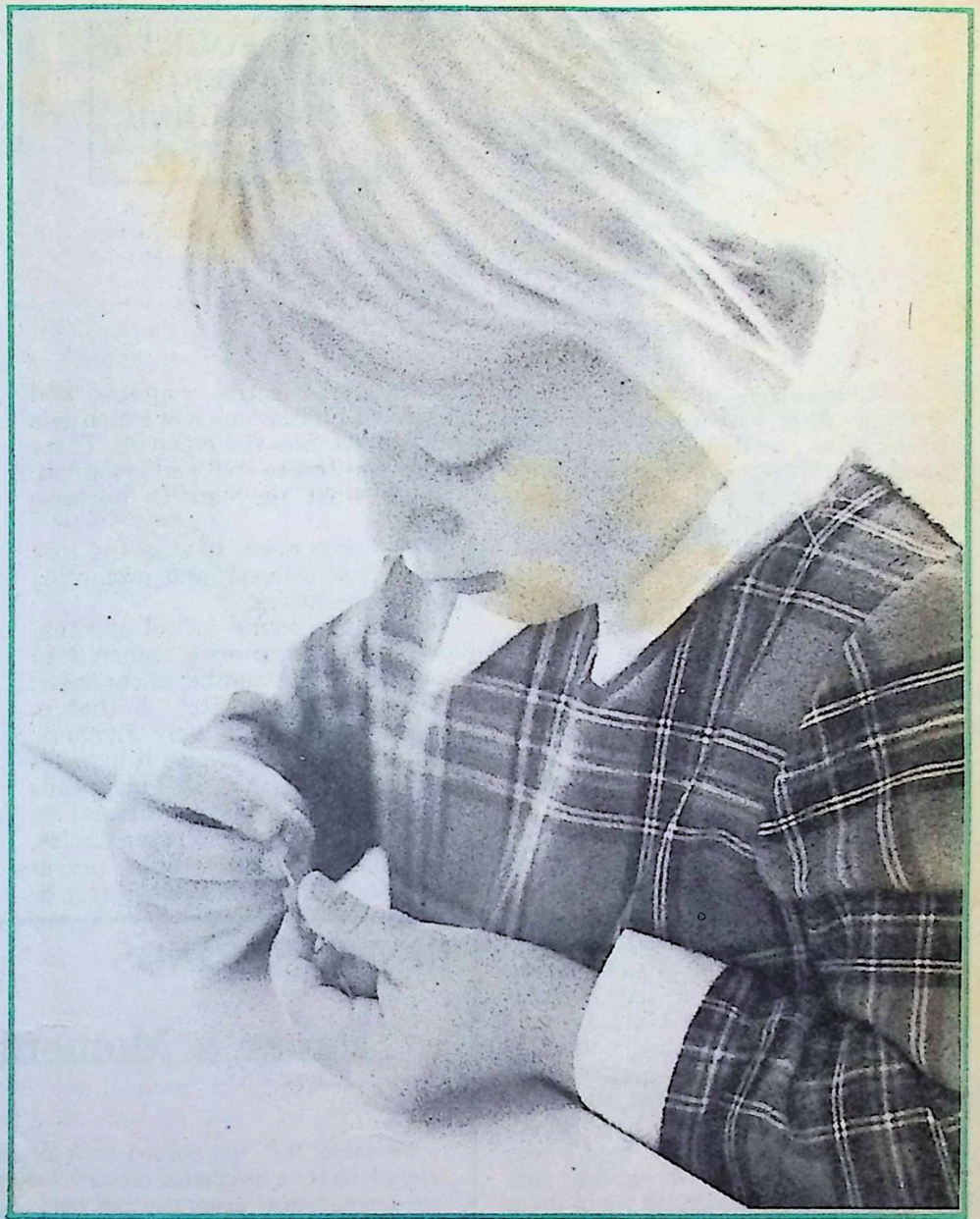


GOD GIVES
MEANING
TO LIFE



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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Spiritual Resources

THE FOURTH
OF A SERIES
ON CHURCH
GROWTH

BY DON E. STEWART

A comparison of many Church Growth ideas with certain Business principles will reveal a great similarity. The reason for this is fairly simple. God created human beings with a decided tendency to act in certain ways. Business, taking the matter of making a living seriously, has been quick to see many of those basic tendencies and has acted accordingly to make use of them. If the church is to take its work seriously, it too must make use of human societal tendencies. It must do this because its task is one of the fundamental needs of humanity — that is, helping people to relate to God.

That spiritual aim must be behind everything that the church does. If that is not so, then the church has left behind its fundamental task. It may be doing many important and very good things but if it is not helping people to relate to God, then it ought no longer to call itself a church.

This means very basically that the Church's business is a spiritual one. Everything it does ought to incorporate that principle. Lyle Shaller in his book, "Hey that's our Church", points to a church that provides a meeting place for a great number of very useful Community Organisations and there is a lot of traffic about the church. The trouble with it is that it is not related to the church and hence to the task of helping people relate to God. It is just traffic about the church. The church cannot just be a landlord for good, its task is to be in there helping people and basic to that is to help people to relate to God.

Because the church's task is a spiritual one it needs to be aware of and to utilise the God-given spiritual resources for the task. Unless a church takes seriously that it is involved in a spiritual business it cannot grow. Those involved in spiritual private enterprise such as the Armstrongs, Moon, David Mo Berg, Rex Humbard, Billy Graham etc. have taken the task seriously and

have made effective contacts and handsome profits, much of which gets poured back into the business. These people emphasize spiritual resources. That is what they are in business about.

The church needs to stop and look at how it is utilising and promoting spiritual resources.

God is the source of all spiritual power. But the power is transmitted to people along a number of channels. Perhaps the most vital, is that of prayer. Prayer is a very dynamic spiritual resource because it involves direct contact with God. This means that churches must be diligent in prayer — constantly. Prayer circles, prayer chains, prayer groups, prayer covenants etc. should increasingly be

the concern of church boards. Prayer responsibilities for all areas of the church's work needs as much attention as the church budget and the church reading and presiding roster.

The reading, study and exploration of the scriptures alert a church to spiritual resources more rapidly than any other means. It ought to be kept in mind that the Bible is a central source for Church Growth Principles. The study of the Bible constantly adds new dimensions to faith.

Fellowship of Christian with church and together with God, seen supremely in the celebration of Communion, brings a tremendous spiritual resource. Here Spirit communes with spirit and together there is Communion with God.

The great spiritual resource of service in the name of God to those in need has constantly been seen as a great spiritual resource for Christians. While these resources, along with witnessing and the various gifts of the Spirit do not exhaust the list of spiritual resources, one interesting feature of these spiritual resources is that they are all growth orientated.

A growing church recognises what its business is and sets out to utilise its resources and promote its product. Please be sure you have a good product before you promote.

DON E. STEWART

Next Issue — Definitions and Distinctions.

INNER SPRINGS

Pause a Moment



Whatever for? You haven't time for pausing without reason. But need we do everything for a calculated reason? Aren't some things lovelier just because they are spontaneous? Every day can yield countless moments of delight that can lift our hearts into a new awareness. Many of our days are dull and ordinary but our minds need not be. It takes but a few seconds to gather a fragment of beauty and drop it into the well of memory to be drawn upon at will in some future hour of weariness or despair.

I think Jesus often drew strength from such moments and allowed His gaze to rest on the loveliness of hill and valley, and watch with tender amusement the play of white-capped waves on the lake. Clive Sansom in his lovely poem "The Forgotten Years" expresses the same thought.

I see Him walk among the flowering
hills
Finding God branded on each living
thing —
Frail winter sparrows that the sharp air
kills
Spring lilies that out — Solomon a king.

I think He walked beyond the belt of
flowers
Into the desert where few strangers
trod
And in those silent unrecorded hours
Within His own still heart discovered
God.

Into the heart that knows how to be still He pours a strength and sweetness not to be found any other way.

PRAYER:

O God, the world is in such a hurry and we allow ourselves to be swept along with it. Remind us sometimes to stand still, to touch some lovely thing, to use our sense of smell and sound to see you and hear you speaking to us. Amen.
Psalm 46:10

Florence Rosier



THE "CHRISTIAN" GOES TO . . .



WOMEN'S CONFERENCE IN 1898!



In 1898, when the first issue of "The Australian Christian" appeared, the Women's Conference in Victoria had been in existence for 12 years.

It was commenced by an American.

In 1886, two letters appeared in "The Australian Christian Watchman" calling attention to the need for Victorian Women to be involved in a united forward movement. The letters were signed by "A. K. Thurgood."

Mrs Antoinette Thurgood was the wife of an American minister, C. L. Thurgood, who had several ministries in Australia. While at Geelong in 1883, Mrs Thurgood also organized the very first Endeavour Society in Australia, known as "A Young Ladies' Society of Christian Endeavour."

As a result of the letters in "The Watchman", 60 ladies attended a meeting at the Lygon St. Church of Christ in Carlton, a constitution was adopted and the "Victorian Sisters' Conference" was established with Mrs Thurgood as its first president.

Honorary President

When the Thurgoods returned to America they had a long ministry in Pittsburgh. During those years, Mrs Thurgood was "Honorary President" of the Women's Conference. She wrote a long annual letter which was read at the Conference and for some years was printed in full in the "Christian". The letter was only late once.

From her far away home she began her letter for the 21st Conference with these words: "We commenced our beautiful womanly work twenty-one years ago in the fair Southland of sunshine and flowers." If the Queenslanders are a bit puzzled by the description, we Melburnians easily identify our city from this accurate description!

The Thurgoods returned to Australia in their retirement and both died in Adelaide, Mrs Thurgood in 1915.

Because the title of "Honorary President" was given to Mrs Thurgood, the leaders of the Victorian Women's Conference were known for some years as "Acting Presidents". There were four or five vice-presidents and from these the Acting Presidents were usually chosen.

Among the names of the prominent women in the early days of this century were those of Mrs A. B. Maston, Mrs Ludbrook Sr., Mrs Huntsman, Mrs J. A. Davies, Mrs J. Pittman and Mrs Chown. There were many other women of great ability and there would be no lack of competent women to fill the office of President,

but the delegates seemed to prefer to elect those who had already held the office. Mrs Ludbrook would follow Mrs Maston and Mrs Maston would follow Mrs Ludbrook. Mrs Davies followed herself.

But it was by no means a closed shop. The women knew whom they wanted. Mrs J. A. Davies, for example, had given long service to the Conference, and in 1906 declined to stand again for President on the grounds of ill-health. But Mrs R. Lyall, Mrs J. Pittman, Mrs R. B. Davis, Mrs Huntsman and Mrs Gibson spoke so persuasively in Conference that Mrs Davies changed her mind and was re-elected again in 1907, 1908, 1909, and 1910. Mrs F. M. Ludbrook became president for 1911, and in 1912, Mrs Davies refused to stand but was elected Honorary President.

Finance

"The Australian Christian" usually received favourable mention at the Women's Conferences. In addition to giving good cover to the Conferences, the monthly executive reports were printed. A small charge was made for this service. In 1906 it was three pounds, but the next year it was increased to four pounds.

The budget of the Women's Conference was small by today's standards. The income for 1898 was 33 pounds, in 1902, 49 pounds.

But this was not the extent of the giving. Money was provided for the promotion of the gospel. There was an early and generous and regular support for Home Missions. In 1899, the Home Missions Department acknowledged receipt of 126 pounds from the women, which was a big increase on previous giving. "Mite Boxes" were sent to the local church women and members of the Executive visited churches to speak on behalf of the Department.

Mrs B. J. Kemp was treasurer for 10 years, and the secretaries (there usually seemed to be two) included Emma Hill, Lizzie Dewar, and Hilda Rometsch.

Resolutions

The resolutions of the early conferences indicate a strong interest in and support for all the work of the churches. Sunday school statistics were always read and considered, missionary work was commended and supported, Endeavour Societies were encouraged, family prayer and Bible Study was urged (for at least twice a day), and always there was evangelistic concern.

We have indicated that this letter was often



Freda Morris
President, 1977-1978

VICTORIA — TASMANIA

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 91st CONFERENCE



Gladys Mackenzie
President, 1976-1977

President: Mrs Gladys Mackenzie
Vice-president: Mrs Freda Morris
Junior Vice-Pres.: Mrs Betty Dow
Secretary: Mrs Patricia Hilbig
Asst. Secretary: Mrs Marjory Bismire
Treasurer: Mrs Jean Witt
Country Representative: Mrs Evelyn Harmer
Executive Members: Mrs Helen Banks, Mrs Hazel Scamb
Past President: Mrs Loris Joyce

"THE CHRISTIAN"

GOES TO WOMEN'S CONFERENCE . . 1908

associated with Home Missions and in 1905, women were asked to give one penny per week for Home Missions, but at the same time bands of women were sought to pledge one shilling per month to support a Bible woman in China.

Community concern was evidenced in many ways. There was hospital visitation. In 1904, Conference reported 157 visits to the Homeopathic Hospital (now Prince Henry's), the Alfred, and the Melbourne. The Deaf and Dumb Institute, the Blind Institute, the Emigrants' Home at St. Kilda, Benevolent Homes and the Children's Hospital were also visited regularly.

Dorcas societies experienced a rich fellowship and the treadle sewing machines, knitting needles, and cotton needles, purred and clicked and pricked their way into the making of many new clothes and the repair of used clothes for the numerous poor. Our modern affluence has largely eliminated these groups and changing social patterns have taken away this opportunity for a special kind of fellowship.

Concern was also expressed for "rescue work for weak and friendless young girls" in the city.

Protests were made against gambling, smoking and alcohol. These were not just emotional responses. Bands of Hope were urged to see that "scientific temperance instruction be energetically carried out." Young people were always remembered and their "purity and temperance" was set as an ideal. A "Vigilant Committee" (their spelling) was proposed to look after young converts.

The ladies were also asked to "discountenance anything like theatrical performances as inconsistent with our Christian principles and dangerous to young people."

The Conference sessions were well attended. There were 600 at the night meeting in the Masonic Hall in

1903. That hall was the subject of one of the few negative notes that crept into the reports. The acoustics, said the ladies, left much to be desired. In those pre-microphone days, it would not be easy to reach the back row in a crowd of 600.

THEY HAD TO BE TOUGH

The programs would test folk of today. In addition to the reports, long and many, there was business, the addresses, an essay (sometimes two) and, of course, the regular Honorary President's letter from Antoinette Thurgood. In 1903, Mrs J. E. Brown read an essay of 3600 words on "Character Building." It was printed in full in the "Christian". The "Christian" gave much more space than would be possible today. In 1905, in one issue of 12 pages of this journal, more than eight pages were devoted to the report of the Victorian Women's Conference.

Usually, the addresses and the essays were pretty good stuff. They were well researched, well written, and well arranged. However, the helpful point of this illustration escaped me. When Mrs Brown was emphasising the importance of prayer in character building she referred to the prayer practice of a U.S. statesman. 'Now I lay me down to sleep,' was the evening prayer of John Adams when he sat in the presidential chair of the United States."

The women of our churches have come a long way since 1886 and this year they hold their 91st Conference (now incorporating the Tasmanian Women's Conference.) Throughout all of those years the "Australian Christian" has been a partner in its growth and service.

We pay tribute to the pioneers and those who have succeeded them in Christian work and witness and rejoice that their passion for the gospel at home and abroad and their concern for the deprived and handicapped is as strong as ever.

We look forward to a continuing partnership with the "Christian" and will faithfully report proceedings, but we cannot promise eight pages!

"GOOD NEWS" FROM REGIONAL CHURCHES

Federal Conference President, Gordon R. Stirling, stimulated the Regional Board churches of Brunswick, Coburg, and Pascoe Vale in a "Good News 77" mission prior to Easter.

Following a church growth seminar last year the programme was proposed and members of the three congregations worked hard to locate former members and scholars still living in the district.

Mr Stirling conducted a one-night training programme and 30 people visited about 130 homes with personal invitations. In addition 1500 homes received letter-box pamphlets. The mission was also given good publicity in the local press.

Family Fun Nights were conducted by well-known entertainer, Alan Rowe, Gordon Stirling; combined in-home meetings were held on Sunday and the mission concluded with a celebration on the eve of Good

At least 15 people, including two who came as the result of the letter-box drop, indicated a desire to accept Jesus or to think about church membership.

Over 60 non-regular attenders appreciated the lively, relevant presentation of the gospel.

All meetings were well-supported by local members and the whole community is aware that God is "alive and well" in the regional churches. The ministry team and members are learning that inner suburban areas are exciting and challenging places in which to live. The decline in membership over the past 10 years, a common feature of inner suburban churches, has been arrested and there are prospects of a positive growth.

The Regional Board churches are served by K. R. Milne as Regional Minister, with C.O.B. students, D. Murray and J. Reid at Pascoe Vale, and A. Niven at Brunswick.

KILOMETRE RADIUS (Earlwood, D. Schofield). Led by John Dostine, young people are active in distributing leaflets within a kilometre's radius of the building. Y. P. Fellowship meets on Sunday afternoons . . . Faith offering total is \$1,385.17 . . . W. Whale is now church secretary.

A SECOND HONEYMOON

(A MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT EXPERIENCE)
"TUCKED AWAY AT BEAUTIFUL
BRIGHT (Vic) . . ."

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY
JUNE 3 TO June 5
8.30 p.m. 4 p.m.

Sponsored by: Albury Church of Christ Couples' Club

Conducted by: Churches of Christ
Dept. of Christian Education

APPLICATION FORMS FROM
D.C.E.

52 LaTrobe St.,
Melbourne, 3000
Phone: 662 2377

OR
CHURCH OF CHRIST,
P.O. Box 478,
Albury, 2640
Phone: (060) 25 4508



Morrie Munyard with Wesley Duwel

The president of OMS International, Dr Wesley L. Duwell from Indiana, U.S.A. recently met with members of the Federal Overseas Mission Board in Adelaide.

Dr Duwel expressed his very deep regret and concern at the confusion which had been caused among the Christian public and in particular among the Churches of Christ by the unilateral action of the former O.M.S. Australian Council of Trustees, with headquarters in Canberra which had entered areas of the South Pacific without the prior authorisation of the International Board as required by signed agreements. He regretted that the above action was taken in ways contrary to the guidelines of O.M.S. in entering areas without respecting existing entities of the body of Christ already in these areas.

World President OMS International meets Overseas Mission Board

Dr Duwel announced that the new address for those supporting the international fields of the Society with their prayer and finance is Australian Action Committee. P.O. Box 110, Pascoe Vale South, Vic. 3044. This is now the authorised group acting on behalf of the International Board of Trustees.

Dr Duwel stated "O.M.S. International is deeply grateful to the Overseas Board of Missions of the Churches of Christ for this opportunity to share in discussion and thanks God for the prayer and support of so many of the members of the Churches of Christ. We wish you God's guidance and blessing and a great harvest in your overseas fields."

At the meeting was Morrie Munyard (Minister of our Christies Beach Church) who is Chairman of the Australian Action Committee of OMS International.

CHURCH SUPPORTS MISSIONS



Mr Sansome (left), minister of the Church of Christ, Harlaxton, Qld. is seen talking to missionaries Fay and Jan Christensen and Robert Clancy.

These young people are Living Links of the Church, and gifts from

the members help in their support.

Fay Christensen is assisting in translation of the Bible from English to the Rao language at the Church of Christ Mission, Chungribu in Papua New Guinea. Jan Christensen assists with

the Church of Christ Outreach Program among Aboriginal people at Eidsvold, Queensland. Robert Clancy from Eidsvold is studying at Kenmore Christian College to fit himself for a ministry among his own people. — Photo by Albert van der Wyk.

LETTER DROP (Malvern, P. Nelson. B. & F. B.S. "Easter Thoughts" and church message used in letter-box drop prior to Easter . . . 7 a.m. prayer meetings, Communion service on Thursday night with combined district Good Friday service in our chapel led by P. Nelson, speaker, the Methodist minister, Mr Beecher . . . Mrs Bell returned from hospital and Samlyn Crockett making slow recovery . . . Sharing of ministry with South Yarra continues . . . Annual meeting returned all officers and added H and B. Cartmel to Board. Tas Beason was made Elder-

Emeritus . . . Ceiling of hall being renovated by working bees led by Errol Holland.

MANSE PURCHASE (Montrose, A. Horne). The church is in process of buying a Manse . . . 10 a.m. services will continue . . . Minister commenced full-time ministry, first full-time ministry in the 100 year history of church . . . 30 attended family camp at Yarra Junction to discuss church growth plans . . . Youth Club has doubled in size. Greg Hogden and Leanne Hull join leadership team . . . Church is participating in Melb. Reachout program.

C.M.F. N.Z. TOURS

Because of the overwhelming response to our first tour, a second tour was organised for March. This also filled and over 80 from Victoria and South Australia shared in a visit to New Zealand.

Each tour saw the southern mountain country in entirely different moods, but all were delighted. Our first tour was only two days ahead of Queen Elizabeth's visit, giving us a look at many floral displays, such as the gardens at Invercargill, and the floral show in the Wellington Town Hall.

On both tours our "Cheer Squad" and bright sparks kept all in good humor. It was amazing what talent was unearthed to aid our entertainment.

Flights over the Thermal and Glacier regions were available. Queenstown, as usual, offered a variety of exciting things to do.

The second tour arrived in Wellington only to find the Picton Ferry was cancelled. This meant that 42 people had to be transported to the South Island. Immediately the group started praising God and singing choruses, and an hour and a half later we had overnight accommodation in Wellington, booking on the 7 a.m. flight to Christchurch, plus a breakfast at a hotel.

In Auckland and Christchurch we were treated to the best of Christian hospitality and fellowship by the churches. Daily devotions were a source of strength and inspiration. Usually a communion service was conducted whilst on tour in a suitable hotel room, and the first tour was given permission to use the little historical chapel at Shanty Town.

The usual "Sin-bin" was in force and raised the amount of \$142A. The spirit of togetherness contributed largely to the success of these tours. — Dave Watt, Tour Leader

SCOOP (Cheltenham, G. K. Moyes, G. Benson, S. Wilson). Church local paper "The Sentinel" has an effective outreach and also scooped all other press with the announcement of the new Uranus moons . . . Maundy Thursday evening communion service held, 50 were present at dawn service at Tabletop Rock on Easter day . . . Youth 1-3 conduct their own pre-CYF group, and attract members with their programs . . . Men took over YAF with a cook night without disastrous gastronomical results. All were at church next day . . . CYF graffiti board shows more talent than the media . . . Church has budgetted \$278 to the Christian Television Association for 1977 and members are asked to use programmes as conversation starters in the sharing of Christian faith.

CONCERNING WOMEN



C.W.F. CAMP IN S.A.

Support given to the C.W.F. Camp held at Longwood in March this year was gratifying. One hundred and three ladies came to study, share, and have fun and fellowship together.

Two electives were offered for study, "The Work of His Hands", dealing with the creation of God's World and our responsibility to care for it. The Study Leader was Mrs Richards, Lecturer on Theology, and part time worker with the S.A. Dept. of Christian Education. The second study, "Controlled by Love speaking the truth", a study on communicating the love of God while expressing personal attitudes and opinions; what instruction is given in Scripture on forgiveness, and accepting forgiveness. The Study Leaders were Elizabeth Schultz, Sandy Delon, and Mara Sprudzans, who are practising Psychiatrists at the Hillcrest Hospital in S.A.

The studies were rounded off by a display of handcrafts. Nine women presented a working display of their own particular talents during the free time period. It was pleasing to have Mrs Potter from Queensland, a past State and Federal President of Women's Conference, in camp with us, and good representation again from the women in the Port Lincoln area.

A. Saunders, S.A.

WHAT CHRIST MEANS TO ME ... AS A WORKING WOMAN

Whenever God makes a person His friend it is not just for that person's enjoyment; He always has some part of the world's need in view. Our part might be small but it is vital. Christ did not please Himself. He belonged to others and so do we if we truly love Jesus Christ.

As I move amongst many people who are aged and ill, I find many lonely, disillusioned folk who are without Eternal hope. It is necessary to have and prove genuine love and concern in every way. We must open Heaven to others. It is a responsibility and privilege. If we know the way we can show it to others. The Lord has cal-

led us to be His servants, not just "sons". The most effective method today is personal witness and sharing Him with all those we meet.

As Christians, we must appear calm, cool and collected at all times. If we are not, it is a poor witness and we will not be commending Christ as the "all sufficient" one for our daily lives.

The future and the present rest on the past — what God has done.

It reminds us of our debt to Him, and assures us of our hope and peace through Him.

B. Byard, Tas.

WHAT CHRIST MEANS TO ME ... AS A DOCTOR'S SECRETARY

It is now more than 7 years since I first began to work as a Medical Secretary. The circumstances of taking up this position were such that I was certain that this was God's Will for me at that time.

My employer is a Consultant Paediatrician and as his Secretary I have the opportunity of seeing children with serious illnesses, children physically or mentally handicapped, and premature babies or babies with other problems.

I believe knowing Christ as Lord makes me more sensitive to the needs of others. I share with the parents their concern over these little

ones, rejoicing with them when they begin to thrive normally and grieving with those whose children have not been able to recover. Every day brings its share of new mothers who are concerned about their baby's welfare or who are tired out from the strain of caring for sick children. As a mother myself I am able to understand something of how they feel and am able to help and encourage them.

On looking back over these years in this kind of work, the personal interest and satisfaction that I have always felt have confirmed in my mind that this was, and still is, God's Will for me.

P. Kerr (A.C.T.)

Having raised a daughter to the tender age of 17, this year I had to come to the crossroads where hundreds of country parents walk every year. To gain a higher education or employment the young adult had to leave the family and move to "the big smoke".

It would be foolish to say "parents, don't be anxious". That comes naturally, but to be able to be released from this anxiety and have inner peace about your offspring's safety and well being in a society that leaves much to be desired, is another thing.

I have quite often heard the saying "Let go and let God", and I imagine this can be successfully applied to many situations and lives. I

"But the wisdom that comes from Heaven is first of all pure and full of quiet gentleness. Then it is peace-loving and courteous. It allows discussion and is willing to yield to others; it is full of mercy and good deeds. It is wholehearted and straightforward and sincere." James 3:17. (Living Bible)

"LEFT HOME HAS SHE?"

believe that if a parent, particularly a mother will undo the 'apron strings' herself, and release her charge to God's care and keeping, fully trusting Him, she will find, as King David found, "O God my heart is quiet and confident". Psalm 57:7.

If you are a Christian mother and your child has not personally accepted Christ, remember your example and teaching will be their guide. Continue in prayer for them, correspond often to keep the way open for guidance and confidences, and do as David suggests. "Let everyone bless God and sing His praises, for He holds our lives in His hands and he holds our feet to the path, as we adjust to being apart from each other."

M. Broad, Vic.

NEWS FROM THE WEST

Carnarvon would value Library Books and Tapes with a Christian concept, in good condition. Jon and Laureen Tahija are amongst new staff at Carnarvon. This couple are New Guineans educated in Queensland, and have two little girls.

"The Changing World of Church Women" is out. Make sure you get your copy by seeing your Local or State Secretary.

RADIO STATION SPREADS THE MESSAGE

Sydney radio has established a world lead in combining commercial broadcasting with effective spreading of a Christian message, according to the Rev. John Edmondstone, director of religious programmes at 2CH.

He said that since its religious programmes changed from blocks to briefer items within its good music format, the station's average audience on Sundays has risen from 16,000 in 1972 to 55,000 on the latest ratings.

Mr Edmondstone says: "2CH is presenting the Christian message more effectively than ever before.

Our Sunday morning service has the biggest congregation in Australia. It is heard by about 75,000 people."

The station rates No. 3 among Sydney's 11 radio stations on Sundays with a total audience of 364,000.

The agreement between the Council of churches and AWA — which operates 2CH — is that the council has the right to broadcast on Sundays and at certain times on weekdays. AWA provides full facilities for the council to do this.

The station's success in the past five years is undoubtedly due to its relaxing,

good music format, Mr Edmondstone said.

But its tremendous success on Sunday is when it replaces all commercials with brief but frequent features and announcements on the quality of life or with Christian messages.

"The effectiveness of 2CH's Christian voice was proved recently by government reaction to our comments on social issues.

"For example, the immediate likelihood of legalised casinos in N.S.W. has been delayed by a public inquiry into their desirability.

"I believe this more careful approach was the direct result of the Council of Churches criticism on 2CH of the casino plan.

"But neither our Sunday nor midweek religious programming should be thought of only as controversy or excessively brief messages.

"Our Sunday Afternoon Magazine is

jam-packed with responsible news of church activity on the local and international scenes and is the No. 1 programme among listeners over 25."

On Sunday evenings when several other stations also present religious programmes or talk-back sessions, the Rev. Roger Bush's interviews and open line is the No. 1 rating, 9 p.m. to midnight programme.

When he comes on the air Roger Bush builds his audience from 15,000 to 37,000 almost immediately.

This audience continues to rise until it peaks at almost 50,000 and is still 29,000 at midnight — the highest audience of any station at that time of night.

BROADCASTING TRIBUNAL

The Temperance Alliance, S.A., made a written submission to the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal with regard to alcohol advertising.

The Alliance called on the Tribunal to ban alcohol advertising, as for tobacco. If alcohol advertising is to be permitted it should be deglamourised and only screened at adult viewing hours. General Secretary of the alliance, John Williams, says alcohol advertisers spend in excess of \$10m per year.

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

IN THE STUDY

No study of the role of the Holy Spirit would be complete without an historical survey from the close of the N.T. Church to today. Throughout history there have been some references to the N.T. gift of the Holy Spirit, especially as it concerns the gifts of miracles, speaking in tongues, and of healing. Each of the following have historical records of their displaying these gifts of the Holy Spirit: Irenaeus (2nd C.); The Montanists (2nd C.); Francis Xavier (16th C.); The Jansenists (17th C.); Early Quakers and Methodists (18th C.); and Presbyterians e.g. Charles Finney (19th C.); and some followers of D. L. Moody (19th C.).

It is generally agreed by historians that New Years Eve 1900 is the beginning of the contemporary Pentecostal Movement. Charles Parham in Kansas U.S.A. experienced speaking in tongues with a group of young Christians. Immediately the Movement spread across the United States and significantly into the Negro Churches. There have been no great personalities like Luther, Knox or Wesley in the Pentecostal Movement, but the laying on of hands of ordinary believers one to the other has been the means of transmitting the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

In 1950 through the Secretary General of the World Pentecostal Fellowships David Du Plessis made overtures to the mainstream Churches within the World Council of Churches Fellowship. By 1960 all mainstream Churches had charismatic or neo-Pentecostal movements within them. The Roman Catholic Church in particular has seen rapid development of the charismatic movement. The main emphasis is not upon speaking in tongues, but upon the re-discovery of the Holy Spirit in the Church today.

FROM THE PULPIT

The Disciples were urged to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8-4). Without the Holy Spirit it was not possible for the Church to win the world to the Lordship of Jesus

WORD TALK NO. 155

IN THE CHURCH TODAY

Christ. Many believe that we exist in the same situation today. Without the Holy Spirit the Church lacks 1. Power to cope for daily living; 2. The Gospel of Salvation; 3. Authority in their proclamation; 4. Growth over worldly obstacles; 5. Fellowship transcending human differences; and 6. Conversion through the conviction of sin.

Only a re-discovery of the Holy Spirit in the Church today can win the world to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

AMONG THE PEOPLE

Dr. W. A. Kemp is well loved and known among our people. He presided at the moment of my birth, swinging me deftly by the heels and spanking my bottom. He became our family doctor, and as such removed my tonsils and appendix. He was a counsellor to our family, and as my Father had died in my childhood became a fatherly figure to me. He was a disciplinarian to me in teenage wrong-doings, the Mayor of the City in which I lived, the Chairman of my High School Council, the counsellor with whom I discussed entering the Ministry, the Chairman of the Board of the College of the Bible, and my friend.

Dr. Kemp on one occasion administered anaesthetic to me prior to surgery then preached for me the following day from my student church pulpit.

It was natural that at my Ordination I would kneel and he would be the chosen person to place his hands on my head in blessing. Those hands that I had felt on my bottom, on my back in praise, around my shoulders in friendship, now were placed on my head in blessing.

On that night there was no speaking in tongues, no flames as of fire, no special gifts ministered, but I felt the Holy Spirit! Ever since in my Ministry I have felt on that night I received in a special way the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that have marked my Ministry.

Dr. Kemp was a Christian layman, but I believe was the vehicle used by the Holy Spirit in distributing his gifts.

GORDON MOYES

OPEN FORUM

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

MORMONS

To the Editor,

Along with many other ministers, I recently received a letter from the President of the Australia Sydney Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The letter, among other things, suggested that Mormon Missionaries explain Mormonism to our church. It is disturbing to hear that some churches have been taken in by this apparently innocent approach. The Mormon church (Utah) is obviously mounting a major offensive to promote its views and win members here in Australia. I heard of an Anglican church on the New South Wales North Coast that invited Mormons in, and were completely duped by them, to believe they were orthodox Christians.

There has been an extensive television ad campaign to promote the Mormon church as guardian of family values. The ads, and the L.D.S. Family Home Evening programmes seek to convince others that

they have the answers to better family conditions. But do Mormons really have the key to happier families? A recent letter from a Christian worker in Salt Lake City drew my attention to a paradox. He says, "Since Utah is around 75% Mormon, the State Records should provide an answer to this question. Utah has consistently had a higher divorce rate than the national (U.S.) average and it is now third highest in the nation. Polygamy is also increasing." 2 Car. 11, 13-15 explains this paradox.

I met several cultists who have been wonderfully "born again" by the grace of Christ, from the Mormon church. Their testimonies make compelling reading, both for Christians, and people in the community who are being approached by these cults. A newspaper containing the testimony of one of these converted Mormons was released in February. About 8000 of these papers are already circulating throughout Australia (see p. 20). — Richard Ansoul, N.S.W.

TORRES STRAIT

To the Editor,

The report of the seminar sponsored by the A.C.C. on the border dispute between Australia and New Guinea ("A.C." April 16) was interesting. But the matter cannot be solved by existing International Law. The plain fact is that the Torres Strait Islanders are an island people distinct from both the mainlanders either side. Racially they are Melane- sians (and vaguely, so are the people of New Guinea) with some cultural links with peoples either side. These are probably no greater than those between the British and the Scandinavian peoples. In pre-

white times they formed a homogenous trading bloc, feeding trade into New Guinea, into what is now Indonesia, into the Pacific, and a little into Australia. Despite the smallness of their numbers they deserve to remain a free independent people as they were in the past.

Present International Law has been formulated by mainland nations with scant regard to the rights or wishes of island peoples and this is one case where it must be modified. The border must run half way between the nearest islands and the nearest points of the mainlands . . . at the nearest point the coastline of P.N.G. runs about a hundred yards from the nearest Torres Strait Island but the border is an easier pill to swallow on the Australian side. We should press, not for those islands being part of Australia, but for their independence.

John J. Alderson

LOSS AT NORTHCOTE (T. V. Weir). Church saddened by the death of Miss Pearl Scott after a short illness. A memorial service was held on April 17 . . . Ecumenical services during Easter attended by church members . . . Mrs A. Graham is holidaying in Ireland.

COMBINED (Warragul, R. Pritchard). Uniting churches shared in an evening service on April 17. Young people brought items and Rev A. H. Betteridge of the Baptist Tabernacle, Newcastle, N.S.W. preached . . . Students of the C.O.B. assisted to form 8 teams to phone Warragul residents on April 18 to discover community needs and unattached families. Results show that 15 in every hundred calls warrant immediate follow up of some kind and approximately one third warrant long term follow up and cultivation. The survey is being well received by residents and will continue at a steady pace over coming months.

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

What Makes a Preacher?

To the Editor,

Our Minister thinks we're crazy. He goes to a lot of trouble to give us variety by having many guest speakers in the pulpit. We'd just as soon he didn't. I've been trying to analyse what he has in the pulpit that many of the others seem to lack.

It could be that he is not a walking commentary giving us great masses of technical biblical detail, with a moral tacked on the end lest we slip back into debauchery. It could be that he doesn't pontificate on issues on which we can get more reliable information from the media. It could be that he gives us credit for being as Christian as we are, and coaxes us along to be as Christian as we can be.

While I was wondering I asked my wife. She was on to it right away. Whenever he preaches you get the impression that he believes in what he is saying passionately as though it is just what God wants his people to hear at that particular moment. What he says has grabbed him, and he wants it to grab us. So he bares his heart and shows us. He is expansive when he wants us to feel the bigness of a truth. He thunders to show us God's power. He is warm and intimate as he helps us to open up to the Spirit. He is a painter whose brush strokes colour the canvasses of our minds. He sings to our hearts. He chisels at the marble of our wills. It seems that God's truth comes straight through his personality to us his people whom he knows and loves. It hurts, it heals, it builds up, it breaks down, it lays bare, it encourages. And above all it makes God very real.

And our preacher has just signed on for another five years. So hands off, everybody.

TERTIUS

NEW SUPT. (Bentleigh, R. W. Marshall). At annual meeting Mrs R. Lindroth was elected S.S. Supt. . . . The S.S. and Girls' Club combined for fancy dress social . . . After Good Friday service we joined other churches of district in witness march along Centre Rd. to St. John's Church of England for combined service . . . Evening service is 5 p.m. for winter months . . . The film "The stones cry out" has been screened.

PICNIC AFTER HARVEST (Bayswater, B. Waldron, D. Armstrong). Harvest Thanksgiving Service followed by a picnic lunch at Baynes Park, Monbulk . . . "New Games" Tournament led by auxiliary leaders . . . Week of special Easter meetings held in conjunction with Methodist Church featuring the "Covenant Players", "Yukana Singers", "Methodist Choir" and sunrise service on Easter morning . . . The "Carinya Players" entertained CWF for fund-raising venture . . . Tennis Club was runner-up in Section 5 and a Film Night raised \$87 towards building of new tennis court . . . Explorer's Club shared in Outdoor Sports — Juniors 4th and Inters 1st . . . The "Right On's" have split into two groups and are seeking engagements for second part of year.

BACK TO ISLANDS (Springvale, R. Combridge, L. Gibb). Before returning to the New Hebrides, Alan and Nola Baker told the church of the current situation in that field . . . The church was saddened by the sudden death of esteemed elder, Ian Carter, at the church and Sunday school picnic . . . Men meet monthly for fellowship at the tea table . . . The New Youth Singers led by Ruth Randall are ministering to churches and youth groups near and far.

LAY INSTITUTE (Thornbury, G. J. Crossman). Key leaders shared weekend in Local Church Growth & Management Seminar with Earl Roberts of Lay Institute for Evangelism . . . Mr Crossman has completed his 25th year in the Ministry . . . 20 young People were involved in recent evening service.



● The Rev. W. M. Constable

LANDS OF THE BIBLE TOURS

Announcing an A.C.T.S. special to the Holy Land and Greece

with an optional extension to Europe

- ★ DEPARTING on September 3rd, 1977 by Jumbo jet.
- ★ 13 DAYS IN ISRAEL visiting the most significant places, with Guide.
- ★ OUR 10 DAYS IN GREECE includes sightseeing and a cruise to nearby islands.
- ★ THIS TOUR can be combined with an extension to Europe by prior arrangement
- ★ GROUP LEADERS: Rev. and Mrs W. M. Constable.

PRICE: From Sydney or Melbourne **\$2006.00**

1977 TOUR TO CAIRNS

23 days by coach Visiting 8 Islands. 2 nights at Surfers Paradise. Tour is fully inclusive and is operated in association with Australian Pacific: Fares: From Melbourne — **\$959.00**; Sydney — **\$779.00**; Adelaide — **\$1035.00**.

VISIT WEST AUSTRALIA DURING WILDFLOWER TIME

Departing in coach on October 4th with Mrs Rita Dunkley. One night only on train in 1st class. 17 days fully inclusive. Good accommodation. Very popular. Fares from Melbourne — **\$778.00**; From Adelaide (Oct. 6th) **\$704.00**.

12 DAY "ALICE & RED CENTRE" TOUR

Departing August 6th visiting Alice Springs, Flinders Ranges, Wilpena, Coober Pedy, Ayers Rock, Olgas, Standley Chasm, Macdonnell Ranges & Gorge etc. An extension of 3 days to visit Glen Helen & Ormiston Gorges, Ellery Creek and Hermannsburg Mission is available at a supplement of Ellery Creek, and Hermannsburg Mission is available at a supplement of \$111.00. Fares are from Alice Springs to Melbourne (Fare from home city to Alice to be added). From MELBOURNE — **\$456**; SYDNEY — **\$456**; BRISBANE — **\$494**; ADELAIDE — **\$396**.

VISIT BEAUTIFUL NEW ZEALAND IN THE SPRING

See Auckland, Waitomo, Rotorua, Napier, Wellington, Picton, Greymouth, Franz Josef Glacier, Wanaker, Queenstown, Milford Sound, Invercargill, Dunedin, Mt. Cook, Christchurch etc. Fully inclusive with comfortable coaches and good hotels/motels.

TWO DEPARTURES: October 1st Leader — Major E. M. Jones, Matron inala Village.
October 8th Leader — Pastor Fred Barnes, Bridport, Tasmania.

PRICE: 18 days from Melbourne — **\$913.80**; Sydney — **\$888.80**; Brisbane — **\$947.60**; Hobart — **\$1008.80**; Launceston — **\$984.40**

GO CRUISING WITH A.C.T.S./SITMAR

From Sydney is TSS FAIRSTAR

May 28th — Pacific Islands. 15 days. Leader: Col. Bram Harewood. From **\$435.00**.

July 22nd — Pacific Islands. 17 days. Leaders Rev. & Mrs W. Constable. From **\$493**.

Sept. 21st — New Guinea & Pacific. 22 days. From **\$638.00**.

Oct. 14th — Orient & Japan. 44 days. Leader: Rev. Mervyn Roberts. From **\$1276**.

Jan. 14th 1978 — Pacific Islands. Leader: Rev. Alec Hilliard. 19 days. From **\$589**.

From Sydney in TS FAIRSKY.

16th July — Darwin/Singapore, Indonesia etc. Rev. Mervyn Roberts. 28 days from **\$700**.

17th Dec. — Pacific Islands (Christmas) 14 days. Fares from **\$378.00**.

31st Dec. — Pacific Islands (New Year) 14 days. Fares from **\$378.00**.

Brochures & Information from

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH TRAVEL SERVICE

(Director: Rev. W. M. Constable)

7th Floor, 31 Queen St., MELBOURNE 3000. Ph. 62 7233, 62 7234.

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Our offices are Agents for all Road, Sea & Air Lines





PROFESSOR BLAIKLOCK AT RALLY

The churches of Mitcham, Ringwood, Doncaster and Blackburn combined for a service in the Mitcham High School Assembly Hall on April 3. 600 were present. The photo shows from left to right: Ross McLean (Minister, Mitcham); K. D. Horne (Minister, Doncaster); Cr Ray Meagher, Mayor of Nunawading; Professor Blaiklock; Ted Keating (Minister, Blackburn); and Mrs Meagher, Mayoress. Items were given by The Australian Boys' Choir, and Elizabeth Aumann.

OMS INTERNATIONAL

Dr Wesley Duewel, International President, and Rev Morris W. Munyard, chairman Australian Action Committee of the International Board of OMS International, Inc., are pleased to announce the following new Australian Council of Reference for OMS. These distinguished leaders endorse the world wide work of the Society and commend it to the confidence of the Christian Community throughout Australia.

Rev. Howard Barclay — Secretary of B.M.M.F.

Rev. Alan Checkley — executive secretary, Evangelical Missionary Alliance of N.S.W.

Bishop A. J. Dain — Church of England, Sydney Diocese.

Mr Eric J. Daley — Editor, "New Life"

Dr Gilbert McArthur — LL.D., Director South Seas Evangelical Mission.

Rev. Dr Graham Miller — LL.B., B.D., Presbyterian Church, N.S.W.

Rev. Norman Pell — Director Melbourne "Reachout"

Rev. John Robinson — Baptist Church, Victoria.

Rev. Graeme G. Smith — Baptist Church, Victoria.

Mr Clive Stebbins — Director, Youth for Christ.

The Australian Action Committee, P.O. Box 110, Pascoe Vale South, Victoria, 3044, is the only Australian body authorized to act on behalf of this seventy-six-year-old evangelical society with its work on twelve fields around the world.

C.O.B. THANKS.

The church which gave their Harvest Thanksgiving display to the students of the College of the Bible, and did not receive a letter of thanks, the students are grateful and appreciative.

O/SEAS STUDENTS JOIN SWANSTON ST. (A.L. Webb/B. Morton) a Record 327 communicants witnessed 16 new members welcomed into fellowship on April 21, including 14 overseas students . . . The Associate Minister and his family now reside in Parkville area to be more accessible to the student community . . . 20 young people from Horsham shared with church in country/city exchange weekend . . . The whole church has been deeply shocked and grieved by the tragic death in a road accident on Easter Thursday of Carol Brighton, wife of our church treasurer and

young mother of two children. Some 300 relatives and friends shared in moving Thanksgiving Service in recognition of Carol's life and ministry.

SEMINAR (Castlemaine, M. Conry). Church Growth and Management Seminar in preparation for outreach programme was led by Earl Roberts, his wife Robyn, and John Bishop . . . The Glub Club (Youth group) revelling in planned outings conducted by Mr and Mrs R. Corrie . . . Youth Group conduct the gospel services at regular intervals . . . New format for C.W.F. introduced by Christine Conry. Cake stall netted \$127. Minister has commenced Adult Bible Study group 9.45 to 10.45 Sunday mornings. Chapel open for prayer from 7 to 8.30 a.m. each week day . . . Discovery group held surprise supper for Rob. Corrie to mark gaining of the degree of Ph.D.

JAY'S FOR JUNIORS

JAY'S JUMBLES

KEEL EZI Boats have keels, but he was not a boat, although he lived near a canal. He is famous as a prophet and wrote one of the longest books in the O.T. (see page 18)

NATION DESTROYED

The little nation of Paraguay is the only country in South America that has no seacoast, and it has the smallest population on the continent.

But it was not always like that. European missionaries founded more than thirty communities early in its history, and it was beginning to prosper. When it became independent, foreigners were immediately banned from the nation, and all trade with outside countries was cut off.

During many years, however, the country continued to flourish, until by the time of the American Civil War the little country had a larger population than either Brazil or Argentina!

Then, in 1865, Paraguay became involved in a war with three different neighboring nations at once. As the Paraguayan leader retreated he began destroying every town and slaughtering every animal he had to leave behind. During the five years of this one war, before Paraguay was defeated, from two-thirds to five-sixths of the entire population of Paraguay died!

Man's inhumanity to man is in sharp contrast to God's ever-present love for all His creatures.

Husband: "What are you doing with all the grocery money I give you?"

Wife: "Stand sideways and look in the mirror."



"Oh, I've been so busy lately I haven't had time to dream up any new bright sayings."

FEDERAL BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



SEARCH!



CHILDREN

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION INCLUDES

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN

Through:

- * Including children in the life of the local church
- * Helping our children discover meaning in the Christian Faith
- * Making children aware of our Biblical heritage
- * Nurturing children within the total Christian family
- * Helping our children understand the Christian Faith

DEPARTMENTS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ARE ACTIVE IN

- * Extensive Sunday School programmes involving over 500 Sunday Schools throughout Australia and New Zealand.
- * Children's camping programmes conducted in each state during holiday periods.
- * Vocation Bible Schools.
- * Children's club programmes, Girls' Good Companions, Girls' Brigade, Boys' Explorers and Boys' Brigade.
- * Developing children's worship resources for local churches.
- * The provision of the Revised Christian Life Curriculum through the Federal Board of Christian Education.
- * Making available resources for Christian education within the home.
- * Experimental children's Christian education programmes.
- * Co-ordinating numerous children's sporting groups in local churches.

THE CHILD IN THE CHURCH

- * This subject has again become of vital importance and relevance for Australian churches of Christ.
- * Concern is being expressed about issues relating to:
 - i. Children and worship
 - ii. Parent education
 - iii. Faith education within families
 - iv. The place of the child in the local congregation

Churches of Christ have a valid and exciting ministry to share with children. The Departments of Christian Education are equipped to share with the local church so that this task can be more effectively achieved. Ministry with children will be a significant thrust of the church during the next few years.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION INCLUDES

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth are involved in a Search for meaning. The Federal Board of Christian Education and the Departments of Christian Education affirm that God gives meaning to life.

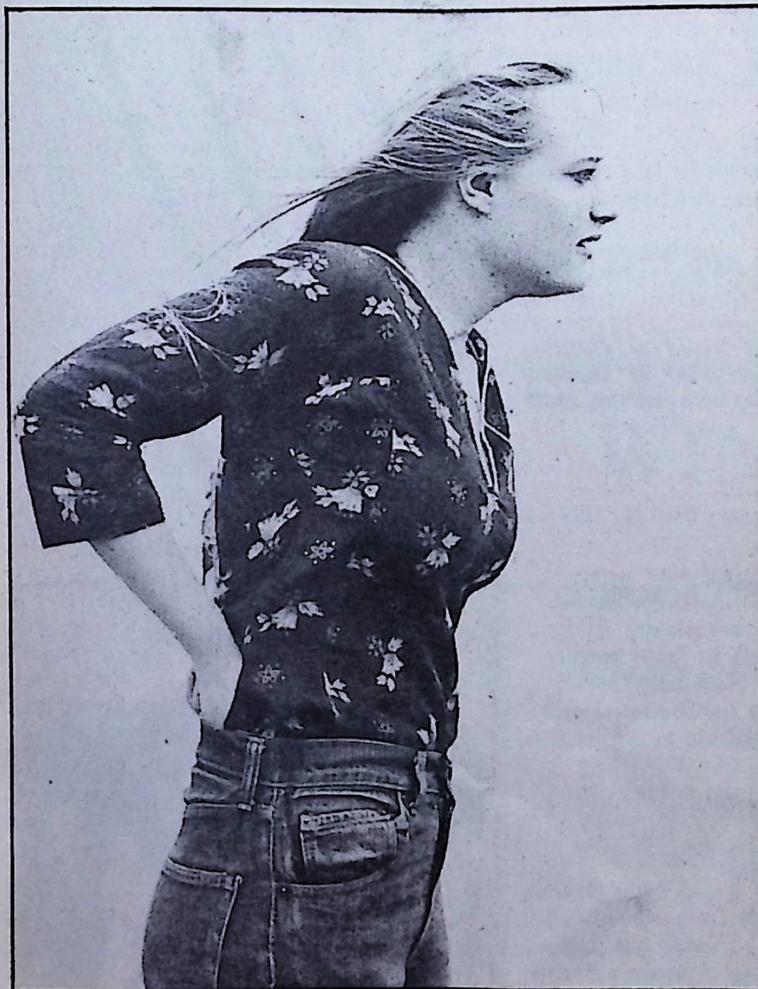
Departments of Christian Education are involved in

YOUTH MINISTRY THROUGH:-

- * extensive development of camping properties and programmes
- * national youth programming such as the
 - Papua-New Guinea Sharing Venture
 - National Youth Conventions — the 9th N.Y.C. will be held in South Australia during January, 1979.
- * youth work in local churches
- * youth leadership training programmes in all states and New Zealand
- * youth evangelism programmes such as the "Do Tell" Festival in South Australia
- * provision of resources such as *Youthleader* a quarterly magazine for leaders in youth work
- * *Youth Work Guides* — a series of publications to assist youth leaders in program ideas and issues. Published by The Joint Board of Christian Education
- * camp studies
- * studies for youth groups
- * liaison with government and other youth bodies
- * extensive sporting and recreational programming
- * youth curriculum resources

The Federal Board of Christian Education has been involved in YOUTH MINISTRY THROUGH:

- * Conducting the 8th National Youth Convention in Tasmania during January 1977. This proved to be an outstanding event that;
 - i. provided an overview of youth work in our Australian and New Zealand brotherhoods for the participants and the Tasmanian churches,
 - ii. involved youth in study action programs which challenged them to grow in their Christian faith and response.
 - iii. presented a convention program which featured youth involvement, study and worship.
- * Sponsoring the Papua New Guinea Sharing Venture. A program which;
 - i. gave fifteen representatives of Australian Churches of Christ an opportunity to share their faith and skills with the churches of Christ in Papua New Guinea,
 - ii. created co-operative working links between the Federal Boards of Christian Education and Overseas Mission,
 - iii. enriched the christian faith and experience of participants and youth groups.
- * Providing a forum for the exchange of ideas, programs and possibilities in youth work.



Photos by Trevor D'Ambrosio on pages 1, 12, 13, & 14. Other photos by Ralph Petty and F.B.C.E.

FAMILIES

MINISTRY WITH FAMILIES

Local congregations have discovered that worship and learning experiences involving the family really work.

Departments of Christian Education and the Federal Board have given leadership to our churches in developing:-

- * Resources and programs for successful local church family camps
- * Brotherhood family camping events during vacation periods
- * Family worship services within local churches
- * Christian education programmes within the home
- * Learning and worship settings which involves the participation of adults and children
- * SPAN — A series of resource books for ministers and congregations to use in family ministry. Published by THE JOINT BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY ENRICHMENT PROGRAMMES INCLUDE:-

- * married couples' weekends for marriage enrichment
- * pre-marriage courses for engaged couples
- * family weekends for the enrichment of family life together
- * developing and providing resources for local church programming in Family Life

RESOURCES FOR CHURCH LIFE AND WORSHIP INCLUDE:-

- * Extensive studies available for adult groups
- * ON THE MOVE — a quarterly magazine for local churches
- * GO — a resource magazine for local church planning

CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS ARE CREATING A CHRISTIAN FUTURE

Support financially the Federal Board of Christian Education and your State Department of Christian Education in its specialized ministry with children, youth and families.

Future programmes include:

- * New Zealand D.C.E. Youth Convention, Dec. 28, 1977 — January 3, 1978
- * Youth Evangelism in South Australia and other states.
- * Further development of training courses for youthleaders
- * New thrusts and directions in children's ministry
- * The development of further resources for family ministry
- * 9th National Youth Convention — South Australia 1979
- * Projects involving Youth working in special areas of need
- * Providing assistance for local congregations to improve their Christian Education programs.
- * Our affirmation that God gives meaning to life.

Your Christian Education Team for 1977 is:

Federal Board
W.A.
S.A.
Vic/Tas
N.S.W.

QLD
N.Z.

Ian Allsop (Director)
Kevin Caultan (Director-elect)
Gerald Rose (Director)
Howard Weedon (Associate Director)
Ron Kallmier (Director)
Chris Gass (Field Worker)
Judy Gordon (Field Worker)
Allan Male (Director)
Barbara Stephens (Field Worker)
Lyndsay Jacobs (Secretary)
F.B.C.E. PHOTO



Federal Board of Christian Education at the annual conference, 1976



EASTER PLAY

Mrs Julie Ayres, overshadowed by a large wooden cross, took part in the Easter play "Were You There?" at a combined Sunday evening service of the Churches at Telopea and Epping (NSW). About 300 people packed the new Dundas Community Hall. It was the first event held in the Hall.

The play was originally written for television by Canon Barker of Newcastle and was first telecast on Good Friday, 1975. It offers a present day look at the crucifixion through the eyes of Pilate, Herod, Peter, the High Priest and Mary Magdalene.

A WEE DROP IN THE MALL

On the Tuesday and Wednesday before Easter the scene in Adelaide's Rundle Mall looked like bees around a honey pot. It was the Temperance Alliance's non-alcoholic wine, cider, grape and apple juice tasting sessions.

The Minister for Education, the Hon. Dr. Don Hopgood, M.P. officially opened the tasting sessions.

On the Tuesday it was hot and a dust storm hit the mall. The next day it poured and Adelaide had its coldest April day in eight years. This did not deter the Alliance, the W.C.T.U. or the beverage manufacturers and over 5000 people sampled the different drinks.

General Secretary, John Williams, commented "People were very favourable with their remarks about the drinks. They never got a hangover either."

FACELIFT (East Bentleigh, M. J. Dunn, A. Tanner). A working bee gave major facelift to buildings and grounds . . . Trio "Kerronjudies" presented items at morning service . . . Jeff Weston was guest at Missionary Service . . . Ian Beazley captained Bentleigh Central cricket team to be runners-up in season's competition . . . Mrs Hale is recovering after surgery . . . Members' contributions enabled new hymn books to be purchased.

HOUSE PARTIES (Chelsea, C. Wilson, T. Hanna). Fellowship House Parties were attended by 56 members and friends, as part of Church Growth special activities . . . Average attendances have increased . . . Jell's Park, Glen Waverley, was venue for church and S.S. picnic . . . Thirty-eight Explorer Boys and Good Companions attended monthly Church Parade; over one-third of whole congregation . . . A six session course in Visitation Techniques has been commenced.

HARVEST (Nth Essendon, R. J. Allison). Harvest Festival goods were sent to C.O.B. . . . Evening services held twice a month, combining with East Keilor first and third Sundays . . . Ed. Ots, school chaplain, was recent speaker . . . B.S. children made palm crosses to give to each member of the congregation on Palm Sunday . . . Over 30 involved in Koinonia fellowship on Tuesday evenings distributed 500 Easter Encounter leaflets in their own streets . . . Increased attendance at Annual Business Meeting . . . Plans in hand for outreach program to commence in June . . . Church farewelled Gwen Mason as she left to take up residence in Ballarat . . . Frank Funston is to undergo more tests at the Royal Melb. Hsp . . . Dorothy Holstein, from India was guest on April 24.

JIM PUNTON

Jim Punton, who has worked in Harlem, inner-city London, and the city slums in Scotland, is visiting Australia this year for five months.

Jim, Education and Training Officer for Scripture Union's Frontier Youth Trust in Britain, will address youth leaders, university groups, clergy and theological students on the theology of mission, community work with youth, and techniques of communication, including the use of role plays and case studies.

The Rt. Rev. David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool says of him, "He consistently brings the challenge of scripture to think freshly, and does not simply accept church traditions." Bishop Sheppard also commented that "Jim is sensitive to the way young people think who are on the frontier with the Church and those who are right outside it."

Jim Punton will be in Victoria until May 16; Tasmania May 16 to May 30; N.S.W. May 31 to June 19; Qld. June 20 to July 10; Sth. Aust. July 18 to August 7; West Aust. August 8 to August 29.

U.S. VISITOR (Taree, M. H. A. Pieper). The Taree church was visited by Dr and Mrs Wm. Blevins of the U.S. Dr Blevins brought messages of encouragement to the congregation . . . Mr and Mrs Pieper represented the church at State Conference . . . The Taree church plans to meet a challenge to raise the sum of over \$8,000 through a Faith Missionary Promise offering in 12 months . . . The church donated \$2,000 to assist the Armidale church in their building programme and continues to assist the new churches at Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour in forward planning . . . The coming mission by Jack Bond is awaited with interest.

WINTER SCHOOL

AT THE

COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE

WEDNESDAYS, June 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd; 7.30 p.m. — 9.30 p.m.

"CHRISTIAN LIFE STYLE"

1. Biblical Study — 1 Peter
2. Practical Application — How it all works back in your church.
FEE . . . 50c per night
NOTES . . . \$2 full set

Notes suitable for local study programmes.

**WRITE TO K. J. CLINTON, COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE, 7 ELM RD.,
GLEN IRIS, 3146.**

OBITUARY

BROWN, Myrtle Brenda Eileen.

Brenda Brown was born in Bendigo, Vic. 82 years ago as Brenda Player, one of six children. She was the first of the family and the last surviving member. Her family moved to Castlemaine in 1915. Her father was a builder and her mother conducted a business. Brenda was a tailoress in her younger days and later went to Mildura and conducted a tailoring business. There she met and married Bill Jones, her first husband who predeceased her some 15 years ago. In 1966 she met and married Fred Brown, who had been a friend of the family since 1932. Brenda and her first husband had two daughters, Cynthia and Trevor. She also had seven grandchildren — David, Bronwyn and Ashley; Lynette, Dean, Greg and Robyn. Brenda and Bill moved from Castlemaine to Baxter in 1929. Brenda was baptised in the Castlemaine Church of Christ in 1915. She had a very active life in the church — her loyalty in attendance has been an inspiration to many younger people. She has also been involved in the Women's work, in SS teaching and visitation. Brenda earned for herself great respect from all sections of the community. She was thoughtful and mindful of others. Brenda had a loyalty and devotion to the cause of Christ that was unquestioned. Her faith was not only expressed in her attendance, but in her active involvement with the auxiliaries of the Church. Brenda and Fred were active members of the Inter-Church Council and represented their Church for several years. They also helped at the Frankston Citizens' Advice Bureau for many years, from its commencement in 1968. Brenda had gifts and ability — she was proud of the things she could make — the very flowers used in the service, especially the roses, were grown by her. Brenda was always concerned about people. Her life has touched the lives of hundreds of people. — A. A. Avery

SCOTT, Pearl Amelia.

Pearl Amelia Scott was born in Dunolly in 1903. At the age of 16 she became a teacher, her first school being at Bronzewing and her last at Tyler Street, Preston. In 1921 she confessed her faith in Christ at Dunolly. Pearl came to Northcote in 1945, serving as a BS teacher, Phi Beta Pi leader, choir member, picnic caterer, C.F.A agent and church organist. She rendered sterling service to the Social Service Dept. through the making of jams and preserves for the homes and by visiting the residents and taking them for outings in her car, which she also used to transport worshippers to the church at Northcote. She enjoyed good health until the latter part of 1976 and early in this year it became evident that she was suffering from terminal cancer. She was a woman of great faith and confidently rested in her Saviour. She died on April 5 in the home of her sister, Mrs W. Huggan. Three other members of her family survive. A large congregation gathered for her funeral services at the church and crematorium, conducted by the writer and W. T. Atkin. Pearl is mourned by a large number of relatives, friends and particularly those who benefited by her willing and unselfish service for Christ. — T.V.W.

NICHOLAS GAVROS

On March 26 Nick Gavros, minister at the Mile End Church of Christ, South Australia, was working with his wife Fay in the manse garden when he suffered a heart attack and died shortly afterwards. Nick was born in Adelaide in March 1923. He made his decision for Christ at the age of 17 and was baptised at the Flinders Street Baptist Church. He immediately became involved in Christian service and assisted at the West End City Mission and participated in open air witnessing with Campaigners for Christ and Beach Missions with C.S.S.M. Through Christian Endeavour, he became linked with the Mile End Church of Christ and was received into membership.

In 1944, he entered the College of the Bible, Glen Iris. During his final year at College he was student minister at the Sunshine Church, where he also ministered in a full time capacity for twelve months after his graduation. In 1949 he went to New Zealand and ministered at Grey Lynn and assisted at Mairangi Bay. He was appointed as an evangelist by the New Zealand Home Mission Dept. and for two years was involved in evangelistic ministries throughout New Zealand.

In 1954 he returned to Australia to marry Fay Mitchell, whom he had met at the Sunshine Church during his student ministry. With Fay he returned to New Zealand and ministered at Invercargill for 16 months and then returned to Australia. Subsequent ministries were Nailsworth, Ormond, Forrestville, Fullarton, Enfield Heights and finally Mile End.

GROSS May.

May Gross was born in England as May Waddington. Upon her marriage she became May Hesketh. Of this marriage there were two daughters, Marjorie (Mrs Ind of Spain) and Irene, (Mrs Kidd of Bolton). After some years of widowhood, May resided in Urswick. There she met and married Frank Gross of Melbourne, when as a widower, he came to reside with his son Harold, upon the latter's arrival from Australia to minister to the Urswick church. In October 1968, the writer officiated at the marriage of May Hesketh and Frank Gross. After a short time they came to Australia to live at Upwey, Vic. They attended and were faithful members of the Boronia Church. Latterly, through failing health their attendance was restricted, but their love for Christ and his church remained undiminished. May Gross died on March 25, 1977. May lived her whole life in the fellowship of the church, mainly in Wigan, England. She was greatly loved for her kindly disposition and lady-like gentility. Many in the Christian church and in such communities where she lived will thankfully remember her thoughtfulness and practical Christianity as expressed in her active participation in such organisations as the Women's World Volunteer Service and Meals on Wheels. The funeral service at the Boronia church was conducted by the minister, Arthur Taylor-Davis assisted by Principal Emeritus Williams. The service at the Springvale Crematorium was conducted by the writer. Sincere Christian sympathy is expressed to her relatives and to the many friends who also thank God for treasured memories. — Stanton Wilson.

Nick was a Christian Endeavour enthusiast and served as President of the South Australian C.E. Union. He was Camp Commandant at the annual C.E. camp at Mount Barker on several occasions and attended the camp for 23 years. His bright personality and love for young people as well as outstanding preaching ability meant that he was in demand as a speaker at SS anniversaries, Youth Conventions, and rallies. In Brotherhood work, he served on the C.E. Committee of the Dept. of Christian Education in S.A. and the Overseas Mission Committee.

From the day he became a Christian, Nick Gavros was eager to win people for Jesus Christ. This was reflected not only in his preaching but in personal evangelism. He was renowned for the way he would befriend the lonely, particularly servicemen, many of whom as a result of his witness decided for Christ.

The funeral services were conducted by Ron McLean in the Mile End Church and at the graveside, assisted by Neville Moore, Conference President (who expressed sympathy on behalf of the Brotherhood), Perce Whitmore and R. Saunders (eulogy) and R. Sercombe (prayer).

The exceptionally large congregation was a tribute to the high esteem with which Nick Gavros was regarded by Christian friends from many churches.

To his wife Fay, daughter Louise (Mrs Bokay), son Peter, daughter-in-law Christine, son-in-law Lance and the Mile End fellowship in the loss of their pastor, we extend our sincere sympathy. — R. McL.

SALMON, Mrs Letitia (Letty)

Letty was born in 1893 to Mr and Mrs Horgan at Addington (Vic.). In 1915 she was married to Albert Salmon at Gore St., Fitzroy. In 1939 they moved to the Red Hill (Vic.) area where they lived for the next 22 years. They then went to Sorrento and in late 1975 moved to the Emmaus Rest Home (Murrumbidgee). They had four sons — Bert, Eric, Keith and Ray. Letty Salmon died on April 2. Mrs Salmon and her husband had a long and active association with Churches of Christ. At Red Hill they commenced a Junior Christian Endeavour and conducted a Young Worshipers' League each Sunday morning. Mrs Salmon was a great visitor and encourager. She will be remembered with love and gratitude by all who knew her. On April 5 the writer conducted a service at the Springvale Crematorium where many supported by their presence and prayers her husband Bert, the sons and their wives and families.

— Ray McKenzie.

HAPPENING MONTH (Engadine, Steven Thomas). Judy Gordon from Dept. Christian Education will plan and direct a Vacation Bible School for May school holidays and 400 children from the local area are expected: Special times of prayer are being held for this programme. Because of growing S.S. and influx expected after the V.B.S., S.S. has divided into three dept. Richard and Sandra Laney are Superintendents of the new Intermediate Dept. . . . Junior Church for 6-12 years has commenced led by Geoff Connor, student minister.



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 Guest Preacher, Keith Farmer.
 7.00 p.m.
 Evangelistic Service, Melbourne Town Hall.
 May 8th, 9.30 & 11 a.m.
 Exposition of 1 Peter
 7.00 p.m.
 Special Family Service.
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 A three weeks group visit to India is being arranged by the Overseas Mission Board in co-operation with the Conference of Churches of Christ in Western India.
 The visit will coincide with the opening of the BOMBAY CHRISTIAN CENTRE next December or January (Dates to be finalised). The group will visit our Conference Area and other places of interest.
 The group will be limited to 18 people so those interested are urged to make early enquiries.
 From R.S.A. McLean,
 Federal Secretary,
 Churches of Christ
 Overseas Mission Board.
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 COWANDILLA.
 S. AUST. 5033

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 For further information please contact the Principal, Mr G. R. F. Ellis, 57 The Point Road, Woolwich, NSW 2110. Phone (02) 89 1982.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

\$1.50 for 25 words, plus 6c each additional word

BIRTHS

HOLMES (Daddow) Marilyn and Trevor welcome God's gift, David Jason Kirk, born April 8. P.T.L.

MORFFEY (Vickers) Geoff and Lynne are pleased to announce the arrival of Mark's brother, Brent Carl, born March 31, Hobart.

PROELLOCKS (McAneny) Kerry and Neale welcome with love, God's gift of a daughter, Rebecca Ann, on April 8.

ROBERTS (Watson) Eleanor, Ian, Meagan, and Darren, welcome with much love Natalie Kate, born at Box Hill Hospital on April 14th, 1977.

MARRIAGE

WOOKEY-MEDSON On April 30th at the Croydon, Vic. Church of Christ, Sandra and Ross will begin their new life together. Alan Clark, their minister, will be officiating.

GOLDEN WEDDING

DICKSON-BROWN Congratulations to our parents (Harry & Ivy) on their 50th wedding anniversary celebrated on 7th May, 1927, by W. Gale at Moreland Church. Love from your family.

RATCLIFFE-DOWDS Gertie & Jack announce with thanks to God, the 50th Anniversary of their wedding celebrated at the Moreland Church of Christ on April 30, 1927, by the late J. C. F. Pittman. At home Sunday, 1st May, 2 till 5 p.m., 58 Garden St., East Geelong.

IN MEMORIAM

VERCO (Don) Bordertown Taken suddenly with his friend Herb. Tilley on April 27th, 1976, to be with their Lord. We thank God for their witness, and trust Christ for the future. "Till He come". Clarice and family, "Green Hill" Bordertown.

WANTED

ELECTRONIC ORGAN A compact instrument is required for Waterman Memorial Chapel at Monbulk. If any church or person has an instrument which may be suitable, the Department of Christian Education would be glad to hear about this. Gift or purchase would be acceptable. Arrangements could be made for a memorial gift to be suitably inscribed. Please ring D.C.E. at 662 2377 (Melb.), if you can help.

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JAY'S QUIZ

Answer: The prophet was Ezekiel and he lived near the river Chebar. (see page 10)

Mt Evelyn Church of Christ, Missionary Convention.

Guest Speaker: Rex Ellis,
Principal, Woolwich College.

May 6, 7.45 p.m.
May 8, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.

ST. KILDA CHURCH Vic.

Regrets to announce it will close after 31st May, 1977.

A final service will be held on Sunday 22nd May at 11 a.m.
Preacher: G. R. STIRLING

All past members and friends welcome. Please accept this notice as a personal invitation. Former members wishing to participate in the service

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Will all churches please include this notice in their announcements.

HAMILTON (Vic.)

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Sunday, 29th May, 1977

11 a.m. Worship &
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5 p.m. Anniversary Tea
7 p.m. Thanksgiving
Speaker: Charles Wilson

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Telephone: 379 1219

EDITOR: A. E. WHITE

W.A. — J. K. Robinson, 11 Almondbury Rd., Mt. Lawley, 6050.

S.A. — "The Australian Christian," 104 Grote St., Adelaide, 5000.

Tas. — Don E. Stewart, B.A., B.D., Dip. M & E Eng., 2 Westwind Rd., West Hobart, Tas. 7000

N.S.W. — Dr. A. G. Elliott, M.A., Ph. D. (Lond.), B.Sc., Dip. Ed.
Unit 38, 26 Park Ave., Burwood, N.S.W. 2134.

A.C.T. — R. N. Gilmore, B.A., B.D., 60 Limestone Avenue, Ainslie, A.C.T., 2602

Qld. — Allan C. Male, B.A., B.Ed., Dip R.E., 428 Anne St., Brisbane, 4000.

Church News Editor: G. T. Alves

ISSUE

May 14
May 28

DEADLINE

May 6
May 20

— PERSONAL —

DISCIPLESHIP

- Carol Joseph, Cynthia Stagg, Applecross, W.A.
- Raellene Hoyes, Dalby, Qld.
- Fiona Jettner, Murray Bridge, S.A.
- Mr & Mrs F. Maddocks, Mt Evelyn, Vic.
- Laurence Cavill, Albert McKay, Belmont, N.S.W.
- Marion Coulter, Evelyn Pollard, Wendy Norton, Joylene Sessle, Kaylene Pollard, Sharon Stafford, Julie Coulter, Anne-Marie Pollard, Lenswood, S.A.
- Gehan Hanna, Jacqueline Malek, Enmore, N.S.W.
- Mrs Margaret Hindle, Mrs Sue Symes, Susan Fay, Joanne Blackmore, Glen Waverley, Vic.
- Mr & Mrs John Wilson, Mrs Rhonda Walters, Castlemaine, Vic.

MARRIAGES

- Bath Shedley to Marshal Smith; Sandra Dohnt to Allan Lownsbrough, Applecross, W.A.
- Helen Stockwell to David Lunn, Hilda Grimley to Frank Miller, Dalby, Qld.
- Jenny Hinge to Dean Wiese, Bordertown, S.A.
- Rhonda Gunther to Greg Davis, Tamworth, N.S.W.
- Jill McMurrich to Graham Jennings; Val Luttrell to Geoff Baum, Belmont, Vic.

DEATHS

- E. Rogers Sr. Swan Hill, Vic.
- Mrs Lucy Smith, Bordertown; S.A.
- Miss Pearl A. Scott, Northcote, Vic.
- Mrs S. Allison, Miss N. Beinke, Thornbury, Vic.
- Stanley Ritchie Stronach, Belmont, Vic.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS SECRETARY

INVERELL: David McFetridge,
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NEW SOUTH WALES

CHURCH CAMP (Thornleigh, D. W. Mansell). Over 70 shared in Church Camp at "Blue Gum Lodge", Springwood. Camp Parents were Mr. and Mrs. Newton and Studies were led by Mr. Mansell... Y.P. conducted Service with a difference... Combined Youth Rally of Asquith, North Turramurra and Thornleigh held in Thornleigh Hall... Ed. Newton conducted Good Friday Service, K. Stelzer was soloist... About 20 Y.P. attended D.C.E. Camp at Stanwell Tops over Easter.

14 YEARS MINISTRY (Chatswood, C. G. Taylor). The minister, who announced his resignation in August 1976 will continue with church till Dec. 4, 1977, completing 14 years ministry, before commencing at Gardiner, Vic., in Feb., 1978... Series of lectures and discussions on "Understanding You — Understanding Me" were led in March by K. Farmer (Epping)... Annual business meeting, March 30, reported encouraging trends in C.Y.F., church giving, year's planning. Dr. J. D. Saxby is new elder; N. Flynn, J. Hill and G. Piermont added to Deacon's Board... Miss L. M. Button home after long time in hospital; R. Marley (92) making good progress.

HIGH SCHOOLERS (Enmore, R. C. Dixon). A High Schoolers' Club led by Brian and Bronwen Dixon is held on first and third Fridays. Miss Helen Erskine and Mrs Maureen Brown commenced after school Girls' Club for 7-10 age group... The Ladies' Fellowship commenced Cottage Meetings to which non-Christian friends and neighbours are invited. The Young Adults Fellowship on last Saturday of month has similar aim... Two missionary candidates of the European Christian Mission, Andrew and Estelle Gor, assist in the work... 108 attended picnic at Centennial Park on April 2.

TAMWORTH (C. Crago, P. Jamieson) Mr Crago and Mr. Jamieson attended Conference... Recent speakers were Dennis Newman and C. Love... 30 Young People attended Easter Camp at Quirindi... A picnic was held on Anzac Day... A Coffee and Dessert evening was the Programme for the last women's meeting... A CWF sewing day at the Church's Drop-in Centre in Main St. every Wed. is followed by a Prayer and Praise Meeting. Young people are "managing" Centre on Friday and Saturday nights and have made many contacts... Girls Brigade visited Armidale to meet other Brigades for a marching competition, a Bible Quiz and a Church Parade. Richard Pearce spoke to the 200 girls at the church service, mainly organised by Mrs M. Walsh of Armidale... S.S. has been converted to a "children's Church". Somerton S.S. has 25-30 children attending.

**HAMILTON (Vic.) REUNION
 MAY 21-22**

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

TO MISSION FIELD (Magill, R. Lawton) Miss Pam Williams has gone to the New Hebrides as a nursing sister and is the first Magill member to serve with the Overseas Mission Board . . . 30 members from churches in Bordertown area visited us for a week-end. Activities included a picnic, tennis, a social evening and worship. Magill had paid an earlier visit to Bordertown . . . Pending the appointment of a second full-time minister, Albert Jones will preach twice each month and Miss Merle Tompsett will spend some days each week in visiting . . . S.S. enrolments have been higher.

DEPUTATION TEAM (Prospect, R. Sercombe). A team visit from Aboriginal Mission was held at Nailsworth for Northern District . . . Joe Whittall has been recording morning services which are replayed in 22 different homes, this is a great service to the sick and senior members . . . Women's Camp at Longwood attended by Mrs B. Blaskett and Mrs P. Evans . . . Mrs Mitchell celebrated her 87th Birthday . . . At combined youth night, young people from local Methodist churches joined with our young people . . . Camera Club progressing . . . Mrs Joyce is making slow progress, other ill are Mrs Groves, Ed Anstey, Ron Plunkett, Mr and Mrs Brittain, Mr and Mrs McKenzie and Mrs Tinsdale.

NINE BAPTISMS (Lenswood, D. W. Sessle). There have been nine baptisms and another two decisions recently . . . Harvest thanksgiving services held on April 10, with produce going to the Rest Home at St. Georges . . . A video-tape leading up to Easter made by the C.Y.F. was screened at a fellowship hour . . . Mrs Margaret Pollard is president of the Women's Conference. A deputation from the Aborigines' Dept. visited us on March 12 and told of their work.



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FAREWELL TO MISSIONARY (Subiaco, R. L. Drown). C.W.F. Easter Service on April 14 had visitors from Dalkeith Rd., Wembley and Manning Churches. Farewell and cheque presented to Mrs Shirley Smyth, leaving for New Hebrides with husband Dr. Colin Smyth, medical missionary. Readings of prayers of Jesus in "His Hour of Need" were read from the Bible by Mrs Faye Clifton. A short play "The One Thing Needful" was a feature. Soloist was Miss Shirley Caddy and Mrs Nancy Jones was speaker . . . Guest speaker at both services on April 17 was Miss Edna Vawser, missionary from India.

SEA CAMP (Bunbury B. Ryall). 70 shared third family camp at Busselton. Feature of camp was a baptism in the

sea . . . Uwe Tiel took service April 3 while Barry Ryall visited Roelands Mission . . . Mr. Wilson, "Elanora" Administrator, has been in hospital but now back at work . . . Bunbury combined churches' choir of 60 visited "Elanora" to sing cantata.

TOMORROW'S NEWS (Applecross, K. Denton). Tomorrow's News, a new series of gospel meetings began with guest speaker, Stan Dayo, Research Physicist and former F.B.I. agent . . . Church growth planning reviewed and updated at recent family camp in fellowship with new Bullcreek church . . . SAMAY group conducting "Body Life" study series . . . Minister and Teens and Twenties group visited Fremantle prison — all returned . . . Minister leader at Easter camp at Morawa.

ON LOAN TO KALGOORLIE (Maylands, J. K. Robinson). Mr and Mrs Robinson gave a nine day ministry to Kalgoorlie Church who have no full-time minister this year . . . C.W.F. programmes included visits by Mrs Morcombe, Bible Society, and Don Crockford who demonstrated breadmaking . . . SAMAY held 50 mile Car Rally and barbecue . . . B.S. held tea for scholars and parents. At the service following, guest preacher was Mr Brown, Principal of Perth Bible Institute.



QUEENSLAND

GROUP HOME (Ipswich, Barry Rice). East Ipswich, Leichhardt and Bundamba churches combined for "Garden Party" at Bundamba to raise funds for the proposed Family Group Home at Bundamba. The function was opened by the State Health Minister and member for Ipswich Dr Llew Edwards, M.L.A. Other speakers were Ian Neumann, chairman of Management Committee, Eric Hart, Director Church of Christ Social Service; and Bruce Roberts, State Conf. Pres. Local churches, State Emergency Service and others have helped and after expenses were paid

\$1,463.00 was raised . . . Our young people attended Youth Camps at Caloundra and Leslie Dam near Warwick . . . Recent speakers were Frank Taylor, John Hicks and Chris O'Dempsey . . . Two young lasses from B.S. and Girls Brigade made the good confession.

TO ROMA (Dalby, B. P. Thygesen). Seven families travelled to Roma for Western Districts Fellowship Conf. weekend. Sunday morning Prayer Breakfast at beautiful Campbell Park, on a hillside overlooking the town was a highlight of the weekend . . . With St. John's Anglican Church, church brought the Covenant Players to Dalby. They held a concert in the hall on a Saturday night, enacted four dramas during the Sunday morning service, and also attended several Anglican services . . . S.S. chartered bus and took children and parents to Willow Springs Adventure Park, Toowoomba, for picnic . . . S.S. teachers attending a six week course at Moody Bible Institute . . . C.W.F. raised \$100 at Morning Tea and Mannequin Parade . . . A Bible Study on Sunday mornings held for parents of S.S. children and others.

HOME COMMITTEE (Barolin St. Bundaberg, B. M. Nowitzke) A committee has been appointed to attend to matters for Family Group Home to be built by Social Services Dept. in Bundaberg . . . Good Friday service combined with Avenell Heights . . . Mrs J. Jones attended Qld. C.W.F. Camp . . . Carl and H. Muller elected as deacons . . . Bi-monthly fellowship teas held . . . New scholars welcomed to Kinder Dept.

FULL TIME ASSISTANT (Toowoomba, Margaret St. Arnold Caldicott, Graham Kerr). Graham Kerr, promising young preacher, has been appointed and set apart with the laying on of hands, as assistant to the minister on a full-time basis . . . Mrs Ted Grenfell is making good progress after surgery . . . Two adults have been added to membership . . . Visit of Brisbane evangelist Bill Newman, stimulated the church.



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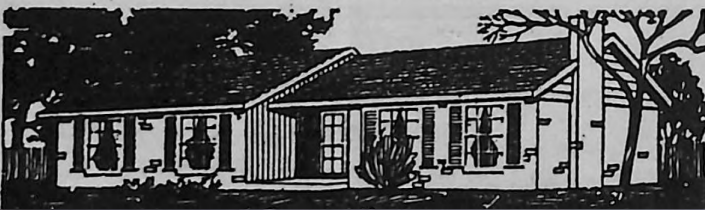
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ENROLMENT (Nollamara, A. J. Anderson & N. Head). Gospel meeting on March 20 had an overflow congregation of 329 sharing in Annual Enrolment Service of Boys' and Girls' Brigades. Guests from both State councils were present ... All youth groups have been sharing in camp experiences. Chain Gang held a Commitment camp at Pt. Peron led by N. Head. 25 members of Boys' Brigade were at Glen Forrest led by Capt. T. Fowkes whilst 60 members of Girls' Brigade journeyed to Bickley under leadership of Capt. A. Thrusell ... Boys' Brigade again won State swimming carnival. Sgt. Neale Fong was State Open Champion and Pvt. Michael Dines under 15 yrs. champion ... About 80 non-members attend morning meeting ... Miss Joan Eley spoke at meeting on April 6 on her work in Venezuela ... Mrs Tate and Jean Applin have been admitted to hospital.

SMALL GROUPS (Belmont, W. Harford, D. A. V. Thomas) Led by Graham and Helen Chapman, six weeks of training for Leadership of Small Groups has been completed. 119 being used "Drop-In" proved a venue for all sorts and conditions of youth ... Senior young people are led by Ian Smith and Mal Douglas ... Two morning services continue to meet the needs of the congregation.

BIBLE EMPHASIS (Norlane, Ian Adams) Several members attended the rally with Professor Blaiklock and benefited from his great knowledge of the Bible. The Bible emphasis was also given by Preston Walker of the Bible Society ... Members shared in Good Friday combined service with the Baptists ... Attendances continue to grow at Boys' and Girls' clubs.

LAST SUPPER PORTRAYED (Dianella-East Morley, J. Somerville) Easter services included a re-enactment of the Last Supper, led by R. Schaeffer; "At the Cross" with Frank Griffiths on Good Friday; and R. Gething preached on Easter Sunday ... Children and teachers had a train ride to Mosman for S.S. picnic ... Film "Journey to the Sky" has been screened ... Members spent holidays as Busselton-Morawa and Pemberton ... Women's Fellowship held Jumble Sale and cake stall.

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VICTORIA

WORSHIP GROUP (Glen Waverley, R. B. Elbourne). Worship Group conducted recent morning service . . . 23rd C.W.F. Birthday featured John Paver, Chaplain of Peter MacCallum Clinic . . . Glenairs presented "The Glory of Easter" in Frankston Church . . . 35 families attended Easter Church Caravan Camp at Cape Patterson . . . Following recent lesson series, Kinders visited Emmaus Home and shared their session with the guests there . . . Explorer Midgets held weekend camp at Woori Yallock, first camp under canvas for many . . . C.Y.F. travelled to Eildon in church bus for waterskiing picnic.

SERVICES (Blackburn, E. C. Keating). March 27 Cabaret Service well attended . . . Prof. E. Blaiklock spoke at Combined Service at Mitcham H.S. Assembly Hall. Music provided by the Australian Boys' Choir . . . Terry Lane conducted Good Friday Service . . . At recent Business Meeting presentation made to Ern Baxter upon retirement after many years as Elder . . . Number of families participated in Family Camp at Shepparton.

EXCHANGE (Red Hill, A. V. Pigdon, A. V. Symes). Quarterly platform exchange with Tootgarook enabled David Hamilton to speak at Red Hill . . . Harvest Thanksgiving gifts divided between Social Service Homes and C.O.B. . . . Combined Youth Club started year with over 50 Y.P. present.

MISS TEMPERANCE (Caulfield, H. K. Christensen). Elizabeth Jones, "Miss Temperance, Victoria" competes for the national title in Sydney at W.C.T.U. World Convention . . . Caulfield Choir

combined with Brighton Baptist to present "Olivet to Calvary" at both churches . . . Monthly "Renewal Fellowship" meetings have been commenced . . . Film slide night held to aid Golden Bag Appeal.

UPPER ROOM (Essendon, W. R. Newton). Annual Upper Room Service held on Holy Thursday evening attended by sister churches of Essendon . . . Mrs Ivy Grant recovering from slight stroke, J. Scobie died following severe stroke . . . Mrs Glenda Newton now conducting S.S. kindergarten following resignation of Mrs Shirley Wallis after long and devoted service.

VISIT (Swan Hill, J. A. Caporn). Visit was paid by "The Changing Moods" . . . 50 shared in church Family Camp at Hall's Gap during March . . . C.W.F. had Mrs MacKenzie (State Pres.) as guest at Annual Meeting. Mrs A. Walker (Pres.), Miss H. Jones (Sec.) are office-bearers . . . A young married woman and a young man have been welcomed into fellowship following baptism . . . Church saddened at death of E. Rogers (Sen.)

VISITATION (Collingwood, D. A. Prout). A vigorous visitation of flats is being undertaken with good contacts made . . . G. Haylock appointed church secretary after serving many years as treasurer . . . R. Wilkerson, previously secretary, is now treasurer.

STEWARDSHIP (Burwood, R. Brown). The church held a stewardship campaign in March . . . College student, Beverley Maxwell, is assisting with youth work . . . Evelyn Peterson is new C.W.F. President and Rowan Burrell is Secretary. Stuart Bussey has joined the church board . . . Newly formed singing group led by Brian Jacques and Ian Edgcombe performed at special Easter service . . . Glenda Disbury was thanked for editing the "church messenger" for many years

. . . Men's basketball team won premiership in summer competition and a team is in winter comp . . . Trevor Robinson, John Sutton and Trevor Giles have been recent speakers.

OPEN DOOR (Preston & East Preston, J. Manallack). 60 celebrated "Open Door's" second birthday. During past year 150 people have come through this "open door", finding companionship . . . Good Friday communion service at East Preston church was attended by Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist and churches of Christ in the area . . . At East Preston Annual Business all Board Members were re-elected and four members were newly elected . . . Jim Spiker was recent speaker at Preston . . . Church extends sympathy to Mrs Nixon on the death of her husband . . . Preston CWF held Caftan Night with an almost full house.

BAPTISM (Mt. Evelyn, T. Holmes). During February four were welcomed into fellowship by transfer and two by faith and baptism . . . On March 27 two girls were baptised . . . A prayer and planning day was held at Belgrave Heights on March 6. Two ladies have been added to B.S. staff . . . Morning worship speakers have included J. Thorpe and M. Chadwick.

QUESTING

from Page 24

them are Christian. They should have the support of the churches in the cause of right and church people have a responsibility to speak against those things that will be harmful to the community.

This means that we shall have to talk about the issues that are important, and we should be able to do that without breaking up the fellowship. If Christians can't differ from one another without fighting, there is not much hope for anyone.

LET'S SHARE THE PAIN



Dr Hemer, New Hebrides, examining patient.

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QUESTING

WITH
A. E. WHITE



A couple of us had a slight disagreement at church about the mess our country is in. We discovered that we are on opposite sides of the political fence. It was a fairly friendly disagreement, but later I wondered why it is that we don't talk much about the economy or politics. We do talk about football! Should the church be talking more about what is going on?

It is hard to see how the church can ignore those things that everyone is talking about, even church people, when they are not at church.

It is hard to keep politics out of our concern for the nation and the world. Political decisions affect social behaviour and our relationships with the world beyond our shores. They affect a great deal of what happens within our land. Unemployment, inflation, devaluation, employer-employee relationships, our taxes, our rates, our transport, our communications — these touch us all and they are made better or worse by political decisions. Your one vote, your one voice, insignificant though they appear to you, can influence what happens.

It is a relief for most of us to go to church where the emphasis is upon our fellowship with God and with one another in a gospel relationship — brothers and sisters in Christ. We turn from the world with its temporal interests and hazards to think of the eternal realm and the assurance that comes of belonging to God.

But the New Testament never presents

the church as a means of escape from the world. It is rather the fellowship where we are equipped for life in the world. We are to overcome the world. We share our faith which is the means of victory within the world.

All of the days of the week belong to the Lord as well as the Lord's Day. All of the people in the world are a part of God's family.

I am not advocating politics in the pulpit, that is party politics, but it is pointless to speak about freedom and justice, about caring and sharing, about society's uses and abuses, about hunger and unemployment and discrimination, unless we realise that all of these things are helped or hindered by political decisions. My voice and my vote are a part of those political decisions.

The unemployed youth who sits in front of my pulpit is made to feel unworthy and unwanted. He is as ready and able to work as the lad next to him — and the latter has a good job. I can offer the workless youth spiritual resources and urge him to hold out against despair, but he has a right to work and find fulfilment with his mind and hands. Whether we like it or not his future will depend upon political decisions which I can influence.

Devaluation came and overnight diminished the resources of our missionaries for the work to which Christ and the church sent them. Inflation has wasted the life-time savings of folk when they thought that their hard work had given them to a modest security. Whatever the right or wrong of devaluation may be, and whatever the causes of cure of inflation, the church is concerned with people.

People live in a political world. There is much about politics that is ugly. But politicians are people, too, and some of

To page 23

Questions for this column may be addressed to "Questing", P.O. Box 101, Essendon North, 3041.

THE LAST WORD...

I am not a visionary. I claim to be a practical idealist. The religion of non-violence is not meant merely for saints. It is meant for the common people as well. Non-violence is the law of our species as violence is the law of the brute. The spirit lies dormant in the brute and he knows no law but that of physical might. The dignity of man requires obedience to a higher law — to the strength of the spirit.

— Mahatma Gandhi

FAITH

It is the road, the chart,
The wafer and the wine;
Who lives by faith
Shall find life good
And clutch the things divine.
Christ and his word shall be
Their sustenance till breath
Slips from the clay —
Who lives by faith
Shall never taste of death.

John Richard Moreland

☆☆☆

Church Notice

You aren't too bad to come in.
You aren't good enough to stay out.

☆☆☆

Face Value

Few other combinations
So show the signs of joy
As that of bread and jam
And a hungry little boy.

S. H. Dewhurst

☆☆☆

"He says he's related to you, and can prove it."

"The man's a fool."

"That may be just coincidence."

☆☆☆

When we're 20 we don't care what the world thinks of us.
When we're 50 we find out it wasn't thinking of us at all.



"Gee, Dad! Don't let Ronnie see you like that!"

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