

THE AUSTRALIAN

# CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST

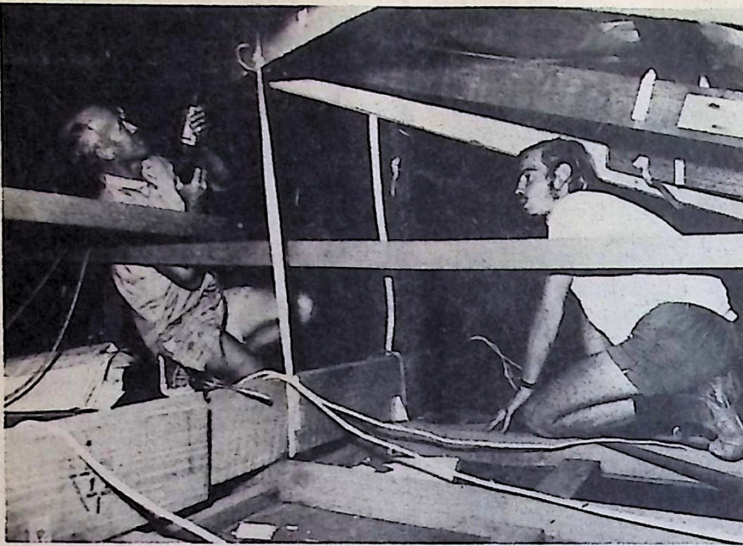
Vol. 78 No. 16

AUGUST 23, 1975.

## CHURCH REPAIRS IN DARWIN

(see P.9)

Cliff Walker of Qld. & John Barlow, Vic., laying electrical circuits.



In the workshop Keith Miller (Darwin) at drill press (l.), Les Burland (Vic.) threads a rod. (r.) Ron Murray (Vic.) stands by with fixings for tea break.

After a day on the job, volunteer crews relax over supper served by United Church ladies at Hostel.



# A.R.P.A. attacks bulk postage increases

The ferocious 100 p.c. increase in bulk postal charges for religious and charitable publications threatens the continued existence of many members of this section of the press, said the Rev. Tony Nancarrow, National Secretary for the Australian Religious Press Association.

The increases announced on July 31 will take the cost of posting a religious newspaper or magazine to 6 cents per article from February 1 next year. In some cases where the weight of the publication exceeds 50 grams the cost will be higher.

"The Australian Government seems bent on perpetuating the myth that the Postal Commission can and should be run at a profit or, at least on a break even basis", said Mr. Nancarrow.

"Overseas experience makes it quite plain that no postal service can operate, nor should it operate, on income derived directly from users.

"The fallacy that postal charges should be borne exclusively by the users of the service is very illogical thinking.

"The Postal service exists to benefit the entire nation, and considering its importance within the economy it also benefits those who do not use it at all," said Mr. Nancarrow.

"The Government seems bent on limiting its budget cuts to education and its other social welfare programs, by eliminating a subsidy to the Postal Commission."

Figures demonstrating the financial performance of other postal services around the world would indicate that no other Government has been able to eliminate such a subsidy.

Great Britain with an area of 94,209 square miles and a population of 588 people per square mile lost 142 million pounds between 1962 and 1972.

Switzerland with a land area of 15,941 square miles and a population density of 384 lost money every year between 1962 and 1972. Its total deficit was 980 million Swiss francs.

"In the face of these figures how can Australia hope to run its postal service at break even or a profit with a land area of 2,967,741 square miles and its population of 4.41 people to the square mile," said Mr. Nancarrow.

## Church growth for blind

If you have a friend who is blind but who would like to share in Gordon Moyes' new book, "How to Grow an Australian Church," there is a way it can be done.

The minister of the West Preston church, Basil Goldsteen, has offered to provide tape-recordings of the book. There will be no charge for this service, just the cost of the tapes.

Mr Goldsteen's address is 9 Hardy St., Preston West, Vic., 3072. Phone number is 47 2092 (Melb.)

While acknowledging that some increase was justified, Mr. Nancarrow said that the enormity of the rise could result in the implementation of the law of diminishing returns.

"When postage becomes too expensive religious, trade-union and non-profit organisations will be forced to look for other means of distribution. Failing that they will cease communicating entirely."

"The 45 member publications of the Australian Religious Press Association are faced with a staggering \$250,000 increase in their annual postal bill.

"It is quite obvious that many of our members just won't be able to afford it," he said.

## DR McINTIRE EXPELLED FROM KENYA

A major reason for the expulsion of Dr. Carl McIntire from Kenya recently was his praise for Ian Smith of Rhodesia as the custodian of "Christian civilisation" and his hostile and negative attitude towards the African liberation movements, according to Bishop Lawi Imathiu, chairman of the National Christian Council of Kenya.

Responding to questions about the reasons behind the deportation, the Methodist bishop said Dr. McIntire was warned about the Rhodesia statement but instead of heeding the warning he said the government owed him an apology. This was seen as a sign of extreme arrogance.

Noting that Kenya has freedom of speech and worship enshrined in her constitution, Bishop Imathiu pointed out that the 9th congress of the McIntire group was allowed to continue until its scheduled closing date. Also the protest of congress delegates against Dr. McIntire's deportation was published in the local newspapers without government interference.

On the other hand, Bishop Imathiu explained, Kenya as a sovereign state will not tolerate any persons coming under the guise of Christianity but using all their efforts in waging ideological warfare and discrediting the African liberation movements.

E.P.S.

## INNER SPRINGS No other way



During a short stay in hospital, I was much intrigued by the nightly appearance of the nurse wheeling a trolley with a varied assortment of bottles and containers. Her call was always the same. "Anything for pain?"

Happily my stay needed no sedatives, but for those who did it was a moment of choice. Should they accept something "just in case" or refuse in the hope that sleep would unfold them until morning? For some reason beyond our comprehension here, pain both physical and spiritual forms an inevitable part of life and must be reckoned with by each of us.

Jesus faced it physically in its most excruciating agony on the Cross. And at the very end there was wrung from Him that despairing cry that embodies the depths of all spiritual anguish. "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"

The choice of a pain-free night may be ours; but a pain free life is another matter. I for one, am glad that the choice is not mine. I might be tempted to leave out that which is necessary for my growth and enrichment. And for my moments of weakness there is strength in remembering that Christ chose to drink His cup to the bitter dregs that you and I need not drink ours alone.

"Then answered the Lord to the cry of His world  
Shall I take away pain,  
And with it the power of the soul to endure,  
Made strong by the strain?

Shall I take away love that redeems with a price  
And smiles at its loss?  
Can ye spare from your lives that would climb  
unto Me  
The Christ on His Cross?"

### PRAYER:

Our Father, we do not understand why pain should be so much a part of life. Help us to endure it with dignity and to look to Thee who has suffered all things, for strength to trust Thee and believe in Thy good purposes.

Amen

FLORENCE ROSIER

# "ASIA IS A RAINBOW . . ."

Neil Gilmore reports on a meeting of the Exploratory Committee of the Asian Conference on Religion and Peace, Singapore, July 7-9, '75.

"Asia is a rainbow ... a variety of colours and juxtapositions ... a continent where many religions and cultures have originated and flourished . . ."

Twenty people from eleven nations and seven religions were themselves "a rainbow, a variety of colours and juxtapositions," as they sat at the table on the 17th floor of the Seaview Hotel, Singapore in July.

Peace was their theme — world peace and Asia's contribution to that peace — especially the contribution of Asia's religions. From Pakistan in the west to the Philippines in the east; from Japan in the north to New Zealand in the south the representatives came to talk of religion and peace. Their aim to test the feasibility and the desirability of bringing Asia's religious leaders together in a wider Asian consultation aimed at creating an atmosphere of trust and acceptance in which the fragile flower of peace might grow.

Hosts to this Exploratory Committee were the members of the Inter-Religious Organisation of Singapore — the oldest inter-religious organisation in the world. It boasts a history of just twenty-six years! General sponsorship was provided by the World Conference on Religion and Peace, with major funding from the inter-religious group from Japan. Archbishop Angelo Fernandez, Catholic Archbishop of New Delhi, India, WCRP President, presided over most of the committee sessions.

From frank acknowledgement that the religions have been in frequent conflict, and still are in conflict in many areas, the committee sought to bring out the insights and the spiritual directions that derive

from the religious experience and to make application of these to the problem of peace. The new awakening in Asia in response to modern western values must not cut loose from the deep religious convictions and the centuries — long heritage of the continent. To abandon these is to place both Asia and the world at risk.

The decision was taken at the final session of the Committee, to call a wider consultation of perhaps one hundred people to meet during 1976 probably in Singapore. The theme for that consultation was set out as "On the Path to Peace; Asia Reflects, Proposes, Participates" with examination of areas of peace and security, progress towards social justice and human rights, the contribution of the religions and the possibilities for joint action for peace.

The Singapore arrangements were a model for such inter-religious groupings. Beginning with an official reception at the Singapore Khalsa Association (Sikh) the group moved to the Pho Kark See Temple (Buddhist) for a twelve(!) course dinner, Chinese style. The following evenings were spent as guests at the Ramakrishna Mission (Hindu), St John's Home (Christian), and the Muslim Missionary Society. All the meals were prepared vegetarian and in the style of the culture represented by that particular religion; the vegetarian meals avoided offence to the dietary scruples of the various religions represented.

The actual representation at the Committee meeting included some notable personalities: from Indonesia, Mrs Gedong Bagoes Oka, university lecturer and former member of Parliament; from Japan, Rev. Nikky Niwano, President,

Rissh Kosei-kai; from Malaysia, Datuk Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, Minister for Planning and Research in the Malaysian Government; from Pakistan, Prof. Manzoor Ahmad, Dean of Philosophy Department, University of Karachi; from Thailand, H.S.H. Princess Poon Diskul, President of the World Fellowship of Buddhists. Australia and New Zealand each had one invited representative and by interesting coincidence both are members of Churches of Christ. New Zealand was represented by Mrs Alison O'Grady and Australia by Neil Gilmore of Canberra from whom a fuller report and details of the meeting may be obtained.

## EUROPEAN YOUTH ASSEMBLY

A very critical look at ecumenism is the major agenda item for the 7th General Assembly of the Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe (EYCE) scheduled for October in Switzerland.

After an introduction by EYCE's chairman, Wolf-Dietrich Gutsch of the German Democratic Republic, some 70 representatives of 28 national youth councils and 10 other youth organisations will look at the theological roots of ecumenism as presented by one of the Scandinavian participants.

At a planning session held in Hungary recently the Executive Committee evaluated the findings of last Easter's European Youth Conference. It had recognized that division exists not so much between churches as within churches. We are in the second stage of ecumenism", said one working group. "We claim to have community, a common confession of faith and the preaching of a common Gospel. But actually this is the bare minimum. Unity means much more than that."

The youth at Driebergen called for more honesty about the superficial nature of the unity that now exists. In this connection they viewed the Fifth Assembly of the World Council of Churches as a time of crisis for the ecumenical movement. But it could be a "good" crisis, they said, if it leads to theological and political liberation, creating new hope.

—E.P.S.

## BIBLE & SCIENCE FOR BREAKFAST

As part of the Bible Society Week, in Sydney, the Committee of the New South Wales Auxiliary organised a Business Men's Breakfast at the Sydney Hilton Hotel. Approximately forty business and professional men attended, each one being encouraged to bring along a friend who may have little or no contact with the Church.

The guest speaker was Professor H. M. Carey, head of the School of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the University of N.S.W. His subject was "Is Science and the Word in Conflict."

Professor Carey emphasised that so often the people responsible for (modern science) advances are lauded by the man in the street. Man has increased in his praise of man, yet decreased in his wonder of the Creator of all.

Young people at Universities and High Schools have been taught to accept scientific ideas, whereas they need not be proven facts. Speculation on evolution

can be neither proven or scientifically accepted, yet taught in such a manner that it is accepted by those open to such teaching.

To illustrate his point, mention was made of the "Java Man" and "Piltdown Man". The former was proven to be a mixture of human and animal bones, while the latter was a hoax, actually perpetrated by a group of medical students.

Although modern science has produced evidence to prove so much, the same fundamental concepts can be found in the Scriptures, "in easily understood terminology, so that anyone can understand them and are not put off by scientific terms which only a few would comprehend."

Summing up, "Is Science and the Word in Conflict?" the Professor explained that science simply proved what was already stated clearly and simply in the Scriptures.

## FORMER CABINET MINISTER SUPPORTS BIBLE SOCIETY

Milton Morris, MLA, former N.S.W. Minister for Lands and Forests, said at a special luncheon in Canberra that The Bible Society was one of the greatest organisations throughout the world. Mr Morris told Church and Community Leaders at a luncheon to commemorate National Bible Society Week, that \$1,000 a day was needed from Australians to support the worldwide work of Translation, Production and Distribution of Scriptures. This Missionary Outreach was undertaken in 160 countries and territories, which was greater than the number of countries served by The United Nations.

National Bible Society Week (July 27-August 3) again this year focused on the International Campaign against illiteracy — 'Good News for New Readers'.

## INTERVIEW

# DR. WIN ARN & CHURCH GROWTH

(Here to conduct Church Growth Seminars on behalf of Departments of Home Missions in Australia, Dr. Arn, of the Institute for American Church Growth, was interviewed in Brisbane by Allan Male, Associate Editor of the "Australian Christian.")

**MALE:** *Now that your visit "down under" is in its final days, did you find our churches responsive to the challenge to church growth?*

**ARN:** Extremely responsive. As I visited state after state and met the leadership of the various churches, I felt that I was at the right time at the right place. It was God's timing. Responsiveness can also be seen in the excellent attendance and in the goal setting done by pastor and people. Yes, I think Churches of Christ are ready for a new surge forward in growth.

**MALE:** *What potential have you seen for growth in Australia?*

**ARN:** There are large numbers of people all around us, thousands of thousands of people who would gladly receive Christ and become a part of His Body if given the opportunity. For example, in Australia, there are large numbers of people who call themselves Christian, but it is in name only. They are sympathetic to the message of Christ but they have never had a vital experience. We call these people "E Zero", and they are very winnable people.

The second large group of people we would call "E 1". These do not have affiliation with any church but are open to the message of Jesus Christ. In a recent survey I found while in Australia, 45% of the people would like to have a more personal religious faith. These are "E1" people, and they are available to the good news in and through Jesus Christ.

A third kind of people we call "E 2". In the mosaic in Australia these people represent a cultural difference. They can be won and we should be thinking in terms of the planting of churches so that the Churches of Christ in Australia comprise many different kinds of people with various hues and colours, all one in the Body of Christ.

**MALE:** *Now that the seminars are finished, what do you think will happen?*

**ARN:** Churches will grow. New converts will be made, and new vitality will develop in church after church. However, the response will vary from church to church. In some churches you will find more growth than in others, but we know that churches which take seriously God's commission to go and make disciples, churches that realise that it is God's will to grow, for lost people to be found: those churches will find a way, and they'll grow.

**MALE:** *Will this growth take place automatically?*

**ARN:** Growth is not automatic. There is

stress and strain, there is labour and travail, there is pain and anguish. In the growth of the church there is as much stress as in the birth and growth of a child. The future will not just happen if one wishes hard enough. It requires decisions — now! It requires risks — now! It requires action — now! It demands allocation of resources — now! It requires work — now!

**MALE:** *How might a church desiring growth, get started?*

**ARN:** If you want to be a bigger church tomorrow, you have to start acting like one today. There's a paradox to growth. The church of 35 to 40 members needs to begin thinking and acting like the church of 100. The church of 100 needs to begin thinking and acting like the church of 200; the church of 200 like the church of 400. The church that wants to grow has to support the key activities on the level that will be needed after growth has taken place; while at the same time, such a church does not have the resources. Only by starving all but the truly essential, can it balance the conflicting requirements of the present with the limited resources and needs of the church of tomorrow. In other words, the focus of the energies of the entire church needs, to be pointed towards growth.

Jesus talks of pruning the vine and the branches. That which does not bear fruit is cut away. A church actually grows if it sloughs off activities which do not contribute. Such activities only drain energy, they impede true growth potential. That must go. The church that wants to grow will do very well to look at its present programme, cut away those things that are unessential, unnecessary — and focus their full energies upon growth.

**MALE:** *Is a church doing the right thing when it focuses all its energy upon growth?*

**ARN:** Be assured that when a church is growing, it is in God's will. God wants his church to grow! God wants lost people found! And the church that's growing is moving forward in God's will. It is also possible, I believe, that the church that's stagnant, ingrown, lacking growth, could indeed be out of God's will. Calling them to faith is the church's primary responsibility. Without proclamation unto salvation, the church is not the church.

**MALE:** *When goals are established, and duration of the programme set, when should there be a review and, if necessary, a revision of the goals?*

**ARN:** Goals should be looked upon as a



target, not a tyrant. Goals may be revised upward or downward as the need appears. In seminars we find that 90% of the churches will reach their one-year faith goals if they take seriously the faith goals and apply them to their situation. Many churches exceed their faith goals.

A monthly review is a good thing. Certainly, a six monthly review is essential. In many of our seminars in the U.S.A. we endeavour to build in a six months accountability session where churches come together and report their progress, their joys and their problems. This proves to be a very inspiring time.

Goal setting aids in the growth of the church and it is valuable to review your programme on a regular basis, and to review your goals as needed.

**MALE: What effect does church growth have on present Christians?**

**ARN:** Christians are God's new creation. They are recipients of the life-giving Spirit and thus they are alive! And life lives, it moves, experiences itself, expresses itself, reaches out, mul-

tiplies. Life grows. Life is active, powerful stuff! It can't be static. There is no confining it or setting its bounds. Life breaks out all over in living. That is what should be going on in Christians. They are alive! This is what should be going on in the church. It is the community of the living. The life keeps welling up within. It has to.

**MALE: What final words would you like to say to the people of our churches?**

**ARN: FIRST:** thank you for your Christian love, acceptance, and fellowship. I felt a oneness with you, a sense of mission with you.

**SECOND:** You can do it with God's help. There is opportunity. Your church CAN grow.

**THIRD:** Church growth is not an optional activity. It is commanded by Our Lord himself. He would have us expand our churches by reaching out into our communities; making disciples and responsible members of his church. And he would have us grow by the multiplication of new churches.

My word to you, my many friends here in Australia; is: 'Let's Grow!'

## DR DAVID CARLING IN AUSTRALIA

Zippering around in an amphibian aircraft is not the normal means of transport for your friendly neighbourhood G.P., but its all in the day's work for Dr. David Carling.

Dr. Carling, Medical Superintendent of one of the largest Mission Hospitals in Africa, and Chief Medical Superintendent of the Sudan United Mission, is best known for his work in the Lake Chad area.

The Lake, to the south of the Sahara, is 13,000 square miles of fresh water inhabited on its islands and shores by 200,000 people.

The Nigerian shore was surveyed by Dr. Carling in 1960. After taking two days to travel 120 miles he discovered tribesmen suffering from malaria, anaemia, and bilharzia, the biggest killer in that part of Africa.

He established a dispensary there in 1961, but it was not until the Sudan United Mission's first launch "Albishir" arrived in 1964 that the work really took hold and a dispensary was opened from the north-eastern shore.

From those small beginnings there are now 20 Nigerian and Chadian medical missionaries working in 10 lake-side dispensaries in Nigeria, Tchad, Niger.

A hospital launch, the "Albarka" which incorporates an air-conditioned operating theatre is serviced by a "Skima" craft and a Hovercraft provided by the Aviation Fellowship in the United Kingdom is on its way to Lake Chad.

Dr. Carling uses the M. A. F. aircraft and the Skima to reach the people living on the many permanent and floating islands around the shore. His work among these people, both as a missionary and a doctor, has attracted world wide attention. He has twice been the subject of a B.B.C. Television documentary.

He has just visited the Nuba mountains in the Republic of Sudan as a member of a survey team sponsored by the Australian and New Zealand branch of the Mission. They examined the possibility of channelling assistance to the Nuba Church through the indigenous church in Nigeria.

See advertisement in this issue for details of meetings with Dr. Carling in Australia.

**CARING/SHARING** (Ipswich, Barry Rice). C.Y.F. commenced caring/sharing group on Sundays... Two new officers and 15 girls enrolled at Girls Brigade parade with Aboriginal sketch artist Jack Moffatt as speaker. Two Girls Brigade Pioneers arranged concert as part of achievement work... Stack-a-by seating ordered for Bundamba chapel and East Ipswich S.S. Hall... Lois Beel from Kenmore College conducted two seminars on church music... Bundamba church held film night to support Building Fund... Adult section of all-age B.S. continues to grow... Twenty members attended Church Growth Seminar.

**MEMBERSHIP REACHES 250** (Southport, N. Newton). 150 travelled to Byron Bay to witness the baptism of 9 of our people in the surf. Y.P. then conducted youth service at C. of E., Byron Bay. 26

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### ENTHUSIASM & CO-OPERATION

One hundred and fifty people attended the recent Bible School Workers' Conference at Camberwell (Vic.). Organised by the Vic./Tas. Dept. of Christian Educ., the Conference majored on the new Christian Life Curriculum but featured also other aspects of Bible school work. Some of those attending were from the Church of England and the Uniting Churches.

Further combined meetings (listed below) are planned for this year to explain the new C.L.C.

**August 23:** Bendigo C. of E. 2.15 to 5 p.m.

**September 13:** Essendon C. of C. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; 14: Leongatha Methodist 9.30 a.m. - 4 p.m.; 15: Croydon Methodist 8 - 10 p.m.; 18: Pakenham Presbyterian 7.30 - 10 p.m.; 21: Geelong Methodist 2.15 - 5 p.m.; 21: Ballarat Methodist 2 - 4.30 p.m.

**October 1:** Warragul Presbyterian 7.30 - 10 p.m.; 4: Horsham Methodist 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; 5: Ouyen Presbyterian 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; 5: Sale Presbyterian 11 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.; 21: Wodonga Presbyterian 8 p.m. - 10 p.m.; 22: Wangaratta Presbyterian 8 - 10 p.m.

**November 22:** Cheltenham C. of C. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; 22: Mt. Waverley Methodist 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

There are also meetings planned for Mildura, Heywood, Hamilton and Swan Hill in December.

new members were added to the Church during June-July which brings membership to over 250... A new Conn Organ a recent addition to the Chapel. Offering of \$568 on the day the organ was being demonstrated meant the purchase price of \$2,200 could be paid with \$68 to spare... Mrs. N. Robbins transferred from Southport Hosp. to her daughter's home in Victoria. Miss V. Callanan also staying in Melbourne... New work planned for Burleigh Heads. Meetings will commence in October.



## QUEENSLAND

**ADDITIONS** (Annerley, R. Bennett). There have been 6 baptisms, and 5 confessions. One young adult is to enter Kenmore College... Youth week featured film "Road Armageddon", and special all-music night. Over 200 were present each night... Outreach visitation in its second year. Twenty participating... E. Hart, director Soc. Serv., presented need for joint church associate minister and chaplain for Hillcrest and Brigadoon Aged Homes for mid-1976. Homes will care for 117 patients and employ staff of 40... Church deeply regrets death of Mrs. J. Brookes in pedestrian accident... 14 attended Church Growth Seminar... Minister lectures at Kenmore part time.

DON STEWART'S

# PILGRIMAGE

## CORINTH

Situated about 3 km from the Gulf of Corinth and near the narrow Corinthian Isthmus is the city of Corinth. It was the Roman capital of the province of Archia, a cosmopolitan city noted for its immoral behaviour. It was to this city that the Apostle Paul came bringing the Gospel about the year 50 AD (Acts 18:1). Here he met Aquila and Priscilla and worked with them at tent making and spreading the Gospel for the next eighteen months.

Apollos, a Jewish Alexandrian debater, spent some time in Corinth where he was able to help the young church. (Acts 18:27-28) From Ephesus Paul wrote a number of letters to the church dealing with many of the problems that erupted there, (I and II Corinthians) and probably also visited the city again on his third missionary journey. (Acts 20:2-3).



Lechaion Road shown in this photo was the main street and led from the port of Lechaion on the Corinthian Gulf. As the far end of the street ends in steps, this limestone paved street was never intended for vehicles. The raised footpaths once led into the columned entrances to shops filled with merchandise from across the world.

Today this street is empty, a place for tourists and archaeologists. For a pilgrim, it is where the Apostle Paul pushed his way through the noisy crowds telling the Good News of Jesus Christ. — Don E. Stewart

### WORD TALK NO. 122

### THEMES IN JOHN

# BLINDNESS

#### IN THE STUDY

In the O.T. the use of the word blindness indicated both physical loss of sight and spiritual life. In the N.T., blindness is usually referred to in these senses as well.

The frequency of reference to blindness is an indication of how widespread the physical disease was.

It was generally a result of some eye disease or of physical degeneration due to age. The most common form of blindness was Ophthalmia, a form of conjunctivitis. This was transmitted by flies and aggravated by the hot sun and dust laden winds. Septic conditions found at childbirth often led to blindness.

The eye diseases resulting with age usually were known as Glaucoma, or cataracts.

Blindness was frequently attributed to sin (Exo. 4:11; John 9:2). This was associated with venereal disease. Only God could cure such blindness. Blindness was also seen as a punishment for misconduct (Gen. 19:11, 2 Kings 6:18, Acts 13:11).

Moses laid down laws on behalf of the blind (Lev. 19:14; Deut. 27:18). An example of blindness in connection with old age is seen in the deception that Jacob played on his father (Gen. 27:).

Jesus came to give "recovering of sight to the blind" (Luke 4:18). Of particular interest is the healing of the man from blindness by gradual means (Mark 8) and the healing of the man blind from birth (John 9).

#### FROM THE PULPIT

How can I be sure of my faith? Many people look at others of great faith and see the absolute certainty of their faith. But they have no rock-like faith. Noah, Moses, Isaiah, Paul, David could all say "I know whom I have believed".

In every generation since great people of faith have spoken of the certainty of their conviction: Is there any way we can be more sure?

The story of the blind man being healed illustrates how we can grow in our certainty of our faith.

Like the blind man we start just feeling that something is happening about us. He didn't know what was happening, he only became aware of a movement. Jesus comes to us even when we don't fully recognize him. And yet we do what is asked of us even though he is not yet fully known. The blind man felt his eyes touched. He was still unsure but he obeyed. Many today need to obey Jesus even though they don't fully realise who he is. For when we have obeyed we realise that things are different. We, too, say "I know I don't look different but I am a new person".

Like him we must witness to that change, "Once I was blind but now I can see". We must tell of the difference in our life. We don't understand how it happens or all about Christian doctrine but we can witness to the change in our life.

When we witness we grow in our understanding of Christ and what has been done in our lives. The blind man gradually grew in his understanding of Jesus: V.11 "A man called Jesus"; V.17 "A prophet"; V.33 "If he were not from God"; V.38 "Lord, I believe".

When we obey Jesus we grow in our understanding of what has been done in our lives and who he is.

#### AMONG THE PEOPLE

During this past week I have had opportunity of meeting with a representative of the Braille Library to discuss purchasing a talking book for a blind person. We discussed the role a talking book can play in a person's life particularly when that book is the Bible.

In one sense every Christian should be a talking Bible. There is the written word available to people but we need to so know it that we can be the spoken word witnessing to the living word of whom we read in the written word.

Every Christian should know his Lord and be able to witness effectively so that we become for those who are spiritually blind "talking books."

GORDON MOYES.

# SAINTS & SOULWINNERS

BY GORDON R. STIRLING

## 1. SAINTS ARE POOR SOUL WINNERS.

At his "Church Growth Seminar" Win Arn presented a chart showing that new members have many contacts with potential converts "in the world", because most of their friends are still there. On the other hand, the greater a saint a man is, and the longer he has been in the church, the less friends he has outside the church, and the less potential he has for evangelism. So the new Christian is a good "soul-winner" and the long-standing saint is hopeless at it unless he does his evangelism vicariously by attending evangelistic rallies or giving to missions.

### ON THE FINGERS OF ONE HAND

As I travel amongst the churches I often ask groups of high quality saints how many close friends they have outside the church. Hardly ever do they need all of the fingers of one hand to count them. A past president of Conference told me that his church keeps him too busy for him and his wife to be able to turn acquaintances into friends with whom to share the gospel. Gordon Moyes in his book "How to Grow an Australian Church" supports Win Arn in his claim that long-standing saints are poor "soul winners" because they have no friends "in the world" and would not know how to talk with them anyhow. He says that to have successful evangelism programs you use your new converts.

### THIS RAISES A PROBLEM

Using new converts would seem to be ideal strategy for evangelism for the obvious reasons outlined above. But this raises the problem that most of our churches do not have any new converts. They are full of long term saints who have been out of touch with the world for a long time. Most of them have depended on church children growing up and transfers for their

**NEW MANSE** (Tweed Heads-Coolangatta) It is expected that new manse will be finished and ready for occupation by Mr. and Mrs. Darryl Krause and family at end of October. Promised support will enable us to have our first full time minister . . . C.W.F. visitors from Murwillumbah, Southport, Annerley and Kenmore shared with us when Mrs. Wylie and her team of ladies came from Sydney . . . The Southport Men's Fellowship conducted an evening service . . . Murwillumbah brethren combined for a Prayer Meeting and Bible Study on Aug. 6 . . . Rex Ellis from Kenmore Christian College addressed both services July 27.

**GOLDEN WEDDING** (Victor Harbour, J. A. Luff) Mr and Mrs. Len Leane celebrated 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 9 . . . Mr. and Mrs. W. Burgess and family are to commence a St. Johns Ambulance Service in Darwin . . . A. Simonds has undergone successful surgery . . . G. Rose was speaker at S.S. anniversary . . . Church has learned of proposed new buildings on camp site, Pt. Stuart.

**MISSIONARY AT HOME** (Bayswater, A. Fletcher) Mrs. Margaret Fletcher occupied pulpit on Missionary Conference Day . . . Nearly 200 ladies enjoyed the slides and message given by Ian Allsop. A play was presented by the ladies of visiting churches. The "Yukana Singers" gave items . . . On Temple Day the special offering was taken up by some of the younger members. Mrs. Marge Barlow was soloiste.

increase. (If these churches do have some "worldly members" who have friends outside the church, they are often not keen enough to lead them to Christ. What seems to be needed is a combination of the "worldly member" and the saint. Maybe they could be paired up in the same visitation team!)

### "LETTING THE SAINTS OFF THE HOOK"

Are Win Arn and Gordon Moyes letting the saints off the hook by stressing that the best evangelists are the new converts? I am sure that they are not. However I am just as certain that some guilt-stricken non-productive saints may use these two gentlemen as authorities to get themselves off the hook if they can. In the past some of them have leaned to dodge the issue of personal evangelism by fighting last-ditch stands for mass evangelistic methods that no longer work, so they can be depended upon to clutch at any straw.

### SAINTS ON THE FRONT LINE

The purpose of this and succeeding articles is to get the saints back onto the hook of evangelism, and into the front line where their long and dynamic experience of Christ can count as they share it in love and confidence with others. I want to suggest two things . . .

1. The saints can, on their own initiative, make friends in the world and lead some of them to Christ.
2. The local congregation can make opportunities for the saints to make friends.

I would also like to have a word to the cynics who are sure to say that making friends for the purpose of evangelism is based on bad motivation and has all of the overtones of manipulating people. (The cynics also want to find ways of getting off the hook!) I hope to wind up the articles with a statement about what we can say to the new friends we have made. The New Testament presents a beautifully uncomplicated method that does not get bogged down in dogmas, abstracts, proof-texting, theologising, and pre-prepared slick answers to possible objections.

NEXT: SAINTS CAN MAKE FRIENDS IN THE WORLD IF THEY WANT TO.

## NEW CHURCHES OF CHRIST HYMN BOOK

# MUSIC & WORDS EDITION

The MUSIC & WORDS edition of the New Churches of Christ Hymn Book is at the printers and delivery is expected on or about March 1st. 1976. The anticipated price is \$8.50 plus mailing charges.

PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER for those who order before Nov. 30, 1975, the Music & Words edition can be obtained for \$7.50 plus mailing charges.

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Please forward to me as soon as available . . . . . copy/copies of the New Churches of Christ Hymn Book Words and Music edition, at \$7.00 per book.

A cheque for \$ . . . . . is enclosed.

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## OPEN FORUM

### CHURCH GROWTH

To the Editor,

In reference to Tertius' article on Win Arn. I sympathise with him on non-congregational participation in church growth but disagree with his interpretation of church growth.

As Christians, we cannot evaluate evangelism in terms of baptisms and membership. We cannot follow the growing bigger, brighter, better church syndrome which mimics un-Christian evaluation of progress and success.

The New Testament pattern suggests that evangelism leads to the establishing of new communities of believers, not a continual increase in numbers in one congregation.

Also Tertius limits the gospel to its spiritual characteristics and fails to include the socio-political aspects.

Because Australian and American cultures differ we cannot follow the "successful American techniques, manuals and programs". We cannot ignore our "Ocker culture" and must work out a Biblical based evangelism and church growth.

The message must be proclaimed with integrity and not success orientated motives.

Gavin Mountjoy, Vic.



## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**MISSIONARY CONVENTION** (Nollamara, A. J. Anderson) The Missionary Convention Aug. 8-10 was addressed by Rex Ellis. Missionary Faith promises on Sunday morning pledged over \$11,500. Two confessed faith in Christ... Two films "The Gospel Road" and "where the Waters Run, You'll find Life" have been screened.... "God's Family Law Bill" was discussed at capacity congregation for Brigade service. Recently married Sue Perry and Bob Parry have returned to continue missionary training... 12 attended Win Arn seminar... Six have been received into membership by transfer and one by faith and obedience.

**LOSS OF MEMBER** (Mandurah, D. J. Sonsee) The church was saddened by the sudden death of Mrs. Elsie Whisson on Aug. 3. She was a quiet but faithful supporter to the end... C.W.F. ladies visited our church centre in Perth. They also went 17 miles south of Mandurah to holiday centre "Hacienda", owned by our member, D. Cambell... Alex McKay and Mr. Sonsee, hold a Friday night "drop-in" at Church of England hall.

**26 FOR GROWTH** (Fremantle, D. J. Ryle) 26 attended Church Growth Seminar. Church is planning for next twelve months — "Training Programmes" being featured. A lady was baptised on Aug. 10... Y.P. meet for Bible Study 5.30 p.m. Sundays... C.W.F. have provided new floor covering for kitchen and passage.

# WOOLWICH HONOURS LIST FIRST SEMESTER 1975

**New Testament 11** J. Bond, J. Deuble, R. Hayman. 10 others passed.

**Old Testament 1** J. Deuble, R. Hayman. 11 others passed.

**Church History 1** (Restoration Movement) J. Deuble, R. Hayman. 4 others passed.

**Communications** J. Bond, R. Hayman, R. Hough. 8 others passed.

**Comparative Religion** G. Arundell, J. Bond, R. Goldfinch, R. Hayman, P. Holt, R. Hough, M. Wallace, A. Wijesinghe, F. Wrightson. 3 others passed.

**Greek 1 (Day)** R. Hayman, J. Hohnke, P. Holt, J. Saint. 2 others passed.

**Greek 11 (Day)** M. Caine, R. Goldfinch. 4 others passed.

**Greek 1 (Evening)** J. Deuble. 2 others passed.

**Greek 11 (Evening)** 3 passed.

**Greek 111 (Evening)** G. Rowcroft. 2 others passed.

**Hebrew R. Slack.** 6 others passed.

**New Testament 111** 13 passed.

**NT Exegesis 11A** G. Pearman. 7 others passed.

**NT Exegesis 11B** R. Burton, G. Deuble, R. Feldhahn, B. Francis, D. McLeod, G. Pearman, N. Proellocks, G. Rowcroft, R. Slack. 3 others passed.

**NT Exegesis 11B** C. Jones, Y.K.Uh. 2 others passed.

**Biblical & Historical Theology 11B** G. Deuble, B. Francis, J. Hohnke, G. Pearman, N. Proellocks, G. Rowcroft, R. Slack. 7 others passed.

**Church History 11B** 13 passed.

**Apologetics** G. Deuble, D. McLeod, Y.K.Uh. 10 others passed.

A. G. Elliott, Principal.

## CALL FOR FORCE TEN

A challenge to all Australian Christians to become members of Force Ten, the joint Protestant - Catholic overseas aid programme, has been made by the Australian Council of Churches and Australian Catholic Relief.

"Every Christian should be involved in the fight against human suffering on a continuing basis," said Rev. John Mavor, Secretary of the A.C.C.'s Division of World Christian Action. "Force Ten gives them the opportunity for such involvement." Supporting Mr. Mavor, the Director of Australian Catholic Relief, Bill Byrne, said "occasional handouts are a totally inadequate response to the world's need. It is not enough to feed hungry people — you have to fight the cause of their hunger too. Force Ten projects fight causes as well as symptoms, across the whole range of human need."

Both leaders explained that Force Ten

members support ten overseas aid projects each year, with a minimum donation of \$2 to each project.

"Each month, before they give, members receive a bulletin describing and illustrating the month's project in detail. So they know exactly how, when and why, their money is being spent," Mr. Mavor pointed out.

### MORE THAN A CHARITY

Our attitude towards underdeveloped countries should be one of helping them to get justice rather than charity, Mr. Mavor stated.

"Sharing the world's resources is not merely a matter of charity" he declared. "If all people really are God's children — and they are — then all people are entitled to a fair share of his gifts. Helping them get it is a matter of basic justice. That's the emphasis we put forward in all Force Ten work."

## LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

To the Editor,

JAVVAGOODWEEGEND!

My diary starts each week with Monday. Is this because for so long we've called Saturday and Sunday together, the "weekend?" And when Monday is a holiday we talk about a "long weekend." What is happening to a world where "the Lord's Day" is being shunted from one end of the week to another? One advantage is that it will bring the Seventh Day Adventists back into the fold because the seventh day of the week will be Sunday. But by the same token those of us who believe in "breaking of bread on the first day of the week" might find ourselves having to do it on Monday.

Should this subtle change alarm us and unite us in battle to preserve the Lord's Day at the beginning of the week? Is this another latter day onslaught of the devil, to be resisted? Is this another subject for pious resolutions to conference? Should there be a black ban on diary firms that produce diaries with Sundays at the wrong end of the week? As I asked myself these questions I found that I was getting quite uptight. Then suddenly I realised that it doesn't matter where my diary starts. It doesn't matter if it has two Christmases, three Easters and a weekend in the middle of every third week. However they mess about with the days, Jesus Christ is still alive and for real and with us. So every day is a Lord's Day. So who cares if the Lord's Day that they call Sunday is on the bottom of the list of days! Have a good weekend!

TERTIUS

## CHRISTIANITY & CRISIS

# DARWIN'S UNITED CHURCH & RELIEF FUND

BY BEN RAMSEY

### TRACY CALLS: A REVIEW OF THE PROBLEM

Due to unbelievable bad luck the eye of Cyclone Tracy, only 8 km wide, passed directly over the centre of Darwin at 4 a.m. on the 25th December. In the first half of the storm the winds reached 150 mph, and in the second half they reached 200 mph. No words will ever adequately describe the shriek and fury of such a wind. At times people could hardly breathe and their ears ached from the rapid pressure changes. And, then there was the rain in horizontal torrents, 15 to 20 inches in five hours.

The morning after, citizens crawling out of their ravaged homes could hardly believe the scene of devastation. Whole neighbourhoods were totally flattened.

With thousands homeless, with water and electric power gone, with the bulk of the wet season still pending, mass evacuation by air and highway was immediately required. In seven days 37,000 persons left, an unparalleled "exodus". Many arrived at emergency centres with little more than the ragged clothes on their backs. With many husbands required to stay in Darwin to carry on vital duties, painful separations were common.

This was the situation facing the United Church in the days following Tracy. Its staff, while suffering the same losses and disruptions as the rest of the citizens, turned their hands and hearts to the needs of others.

### PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SPIRITUAL FIRST AID:

The Darwin City Church was the site of the first religious service after Tracy. A tattered congregation, with some of the men totally shirtless, gathered in a tattered church to give thanks for being alive.

Someone had an emergency package of biscuits sent up from the South. It was decided that this would make an appropriate vehicle for an informal communion service; the biscuits were broken and passed around.

The theme of that first service was the hope for resurrection and God's ever present love. As the Rev. McKenzie phrased it, "God who saw the tragedy of His son's senseless death, and turned it into a hope for all Mankind is the one security we have."

It was also decided, strangely enough, that the day's collection should be sent, not to Darwin's needy, but the hungry overseas.

A second service featured a cross made of debris and a sprouting banana shoot at its base, symbolising rebirth and renewal. The Anglicans of Darwin, who had lost both of their churches, joined in this service.

### LAWN MOWER MISSIONARY:

Probably the best single investment of the Relief Fund was the "people ministry" of Mr. Jonetani Rika. The need was felt for a field agent who could roam the devastated northern suburbs and alert the Church to specific problems which required its attention.

Mr Rika, a Fijian who had been doing community development work at Yirrkala for five years, was a most fortunate choice for the job.

Jonetani developed his particular approach after noting some initial hostility to direct offers of Church aid. Apparently some workers from a fringe denomination had tried to take advantage of the psychological impact of Tracy in order to press for quick conversions. Suspicion and bitterness resulted.

So, Jonetani began to offer his services as a general handyman.

Making no mention of his Church affiliation unless specifically asked, he would simply show up at a devastated home and ask if he could help clean away debris, chop high grass with his matchet, etc.

Then during the occasional work breaks required by the heat

and humidity of the "wet" he would get the residences talking about their needs and plans. At this point Jonetani could begin to counsel them about ways of obtaining both Church and Government aid.

Jonetani would use the second-hand car the United Church had provided to run errands for people and to provide transportation to welfare centres and Government offices.

Jonetani was brought in for a 90 day tour of duty, for the people at Yirrkala wanted him back as soon as possible. In this limited period he was singularly successful in his major objective — helping the United Church to become deeply involved in the suffering and need of the Darwin Community. He will be missed.

### THE RECONSTRUCTION TEAMS:

The major effort, involving the bulk of the man-hours and relief funds, has centred on the rebuilding of damaged structures. This work assisted people who were somehow unable to get government help and the church staff who were vital to the servicing of the Arnhem Land missions and Child Care Centres. Church property in need of urgent repair included 22 homes, a hostel and a warehouse.

Commercial repairs would have involved delays and extremely high costs. So, under Ken Nowland (a community development worker with prior service at Milingimbi) a system of voluntary work parties was organised. The word went out through the church media and other channels that the United Church in Darwin needed carpenters, electricians, plumbers, metal workers, and carpenter assistants for periods of two to four weeks. The Church would cover the costs of transportation and arrange rooms and meals at a hostel.

The results have been most gratifying and a tremendous saving in funds resulted. Local contractors were giving estimates which involved a rate for carpenters of up to \$100 per day. The average volunteer only costs about \$150 per week. As it turned out, the volunteers would sometimes produce several times more work per day than commercial workers. It was a beautiful example of Christian dedication putting monetary motivation to shame. Even hardened building inspectors were amazed at the rate and quality of the work.

### THE UNITED CHURCH DARWIN RELIEF FUND

As soon as the news of Tracy reached the United Church Board in Sydney, the heads of the partner churches launched an Australia-wide appeal for relief funds. The response from the congregations — Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregational and Church of Christ — was extremely generous. As of the end of June approximately \$525,000 was received for parish relief.

The Standing Committee of the United Church established the following priorities for disbursements:

- (a) Assisting people to re-unite as family units.
  - (b) Meeting human needs which are not met through other funds or agencies.
  - (c) Re-establishing the facilities supporting Conference and parish staff workers.
  - (d) Financing special ministries and community development projects.
  - (e) Recognising special instructions from specific donors.
- Expenditures in the first phases of the piece include:  
\$3,500 for 3 months salary for Mr Rika's people ministry.  
\$7,500 for a caravan to serve as a mobile office for the Darwin Disaster Welfare Council.  
\$10,000 for construction equipment to be made available on a loan basis to individuals doing their own rebuilding.  
\$17,000 in direct grants to families rebuilding (who were not adequately compensated by insurance payments or government grants).  
\$4,000 to the Y.W.C.A.  
\$3,200 for audio-visual equipment for the N.T. Council of Social Services.

\$16,000 for the support of volunteer construction workers (transportation, meals and quarters).

\$24,000 for building supplies and equipment needed to support the reconstruction teams.

The United Church is determined that all funds donated will be well spent in the months to come. And, it wishes to express deep gratitude to the thousands of Christians who responded to its appeal with such prompt generosity.

Volunteers are still needed for September to November. Interested folk should write to Ken Nowland, P.O. Box 717, Darwin, 5794.

● OVERSEAS MISSIONS

# SUNDAY AT SAMBAN, PNG.

(For several weeks now, Mr. Jeff Weston, technical missionary in Papua New Guinea, has been building a house at Samban in the Grass Country. This is an extensive area between the Keran and Sepik Rivers where 6,000 people live without Christian witness. When the house is completed, Mr. & Mrs. August Ben, New Hebridean missionaries to P.N.G. will go to Samban to pioneer this new venture.)

It's 6.30 a.m. and there's a racket going on outside. Mulkok explains that it is just one of the big men fighting (playing) the garamut (split drum) telling everybody around that the missionary has arrived at Samban, P.N.G., and they are overjoyed. After a quick breakfast of saksak bread (sago) and coconut, we go to the morning service. Although there are no baptized Christians at Samban, they meet twice every Sunday, and every morning and night for devotional periods.

Mulkok presides over the service as we sing our praises to the Lord and give thanks to him. Then it is my turn. I have been asked to bring the morning message to the people of Samban. As I rise from my seat, which is a piece of bark on the floor, I am confronted by 150 men and women all waiting for me to give them some spiritual guidance. I speak for 20 minutes and the people are most attentive. When I finish we have a short prayer and the service is over.

At a lot of churches both in Australia and Papua New Guinea that would be the finish until it was time for the evening service, but not at Samban. After a break of two hours for lunch everybody comes together at one of the village houses, the object being to tell and debate Bible stories and facts. When I arrive I join the

50 or so men on the front verandah, then I'm asked to tell them some stories of Jesus and give them some teaching from the Bible that will help them understand God and his purpose for them. This meeting goes on for three hours with lively discussion after each story. The many questions that are asked are intelligent and show that they are all listening and trying to understand.

While the men were discussing outside, the women were doing the same inside the house. There are about 100 women talking together. Along with the stories that I told, Mulkok, who had been to a church convention at Sori, had to tell all the stories that he had heard while there, and explain their meanings, he couldn't leave anything out. When we had finished this session there was just enough time to have a bite to eat before the evening service. Once again 150 came to the evening service and listened intently to a taped message that was sent to them as part of John Bolton's tape ministry.

As we walked back to our bush house I noticed quite a few men following us, and when we arrived at the house they all came inside and started to ask questions and talk once again about the Bible and things they had heard at Christianity. After two hours they left and let us get some rest for the next day's work.

My thoughts that night and now are much the same. I thought of the things that happened that day and of the things that I said and the things that I didn't say. I found myself praying for the strength to face another day and the ability to answer the many questions that are in the minds of these people. I hope you will join me in my prayers also.

## 50 YEARS AGO

**New Church Planned:** 90 have taken their stand for Christ in the 18 months of the church's history. A fine block of land has been secured in the centre of the town. It is hoped to erect a large building in the near future. In response to an appeal for Bibles for Russia, the church gave 200.

**Editorial:** The remedy for Dwindling Churches: Evangelical, Passionate, Urgent Preaching. J. D. Jones was quoted at length "Preaching has been our glory and strength; preaching must be our strength and glory still."

**Church Finance:** A communication lies on our table soliciting a donation to one of the "Queens" to raise money to liquidate the building debt of one of our churches. We have written a kindly note to the

"Queen" expressing appreciation of her interest in the church but regretting our inability to sanction such expedients for the Lord's work. Can we bring Paul up-to-date? Could you see him organising a bazaar and a raffle in aid of the poor saints of Jerusalem? Impossible; instead the Corinthian letters show how it was done, by direct, systematic, and proportionate giving. Can we believe that Paul's word to the Philippians might be amended to read: "I beseech thee also, true yoke-fellow, help those women, for they labored with me in the gospel, and brought in a great sum by the Competition in which they were 'Queens'?"

**The Fleet's In!** The visit of the American Fleet brought U.S. visitors to our churches. Swanston St. church invited 80 members of the Fleet known to be associated with our U.S. churches. Lieut. C. A. Taylor, of Seattle, and Hon. James E. McClintic gave addresses.

# JAY'S FOR JUNIORS

## JAY'S JUMBLES (Persons & Places).

**AM TILE** (one word). This is an island on which Paul was shipwrecked. It is still there and the name is spelled a little differently today. In fact, most of the new versions of the Bible use the modern name. The story of the shipwreck is in the Acts of the Apostles, the fifth book in the N.T. (see page 18).

### A GOOD USE FOR TROUBLE

When you are sick you are not likely to do anything worthwhile, but when an oyster is sick, it makes a pearl!

The oyster looks after its shell house very well, and keeps it very clean, but sometimes a grain of sand or some other substance gets inside the shell. This irritates the oyster and it begins to cover up the intruder with layers of limestone until it is completely covered and no longer a nuisance. This is how the oyster produces a pearl.

Next time something irritates you, try to do something good.

### Hired

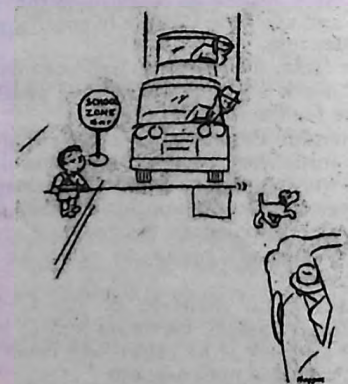
**Employer:** For this job, we need a very responsible person.

**Applicant:** I'm your man! On all my previous jobs, every time anything went wrong, they always said I was responsible.

### What is Education?

"It learns you how to do things. You go to learn so that you will have some more marbles in your head. You go to learn to have your career."  
— Joe Harris, age 9.

A hillbilly was watching an astronomer peer through a large telescope at the observatory. Suddenly a falling star sailed across the sky. "Good shot!" exclaimed the hillbilly.



# BOOKS TO READ

## HOW TO GROW AN AUSTRALIAN CHURCH

By Gordon Moyes (Vital Publications). \$2.00

This slim paperback handles like dynamite. Although its appearance is unpretentious, its message simple, and its style direct, the reader quickly senses that this seemingly ordinary 'how to' book has explosive propensities. It could change the face of your church.

The book is about church growth. It thus addresses what promises to become the outstanding phenomenon in the life of the church in the present decade. Its publication coincides happily with Dr Win Arn's recent Church Growth Seminars, which have been such a stimulus to our Australian churches.

The author — well known throughout Australia and New Zealand as a gifted evangelist — is the minister of the large and growing Cheltenham Church of Christ, Victoria. Against the background of the New Testament imperative to make disciples, he sets out to "give a step by step program to develop a local church through the continuous addition of newly converted members." And how well he succeeds! With the authentic touch of one who has 'done it,' he expounds a basic church growth strategy and program which is completely convincing. Not that the author offers any facile prescription for getting out of the rut; far from it. For example, he calls for a fundamentally new understanding of the functions of the minister, based on Ephesians 4:11-12. "The minister's main role is to equip his membership in outreach, pastoral care, spiritual nurture, and in every aspect of Christian concern." In then proceeding to spell out the practical implications of this concept for a reactivated and redirected laity, he allows for no cheap grace or easy discipleship.

This will surely become an indispensable source book for local church planning and programming. And it deserves to be compulsory reading for every church leader. Fortunately, there are no cultural gaps to be bridged, as there often are with church-life books of overseas origin. Nevertheless there will need to be wide selection and intelligent adaption, particularly by churches which now are small, poor, badly situated or discouraged.

The Federal Literature Department is to be congratulated on this its first book publication. This splendid start augers well for the future of Vital Publications. —G.H.G.

## AUSTRALIAN DIRECTORY OF MISSIONS

(Aust. Evangelical Alliance) \$3.50

This newly published directory contains a wealth of information about missions, missionaries, and mission training.

Section 1 lists Australian Mission Agencies, both churches and inter-church missionary societies. The number of missionaries involved and the total income for each group are shown, together with the countries where the societies operate. Addresses are also given for Federal and State offices.

The second section shows where Australian missionaries are serving, 2672 of them from Alaska to Zambia. Not names of individuals, of course.

Section 3 is statistical, giving an overview of personnel and financial support.

Section 4 lists some of the Colleges where training for Missionary Service may be obtained. This is obviously incomplete, since it includes Kenmore Christian College, Qld.; and omits both the College of the Bible of Churches of Christ in Australia (Glen Iris); and Churches of Christ Bible College, N.S.W. (Woolwich). But the heading for Section 4 is "Some Colleges," so it does not pretend to be exhaustive.

This is a very helpful window on the Australian missions scene. The book is priced at \$3.50 (\$4.00 posted) and may be obtained from the Evangelical Australian Evangelical Alliance, 3 Court St., Box Hill, Vic. 3128.

## KING FOR EVER

By James S. Stewart (Hodder and Stoughton) \$8.70

The long time professor of New Testament language, literature and theology at Edinburgh University has done it again! Lecturer at large, minister most notable, chaplain to the Queen and 1963 Moderator in Scotland, James Stewart has a style in writing and preaching that many have envied but few have equalled. This book contains 17 sermons "par excellence". They range from one about the "Strange Strategy of God" to another entitled "The Power to Heal". To those who remember his 1959 Melbourne visit or perhaps one of his other nine books, this one will be high on the purchase list — despite the seemingly high cost. For anyone desirous of improving their preaching or simply wanting to be blessed in 17 spiritual doses, this will certainly be fulfilling. Maybe your minister merits such an addition to his library. There will surely be a most welcome place on his bookshelves for an addition of another "Stewart" masterpiece to rest alongside "The Life and Teaching of Jesus Christ", "The Strong Name", "Heralds of God" and the others.

—B.F.G.

## NO DISCHARGE IN THIS WAR

by General Frederick Coutts (Hodder & Stoughton) \$2.20

This is a one volume history of the Salvation Army from the day in July, 1865, when William Booth, 36 years, began a series of nine meetings in a rotting tent lit by naphtha flares, that was to lead a world wide army of men and women and young people to carry the gospel into the streets and lanes of cities and towns in every continent. We read again how resistant the church is to change. The Church of England would have stifled the evangelistic enthusiasm of John Wesley and Methodism was born. The Methodist Church in turn, refused again and again to make William Booth a full-time evangelist and Booth led his own forces. We have all been inspired by the "Salvos" and their enthusiasm to do the unwanted jobs of the church, and we have sometimes been shamed!

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



"The weather man calls it a polar front, but I think it's the work of the devil!"

## CHAPLAIN TO CANCER INSTITUTE

The Cancer Institute Board has appointed John Paver as the first full-time chaplain on the staff of the Institute.

This appointment is the first inter-church chaplaincy at a hospital made in consultation with the Inter-Church Chaplaincy Committee.

Mr Paver was previously Assistant Chaplain Supervisor in the Department of Pastoral Care and Education at the Austin Hospital, Melbourne.

In his new position Mr Paver will care for the spiritual needs of the patients at the Peter MacCallum Clinic, the Cancer Institute's treatment section. He will also minister to patients' relatives and to staff members when needed.

One of his tasks will be to co-operate with ministers who wish to keep in touch with members of their congregation who are patients at the Clinic.



JOHN  
PAVER

Mr Paver trained at the Federal College of the Bible, at Glen Iris, in Victoria, and after graduating in 1965, he was minister at Ararat, and later at Morwell and Hampton. He undertook his initial training in Clinical Pastoral Education at the Austin Hospital in 1972, and joined the hospital as a full-time resident chaplain in 1973.

In his new work, Mr. Paver is anxious to liaise with ministers whose members may be attending the Cancer Institute. His phone number is 602 1333 (Melb.)

### Festival of Light attacked

The Director of the Australian Festival of Light, the Rev. Fred Nile, has issued a firm denial to the allegations made by Ted Noffs of Kings Cross, that the F.O.L. has prepared dossiers on the private lives of public figures.

Mr. Nile said, "The F.O.L. has no personal dossiers on the private lives of any person. I have never had any such dossier either prepared or filed by F.O.L. I carried no such dossiers, nor presented any such dossiers to T.C.N. Channel 9 on Tuesday, July 22, 1975. I simply handed a transcript of the 'Lateline' programme to Tony Ward for factual confirmation by the T.C.N. News Department of our public statements, as the F.O.L. only deals in the truth and the fact of a particular situation.

"The small F.O.L. Office has always been open to the public and the radio, TV and press personnel. Many university students have also used their press scrap-books in the preparation of university assignments.

"It is unfortunate that Mr. Noffs has decided for reasons only known to himself to launch a public attack on the F.O.L. and its staff.

"Mr. Noffs first approached T.C.N. 9, 'A Current Affair', on 22/7/75 for an opportunity to attack the F.O.L. and defend Richard Neville's A.B.C. 'Lateline' programme on 'Pederastic activities' (child seduction or adult/boy sodomy). These self-confessed pederasts freely described their activities in picking up boys outside schools in the Eastern Suburbs and whilst using four letter words accused Catholic Priests and Brothers of engaging in sodomy 'even at the altar'!

### ● V.-T. HALF-YEARLY CONVENTION

## WARRNAMBOOL CELEBRATES

The thriving Western District City of Warrnambool was the venue for the Half-Yearly Convention of Victorian Churches of Christ.

It was designed to coincide with the Warrnambool Church of Christ Centenary year celebrations. Victorian country churches were, as usual, well represented. And this annual event is used, by many, as a meeting point, for fellowship, discussion, and inspiration.

Saturday sessions, attended by up to 170 from 48 churches, were held in the Presbyterian church hall complex. They were presided over by the Vic.-Tas. Conference President, G. K. Scambler. The theme of this year's Federal Conference, "The Earth is the Lords", was chosen, and the keynote address on the theme was delivered by Graeme Chapman, of the N.S.W. Bible College, followed by discussion groups arranged by the Adult Education Committee of the Vic.-Tas. Dept. of Christian Education, under the leadership of Ray McKenzie and Viney Longthorpe.

Saturday night was a well-attended inspirational gathering, at which there was a panel discussion, led by Vice-Principal

"Mr. Noffs issued a Press Statement on 24/7/75 attacking the F.O.L. and described on Radio Station 2GB how he had seen a dossier with Richard Neville's name on it handed by Rev. Fred Nile to Tony Ward of T.C.N. 9 'A Current Affair'. As mentioned earlier, the only document presented to Mr. Ward and later to the Commissioners of the A.B.C. was the transcript of the 'Lateline' programme.

## Family sing for Bible Society

Top Australian gospel group, FAMILY, amazed the Melbourne entertainment fraternity by packing out Melbourne's famed Dallas Brooks Hall. FAMILY appeared there on July 26 to an audience of over 2,000. Many well known overseas acts have been unable to even half fill the Dallas Brooks auditorium. FAMILY's success with their concert for the Bible Society was no mean feat.

"THIS HOUSE RUNS ON SUNSHINE", FAMILY's latest record release, continues to be played by most Australian radio stations. The song made the Top 40 charts in Newcastle, the first time an Australian gospel number has ever done so.

Prior to FAMILY's departure for their United States tour at Christmas, FAMILY are planned to make an all-state concert tour which it is hoped will take in national capitals and major regional centres.

For further information please write to Family Music, P.O. Box 78, Stafford, Qld. 4053.

G. R. Stirling, of the College of the Bible, on "Church Growth."

Sunday services in the Warrnambool chapel were attended by many visitors, with Mr. Chapman again giving the address. The Conf. Pres., Mr. Scambler, led the morning service at the Baptist Church, there being considerable local interest in the special Convention occasion.

Arrangements at Warrnambool were capably handled by the church secretary Laurie Mogg, the minister, Ian Tippett, and many local members. Catering was arranged by the ladies of the Warrnambool and the Presbyterian women's group.

Altogether a very worthwhile week-end in the continuing life of the churches in this State.

## WORKSHOPS IN EVANGELISM

Canon Bryan Green, enthusiastic evangelist for the Church of England, will be conducting Workshops in Evangelism in August and September.

The sessions will be at Ormond, Dandenong, Geelong, Ringwood, Camberwell, Frankston, Essendon, Preston, and Burwood, from August 29 to September 27.

The enrolment fee is \$4.00, and applications can be made to "Workshops in Evangelism," Anglican Information Office, St. Paul's Cathedral, Flinders Lane, Melb. Vic. 3000.

Bryan Green is the author of "The Practice of Evangelism," the material of which was first given as Moorhouse Lectures in St. Paul's Cathedral Melbourne. He also wrote "Saints Alive!" He has conducted schools for evangelism in many countries.

# WHITE PAPERS

## ON LIFE AND FAITH

### WHATEVER HAPPENED TO ROWLAND HILL?

Once upon a time when the mails were young it could cost a fortune to receive a letter. "Receive" is right, because payment was made at the receiving end. Once, a labourer sadly had to refuse to accept a letter from his far away daughter because he could not afford half-a-day's wages (8 pence) to pay for it.

But there were folk who could pay and, not surprisingly, the rulers, in search of revenue, took over the Post. Once the State got a taste for postal revenue they became addicted to it, and the price went up and up. Postage rates got so high, that some folk actually placed advertisements in the newspapers, pleading with their friends not to write to them. They simply could not afford to accept their letters.

Then came Rowland Hill. He made a deep and exhaustive survey of the postal business and came up with some proposals which seemed revolutionary and outrageous. But, when tried, they actually worked! One of his ideas was that the postal rate should be so low that even poor people could send and receive letters. Little adhesive "slips" were stuck on the letters at the sending end, and cheap mails were on their way. Ideas began to circulate through the written and printed word, education received a great stimulus, and families and friends could talk to each other over land and sea.

Thus began the great principle of using the mails as a service to the community instead of a means of bolstering up the State revenue.

### Whatever happened to Rowland Hill?

Of course, it would be naive and unfair to compare Hill's day with ours, or his relatively simple society with our highly complex technological age. But the principle is the same. If those who use the services of society have to pay the service costs, it is the little people who suffer first and democracy which suffers most. If we had to pay for education, health, transport, and communication, so that agencies giving such services had to pay their way, mankind would take a great leap backward. Governments surely wouldn't dream of doing it with education and health, but in Australia it is being attempted with communication.

The mails are being priced out of the reach of ordinary people. That this should happen under a Government which came to office with the promise to look after the "little man", is both sad and bewildering.

It could be argued that religious journals have a special interest in calling for cheaper mails. That is true. We shall suffer along with the rest of society—except that there will be many who can easily pass on the extra costs. The pensioner can't. The casual friendly correspondent can't. Many little journals, secular and religious, will have great difficulty in recovering the extra costs. For some it will be the final blow that leads to extinction.

In another part of this issue there is a reaction by the Australian Religious Press Association to the new postal rates. There is naturally a great concern. In our own case, the cost of postage has risen astronomically in relation to printing. In 1972, for every \$10 spent on printing, the cost of mailing the journal was \$1.25. In 1975 for every \$10 spent on printing the postage is \$2.20. In 1976, for every \$10 spent on printing, the postage cost will be \$4.00. This means that mailing charges have risen more than three times as much as printing costs. It won't stop there!

Whatever happened to Rowland Hill, he's not alive and well in Canberra!

### GIFTS RECEIVED

The Vic.-Tas. Conference Executive office has received two anonymous gifts. Two amounts of \$60 each. One envelope was marked "For COCOA, Ethiopian Relief", and the other "For COCOA, Overseas Aid."

Receipt is acknowledged and the monies have been passed on for the purposes indicated.

**PLAY GROUP** (Epping, K. Farmer). Mid-week playgroup began with 20 parents and 45 pre-school children attending. Two sessions may be needed ... The church's Music and Drama Group presented the musical "Jonah Man Jazz" to packed congregation ... Use of nearby kindergarten premises has been obtained to accommodate part of the S.S. This will enable two Sunday morning services (8.45 and 10 a.m.) to commence late September.

**FOR HUNGRY** (Warragul, R. Pritchard) Five participants in 40 Hour Famine raised \$233... On Aug. 3 our men and the Salvation Army men combined for a Men's Tea in our church. Men from each church shared in the programme ... On Aug. 10 Ian Carter of Institute of Church Renewal conducted training course in "Witness" for 21 ... Mrs. Baldry and Mrs. Boote are in West Gippsland Hospital. Mrs. C. Pedersen is convalescent at her daughter's home.

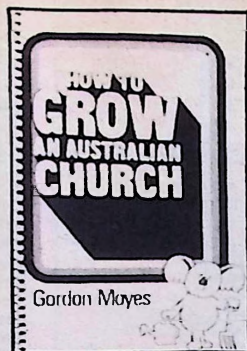
**NEW CHAPEL** (Boronia, E. L. Williams, D. Brown) New Chapel building commenced on July 28 with pouring of foundations. Building fund at \$58,000 and still growing. Appreciation of Mr. Williams' work shown in presentation of copy of "The Common Catechism" ... Family Day organised by Church School featured, open school, conduct of worship service, tea and film evening ... Ten members participated in church growth seminar ... Lil & Tom Myerscough welcomed home after overseas trip. Wayne Henry also, following two years in South East Asia with Aust. Volunteers Abroad... C.W.F. joined in Missionary Rally at Bayswater ... Ladies choir assisted in recent service. Men led another service ... Two Netball teams reached semi-finals ... Social Service Dept. represented by Fred Combridge and Matron Avard on Aug. 10.

**VISIT TO ALBURY** (Wangaratta, D. A. Stevens) The church visited Albury to conduct gospel service ... Ten went to Growth Seminar at Blackburn and two to Half Yearly Convention at Warrnambool ... Recent 5 p.m. speakers from I.T.I.M. and Leprosy Mission. Monthly Family Tea-table Services held. Our new song book "Patria" means a family was introduced recently ... Christian Education Seminar was conducted by Howard Weedon ... The P.E.P. group held a Retreat for education planning ... Two ladies participated in 40 hour famine ... A food parcel was sent to C.O.B. ... Mr. Popov told of his 13 years in concentration camp and asked for prayer for others still being tortured for their faith ... New toilet block under construction.

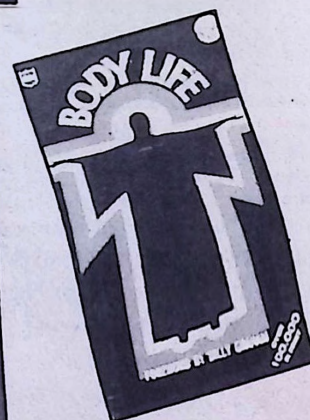
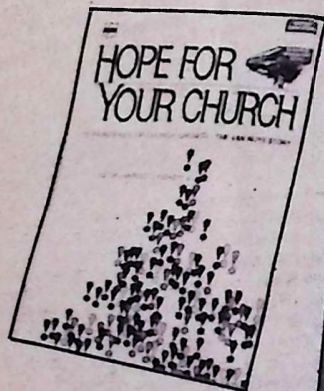
**PEW TO PULPIT** (Gardiner, L. S. Dewberry) Alan Rowe and the Corlett family have filled first 40 minutes of two "Pew to Pulpit" services... Chris DeBruen from Ceylon has made recommitment to Christ... Joan Thomas and Joy Willshire are recovering after hospitalization. Mrs H. Watkins has been in hospital for ten weeks... Elderly Citizens' Club has celebrated its 18th birthday... Simbarashe Munbengegare of Rhodesia spoke at Sunday evening service... Steve Corlett, musical director, has formed ladies' choir and arranged regular instrumental music... Minister and A. B. Clark of Croydon exchanged pulpits... Robert Geyer was guest speaker at start of Bible Week.

**ADDITIONS** (Ivanhoe, A. B. Withers). Kim Martin made the Great Confession and Mark Andrews was welcomed into fellowship ... Marj. Martin returned home after a time in Austin Hospital ... Open House team conducted evening service recently.

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# OBITUARY

## BROWN Albert Edmund.

Albert died suddenly at hospital on July 3. He was buried privately at Centennial Park following a service conducted by R. Holmes. He was the son of Albert Edmund Sr. and Selina, and lived at Col. Light Gardens. He confessed his faith in Jesus Christ at Forestville and entered Glen Iris College, graduating in 1931. In 1933 he married Dorothy Hatcher at the Collingwood Tabernacle, Church of Christ, and he left two children, Lorraine and Ken. He ministered at Col. Light Gardens, S.A., Invermay Road, Launceston, and then back to S.A. serving at Kadina, Croydon and Prospect. He returned to the business world and accepted the challenge to serve part-time and interim ministries at so many of our local churches, 13 of these years at Brooklyn Park. At the time of his death he was serving at Torrens-ville and attended prayer meeting on the night before he entered hospital. He served the Brotherhood well in S.A. and was for many years concerned with the work of the college of the Bible. There are many who have been drawn closer to our Lord because of his ministries. We thank the Lord for the life, witness and memory of Albert Brown and are confident that his loved ones will be strengthened in their need.

-O.R.WRIGHT.

## HANNAFORD Mrs Ivy May

The late Mrs Hannaford was born in Fitzroy some 85 years ago, and grew up there and went to school in the same district. She married Mr Hannaford in the North Fitzroy Church in 1918, the late J.W. Baker officiating. In 1926 they moved to 14 Robeson St., Preston. Mrs Hannaford was baptised at the church at Thornbury, by its first minister, Harry Swain. Her husband died in

**CARING GIVING** (Cheltenham, G. K. Moyes) Some \$1500 has been collected for the Ethiopia Appeal through World Vision ... The church thrilled by an anonymous gift of \$1200 for Christian Service in the area ... Our target of \$150,000 for the planned giving programme for the ensuing three years has been promised ... The New Youth Choir is performing very professionally in evangelism by song ... Pat Hilbig is back after a serious operation ... Denby Holmes, Chaplain at the Army Apprentice School, spoke to the Men's Society ... A new printing of Gordon Moyes' "How to Grow an Australian Church" has been undertaken due to a complete sellout.

**CITY CHURCH GROWTH** (Swanston St., A. L. Webb) Communicants have consistently averaged in excess of 200 over recent months. There have been 23 additions this year to our church fellowship. A church growth sub-committee has been formed and a number of exciting strategies are under consideration including a Church Growth Seminar over the weekend of September 13-14. Various training camps and weekends have been conducted among our Asian and Australian students ... Kevin and Heather Woods and their 3 children recently arrived home on furlough from New Guinea. They are serving with the Wyaffe Bible Translators. Extensive renovations to our rear hall are to begin shortly.

# WILFRED FRANK NANKIVELL

Wilfred Nankivell was baptized into Christ in his early teens in the Tumbay Bay Church of Christ. When 21 years of age he entered the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, in 1914. Following graduation he served in the Army Medical Corps during the second World War. After the war he took up university studies in Melbourne and graduated with the B.A. degree. During this time he served as an associate minister in the churches at Malvern-Caulfield and Hawthorn. Persuaded by Mr. Richards of the Kellems-Richards mission team he went to the U.S.A. to prepare himself as a singing evangelist. In Eugene, Oregon, he gained the Bachelor of Music but with a view to a general pastoral ministry he continued studies and gained the B.D. degree. After study and ministry in the U.S.A. he returned with his wife and three sons to Australia in 1937. He ministered with churches at Surrey Hills, Vic.; Unley, S.A.; Camberwell and Ringwood, Vic. Retiring from full time ministry he served for several years in a part time capacity with the Church at Mount Evelyn. Residing in the Ringwood district he continued in active membership with the church at Ringwood and served along with his wife in the Eldership.

His ministry was not confined to the local

church. He had a deep interest in the whole Brotherhood and served on various Conference Committees where he displayed grace, wisdom and maturity. His heart and hand also reached out beyond denominational boundaries for his spirit and vision were unconfined.

Warm pastoral concern characterised his ministry. He was always greatly loved for his kindness and understanding. He made each one with whom he had contact feel that he or she was a particular friend. Life was taken seriously with a due sense of responsibility but his life was seasoned with a delightful sense of humour. Though he gave himself to a general ministry it was a delight to hear him sing. A deep soulful quality heightened the message. With true humility he was a man in whom there was no guile.

His commitment to people flowed naturally from his commitment to his Saviour and Lord. A life that enriched many lives leaves an intangible memorial of treasured memories and thankful hearts.

Full of years and ministry he peacefully passed through the gateway of death on July 9. Thanks be to God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- E.L.W.

1954, and when I came to Thornbury in 1964, I used to love to call upon her. She had two sons, one at Glen Waverley church and the other in Nambour, Qld. She gave her time generously to the C.W.F. In 1970 things got a little too much for this dear lady and she was transferred to Amahla Rest Home on Glenhantly Road. She loved her garden and loved to do most wonderful crocheting. But the time came when she had to move to Parkview Hospital for intensive care and there she died.

To her sons, George and Albert, to the loving daughters-in-law Melva and June and to her grandchildren, we offer our deepest sympathy and pray that our Heavenly Father would graciously sustain them all.

L. G. Crisp.

## RICHARDS Ethel May

Ethel Richards was born in Goolwa, Sth. Australia, 81 years ago. As a girl of seven, she came with the Gordon family, to Victoria and immediately attended the SS of the Sth. Richmond Church. That was the beginning of an active, fruitful Christian life which enhanced the fellowship and service of five churches at Sth. Richmond, Gardiner, Hartwell, Frankston and Chelsea. At Sth. Richmond, she met and married Jack Richards. A marriage partnership stretched over 57 years. Jack and Ethel conducted a construc-

tion business and, in Christian Stewardship, they made it serve the Kingdom of God. They came into the membership of the Gardiner Church in the days it met at the College of the Bible. Their children, Hazel and Frank were baptised and married at the Gardiner Church. In more recent years, Ethel was involved in the life of the Churches at Frankston and Chelsea. She and her husband gave such an example in Christian commitment and quiet, but consistent service, that we are not surprised to find one member of their family Chairman of the Vic.-Tas. Overseas Mission Dept. and Dept. of Christian Educ. and the other, the mistress of a manse in S.A. Ethel and Jack were a devoted and inseparable couple whose "togetherness" was at its richest when serving their Lord. Ethel felt a great sense of loss when Jack died 17 years ago. Though bearing her widowhood bravely and gallantly, nevertheless, a heavy mantle of loneliness was upon her. The last short phase of her life was at the Christian Guest Home where she experienced peace and contentment within the environment of that fine home. We honour the memory of one who was a wonderful wife and mother and a devoted servant of Christ. Sympathies were expressed at the service to Mr and Mrs Murray Williams and family and Mr and Mrs Frank Richards and family in their loss of a mother, mother-in-law and grandmother and to Miss Ivy Gordon in her loss of a sister.

- Leslie S. Dowberry

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## VICTORIA

**COFFEE CHAT** (Chelsea D. Althorpe). After-church Coffee and Chat now in operation on Sunday evenings. At monthly church parades for Auxiliaries, each auxiliary takes turn to report on its work . . . Explorers won inter-zone sports, again and Juniors took 3rd place . . . Opportunity Shop bringing in good results, and the ladies held street stall Aug. 8. . . Senior Explorers participated in Volley Ball Marathon to raise money for Bunapas Explorer Club.

**MAORI MISSION** (Latrobe Terrace, Geelong, N. Hodgekiss). A Maori Musical Mission Team held week of meetings from July 21. Mission was a combined venture of the five Geelong churches and the Colac church. Attendances each night well over 200. Many local schools were also visited by the team, who demonstrated some of their cultural activities as well as telling the gospel by word and song. 100 were at Colac for Communion Service on Sunday. At final Sunday night service 530 present.

**FAST** (Swan Hill). Youth Fellowship shared in recent World Vision "Fast for Famine" . . . July speakers were Keith Lacy (C.O.B.), Athol Leach and Don Naunton . . . Explorers held church parade on July 20 with film "Whispering Mountain" . . . A Casserole Tea and Singalong followed at Hartshorns' home . . . New fencing has been erected next to manse.

**RETURN** (Maryborough, S. Warwick) Jenny Douglas has returned from Merimbula where she was helping with youth work. . . Senior Fellowship Circle entertained ladies at Clarendon House. . . Colin Hocking of Gideons was recent speaker. . . Sympathy of church extended to Nicholls family in the death of Mrs Nicholls' mother, Mrs Poole. Mrs Poole was a great worker for many years; also to Miss Yvonne Watson in the death of her father. . . Five members took part in World Vision 40-hour "Famine". Young Worshipers contributed \$15. . . Ike Living is still in hospital. . . Bible study group at High School is led by one of our young people. . . A parent dedication service was held for Mr & Mrs Barry Cheeseman and their son, Simon.

**SPECIALS** (Red Hill, K. Denton). July Special Evening Services included: a Family Night with Group from Blackburn with Puppets; a Gospel Tea, with Singing Group "The Revelations"; Major Holmes, Chaplain of Balcombe Army Camp; a Gospel Film "His Land" on fulfilment prophecy in Israel today.

**TRASH AND TREASURE** (Briar Hill R. Baxter). Successful Trash and Treasure day and Planned Giving Review held recently . . . New members welcomed into fellowship . . . Youth Study Group participated in 40 hour famine and raised over \$400 . . . The officers board is considering the Seminar by Dr. Win Arn and its role in the future development. Group

13 had a combined meeting with Greensborough United Church.

**PASTORAL NEED** (Dareton Methodist/Church of Christ, P. Richter). Fact-finding visit of Alan Jenkins, Don Oakes and Lance Fisher from Aborigines Mission Board in response to church call of need for an Aboriginal Pastoral appointment to the region. . . Caroline Waters and Ann Rainbow sang their own composition at fortnightly combined service in Presbyterian church. . . P. and J. Waters, J. Kerridge, V. Watts, R. and W. Whittle, W. Alexander and B. Murdoch have been nominated as Elders and Councillors to the Wentworth District Uniting

Parish Council of the Uniting Church . . . Buffet tea held with Bill Williams and Maori Evangelical Fellowship.

**FAMILY TEA AND FILM** (East Bentleigh, J. D. Morrow). On July 27 minister exchanged pulpits with Ormond minister, Carl Clayden. In the evening 138 attended Family Tea and Film Service. Ross Smith, a league footballer with St. Kilda was the special guest and was interviewed concerning his career and faith. Film "The Sound of the Trumpet" was shown . . . Five men from church were at recent Church Growth Seminar . . . A wall clock was presented to the Church in memory of the late Mrs. Gwyneth Southam.

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29th-31st August  
2nd September  
3rd September  
4th-10th September  
11th-14th September  
18th-24th September  
26th September

Mt Tamborine S.U.M. Conference Centre, Queensland.  
Central Baptist Church, Launceston, 8 p.m.  
Sandy Bay Baptist Church, Hobart, 8 p.m.  
Melbourne  
Sydney  
Queensland Baptist Assembly.  
St Stephen's Lutheran Hall, Adelaide, 7.45 p.m.

## EXCITING PROSPECTS IN THE NUBA MOUNTAINS TO BE FEATURED

### MELBOURNE MEETINGS

Mitcham Baptist Church,  
Mitcham Rd., Mitcham,  
Sept. 4th, 5th, 6th, — 8 p.m.

Moonee Ponds Baptist Church,  
Cnr. Laura & Eglinton Sts.,  
Sept. 8th, 9th, 10th, — 8 p.m.

Syndal Baptist Church,  
588 High St. Road, Syndal,  
Sept. 7th, 9.30 a.m.

Blackburn South Baptist,  
19 Holland Rd.,  
Sept. 7th, — 11 a.m.

Kingsley College,  
(Wesleyan Bible College)  
21 South St., Glenroy,  
Sept. 9th, — 11.30 a.m.

Melbourne Bible Institute,  
117 Kooyong Rd., Armadale,  
Sept. 10th, — 11.45 a.m.

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### DEATH NOTICE

**BROWN** Albert Edmund — On July 3 (suddenly) at hospital. Albert Edmund, loving husband of Dorothy and father of Lorraine and Ken, father-in-law of Julian and Wendy, grandpa of Brenton, Andrea, Warwick, Marie and David. "Peace Perfect Peace."

**HUNT**, Harold Alfred. On August 10th at Oakleigh, dearly loved father of Lindsay and Ailsa, loving granddad of Carol, Robert, Margaret and Russell. "In God's Care"

**WERNER** Alfred H. On August 4 (suddenly) at Dimboola, aged 77 years. Husband of the late Elva. Father of Cora and Ian. Father-in-law of Les and Margaret. Mum and Dad reunited.

### IN MEMORIAM

**ALLAN**. In loving memory of James Ernest, passed away August 22, 1957. Treasured Memories. Doreen & Freda.

**BUTTRISS**, Bill — Treasured memories of my beloved husband, called Home, 26th August, 1959. "In God's loving care, till we meet again." — Alice.

**FARRAR**. In loving memory of my beloved husband, John Farrar called home August 6, 1956. "The gates of memories never close". — Ada Farrar.

**LEE**, Horace. Cherished memories of my beloved husband, called home September 3, 1967. "Until we meet again" — Edna.



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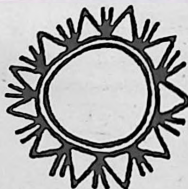
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AUG. 29

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● Janette Cambridge to Jeff Kirwood, Latrobe  
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● Vicki Wright to Rodney Mase, Ascot Park,  
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● Wendy Wickham to Robert Nobel, Heather  
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● Judy Deed to Michael Rushby, Murray Bridge,  
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● Mrs. M. Pender, Latrobe Tce, Geelong, Vic.

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## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**STUDY GROUPS** (Ascot Park, R. J. Clymer) A series of study groups was held in July....A. C. Cunningham spoke on July 16 on behalf of O/seas Missions....Seven local churches were involved in New Life Mission at Ascot Park Methodist Church. Rev. Sydney Cassells from Qld. was missionary....Lloyd Simpson was re-elected elder....Officers attended church growth seminar with Dr Win Arn....The church's sympathy goes to Mr & Mrs Bull in the death of his mother. Mrs Cornelius is in hospital. Mrs Wright's father has suffered a stroke....The annual business meeting was held on July 27.

**YOUTH PROGRAMS** (Christies Beach, Brian Beck). Youth Seminar follow up discussions held for prospective leaders interested in Youth Programs for area. Boys' Club has maintained good attendance....Prayer Meetings held 6 a.m. each Monday... Church Library of 60 books established with fortnightly free loans... Eight representatives attended Church Growth Seminar at Hawthorn... Mr. and Mrs. Idris Purdie congratulated on 40th wedding Anniversary... Church accepted with regret the resignation of minister as from end of year.

**ASIAN STUDENTS** (Fullarton, M. T. Lawrie). Twenty eight Asian students met with the church for tea and then led evening service... Mr. & Mrs. Poulsen have been home on furlough from New Guinea... Deaconess Leak spoke on Kate Cocks Home, at C.W.F. Gifts for Home were given. C.W.F. supplied clothing for boy at Carnarvon... Guild had a day mending for Salv. Army Children's Home... Film was shown in Bible Society week. Books were on display. Offering for Bible Society was \$141... We have commenced combined monthly evening service with the Unley Church and change of minister & president on third Sunday.

**FOLLOW UP** (Prospect, R. H. Sercombe.) Follow-up campaign to New Life Mission held by combined north district churches in full swing. Quarterly combined gospel services to be held....Ian Heard, convener of D.C.E. "Do Tell" committee spoke at evening service and youth fellowship....Clothing for Carnarvon Aboriginal girl on display....Netball teams have reached the finals....B.S. anniversary included a concert, teacher dedication service and children participation....Saturday night is family night with table tennis, games and sitting and talking....Mrs N. McLaughlin, P. Brittan, and P. Roberts are home from hospital. B. Carter has recovered from sickness.

**MORNING PRAYER** (Nailsworth, P.P. De Wildt). Y.P. meet in the Minister's Study for prayer each morning at 7.30... Gospel concert and the drama "Gifts" presented in June when 35 Y.P. journeyed to Naracoorte... Hawthorn folk gave a gospel concert at Nailsworth and four decisions were made... Four girls from Nailsworth have been selected to play in the State Netball team to visit

Perth... Royal Adelaide Hospital Chaplain, Mr Baker preached recently... Choir and artists gave a musical evening at Everard Park Rest Home... Officers attended Church Growth Seminar... Hospital visitation is carried out every Monday at the Northern District Hospital. A group is training for work with Lavender Ladies at Royal Adelaide Hosp.

**FURTHER SERVICE** (Murray Bridge) The minister, D. Kuhl, has been invited to stay another term... H. Long was elected as president; M. Thomson, sect., I. Roberts, treas.; A. Klingbeil, S. S. Supt. Reference made to Gabe Bywaters who retired after 24 years' faithful service to the board... C. W. F. celebrated 62nd birthday. Trading table realized \$142. Cartons of clothing packed for Missions, also outfit for aborigine boy. Jonathan Greer home from Children's Hospital after severe arm injury from bike accident. Also Pam Cornish and Dorothy Buckley are home after treatment in R.A. Hosp... Ministers' Fraternal have 5 minute segment each morning on local radio... Bert Brooker, Stan Phillips, Gabe Bywaters and Gilbert Howell have retired from their respective places of employment... Mr. Mitchell celebrated 85th birthday in hospital.



## TASMANIA

**BARBECUE** (Nubeena, David Bailey). Church met with group from Lindisfarne Bible Chapel for barbecue at Eaglehawk Neck, and at Waterfall Bay... Six members attended Church Growth Seminar in Hobart with Dr. Win Arn. David Bailey has been demonstrating to the church goals and strategies necessary for growth in our own centre... Mr. and Mrs. Sid Greatbatch, faithful members of this church for many years, have settled in at the Queen Victoria Home at Lindisfarne.

**ARTS AND CRAFTS** (Margaret St. Launceston, M. D. Hamilton) The Intermediate C.E. organised a Saturday Arts and Crafts Exhibition of wide range. It created great public interest... Tom Bain succeeds G. J. Foot as Chairman of the Board of Elders and Deacons... Christian literature month met with wide interest... Mrs. A. Griffiths and Dawn are now guests at Eskleigh Nursing Home.



## NEW SOUTH WALES

**10th ANNIVERSARY** (Nth. Turrumurra, Roger Risson) At 10th anniversary 120 were at morning service and 170 at tea prior to evening service. Speakers were Keith Farmer and Ken Baker....Temple Day offering of \$2500 will be used to improve facilities for auxiliaries....Two separate discipleship classes are held each week for recent converts and other interested y.p....Neil Morris is in St Vincent's Hosp....10 members attended Win Arn Church

Growth seminar and have undertaken to implement active involvement of all departments in plans for spiritual and numerical increase.

**GROWTH** (Bexley North, P. A. Pitts) Growth of S.S. reached 94 in July. The S.S. raised \$69 for Bible Society project and took part in annual "Christmas in July" programme to bring gifts for Missions. Roy Dixon spoke....The headmaster and teachers of the local public school were present, and the school choir sang, at Education Sunday service....Sunday evening services held at 5 p.m. in July and August for trial....The church is studying "How to Grow an Australian Church."....A ladies' Home Bible study group meets weekly....The Greek Church of God used the chapel recently for a Saturday night baptismal service....Recent speakers have been R. Smith (H.M.); B. Chesney (Penhurst); A. Rae (Belmore); and Michael and Carol Wilson of L.E.M.

**ON UPGRADE** (Earlwood, J. Bond) After almost 40 years of struggle and ups-and-downs, Earlwood is once again on the upgrade. J. Bond, Woolwich College student, has given seven months of service. He and his wife have brought in a "new look" to our ministry and services.

**PREACHER TRAINING** (Warrawong, D. McLead). Preacher training class commenced led by A. A. McRoberts...Gospel meeting on the life of Fanny Crosby was held with members taking part... There have been six baptisms during past month... Church has responded to the request for sponsorship of Korean preachers.



## A.C.T.

**BRIGADE ENROLMENT** (Belconnen, G. Warren). Twenty boys and five leaders were enrolled on July 20 for the Boy's Brigade. Two chaplains Rev. Carver and G. Warren were installed. This was a first, for Canberra, for a brigade to have two chaplains... Girls' Club started on July 22 and has fourteen attending. Leaders are Bev. McCuaig and Jenny Moore... Rod Bateman is the church's representative in the interim Management Committee of one of the four community halls proposed to be built shortly in Belconnen... On August 3 the first joint family service was held with the co-operating Church of England congregation.

**CONSTITUTION ACCEPTED** (Lyons, Bill Howard) At annual meeting, the Church Constitution was accepted. Graham Gilmour, Warwick Wright, and Dean Furler were elected elders....Ecumenical service held with Church of England, R.C., and Salvation Army in R.C. Cathedral, Curtin, A.C.T....Regular combined services are held with Church of England....Gordon Stirling of C.O.B. challenged young people to consider the ministry....C.W.F. held an "International Night" at Ainslie church. Traditional foods of Fiji, India, and Scotland were enjoyed and entertainment provided. Proceeds were for Church Development in the A.C.T.



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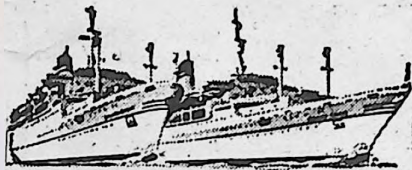
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## VICTORIA

**MAORI VISITORS.** (Norlane, I. Adams). Norlane shared with the other Geelong churches in special meetings with the Maori team . . . Two young men were baptized on August 3. . . Marguerita and Frank Smith are now working their way around Australia . . . The manse is nearing completion . . . F. Combridge spoke on the work of the Social Service Dept. on Aug. 10.

**GIVING** (Blackburn, E. C. Keating). The Board of Officers participated in service on "Consecrated Giving" on Aug. 3. Young people and adults raised \$400 for the C.A.A. Walkathon. The evening service featured a Salvation Army singing group. Helen Rhodes made her decision. The Prayer Groups and Luncheon Studies have been helpful. \$650 has been raised for Project '75. A wheelchair has been donated to the local Deaf and Dumb Home . . . The Elderly Citizens enjoyed an Audio-Visual on Fiji by Dave Watt. Valentine Woff led the singalong . . . The Church combined with Mitcham, Doncaster and Ringwood at Blackburn High School Hall on Aug. 10. Dr. Leon Morris, the Principal of Ridley College was speaker . . . At S.S. anniversary evening service, the scholars presented the Story of Joseph in song and word.

**GROWTH PLANS** (Hampton, G. Fewster). Twelve attended Growth Seminar and are now making plans for local church . . . District churches held combined service in our building as first of a series to be held quarterly . . . Good Companions finished second in final of Indoor Sports championship . . . Church is saddened by death of Mr. Pearce.

**MEN'S CONVENTION** (Horsham, R. T. Roberts) Men from many centres met for Men's Convention, July 26, 27. Speakers were Rev Matheringham (Bordertown Meth.); R. Brown (Aboriginal teacher); Dr Harrold Steward, and Bud Schaeffer, international basketball player. A panel dealt with topic "Is Christian Home Life Possible Today?" Mr Schaeffer spoke at High and Technical Schools, held a clinic for Longerenong College Basketball team, was tendered a formal dinner and later spoke to the College students . . . Missionary offering was \$163.

**FAMILY LIFE SEMINAR** (Frankston, A. A. Avery) A Community-Seminar of Family Life, with visiting speakers, was held . . . Ladies' evening service included choir led by Mrs R. Baker. . . Maori Fellowship members thrilled with their witness and singing. . . 15 attended Church Growth Seminar and have reported need for planning in this area. . . CYF sharing with young people from other Frankston churches in production of "Godspell" . . . Regular Sat. morning prayer breakfasts held in conjunction with Mission '75. . . Good Companions and Explorers growing. . . The minister involves laymen in preaching assignments on Sunday mornings. . .

# QUESTING



WITH

A. E. WHITE

Some of our members are meeting in small house groups because they find a "deeper level of worship than is found at church". When I expressed my concern, one member said that the house church is a New Testament example which should be followed. Suddenly, the church doesn't seem to be needed.

Other cases of this kind have come to notice. It is understandable that some folk who are deeply committed to Christ should seek deeper and deeper levels of worship. If the church is not meeting this need, I have sympathy with folk who look for something additional to the congregational worship. For me, however, the word is "additional" and not "instead of".

Some small groups meeting in one another's homes forge a very special bond of worship. They have a close relationship and often talk about personal difficulties and about stresses in relationships with one another and with others. This kind of sharing is not possible in a congregational meeting. They counsel each other, pray for one another, and generally find great enrichment.

All of this is very good. It is to be commended, and encouraged.

What is disturbing is the way some folk make the small house worship group an alternative to the larger congregational meetings. It becomes an elitist group that divides the church instead of building it up.

It is quite true, of course, that the house-church played a significant role in

the early church. This was not in competition with the congregational meeting. There was no congregational meeting or church buildings as we know them. It was the home or nothing.

For a time the early Christians probably continued to worship in the synagogue, but they could not have their Christian worship there. They would move into their homes for the church of the "New" Testament. Such homes became centres for evangelism. They included Jason (Acts 17:5), Titius Justus (Acts 18:7), Philip (Acts 21:8), Lydia (Acts 16:15), Stephanus (1 Cor. 1:16).

There are many ways in which house groups enrich the life of the church today: prayer and Bible study in home, morning coffee sessions, and pre-evangelistic fellowship programmes, are just some of the ways homes are used.

The suggestion in your question that the worship services in your church are inadequate may well be a fact. Many can recall occasions when worship and communion have been spoiled by lack of preparation or incompetence. However, the response should not be one of withdrawal but of positive example and influence.

When the writer to the Hebrews said "Let us not neglect our church meetings and duties" (13:25) it is unlikely that this could be taken as an injunction to preserve the house church model. It obviously relates to a congregation which is larger than a house group.

By all means let members be encouraged to meet in one another's homes for deep and enriching worship, but let them come also into the church worship for all of the families of the church. We need them, and if they have a desire for deeper experiences of the presence of God, we need them all the more.

(Next Issue: How to appoint a minister).

## THE LAST WORD...

There is a crisis in the pulpit. It may well be the most serious pulpit crisis in the whole history of the church. Foolish is the preacher who does not take seriously the present crisis of preaching.

The crisis of the pulpit, rather than being simple, is very complex. It has resulted from the converging of four other crises: faith, the institutional church, authority, and communication.

— Chevis F. Horne

### CHESS BOARD

A man is poor,  
ever thinner, ever blacker,  
goes to borrow fifty coins,  
is asked a hundred in return,  
turns to go,  
knows he's taken for a thief.  
A man is rich,  
ever fatter, ever whiter,  
goes to borrow fifty pieces,  
has a hundred pressed upon  
him,  
turns to go,  
is urged to stay and drink.

A Shantung chant



### Fresh Hair

The best way for you to tell,  
If Johnny's finished growing;  
He stops asking where he came from,  
And starts telling where he's going!  
AGNES THOMAS



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