF in Quote



"It's almost impossible to believe that Shorty Potts and Burt Reynolds are each made up of the exact same chemical content."

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