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AUTUMN

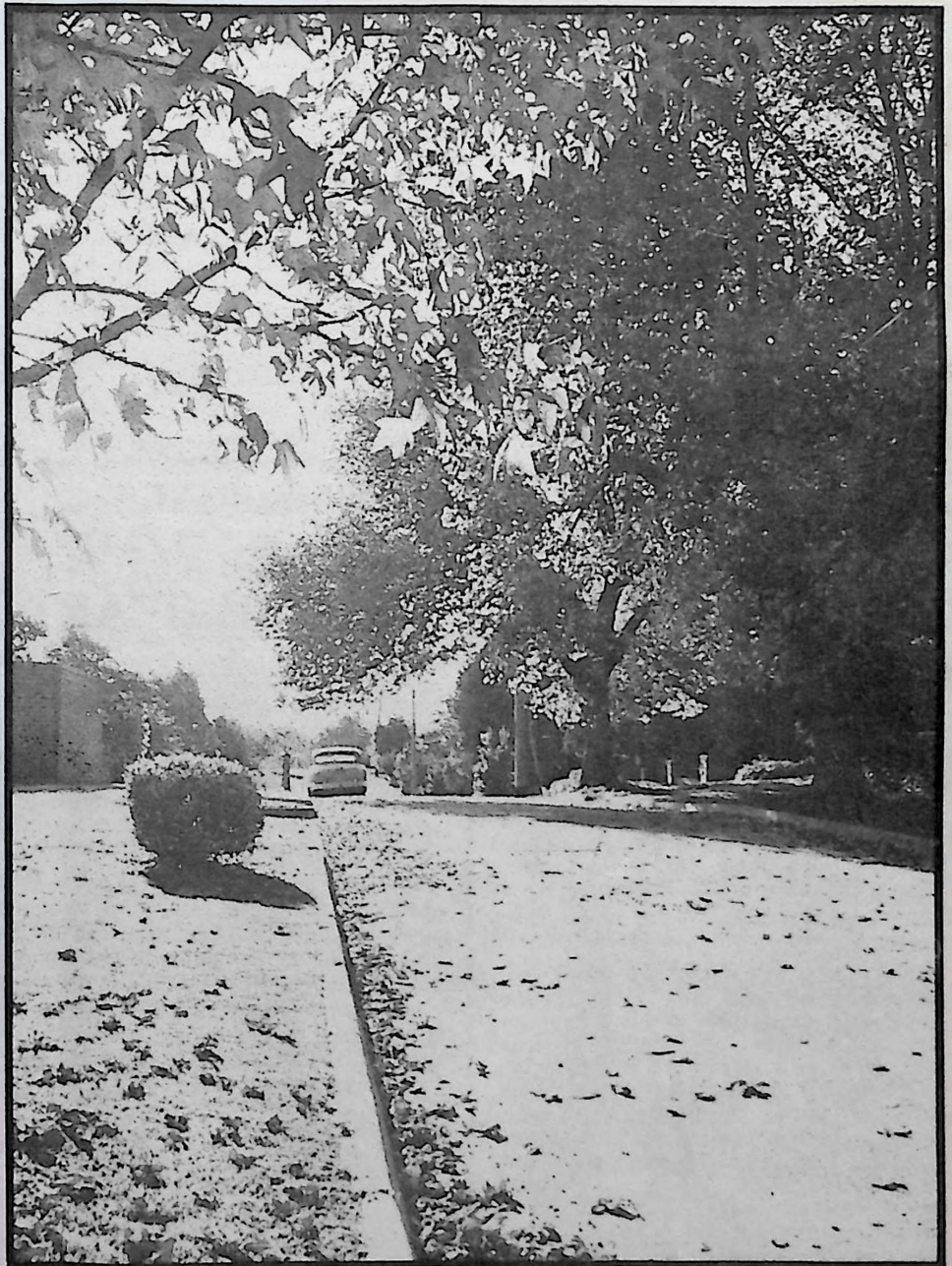


Photo by Maurice Austin.

NEW ARRESTS IN SOUTH KOREA

BIBLE SOCIETY LEADER HONoured

Seoul — A new wave of arbitrary arrests has begun in South Korea against Christian leaders. According to religious sources, some 19 persons were arrested on April 13, by South Korean police and imprisoned. They are accused of having participated in collecting signatures for the "Charter for Democracy". This charter was published in March, by some 10 political and religious personalities and asked for the abolition of the State of emergency declared in 1975 by President Park Chung Hee, a return to democracy and the rehabilitation of all political prisoners. This document which already had some 300 signatures was confiscated by the police during a raid in early April on the offices of the Commission on Human Rights of the National Council of Churches in Korea.

According to observers these arrests emphasize the strong desire of the government to put an end to the campaign for human rights. It is also significant that these arrests only took place after the departure of an American Congress delegation which had been seeking information on the human rights situation.

In addition, five of the 150 theology students who had publicised a "declaration of suffering" at the end of a Lenten worship service on 7 April at the Seminary of Hankuk were also arrested for having violated the anti-communist law. Just a year ago international opinion was shocked to learn that 18 Christians had been arrested for having asked, during an ecumenical service held in the Myong-Dong cathedral in Seoul, for President Park to step down, the restoration of democracy, the ending of the state of emergency, the freeing of political prisoners, freedom for the legal system and a return to parliamentary rule. At a first trial they were given sentences of up to eight years. They appealed and the sentences were reduced to a maximum of five years. But the Supreme Court, in spite of various appeals, refused to revise this judgment. Observers see in this attitude a reaction by the South Korean regime to criticisms by President Jimmy Carter to human rights violations in that country.

After the arrests of 13 April President Carter was asked in a letter sent by 12 Catholics and Protestants in the USA to profound concern to President Park's government about "his harassment and persecution of Christian leaders" and "to use his prestige" to obtain freedom for the 19 detainees.

—E.P.S.

Canon H. M. Arrowsmith who, as Commonwealth Secretary for 18 years, led the Bible Society to the forefront of missionary organisations in Australia was honoured in Canberra on May 6.

United Bible Societies Vice-President, Bishop Clive Kerle, unveiled a portrait of Canon Arrowsmith in the Bible Society Bookshop. The portrait was painted by Tasmanian artist, the Rev. Alfred G. Reynolds.

Canon H. M. Arrowsmith was Commonwealth Secretary from 1950 to 1968. During his term he established:

- The National Headquarters of the Society in Canberra in 1960.
- The Translations Department at the end of 1963. This department is currently handling almost 70 translation projects in Australian aboriginal, Papua New Guinea and Pacific languages.
- The National Distribution Department, which last year handled almost 300 tonnes of Scriptures worth \$750,000.
- Bible Society work in Papua New Guinea which developed to the extent that the Society there is now independent within the world Bible Societies fellowship.

CHILD CARE CUTS

Although Senator Guilfoyle has been against welfare cuts, they are now considered certain by senior officers of her department.

Federal Cabinet last week began considering the estimates for the Budget and the Treasurer, Mr Lynch, strongly indicated welfare cuts would be considered.

But he failed to indicate where the cuts could be made and his comments seemed at odds with Senator Guilfoyle's stand.

It is now generally believed that although she has fought hard against welfare cuts, they have been forced on her as a trade-off for the recent Cabinet decision to increase welfare benefits by 8.2 per cent in line with the past two cost-of-living rises.

Her department is now examining what cuts could be made in the Office of Child Care, which has operated since last year and costs about \$73 million to run, about the cost of 10 kilometres of a freeway.

RUBY ANNIVERSARY (Ann St., Brisbane) Mr and Mrs Harry Payne celebrated their ruby wedding anniversary at a surprise party arranged by their children and attended by family, relatives, and friends. A feature was "This is Your Life" by their son, Colin with slides and recorded greetings from absent relatives and friends including Dr and Mrs Ron Graham, U.S.A. . . . Recent guest speakers have been Eric Hart, Director of Social Services in Qld., Cyril Flood, former minister; and Lloyd Read, also a past minister and presently with "Life Line" on the Gold Coast.

INNER SPRINGS WITH ALL YOUR HEART



"Please mum", she said, "sing softly at my wedding. You throw your whole heart into it and I would rather you didn't". Perhaps she is right. There are some things we can be less wholehearted about with benefit to others. But for the most part half-hearted measures are never enough. They give no sense of true satisfaction. Rather do they leave a trail of frustration and discontent to oneself and to others. "Half the difficulties", writes one, "in living the Christian life arise from an attempt to half live it".

Dr Fosdick enlarges this point still further. He says of such people, "Their goodness is always a burden to them. They are half-way good, wishing to indulge in evil, but not daring to, clinging to right living with reluctant resolution, looking upon duty as an elephant might do at his rider, sitting on his neck and pulling at his ears with an iron prong to make him go whither he would not. If a man is to achieve distinction in any realm he must outgrow the half and half stage."

Jesus was uncompromising on this matter of being whole-hearted. "The first and greatest commandment" He said, "is this — Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."

The tragedy with many of us is, not that we don't care, but that we don't care enough.

Have I an object, Lord, below
Which would divide my heart with Thee
Which would divert its even flow

In answer to Thy constancy?
O teach me quickly to return,
And cause my heart afresh to burn.

PRAYER:

Dear God, keep us from compromise, from being satisfied with things half done. Forgive us that we so often expect the best, but give poor service in return.

Amen

LUKE 10: 25-28

FLORENCE ROSIER

CHARLES PERKINS

One Man's Struggle for his People

Charles Perkins was the first Australian Aborigine to earn a University degree. He was the first in a lot of other things also. I have been reading his book: *A Bastard Like Me* (1975, Sydney, Ure Smith). The title should not be allowed to discourage anyone genuinely interested in real people from reading the book. This fascinating story is never ordinary, and frequently borders on the heroic.

The title might be construed as indicating that here is another Aborigine with a chip on his shoulders. Maybe it does, and this kind of title is not at all necessary to make the book arresting! It seems as if Perkins is saying, "Well, it's literally true! Do you want to make something of it?" No, I don't. I've been long enough amongst people — Aboriginal and otherwise — to see people as they are. One goes deeper than skin colour and parentage. In fact, I have a lot of sympathy for part-Aborigines and their problems, especially for the women with a family of children. They love their children. They work so hard for them that they grow old before their time. They earn money every way they can to feed and care for them. But they can't see much sense in feeding and keeping a drunken husband as well, just for the sake of respectability. Immoral? Yes. But it is the only way such women have been able to come to grips with the kind of life they have been permitted to live.

As I read the book, I really felt for Charles Perkins.

He won't appreciate my saying so. I felt for his humiliation through childhood. I was hurt by the slights and the prejudice he had to suffer.

ANNUAL MEETING (Kilburn, R. H. Sercombe, R. Arnold) Three new deacons and a new deaconess elected at annual meeting . . . Appreciation expressed to Dennis Evans after 25 years as treasurer and nine years as secretary . . . Brian Barrett is new secretary and Stewart Sanders is treasurer. Miss Joan Sandercock was appointed church news editor . . . 31 boys were on parade at Boys' Brigade Enrolment Service. Families stayed on for barbecue luncheon . . . Conference held to determine ways to achieve previously established church growth goals . . . Senior Citizen friendship group commenced . . . Y.P. group re-activated . . . Community Directory to be produced.

We lived through this kind of thing in earlier years of Aborigines Missions. I saw some of the problems we had tried to face in our years amongst detribalised people. But the author might be annoyed at my saying so. How can I understand — "a missionary like me?" (Do you want to make something of it?) No one can understand the problems of part-Aborigines, especially a missionary with his cheap sympathy!

Missionaries, do-gooders, the better type of Government officials, and many others get scant praise from the author. Missionaries were after souls, not bodies (page 20). "Everything that has gone wrong" (in Alice Springs) "is mainly due to the government and missionary stupidity and to white society generally." (page 26)

Admitted that white men, including missionaries, were stupid and bungling. Admitted that many sincere missionaries forgot that Aborigines had bodies as well as souls, and that Christ came that people might have "life" in the fullest sense. But Charles Perkins wants to

label every group as good or bad, with nothing in between. And most who are not Aborigines are bad! Surely there must have been just a few far-sighted government officials genuinely concerned for Aborigines? And please, weren't there just one or two good missionaries? . . . and even an odd politician or so, a few Jews and someone, somewhere, on the Australian Consular staff who was good? Yes, Perkins admits to an exception now and again, but he seems surprised to find one!

If I had been though what Perkins had been through, I might have thought that way too. Imagine it — a man with the disadvantages only an Aborigine could have in a country like Australia, struggling for an education against terrific odds; trying to raise a lone voice that would be heard, an advocate for his own neglected and despised people. Add to that a man who reaches enviable heights in a sporting career, and then had to fight pain and sickness, eventually relieved by a kidney transplant. But why should I tell you all the story? Read it for yourself. Feel the shame of it all. React to the underlying hate. Weep for the sufferings of a minority people — who still need the very best that true Christian love is capable of giving. And weep for ourselves who did not give it.

Thank you, Charles Perkins, for the reminder — and for the rebuke!

— D.G.H.

WORLD CHRISTIAN ACTION

The Churches International Relief Committee was formed on the 20th December 1948, at a meeting of representatives of member Churches of the Victorian Regional Committee of the World Council of Churches.

The Rev'd. Frank Byatt was elected Chairman and Mrs K. Bright-Parker and W. T. Atkin were among those appointed to membership of the committee.

In its first year of operation, the Committee received and despatched to Europe 16 bales of clothing, 11 bags of shoes and 19 boxes of food. Cash donations totalled £400, with £17 coming from the Christmas Bowl.

In 1976, World Christian Action raised \$406,500 in Victoria; Christmas Bowl receipts were \$331,000.

In 1951, at the request of the Australian Council of Churches, C.I.R.C. became the nucleus of a new National Commission for Inter-Church Aid. The first Chairman was Principal E. L. Williams, the Rev. Frank Byatt was appointed full-time Secretary and Mrs Bright-Parker and Mr Atkin became members of the Commission.

At that time, C.I.R.C. became the Victorian Committee for Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees, with Frank

Byatt as Honorary Secretary. Victorian members of the Commission met as the State Committee at the conclusion of Commission meetings.

When the Inter-Church Aid office was moved to Sydney at the beginning of 1963, Frank Byatt was appointed full-time Victorian Secretary.

In his time as National Secretary, over £1,000,000 was sent to Geneva for relief work. He was awarded the O.B.E. in 1964 "In recognition of his meritorious service in the field of Social Welfare".

Following his retirement as Secretary in 1967, Mr Byatt remained as a co-opted member of the Victorian Committee. His successor as Secretary was the Rev'd Brian Walsh.

Mrs Bright-Parker, Mr Byatt and Mr Atkin have served the Victorian Churches through C.I.R.C. and Inter-Church Aid since 1948 until the reconstitution of the World Christian Action Committee at the beginning of 1977. Mr Atkin was awarded the British Empire medal for his service to the community.

Principal-Emeritus Lyall Williams was re-appointed to the Victorian Committee by the V.C.C. Annual Meeting March '77. He has been a member of the Committee since 1951.

THE PROGRESS OF THE GOSPEL

By Don H. Smith

Frank Zawilla was a Polish soldier in World War II. He became a prisoner of the Russians and emigrated to Australia after the war. From Bonegilla he found his way into the Wangaratta church where I met him in the 1960s. The day before he unexpectedly died last year we talked about the Poland of his youth. Winter saw rural families snowbound, living off the stores from autumn harvests — potatoes, swedes, sauerkraut, and salted meat. Then there came the thaw, and the breaking through of white, purple and yellow crocuses, daffodils, tulips, wildflowers in abundance. The bulbs and flowers were signs of Spring and new life. And then they came in abundance, marigolds, rosemary, hazelnut blossom. There is a thaw in our Brotherhood now after a season of winter. I invite you to read the signs.

I. Read The Signs

1. The field is a large family of 150 churches in Victoria-Tasmania. Numbers still dwell in winter, but in our midst there are signs of new life, renewal, hope, development, growth on every hand. In my visitation and contact with many churches I have been impressed again and again by initiatives, action, concern, caring and reaching out. Paul, a prisoner in Rome, could look out upon his world and for all the difficulties give thanks for what he called in Philippians 1: 12 — "The progress of the Gospel".

This year our Tasmanian churches register a 5.5% membership increase, a Victorian group of congregations taking church growth seriously show an increase, the inner city group arresting dramatic losses and now moving forward. In the country and city, indeed in some of the most unlikely places, there are signs the winter is passing. We can give thanks for the progress of the Gospel — progress we all want to see in every church.

2. There are signs too in the Brotherhood. The College of the Bible has a record enrolment of students, our two publishing arms — the Federal Literature Department and the Federal Board of Christian Education — are in the midst of major successful publishing initiatives.

This message was delivered by Don Smith, President of the Victoria-Tasmania Conference, at the President's Reception.

There is growing support of investors in the Corporation's financial programme. Our Social Service Department is taking major new initiatives in geriatric care.

In rapidly changing situations our Overseas and Aborigine Mission arms are advancing new strategies and projects. These to me are all signs of life and hope. Our Executive is in the process of careful self examination and I believe we shall as a Brotherhood be asked to respond to new moves and changes for the future which will further advance the progress of the Gospel.

3. I would now like to establish that we are in a period of spiritual strength. Our churches are marked by a spirit of unity and cohesion. There is a spirit of joy in our ministry and the churches appear to be supportive, accepting and positive about the work of the Brotherhood. That is the impression one has from regional meetings throughout the Conference.

Our group cohesion and bonding together seem to me to be signs of spiritual strength — internal strength in the Brotherhood. This sort of strength is basic if progress is to be made in the totality of our understanding of that concept. And progress is surely a goal around which we share a common purpose. The winter is passing — we can read the signs in the field, the Brotherhood and in our overall spiritual strength.

II Finding Directions

1. We are a relatively small religious organisation in a large secular setting. A society with increasing and sometime almost demonic tendencies towards secularism.

2. What hope is there for us as a group? Thomas Hardy in his novel "Under The Greenwood Tree" has a scene set in the 1830s of the Mellstock village church choir of musicians and singers standing awkwardly in the vicar's study to learn they are to be phased out by Michaelmas. They are to be replaced by an organ. It is a humorous and yet sad account of a group that has lost direction.

There is no easy way forward for us and we shall be under great test. A strong sense of solidarity is imperative. We must not shrink from placing the highest demands of loyalty upon our members. The secularising tendencies in society and churches are against this view, but I believe it is basic if we are to make

any contribution to the future of the Australian church at large.

3. 1977 is an historic year for the Australian church for it sees the union of three denominations. I look forward personally to sharing with our Dareton people in the Wentworth-Dareton celebrations for the Uniting Church with which we co-operate. But this union is to be seen against a background of disunity and some significant disenchantment at local and state levels. Neil Gilmore, our Canberra minister and distinguished ecumenical participant, broods whether this may be the last such scheme of union. What directions are there for us in the future?

I believe we should strive for partnership, co-operation, and involvement wherever practicable. I believe that being realistic we must see ourselves as a group with a continuing separate existence for the foreseeable future, but never with an "apartheid" type concept.

Interaction is the model, born out of our founding ideals of restoration and unity. But to neglect our own progress at this time would be to lose direction, which in turn would lead to slow death with a sense of meaninglessness prevailing.

4. We were born a small group. But the whole history of dynamic minority groups has been one of achievement and influence where there have been clear goals and determined idealism. I believe that the great challenge before us is not to wither and lose direction, but to find new meaning and purpose which we may contribute to the life of the whole church at a local and wider level.

We began with the image of the thaw and Springtime. I invited you to try to read the signs with me, we are challenged to find — new directions. In the end so much depends upon

III. The Individual Response

1. As a group of ministers there are more of us, we are better trained and have greater resources than ever in our history. What is quite clear to me is that, accepting these things, what really matters is the quality of our religious experience, the spiritual dynamic engendered, our singleness of purpose and our having confidence in the Brotherhood framework in which we work.

2. Our corporate ministry, laymen and women and trained ministers together must be grounded in the deep conviction that men and women are separated from God in what Barth in his Commentary on Romans describes in vivid imagery as the

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NEW DEPARTMENT FORMED

Victoria- Tasmania 112th Conference

The Victoria-Tasmania Conference was significant for the step taken to merge the Department of Home Missions and Evangelism and the Department of Christian Education into a new Department of Mission, Education, and Development. There was considerable discussion and some concern was expressed at the departure from the traditional names and forms of service, but when the question was put to Conference there was a strong vote in favour of the change.

Concern was also expressed at the departure from the principle of having a full-time Conference Secretary. The establishment of this office had been regarded as a major advance for our brotherhood, and the departure from this principle was questioned. C. L. Ward, serving as Secretary in his first Conference, pointed out that the present position was wholly due to economic problems, and if the churches provided the resources for a full time officer, that officer would again be appointed. Mr Ward, who, incidentally, receives no remuneration for his services, paid tribute to the splendid contribution made by Stanton H. Wilson as Secretary and in other areas of ministry for the churches.

Another significant move was the establishment of the Austral Charitable Trust and the transfer to that Trust of the assets of the wound-up Austral Printing and Publishing Company. The income from the assets will be applied to Christian Education, the production of Christian literature, evangelism, Home Missions, social service, missionary work among Aborigines, Protestant education, advancement of Christian Unity, provision of homes for the poor, aged, youth and retarded, medical research, and treatment of alcohol and drug victims.



C.W.F. LEADERS — from left: Gladys Mackenzie (President 1976-77); Lois Smith (new Secretary); Freda Morris (President 1977-78); Pat Hilbig (served as Secretary for five years).



Retiring President Don H. Smith welcomes new President, Dr Trevor Banks, of the Church at Belmont.

The President's Reception

Mr & Mrs Don H. Smith received members and friends to an informal evening in the Lower Melbourne Town Hall.

Malcolm Gray interviewed Stan Stewart, the author of a survey (sponsored by the Australian Council of Churches) of the churches' ministry to children.

Mr Stewart gave evidence for his belief that the church has gravely failed in caring for her children and pointed to positive steps being taken by some churches to remedy the failure.

Gordon Scambler interviewed four of our brotherhood writers: Graeme Chapman ("Your Church . . . Where To From Here"); Gordon Moyes ("How to Grow an Australian Church"); Gordon Stirling ("Down to Preside"); and E. Lyall Williams ("Living Responsibly").

The President in his address pointed to some of the more hopeful signs of renewal in our brotherhood.

Among the artists presenting items were Elizabeth Aumann, the "Voskres", and Barrie Porch. The pianist was Jeff Cheal and the song leader P. B. Burnham.

Business

The positive note was also sounded in segments included in the business sessions from five churches: Footscray, Portland, Hobart, Ulverstone and Swanston St., Melbourne. Portland has made dramatic advances recently; Footscray young people presented their home-grown musical, "Different Things", at the C.W.F. family night. The Tasmanian churches recorded a 5% increase in membership, arresting a steady decline over some years. The Swanston St. church discovered in the heart of Melbourne an exciting missionary opportunity among Asian students at our universities and hospitals.

In accordance with the two year cycle, reports were presented by the Advisory Department, Department of Christian Education, Department of Home Missions and Evangelism and the Overseas Mission Department. The Department of Social Service and the Aborigines' Mission each presented a "Focus" on their work, and Graeme Chapman of Ballarat led the worship segments.

Sunday Night at the Town Hall

Interest in this combined evangelistic service shows no sign of waning. There were not many empty seats in the large auditorium. The song leader was again Frank Clark and "The Cousins" group from Tasmania was featured ("They really are cousins," said Frank Clark, "they all have the same grandmother."). Because of the illness of Robert Colman, the guest soloist was John Marshall, remembered with appreciation from last year. The organist was Jeff Cheal of Swanston St. church.

The evangelistic message was given by Keith Farmer of Epping, N.S.W.

A report of the C.W.F. Conference appears on page 6.

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N.S.W. CONFERENCE

The 92nd Conference of the N.S.W. Brotherhood concluded with a Service of Witness and Fellowship at St. Stephens Presbyterian Church, Macquarie Street, Sydney on April 17. Guest speaker was Dr. William Blevins, Academic Dean of Johnson Bible College, Knoxville, Tennessee, currently lecturing at Woolwich Bible College. Also featured was the choir from the College under the leadership of John Saint and "Kerygma" comprised of members of the Ratten family. It was a great time of inspiration and fellowship and a fitting climax to the Conference.

The attendance at the first session of Conference, The Missionary Rally, was rather disappointing. This was the first time that Conference had started with this Rally (it usually is held on Saturday evening after a full day of business) and it would seem that the churches hadn't got used to the idea. Don Marshall's film of the work in New Guinea was most appreciated and Peter Jamieson spoke of the work in amongst his people in Tamworth, N.S.W.

Principal Rex Ellis addressed the men at the Men's Tea prior to the first business session and challenged them to be "other worldly" in their thinking. The audio-visual prepared by the D.C.E. climaxed the first business session. Increases in Bible Schools were reported. It was disturbing to hear that there had been staff cuts because of financial problems.

This was the last Conference for Kevin Crawford to present the Homes Mission Committee report. He has resigned as Director and will be serving in the future as Conference Secretary. After the presentation of the report the Conference carried by acclamation a vote of appreciation for the 15 years of dedicated service he has given. Kevin replaces Fred Stephenson whose service was recognised by Conference at the Sunday service.



Jack Cooke
President 1977-78

The Social Service Department accompanied their report with a booklet "Meet The People, Discover What They Do" which introduces those who are serving in the homes and in the administration of the Department.

The issue which aroused the greatest interest was the proposed move of the College to Stanwell Tops. After the discussion the motion to sell Woolwich and buy at Stanwell Tops was defeated, but Conference instructed the Executive to set up a Commission to look into the matter of theological training so that the College Board can be guided about the future of Woolwich College.

Indonesia, and the challenge it presents was raised during the presentation of the Overseas Missions report and the Committee was asked to co-operate with the College Board to investigate the possibility of setting up some form of training there. Miss Dianna Catts spoke of the difficulty of the work in New Guinea caused by the shortage of petrol and commended the work of the Men's Committee which is sponsoring the appeal for petrol there.

Principal Ellis reported that the extension work of the College through cor-



Edna Morgan
C.W.F. President 1977-78

respondence courses, evening lectures and extension work, has really "taken off". 86 students are involved in part time study taking some 175 courses. The College Board was asked to look into the matter of more practical training for students in their final years so that they can be better prepared for the change into the full time service.

Harry Davies, Conference President, impressed all with his graciousness in the position of chairman, and the smooth running of Conference was due in no small measure to his ability.

The incoming President is Jack Cooke, a schoolteacher, of Caringbah Church. The President Elect is Bruce Armstrong from Greenacre and Dr. Roy Miller is Vice-President. The theme for this Conference Year is "More Than Conquerors".

The Progress Of The Gospel

(From P. 4)

crevasse, the polar zone, the desert barrier.

3. We are not gathered in Conference as some group of model railway enthusiasts to watch a spectacle of intricate timetable running or indulge a hobby, or relive our childhood, but rather to confirm battle strategies and discover fresh confidence for the dark struggle.

4. The privilege of the President is to meet many people and to learn to appreciate great faithfulness and dedication. But always there is the danger we shall retreat from new ideas and challenges — we may lack vision to see the possibilities and to claim new ground for Christ.

The Progress of the Gospel demands a world view, a larger vision — a seeing the possibilities in your local church, in your ministry area, in our Brotherhood for the future. We need an attitude of what we can do for the Brotherhood, not what it can do for us.



H. T. L. Davies, President 1976-77



Ivy Holloway, C.W.F. President, 1976-77

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.

LOST VISION

To the Editor

As a third generation Church of Christ member of almost 50 years standing I am becoming disturbed and distressed with current trends in our movement.

We have lost our vision and have become pre-occupied and obsessed with the maintenance of our institutions. The great majority of our energies departmentally and in the congregations is expended in ensuring the upkeep of the establishment.

Pre-occupation with our survival has led us into an unholy compromise with the materialistic profit-based society in which we exist and there is little desire to escape into the risk and challenge of the full gospel of Christ.

Demands on life-style have been lowered and it is possible to become a member of the church without any change in life-style. We make no demands, set no challenging standards.

Inevitably we adopt the practice and criteria of the world about us. "Bigger is better", "big is beautiful" with the implication that "small is poor — even sinful". So we fiddle with figures and play with percentages and look to the latest idea from USA and call it Church Growth. We set growth targets, draw graphs and keep our roll figures up including as active members those so uncommitted as to fail to attend more than one or two services a year.

The criteria set before us by our Lord are not spelled out in terms of numbers — the biblical criteria for the church are set forth in terms of faithfulness, in the teaching of those things commanded and expressed by Christ, and in terms of relevance to the real things of life.

Surrounded as we are by tremendous moral and ethical problems affecting the quality of life not only of ourselves but of our children's children we, as a corporate church, are silent.

CHRISTIAN THEATRE

To the Editor,

This area has been largely unexplored by the Christian church. A field for Australian plays and movies is just opening up, and it is time the church used its available talent for Christian purposes.

The visit of an American minister showed recently how even mime can be used to enrich worship and he sealed my own ideas that the theatre can be used to communicate to the public.

Although church resources for Christian theatre are almost unlimited, many churches have produced plays only for the Christmas or Easter season and then the "crew" is disbanded. I wonder how many would be willing to continue on a casual basis.

There is no age limit. People can act, help, or learn. I see this whole field opening up as a new means of communicating our faith.

With ourselves as actors, and God as our Director, we can hardly go wrong. See page 18 for an advert. that takes this thought a little further.

M. Wilton, Vic.

We make no visible attempt as churches to turn the light of Christ's teaching on these problems and offer his suggestions for their solution.

I would sooner see the Church speaking out, fighting and being fought in the public forum and the media than to be silent. We must stand up and be counted. Men would at least respect us and some would follow us.

Then I would know we are really following the young Nazarene who so directed new light on the behavior of his day that he was crucified.

Where are our crosses?

Max S. Collyer, Vic.

NOT SO CALM

To the Editor,

I must strongly disagree with comment made by B. Byard, Tas. in "A.C." April 30, "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.'" (P. 6). Christians are subject to strong emotion, just as those who are not Christian, and to stifle these emotions can lead to all sorts of psychological and physical problems. If we were to accept this statement we would feel guilty every time we felt sad, worried or tired and showed it.

This attitude would also keep us from the world which we are trying to win.

If people can't see that we, too, are subject to fears and sorrows how can we hope to help them with theirs.

To me, it seems that the more important thing would be how to accept these emotions as a part of our human nature and then allow God to deal with them. Then we can offer help to others,

, yours caringly,
Joy Baxter, Vic.

CARE FOR CHILDREN

(N.S.W.) A Dundas Valley community program is moving ahead with a \$30,000 Federal Government grant for improved child care facilities.

The grant has gone to Telopea Church of Christ child care committee.

It will be used to fund two new child care programs organised by the Christian Centre in Dundas Valley.

The centre's programming director, Jay C. Bacik, stated that the first program would involve the establishment of a network of private homes where substitute parents would care for a small group of pre-school children on a daily basis.

The second program involved after-school, before-school and school holiday care of school age children.

"This program also includes the development of a parent education and parent support program with special provision to assist single parents," Mr Bacik said.

The director of the family day care program is Margaret Stimson, a former school teacher and secretary.

The director of the after-hours recreation program is Carol Crees, a former high school teacher and now social worker.

"The existing child care program is already receiving an annual government subsidy of \$28,000 and these expanded activities will enable the church to meet the increasing demands with the development of further Housing Commission multi-storey flats," Mr Bacik said.

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

Mother's Day in Retrospect

To the Editor,

It was an innocent observance of Mother's Day ten years ago that opened the way in our church for women to read and preside and preach. At the time there were dark mutterings of "thin edge of the wedge" and "women having authority over man" (as if that were new!). But history marched on.

Every Mother's Day we have a mother in the pulpit. This time it was the Minister's wife. If she's that good with one sermon a year, I wonder how good she'd be if she got as much practice as her husband!

I still think it's a bid odd for a woman to be in the pulpit on Mother's Day. Surely it would be more effective to have two or three young people sharing a sermon in tribute to motherhood. I believe that there are other Sundays in the year that would be more appropriate for women preachers. For example Advent Sunday, for after all Incarnation was through a woman. Christmas Sunday would be a natural for a woman in the pulpit. Who but a woman could identify with the panic stricken girl agonizing for a place to have her baby. Surely Easter Sunday is another day for a woman preacher. After all, the women were the only ones who got up early enough for the Resurrection. I'm told that the Holy Spirit as comforter, supporter, and guide, is the manifestation of the Motherhood of God. So why not a woman on Whitsunday?

TERTIUS

STAFF NEEDED URGENTLY ON ABORIGINE FIELDS

The Federal Aborigines Board is keen to interview interested Christian people with a view to placement on one of the Churches of Christ Aborigine fields. We urgently require.

3 married couples with a love for children to be home parents to a small group of needy aboriginal children. Ingada Village, Carnarvon for instance has had to refuse admission to some desperately needy young people because of lack of staff. Accommodation and facilities are there but no one to take the responsibility of caring and sharing.

2 office workers able to type are required. The offices at our various centres

have many different Government forms and procedures to attend to. Also included would be the payment of accounts and the preparation of monthly financial statements. Office work is routine but in an environment provided on a Mission station there is ample variety and contact with people.

2 Married Couples are required with leadership ability. We are always on the lookout for people who are potential leaders for superintendents of various centres. This requires

(a) an ability to plan a programme.

(b) an ability to handle staff with grace and understanding.

(c) stickability to see a thing through to completion.

(d) an ability to enthuse staff and to develop a sense of unity of purpose.

(e) a spiritual attitude as well as a material outlook.

(f) someone who is a good listener.

A single lady is required to help in the training of aboriginal teenage girls. Training is in the fields of cooking, laundry, ironing, house care, personal grooming and development, music, art, public speaking and presentation, handling of money, mothercraft, to name a few.

2 men with farming background are needed to help run our farming projects at Roelands and Norseman in particular. This includes, dairy, orchards, (citrus and stone fruits), sheep, pasture irrigation, cattle, pigs, poultry slaughtering and all other normal farm work. These men may be married and as a family could have a small home of aboriginal children and the man work around the farm during the day when the young folk attend school.

Are you satisfied with what you are doing right now? Is it bringing satisfaction and a sense of achievement? Or are you caught up in the rat-race of modern civilization? Is there something you can do to help others who are so desperately in need? Yes there is and these positions of service for Christ with the Federal Aborigines Board can bring a real sense of fulfilment and satisfaction.

Please write direct to the Federal Secretary, D. P. Butler, 26 Marrodong St., Mt Lawley W.A., 6050 'phone 24 3672.

FOURTH LECTURER AT KENMORE

With the Principal, F. L. Ewers, M.A., on study leave at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, the coming of Randall Gene Edwards, B.A., M.Div., M.A.R., and his wife, Marie, from Emmanuel School of Religion to Kenmore Christian College at the end of June is most opportune. Mr Edwards has been appointed to the faculty for a year (possibly two) and will be on the paid staff during that time. Gifts have been received to pay part of the travelling expenses from U.S.

Mr Edwards gained his B.A. degree at Northwest Christian College at Eugene, Oregon, and his

two Masters degrees at Emmanuel School of Religion which is the graduate School of Milligan College. The degrees are all in the area of Bible and Bible languages. He is at present completing a teaching fellowship at Emmanuel, where he is lecturing in advanced Hebrew and Bible subjects. He has had practical Church experience as full-time Youth and Christian Education Minister at several churches, as well as part-time student and faculty ministries. Mr. and Mrs. Edwards will help to provide wider study opportunities for Kenmore, and enrich the work. — D.G.H.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN VICTORIAN STATE SCHOOLS

The religious instruction organised and supervised by the Council for Christian Education in Schools is still the only explicit religious teaching generally available in our State Schools.

It now has a clear future in the primary schools, and unless an effective replacement is available the Churches would be ill-advised to allow it to disappear.

Advantages outweigh problems

Certainly R.I. has its problems. The Council has acknowledged both its shortage of teachers, and the special difficulties of amateur, occasional teachers in today's schools. But the system also has certain advantages.

It is part of the status quo — it is an established and well-accepted institution especially in country areas.

"Religion in Life" has proved an effective teaching medium, and its revision, with a strong emphasis on the telling of Bible stories, has increased its popularity with instructors. (Sales have increased from 90,000 to 110,000 in Victoria, and from 65,000 to 85,000 interstate). The Field Officers have established particularly helpful training programs for instructors.

Team morale high

Despite the period of uncertainty and questioning we have been through, the morale of the team is good. Our need is, as it has been for nearly ten years, to increase the number of our instructors, and to provide them with more extensive training. Corrected figures for children receiving instruction at the primary level for 1975 and 1976 are 169,074 and 168,509. This drop of 565

is by far the smallest since the decline started in 1965. Can we achieve an increase in 1977?

50% primary school classes visited

If Christianity — the things concerning Jesus, God, the Bible, the Church, and prayer — is to continue to be part of what sociologists call the "taken-for granted reality" of Australians, then these things must confront people in their daily experience. Unless our children meet with these beliefs and institutions, they will evolve a society in which Christianity ceases to be "real". The Churches cannot be happy about a situation developing in which the schooling of large numbers of children is completely devoid of Christian content. The fact that a representative of the Churches every week visits some 50 per cent of State Primary school children in their classrooms is significant in itself. Our task as a Council is to maintain and strengthen that contact.

Surprise, For Auntie Rita!

In a complete surprise evening, Rita Roberts was entertained at the South Yarra church on April 2. She has been a member of the church for 47 years and has served as leader of the girls club, the Good Companions, since 1938.

Among the speakers, A. B. Withers recalled Rita's first church; Claude Candy, as a new minister to South Yarra, told how "Auntie Rita" had decorated the manse with potted plants. He was present when Rita first spoke of forming a club for girls; Vic Foster met Rita on the C. E. Committee and had the first ride in Rita's first car, living to tell the tale! ... Lindsay Firth paid tribute to Rita for the hundreds of girls influenced by her in the Good Companions.

Letters of greeting included one from His Excellency, the Governor of South Australia Sir Douglas Nicholls, and from W. T. Atkin, M.B.E.; Charles and Beryl Cole; Queenie Ladbroke; and Cliff and Millie Taylor.

Ray McKenzie recalled Rita's involvement in camps at Monbulk and Halls Gap. Slides screened included pictures of "Rita Roberts Lodge" at Monbulk. Viney Longthorp was also with Rita in camping experiences and said that the South Yarra Hall in which they were meeting in 1977 was a dream of Rita's which was fulfilled in 1956 while he was minister at South Yarra.

Dot Reynolds, a partner with Rita in Good Companions and in girls' camps, remarked on Rita's ability to communicate with people at all levels.

Frank Richards represented the D.C.E. and Overseas Missions Committee and



Miss Rita Roberts

said that his greatest impression of Rita was her wide vision of service. Lance Fisher of Monbulk said that the Lodge there was a permanent reminder of the one after whom it was named.

Mrs A. V. Page said she could not guess how many miles Rita travelled to country centres to encourage the girls of the Good Companions.

Other speakers included Mary Dorning, Jock Roper (who recalled with gratitude Rita's ministry with the pen in writing to those who were away at the war), Gordon Scambler, Harry Kerrison (who expressed his tribute in verse), and A. R. Haskell.

A tape-recorded message from Rita's long-time friend, Hazel Skuce, came from India, and brought a climax to the greetings, and Archie Muir presented Rita with a bouquet of flowers to symbolise the thanks of the South Yarra church and the brotherhood.

In responding, Rita said that she had never been alone in her service and that those who stood with her shared their strength. She paid a special honour to her sister, Hilda.

Items were given throughout the evening by the South Yarra Singers.

BACK IN PULPIT (Sunshine, F. B. Alcorn) Mr Alcorn has recovered from recent operation and is back at helm again. Lewis Norton, Max Carter and Les Keatch led 11 a.m. services during minister's absence. ... Church saddened at death of Mrs Petrie, a member at Sunshine for many years ... Ladies' Guild street stall raised \$244.00 ... Six ladies attended C.W.F. Conference ... Mrs Faye Gavros, after the sudden death of her husband, has renewed fellowship with church for a time.

COUNTRY VISIT (Boronia, A. Taylor-Davis) 21 members including minister visited Wangaratta for Anzac Day weekend and took the Sunday services ... Good Companions and leaders participated in Annual Worship Service at Montrose ... Young marrieds held weekend camp at Yarra Junction ... Wayne Henry is on Rotary Exchange Study Tour to U.S.A. and Europe ...

Family Square Dance organised by young marrieds ... Minister received birthday cake from C.W.F. ... Len Dobson, Stan Peterson and Mary Stephens home after stay in hospital.

DEN (Noble Park, B. Spencer, S. Maddern) The youth group has a den fitted out in bungalow at rear of the manse ... C.W.F. street stall raised \$114.00 ... Color film, "Sound of Music" screened ... C.W.F. held serving day making curtains for rear hall ... Tuesday evening group studies readings for following Sunday.

HOME STUDY (Ararat, W. W. Saunders) Prayer and Bible Study meetings are being held in members' homes during winter ... C.W.F. took part in special Mother's Day service. Mrs Clark and Mrs Laidlaw represented C.W.F. at State Conference ... Mrs Evelyn Bryant to assist Noela Sellers in leading Senior Girls' Club.

JAY'S FOR JUNIORS

JAY'S JUMBLES

TAL MEN Not only tall men. All kinds of men wore this garment. One man gave his to a friend when he began a very strange journey. (See answer on page 19).

STRIPES

The other day I saw a barber's pole, but it was a fancy thing inside glass and it twirled round and round. Where did this symbol come from?

Well, the first barbers also acted as surgeons. People believed that many kinds of illness could be helped by letting out some blood and this the barbers did.

The pole was at first just a pole for the "patient" to hold on to while the "operation" was going on. The pole, often smeared with blood also had white bandages hanging on it for handy use.

Eventually, the red pole with the white stripes became the symbol we see today.

Confusing

Jim: My, your twins certainly look alike. Do you ever have any trouble telling which is which?

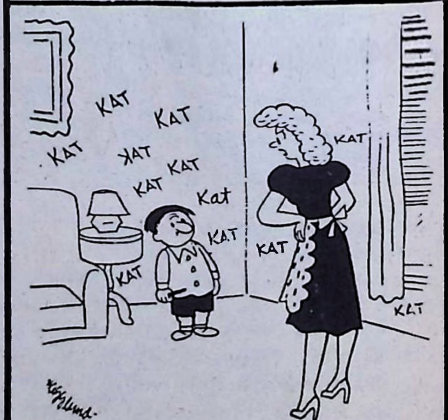
Dave: Well, I can always tell Jeffrey, but lots of times I have trouble with Jerome.

Subject: Housework

"Mom, what's the hardest meal for you to get?" asked the bride-soon-to-be.

"That's easy to answer," said her mother. "Breakfast in bed."

A teenager sent his girl her first orchid with this note, "With all of my love and most of my allowance."



"Junior, I'm ashamed of you! ... I've told you repeatedly that the word is spelled with a 'C.'"

BOOKS TO READ

YOUR CHURCH — WHERE TO FROM HERE

By Graeme Chapman

The combination of experience in the down-to-earth realities of a local congregation and sensitive theological reflection has resulted in this stimulating book published by our Federal Literature Department. Graeme Chapman, formerly Senior Lecturer at the N.S.W. Bible College, and now minister of the church at Dawson Street, Ballarat, is convinced that Church Growth principles are thoroughly Biblical and workable. In the first five chapters he outlines the Biblical position concerning God's purpose for man, the nature of the gospel, the process of new birth and the initiative of God. Along the way he makes very perceptive comments about how and how not to approach others with the gospel of redemption. In the final five chapters he stresses compassion and social concern in an evangelical approach, respect for personalities and intellect, meeting genuine needs in the community and virile leadership. Again there is a fine blending of theological insight and practical suggestions. From time to time there are comments about our own heritage as Churches of Christ in Australia which explain some of the attitudes and practices that are present today. This reviewer hopes that every church Board will purchase a good supply of these books and sell them to as many as possible in the congregation. Each chapter is followed by questions to aid group study. If somebody is looking just for a new, infallible method for church growth or a catalogue of new ideas, then he will be disappointed with the book. But for the person who wants to reflect carefully about the breadth and depth of church growth so that rediscovered enthusiasm can be matured, this book will be worth far more than the recommended price of \$2.50. Congratulations to the Federal Literature Department for another splendid production, and congratulations also to Graeme Chapman. His further book on the origins and history of Churches of Christ in Australia is eagerly awaited.

(K.R.B.)

ANGELS: GOD'S SECRET AGENTS

by Billy Graham (Holder & Stoughton) \$5.50

Billy Graham is convinced that angels exist and that they aid and assist Christians in their life for God. In an age where there is a growing belief in Satan and demons, when people are persuaded that there is evidence of evil spirits working against us, Graham reminds us that there are more references in the Bible to angels than there are to Satan and evil spirits. Angels can appear and reappear, they are capable of feeling, they can make themselves visible to us. The angel Gabriel identified himself to the father of John of Baptist; and was God's messenger to Mary about the incarnation. Angels appeared to Abraham and Moses, to Joshua and Gideon; to Daniel and Elijah; and an angel assisted Peter and stood by Paul. Graham does not claim to have seen angels but is obviously convinced that others have. He even quotes with apparent approval Lord Dowding's story of planes in World War II which kept flying and fighting after their pilots were killed or incapacitated. The Air Chief Marshal of the British Air Force said he believed that "angels had actually flown some of the planes whose pilots sat dead in their cockpits". Graham says that there have been times when he has been extremely weary but that his strength has been renewed to enable him to preach with power in the pulpit. "On many occasions God has become especially real, and has sent his unseen angelic visitors to touch my body to let me be His messenger for heaven." Others having similar rejuvenation ascribe the source of renewed strength to the Holy Spirit. This is one of the mysteries we face. The fact of angels is attested by the Bible and they appeared to many people but usually on occasions of special significance. It is not clear what place angels have in relation to our life in Christ. It is not dif-

ficult to read the New Testament as showing that the Holy Spirit is in direct relationship with us and that he does not need to work through any intermediary. The neo-Pentecostal movement does not appear to give much attention to angels, at least in the material that has so far come to this reviewer.

THE NATURE OF ANGELS

by Alexander Whyte (Baker)

This reprint was probably inspired by the generally awakened interest in angels. The eight items were unpublished in Whyte's life-time. Whyte seemed much more interested in the people visited by angels than in the angels themselves and there is little attempt as there is by Graham in "Angels" to really explore the nature and function of angels. He has a beautiful account of Mary following the annunciation, and of Jesus in "The Angel of the Agony." The Angel of the Church at Ephesus, according to Whyte, does not have six wings and is neither a Michael nor a Gabriel. He is, in fact, just a chosen and faithful elder of the Ephesian church who had begun by being a deacon and 'who had purchased to himself a good degree.' Whyte is not questioning the reality of angels. He makes a lot of the verse "He (Jesus) took not on him the nature of angels." (Heb. 2:16), but he does ask why there is so much in the 1st and 2nd chapters of Hebrews about angels. "The answer is simply this: the appearances and messages of angels held the place in the Old Testament that the appearance and teaching of Christ do in the New." Another angel (or an angel of a different sort) is described in the longest article, "The Good Angel of Socrates." This was a lecture which Whyte had given 15 times and was apparently a favourite. He admired Socrates tremendously and quotes a Mr Riddell with relish: "The Daemon was some guide, monitor, divine voice that spoke to Socrates from his youth up: it was a sudden sense as of a divine visitant: it came to him unasked, and it pronounced a judgement, as from God, on his actions." This idea Mrs Whyte took up in her introduction when she quoted from Bernard Shaw's "St Joan." Joan said, "I hear voices telling me what to do. They come from God." Robert de Baudricourt responded, "They come from your imagination." Joan: "Of course. That is how the messages of God come to us."

THE WIND IS HOWLING

by Ayako Miura (Hodder & Stoughton) \$2.90

Ayako Miura won a prize for a Japanese national competition and wrote subsequent books and articles, becoming well known throughout Japan. Some of her novels reflected a Christian outlook and in response to requests she wrote this autobiography of her spiritual pilgrimage. She writes with deep sensitivity and great beauty.

Unless otherwise stated, books reviewed on this page may be obtained from: The Baptist Book Store, 162 Russell St., Melb. 3000; N.S.W. Churches of Christ Book Shop, Shop 10, Endeavour Arcade, 360 The Kingsway, Caringbah, 2229; United Church Bookroom, 15 Mathers Lane, Hobart, 7000.

Church Chuckles by CARTWRIGHT



"I'll bet your daddy doesn't get paid real money for just yelling at people!"

CHURCH UNION LEADER

Dr Paul Crow, Jr., who will visit Australia in June, has had a distinguished academic and sporting career.

He holds the B.S.S. degree from the Univ. of Alabama; B.D. degree from Lexington (Ky.) Theological Seminary; S.T.M. from Hartford Theological Seminary; and Ph.D. from Hartford Seminary Foundation. His theses for the higher degrees each related to church union.

Dr Crow passed up careers in chemistry and professional baseball for the ministry. He served as campus minister at the Univ. of Alabama and held several pastorates. From 1961 to 1968 he taught Church History at

NSW EVANGELISM (Coffs Harbour D. Willis) Prayer support sought for Pastor during twelve-months intensive outreach and evangelistic ministry . . . C.W.F. group formed during March . . . Series of talks begun on Stewardship and Sharing Life with God by Alex Surtees, Southport . . . Principal of Woolwich College guest speaker in May. Gospel Music Group the "Joytones" from Queensland participated . . . Morning and evening services now at Cavanbah Hall . . . Nambucca Heads folk join with Coffs Harbour each Sunday.

BACK TO LOCAL CHURCH (Maylands, N. S. Moore). After completing his year as Conference President Mr Moore is back to full time with the church. Charles Dow filled the pulpit while our minister was on conference visitation . . . Ray Veal showed pictures of India in the home of Mr and Mrs Beasley and gave interesting information about the work . . . On May 1, 12 of our members went to Royal Adelaide Hospital to take patients to the chapel for a worship service . . . On Mother's Day the service was led by ladies of our congregation . . . Leprosy Boxes yielded \$105 for past 6 months . . . A pre-Easter Communion Service was held on April 7 at 7.30 p.m., and at devotional service on Good Friday the local Methodist and Congregational churches combined with us.

PRINCIPAL E. L. WILLIAMS (EMERITUS) VISITS BLACKWOOD, S.A.

Special Teaching Programme (July 24th - 31st) includes - Sunday Services 11 a.m., 7 p.m., and meetings Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7.30 p.m. Invitation extended to all interested!
Theme "Making Sense of Churches of Christ".

Dr Paul
Crow



Lexington Theological Seminary, becoming professor in that faculty.

He has been involved in church union negotiations in Kenya, Jamaica, Great Britain, Canada, West Germany, India and Japan, and was General Secretary of the nine-denomination Consultation on Church Union.

He has written numerous books and articles and was named on Outstanding Young Man of America in 1965.

Dr Crow is an elder of the Park Avenue Christian Church, New York City, and is presently President of the Council of Christian Unity of Disciples of Christ in the U.S.A.

He will be guest speaker at a special meeting at the Ashburton Church of Christ, Vic., on Friday, June 3rd at 8 p.m. See page 18 for advertisement.

SARAH SLATER IS 100!!

On May 4, Mrs Sarah Slater of the Ann St. church, Brisbane, celebrated her 100th birthday.

The C.W.F. sponsored a dinner at the church to honour Mrs Slater. It was presided over by Dick Proud, an elder of the church. Mr & Mrs Bruce Roberts attended (Mr Roberts is Conf. Pres.). Mrs Mavis Watson made the special cake which was iced by Mrs Ruth Wilson. Eric McIntosh and Perc. Williams proposed the toast and Mrs Elaine Vincent brought a greeting from the women of the church.

Mrs Slater praised God for his goodness and protection over the years and thanked those who had arranged the evening. She also expressed her indebtedness to Cheryl Henderson who takes her to church each Sunday. Her advice for long living: "Work will never kill you, but worry will!"

Mrs Slater received good wish messages from Her Majesty the

NEW CHURCHES IN W.A. CONFERENCE

Two new Churches, Bullcreek and Whitfords, were welcomed to Conference after being admitted to the Association.

FULL TIME MINISTRY FOR TOOTGAROOK

D. N. Hovey of Naracoorte, S.A. has accepted the invitation of the church and the Department of Mission, Education and Development to commence the church's first full time ministry in 1978.

The church recently completed a new manse and is experiencing a continuing growth. Mr Hovey's appointment will mean the third full time appointment to Mornington Peninsula churches.

COMBINED CAMP (Surrey Hills, K. T. Wray) Combined Family Camp held with Mitcham church at Monbulk over Anzac Day week-end . . . At Sunday afternoon hobbies' display, spinning, weaving, bee keeping, tapestry, painting, floral art, photography, enamelling, brassware, were featured, followed by tea and evening devotions . . . At Sunday evening service four members presented book reviews on "No Hiding Place," "God can do it again," "There's a New World Coming", and "Gown of Glory".

Queen, the Governor General, the Prime Minister, the Governor of Queensland and the Premier of Queensland.

In further expressing her thankfulness to God, Mrs Slater has given one dollar for every year of her life to support Bill Buli in our Papua New Guinea mission.

Sarah Slater was one of 15 children born to Mr & Mrs Riley of Walcote, Barrow-in-Furness, Lancs., England. She migrated at seven years to Maryborough, Qld. in 1885, and married William Slater at Gympie in 1902. Her husband was killed by a falling tree in 1908, and Mrs Slater worked to rear her three children. They are all living: Thomas and Eileen Slater, and Mrs Phyllis Johnston. She has four grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Mrs Slater joined the church at Gympie during the ministry of Mr Pratt and was baptized by Stan Vanham. Before joining with the Ann St. congregation she was also in membership at Hawthorne. She and her two daughters regularly attend Ann St. and she is rarely absent from the Lord's Table.

DEFINITIONS & DISTINCTIONS

THE FIFTH OF A SERIES ON CHURCH GROWTH

BY DON E. STEWART

One of the very valuable and yet interesting elements of the Church Growth movement has been its incisive analysis of the current situation in many churches and draws attention to some basic definitions and distinctions.

It has been an almost unquestioned assumption of most churches that what we should aim for was "decisions for Christ". People deciding that they were going to begin to follow Jesus Christ. Special efforts and missions would often result in a number of "decisions for Christ". Of course we all recognised that we had a backdoor problem. Many of these decisions quietly stopped coming and drifted away. We said they disappeared out the back door. Many people wondered how we could shut the back door.

What we now realise is that our aim was wrong. We aimed for "decisions" and we worked for "decisions" and we got "decisions". We should have been aiming for "Disciples". The "decision" is merely a point on the way to becoming a "disciple". The truth is our aim was short of the mark. We stopped work when the "Decision" was made and blamed the person who made the decision for being fickle. The truth is that our work should not have been complete until we had a disciple. A disciple is one who is committed to Jesus Christ and a responsible member of the local church.

Another distinction that, for many churches, means a radical change of direction, is the kind of leadership that we have in the church. Church Growth suggests five classes of workers in the church.

Class 1 — Members whose energies are utilised to keep the institution of the church functioning. They are necessary and important. Churches could not exist without these people.

Class 2 — Members whose energies are used primarily in serving and evangelising the non-Christians. McGavran and Arn suggest there should be equal numbers of Class 1

and Class 2 workers in the church. C. Peter Wagner, in "Your Church can Grow", makes an interesting distinction between being witnesses and those with the gift of the evangelist. He suggests all the church members are witnesses but only about 10 per cent have the gift of the evangelist. Wagner brings some interesting material to prove his point. I think Wagner may be right!

Class 3 — Leaders who are volunteers or partially paid leaders.

Class 4 — Leaders who are full time professionally paid staff.

Class 5 — Leaders who are denominational Conference leaders.

It should be noted that Church Growth does not occur at our Conference headquarters, it does oc-

cur at the local church if it is going to occur at all. Conference headquarters can support and rally resources, but it is not the point at which growth occurs.

The classification of the members of a church into institutional workers and outreach workers, has tended to reveal a shortage of outreach workers and an over-abundance of institutional workers.

An important distinction is drawn between "Proclamation" and "Effective Evangelism". Too often evangelism has been seen as proclamation only — simply say the "Good News" to people, whether they respond or not. Little thought was given to the proclamation being an effective communication. It was argued that the results were to be left to God alone — we can but proclaim the "Good News". "Effective evangelism" questions the methods of proclamation and measures its effectiveness by results in terms of disciples. The Holy Spirit calls us to make an effective communication so that people are indeed faced with the choice of Jesus Christ.

Another noticeable feature was revealed by sociological research (although a demonstration of it can clearly be seen in the New Testament). A church attracts people of

Cont. on P. 14.

BALLARAT BEGONIA FESTIVAL

Festival Fellowship Day was celebrated in the Ballarat Churches of Christ in conjunction with the Begonia Festival 25th Anniversary.

A Communion Service in the Memorial Theatre at 11 a.m. attended by 500 people, was addressed by H. A. L. Clark, minister of the Church of Christ, Peel Street.

President D. J. Gurney, minister at York Street, welcomed the president of the Begonia Festival Committee, the Mayor, Cr Jessie Scott; Festival chairman, B. McKnight, and Mrs McKnight; Mrs B. Wilkins, representing the Director; the Town Clerk, F. Rogers; and many others.

Those sharing in the service included J. A. Inslis, Chairman of the Ballarat Churches of Christ Regional Board, V. O. Berry, newly appointed Chairman-Elect, and G. L. Chapman, minister, Church of Christ, Dawson Street.

Apart from the usual planned budget giving of members to the work of the churches, all donations received were set aside for the work of Peplow House, Ballarat's

new overnight shelter for homeless men.

200 shared in a fellowship tea in the York Street Church of Christ gymnasium at 5 p.m. which catered also for out-of-town festival visitors.

A Country and Western good news program compered by F. E. Clark in the Memorial Theatre at 7 p.m. was described by M. R. White, organising secretary, as "a one-hour innovative and colorful musical presentation of the good news of Jesus Christ with a country and western emphasis."

An audience of 450 sang and clapped with local artists Mike and Carol Cowles, Ian Berry and David Jones, joined in community singing led by D. J. Gurney backed by the York Street Choristers and musical ensemble, and heard C. I. Rowcroft present the message.

The program concluded in time for "Music of Sunday Kind", also compered by F. E. Clark, at Wesley Church, a program of sacred music with Festival Brass Ensemble and pipe organ accompaniment.

112th Vic.-Tas. Conference (From P. 5)

Resolutions

AUSTRAL CHARITABLE TRUST

1. THAT pursuant to Section 10 of the Churches of Christ in Victoria Property Act 1941 the Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania consents to and directs the Properties Corporation of the Churches of Christ in Victoria to pay to Norman Randolph Arnott, Leonard Joseph Butler, Arthur Richard Haskell, Rowland Price Morris, Robert Maxwell Walker and William Alan Thompson (hereinafter called "the Trustees") the sum of \$500 to be held by the Trustees upon and subject to the powers and provisions declared and expressed in a Deed of Trust (a copy of which was tabled by the President) to be entered into between the properties Corporation of the Churches of Christ in Victoria as Settlor of the one part and the Trustees as Trustees of the other part and to be known as "The Austral Charitable Trust".

2. THAT upon the winding up of The Austral Printing and Publishing Company and the distribution of its assets to the Properties Corporation of the Churches of Christ in Victoria it is proposed and intended that with the consent and direction of the Conference of the Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania the said assets be paid transferred or assigned (as the case may be) to the Trustees to be held upon trust for the said Austral Charitable Trust.

CHURCH'S MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN

THAT this Conference recognises and affirms the place of children in the life of the church. To facilitate this recognition and affirmation,

1. We urge the Churches

- (a) To give greater priority to the training of leaders and resource people, both clergy and lay, who will be able to offer effective leadership in family and children's ministry.
- (b) That emphasis be given to the study of Christian nurture in theological education, whether for ordination or in-service training.
- (c) That local churches be encouraged to give greater attention to parent education and family life ministry. This could in-

clude courses to cover

- (i) The Christian faith and the child
- (ii) The Child in the Christian Family
- (iii) Your Child and You
- (iv) Parent Effectiveness Training Courses.

2. We urge the churches to actively look for ways of enabling and encouraging children to participate in and contribute to, the life of the church.

Pursuant to this —

- (a) We recommend that children should be more clearly seen to be part of the worshipping community and that churches should give careful consideration to times, places and patterns of worship in order to effect the appropriate integration of children and adults.
- (b) We recommend that gatherings of the local church for worship should be flexible enough so that greater opportunity is created for the participation of children in ways appropriate to their experience, level of understanding, and theme of worship.

OVERSEAS AID AND RELIEF

This Conference urges congregations and members of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania to renew, or implement their commitment to overseas aid and relief in the following terms:

1. That support be given to World Christian Action and Churches of Christ Overseas Aid by means of
 - (a) Churches accepting, for a period of three years, a voluntary tax of 2 per cent of weekly offerings to be devoted to overseas relief.
 - (b) Members working for one day each year, for a period of three years, for underprivileged, i.e. to give one day's salary to Overseas Aid and Relief.
2. the Australian Council of Churches "self-tax" movement through its "Force Ten" programme, be promoted by the Churches and recommended to the members for their participation.

OBITUARY

DARKE Elfreda Elizabeth,

Elfreda Elizabeth Darke, better known to her friends as Pat, died in the R.A.H., S.A., on May 8 after a very brief illness. Pat was a daughter of the manse, her parents being the late Frederick and Mary Collins, well known in Australian Churches of Christ for their ministries in S.A., Tas., and Qld. Pat was baptized at Maylands, S.A., in 1920, during her father's ministry there. She accompanied the family to Launceston in 1928, where she began her career as a Commercial Artist, which career she later followed in Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide where she met and married Lod Darke who predeceased her five years ago. The writer met her during his ministry at Dulwich, and was impressed, as were her many friends, by her quiet, unobtrusive Christian witness. She manifested "the fruits of the Spirit". She was kindly and hospitable and attracted to herself a large circle of friends who loved her for her gracious Christian character. Pat was artistic in all she did; this was specially evident in her arrangement of flowers for worship services on the Lord's Day. The service at Centennial Park Crematorium, in the presence of friends and relatives, was conducted by Trevor Lawrie, minister of Dulwich church, assisted by the writer. We commend her brothers, James, Ernest and Sydney, their wives and families and Miss Darke to the love of God.

— Stan. Neighbour

ELECTIONS

Conference Executive: Conference President: **Dr T. A. Banks**, Past-president: **D. H. Smith**, President-Elect: **K. D. Horne**, Secretary: **C. L. Ward**, Assistant Secretary: **C. R. Brough**, Treasurer: **J. C. McRae**, Non-Departmental Members: **A. F. Gason**, **B. F. Goldsteen**, **G. R. Quantrelle**.

Advisory Department: Ministers — **L. S. Dewberry**, **R. B. Elbourne**, **E. C. Keating**, **G. K. Moyes**; Laymen — **J. D. Adam**, **C. R. Brough**, **M. J. Carter**, **L. C. Withers**.

Overseas Mission Department: **R. L. Alabaster**, **A. L. Carr**, **E. Gray**, **D. A. Hughes**, **R. Muller**, **A. V. Page**, **F. J. Richards**, **N. Waters**, **H. S. Weedon**.

Department of Mission, Education

CHURCHES AFFILIATED

The church at Ocean Grove, Vic., and the church at Albury, N.S.W. were admitted to the Vic.-Tas. Conference.

D. MIN. GAINED

David Beavis received the Doctorate of Ministry (D. Min.) at Luther Rice Seminary in graduation exercises held in Jacksonville, Florida, U.S.A. on May 6.

Dr Beavis trained at the Bible College of N.S.W.

He is in his fifth year of ministry at Creve Coeur Christian Church, Illinois, where the Associate Pastor is Philip J. Wood, elder son of George W. Wood.

and Development — **J. D. Adam**, **R. J. Barreau**, **R. W. Brooker**, **Mrs P. E. Burden**, **K. J. Clinton**, **R. L. Drayton**, **G. R. Fleet**, **M. F. Murray**, **F. J. Richards**, **R. J. Taylor**, **I. A. Tippett**, **C. E. Warmbrunn**, Administrative Director — **D. H. Smith**.

Nominations Committee — **R. L. Croxford**, **A. J. Emmett**, **T. H. Giles**, **E. C. Keating**, **W. Tabbernee**.

ON THE GROWING EDGE

● Continued from Page 13

like kind. It is easier to become a follower of Christ when the "Good News" is presented by a person like yourself. The New Testament church grew among Jews then to the people most like Jews — "God-fearers".

Among Churches of Christ in some areas this tendency can be clearly seen. Around the Gatton — Ma Ma Creek and West Moreton Churches of Queensland, the predominance of names of German origin illustrates this homogeneous group principle. Evangelism will be easiest among people like ourselves.

These represent but a few of the thought-provoking definitions that the Church Growth movement has brought before us. Each demands redefinition of the church at work.

Next Issue: Strategy Development



• The Rev. W. M. Constable

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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.

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BIRTH

GURNEY (Langbein) Judith and David thank God for their daughter, Rebecca Lee, born 19/4/1977. Precious sister for Justin and Philip. (York St. Church of Christ, Ballarat).

ENGAGEMENT

McCROHAN-HUNTER. Jeanne and Terry, with their parents from Wangaratta and Corryong, are happy to announce their engagement.

MARRIAGE

CHALK-OOSTENBROEK Graham and June Chalk together with Jim and Louise Oostenbroek have pleasure in announcing the marriage of Denise to Ron on June 4th to East Ipswich, Church of Christ.

DEATHS

MAXFIELD, Myrtle On 13th May, daughter of the late Frank and Elizabeth Whelan. Sister and sister-in-law of Vic. (dec.) Pauline, Eric (dec.) Iris, Ruth Peter Thygesen, Aunt of their families, With Christ.
PETRIE Dorothy. On April 24, at home, loving wife of the late James, devoted mother and grandmother of Marjorie (Mrs. Young), and Keith, and families. Aged 77 years. "Present with the Lord."

IN MEMORIAM

THOMAS Rhoda Jane, passed away, May 21, 1976, loving mother of Charles, Jessie, and Norman; eight grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. Will always be remembered.

WATSON In memory of Geoff, dearly loved son of Bert and Merle, loved brother of Bev., Peg., and Richard. Passed away 26th May, 1974. Always in our hearts.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

CARR (Barnett). Stephen and Dorothy announce with pleasure, and gratitude to God, the 50th Anniversary of their marriage, celebrated at the Latrobe Terrace Church of Christ, Geelong, on 13th June 1927, by the late Stuart Stevens. Present address — 114 Orr Street, Shepparton, 3630.

TAYLOR-CLAY Ted and Kitty of 671 Esplanade, Mornington, Vic., announce with pleasure and with gratitude to God the 50th anniversary of their marriage, celebrated at the Church of Christ, Doncaster, by the late Mr. C. L. Lang on 15th June, 1927. Relatives and friends are welcome at the Masonic Hall, Barkly St., Mornington, on Sunday, 19th June, 2-5 p.m.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

JOHN and **ANNE BYRNES** of the Forestville Church of Christ, Adelaide, wish to sincerely thank all those who prayed, sent cards, letters, and expressions of love and concern over the recent period that John had heart surgery. Please accept this in a very personal way. And to our own church for the strength they have imparted, our deep appreciation.

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All are invited to attend. There will be time for questions and comments.
Dr Paul Crow is President of the Council on Christian Unity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in America and for seven years was secretary of the Consultation on Christian Union which involves union discussion between most Protestant Churches in the U.S.A.

Church of Christ

Ormond

5 p.m.

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June July August

theme

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JAY'S QUIZ

See page 10. The answer is **MAN-TLE**, a sleeveless garment. Elijah left his mantle for Elisha when a chariot of fire appeared and took him away. (2 Kings 2: 14).

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

P.O. Box 101, Essendon North,
Vic., 3041
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	DEADLINE
June 11	June 3
June 25	June 17

—PERSONAL—

DISCIPLESHIP

● Mrs J. Price, Kenneth Wallbridge, Elizabeth Daff, Vicki McDonald, Ian Woodward, Blackburn, Vic. ● Alan Hughes, Magill, S.A. ● C. Keane, Miss M. Buckley, Mosman, N.S.W. ● Ken and Liz Butt, Wyoming, N.S.W. ● Bruce Dennis, Brenton Dennis, Paul Dennis, Ashley Norton, Port Lincoln, S.A. ● Belinda McGhie, Thornleigh, N.S.W. ● Bevan Pugsley, Chris Lawrie, Jenny Childs, Ungarra, S.A. ● Mrs Audrey Hayward, Brian Combridge, South Canberra, A.C.T., ● Ken and Liz Butt, Wyoming, N.S.W.

MARRIAGES

● Shirley McCulloch to Tom Lonergan, Ann St. Brisbane, Qld. ● Marie McGrath to Craig Lynch, Bendigo, Vic. ● Lyn Croft to Mark Fletcher, Ormond, Vic. ● Gail Coleman to John Young, LaTrobe Tce., Geelong, Vic.

DEATHS

● Mrs Dorothy Petrie, Sunshine, Vic. ● James Robert McLean, Wyoming, N.S.W. ● Mrs File, Ormond, Vic. ● Mrs May Gross, Boronia, Vic. ● George Moysey Wilson, Surrey Hills, Vic.

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WEDDING REFLECTIONS (No-lamara, A. J. Anderson & N. Head) 60 were present at C.W.F. evening of "wedding reflections". Wedding gowns were modelled and photos from past years were featured. Three full groups from 1977 weddings then modelled gowns, sportswear and nightwear suitable for honeymoons. Some ladies wore frocks they wore as "mothers of brides". Cake was cut by G. Thompson (oldest married member). Soloist was Miss R. Johnston. Des Croot from Wembley spoke on "marriage vows" . . . On April 25 R. Ellis, Principal of Woolwich College was morning speaker and Mr Anderson at night. There were three baptisms, one decision and three re-consecrations . . . At Mother's Day services mothers of various ages were interviewed . . . Six group meetings in homes in different areas bring 50 folk together for study, discussion and prayer.

MINISTRY EXTENDED (Bunbury, Barry Ryall) Mr Ryall has accepted a call to extend his ministry for another three years . . . Hank Scholmaker spoke and showed slides on April 24 of the Africa Inland Mission . . . On April 17 New Missionaries to Roelands were welcomed at after church supper . . . Two bus loads had Anzac Day fellowship when the Church Growth committee organised a picnic at Brunswick . . . C.W.F. spent a day at Roelands Mission sewing and mending . . . B.S. presented a concert on May 6, \$190 was raised . . . The youth group held a starvethon, going without food for 24 hours, and raised \$200 for Austcare . . . Graeme Malthouse was guest speaker on May 15, and Robert Dunleavy was soloist . . . At Mother's Day service the cradle roll was called and mothers and babies received a card and flowers.

HOME FROM HOSPITAL (Mandurah, R. C. Sack) Mr and Mrs Sack are home after both being hospitalised for a month. Mr Fitch and Mr Vincent have assisted with meetings . . . Ladies conducted part of the service on Mother's Day . . . Mr. Sambel and son have made our Cottage very comfortable for meetings, with help of Sam Diner they also completed the toilet block . . . Alex MacKay went to Carnarvon during holidays, as general help.

BOB ARVIDSON VISITS (Warwick Whitfords, G. Carslake, G. E. Powell) Bob Arvidson, National Scripture Distribution Consultant, visited the churches . . . The two churches and Bullcreek congregation held tea and training time . . . Home visitation and book parties conducted. The following Sunday 250 attended Warwick and 60 Whitfords . . . Tuesday and Wednesday Bible Schools held 4-5 p.m. . . . Warwick is self-supporting and assists the H.M. subsidy to Whitfords by \$25 a week . . . Several home Bible study groups developing . . . Over 60 mothers and about 100 children involved in five playgroups for two hours each morning.



VICTORIA

FAMILY CAMP (Wangaratta, D. Stevens) Family camp held at Tallangatta . . . Children now involved in 11 am Communion Service. The minister tells a story, which they illustrate during the message . . . 20 members of Boronia Church shared with us for Anzac weekend . . . Our project this year is called "Meddy Bank" which is Manse enhancement and debt deletion year. Money was raised from Trash and Treasure . . . We were saddened by the loss of Muriel Stevens, and some members have been in hospital . . . "Focus", our mid-week all age education on Wednesday nights, begins with a meal at 5.30 pm and then form groups for lessons studies and prayer. "Focus" supports a child from World Vision . . . "Weight Watchers" use our hall on Thursdays. They have two sessions for 200 who attend . . . Our oldest foundation member, Mrs Pressley, celebrated her 95th birthday. She attends regularly each Lord's Day . . . Services for winter are at 5 pm.

OPEN CHURCH (Footscray, Ian Tippet) May is "Family Month" and church was open all day on May 1 for prayer for guidance in planning . . . Elder Max Carter has been appointed to Advisory Board . . . Our young people performed "Different Things" at Conference family night . . . C.W.E.F. entertained older ladies at lunch for Mother's Day, and each was given home made biscuits . . . C.W.F. birthday on May 3, was attended by 100 ladies. Mrs Freda Morris led worship and Mrs Collen spoke on "Care of Autistic Children" . . . The film "Devil at the Wheel" was screened on May 8 . . . Ladies visited Nursing Home at Murrumbidgee. Geof Dowling, Elder Emeritus, has been ill.

OPEN DOOR (East Preston/Preston, Jack Manallack) "Open-Door" celebrated 2nd birthday and presented the church with \$100 for Kitchen Fund . . . Sgt. Roy Weir addressed C.W.F. Luncheon, \$160 was raised . . . Representatives of C.W.A. met with us for their annual worship encounter . . . Merlyn Lal (nee Quaife) won 1st prize of \$1000 in the Heinz Aria at Dandenong . . . Friends farewelled Nance and Ray Garth on leaving for Canada.



TASMANIA

MOTHERS HONOURED (Devonport, Geoff Risson) Mothers were honoured at special Mother's Day evening service. Mothers were presented with floral posies by Mrs. Risson — Mrs. E. Brand (oldest mother), Mrs. N. Wittington (mother of the youngest child), and Mrs. Bellchambers (mother of largest family). Girls Brigade and cadet girls shared in service . . . Visiting speakers have been Miss Lois Gibson of Woolich and Sudan Interior Mission and John Shaper, Representing "Reachout" program.



NEW SOUTH WALES

V.B.S. GIVES LIFT (Earlwood, D. Schofield) B. S. attendance showing promise as result of May Vacational Bible School. This climaxed with an evening of fellowship when parents were invited. Two young girls and a boy were baptised.

SERVING BROTHERHOOD (Thornleigh, D. W. Mansell) At State Conference the following from Thornleigh were elected to Conference Committee — R. Hicken, Conference Treasurer and Advisory Board, Ed. Newton, Boys' Home Committee, and J. V. Ellerby, Social Service Committee . . . C. W. F. held day of fellowship at Glenbrook National Park on Anzac Day . . . The young people conducted car wash in the church car park on April 30 raising \$60.00 . . . Two young people were baptised by Mr. Mansell on May 8 . . . On Mothers' Day a number of mothers took part in the morning service.

NEW LOOK PENDLE HILL (J. Shaw, acting). The church has a new look with renovations, new fittings, and painting of church building. The manse is being sold and a more suitable home is sought. Without a full-time pastor the church values the ministry of J. Shaw . . . Friday Family Fellowship is a new programme in operation . . . Mother's Day features included morning tea for mothers, fathers and friends . . . One church project this year is to help supply blankets for Dunmore House . . . A choir of Christian Deaf Adults visited here recently . . . The C.W.F. now meets in the Roffey Centre in the Retirement Settlement, enabling more to attend including folk from Cole/Ashwood House . . . Some of our men, known as "Holroyd Flying Squad"

assist with services at Holroyd church each Sunday. Our people also share on roster for communion at Ashwood House . . . There have been six new members this year including two Senior Citizens through baptism.

DEATH OF SECRETARY (Wyoming, E. K. Morrison). The sudden death of our church secretary, Jim McLean, came as a great shock to the church and he is sadly missed. Ray Bell has been appointed in his place . . . Lay Institute of Evangelism training course completed. Many homes have been visited and valuable contacts made . . . There have been two baptisms . . . A prayer campaign has been commenced for a "Face the Facts" Crusade with Jack Bond in October.

ELDERS (Mosman, Gary Walker). Gary Walker and A. Bourne were elected elders . . . C.W.F. are holding Handcraft and Chat meetings every second Wednesday in addition to the usual monthly meeting.



A.C.T.

NAME CHANGE (South Canberra, W. D. Howard). The church name has been changed to indicate the area covered in the growing Southern section of Canberra . . . Stage II completed of long-range Visitation and Scripture Distribution programme. Several members have been gained . . . Adoption of the Committee System has involved more members in church functioning and has improved fellowship . . . Anonymous donor at work again. \$250 donation for an overhead projector enables minister to increase his capacity in study studies . . . "Good News" Bibles distributed throughout Bible School.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

MISSION AT UNGARRA

On March 28 Peter Dewildt came to Ungarra for a week's mission. Peter's personal dedication and his gifts as teacher and evangelist quickly carried him into the heart of the church.

The opening meeting was preceded by a family tea. There were three home meetings on Tuesday, two on farms and one in Ungarra itself. The theme of the mission was "Come Alive". Wednesday meeting was for men, Thursday for women, and Friday was family night with the children present.

"Diakonia", a youth singing group flew over to participate in the Saturday youth meeting and Sunday services, which saw a number of reconsecrations and first decisions. This has given a warmth of spiritual life still very much in evidence.

There were three first decisions and a number of reconsecrations. Max Westphal is minister.



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FOUR BAPTISMS (Pt. Lincoln, Brian Hill) At Easter family camp at Redcliffs four people were baptised in the sea, including a father and his two sons . . . Ten women attended Eyre Peninsula Conf. at Tumby Bay . . . A dedication service was held on May 1 for Elders, Deacons and S.S. teachers. After service youth groups provided fish luncheon and afternoon programme in the form of "This is your life" featuring R. Young . . . Mother's Day service followed by picnic lunch.

LIFE ON STATION (Balaklava, Jeff May) Stephen Baker spoke on Station Life at Alice Springs to combined Men's Fellowship . . . On Sundays after communion service three study groups and a prayer group are held at same time as B.S. C.W.F. had fellowship bus trip through the Adelaide hills . . . May meeting was a Mother and Daughter night . . . Dorcas is sewing for a six year old girl at Roelands . . . Mark Henley, Youth Assistant Worker, addressed young people on May 6 . . . The Brotherhood Picnic was held at Murray Bridge . . . Balaklava and Flinders Park exchanged ministers, presidents, helpers and readers on May 15.

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VICTORIA

ASSOCIATE MINISTER (Blackburn, E. C. Keating) Paul Burnham, of Ulverstone, Tas., spoke at morning service. Paul, with his wife, Raelene and family commences later in the year as Associate Minister . . . Intermediate Section of S.S. took part in Family Service . . . Third service 8.15-9.15 a.m. to commence in October. Arrangements well advanced for Planned Giving program with meetings held in various homes . . . 44 young marrieds shared in Dinner catered by Mrs Lorraine Woodward and committee.

CHURCH PICNIC (Mitcham, Ross McLean) Picnic held at Coleman Reserve, Warrandyte . . . Combined churches Maundy service held at C. of C. Mr Quick, minister of Mountview Church Centre, guest speaker . . . C.W.E.F. held Indian night with Dorothy Holstein and Hema Waghmode. There was a special Indian supper and many ladies dressed in Saris. Mrs Eleanor Roberts is President for 1977 . . . Dr Whiting, Resident Psychologist at Technical Teachers' College held series of lectures for parents . . . Mitcham and Surrey Hills churches held combined family camp over Anzac weekend at Monbulk . . . Norm McLeod chairman of Board for 1977 . . . Men completed concrete path from front to rear of church building.

MINISTRY CHANGES (Cheltenham, G. K. Moyes, G. Benson, S. Wilson) Church expressed regret at resignation of Geoff Benson from end of 1977, but delighted at acceptance of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Humphries to commence ministry, with some emphasis on the Retirement Villages . . . Further practical extensions to the villages considered . . .

Cheltenham Opportunity Shop donated \$360 to the church . . . \$872 budgeted for Department for Christian Education for 1977 . . . Jan Robbins has replaced Julie Acquiroff as Sister for Retirement Villages . . . Adult Bible study group started under Geoff Benson . . . Over 100 scholars viewed Puffing Billy film as follow-up to school picnic.

FULL-TIME MINISTER (Tootgarook, David Hamilton) Full-time minister (from Adelaide) will commence early in 1978 for a 3 year term . . . Three members of C.W.F. attended C.W.F. Conference, in Moorabbin Town Hall . . . Annual "Freedom from Hunger" combined meeting compered by Mrs Ross Lloyd. . . . Special "Mother's Day" Service conducted by C.W.F. Speaker was Matron Davis, of Royal Women's Hospital, soloist Mrs S. Tabbernee . . . Street Stall held at Rosebud.

OUTING FOR ELDERLY (Bendigo, M. D. Keatch) 20 elderly people were given outing by C.M.F. . . . Gifts from Thanksgiving Day were taken to C.O.B. . . . Recent speakers have been Mr Bickerdike, Principal Girton College, N. Tong, of Bible Society, N. Harris, J. K. Martin, and G. Doolan, E. Mott has been elected an elder, and W. Comber added to official board . . . Sympathy is extended to relatives of Mrs Goodall, and to Mr and Mrs Mason and family in bereavements . . . 100 women from district churches, and from Cheltenham attended Harcourt C.W.F. casserole luncheon for World Vision . . . Policewoman Ferguson spoke to C.W.E.F. on drugs . . . J. Beaumont was recent speaker at C.M.F.

BIBLE ROCK SCENE (Ormond, C. P. Clayden) "Rock and Roll" was theme for gospel service on May 15 highlighting the "pop" scene back in the biblical era . . . Mr and Mrs Bath celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on May 15 . . . A "Holiday Happening" was held for first to

fourth formers during second week of school holidays. Bus has been repainted and sign written in church colors. Also two signs 6 ft. x 4 ft. have been erected on new Ormond Railway Station. New street directional signs have been approved and will be erected by council . . . A united worship service held on May 25 . . . Church shared in combined Town Hall rally . . . At E.W.F. Birthday ladies held coffee morning and a "Meat" demonstration. Proceeds toward hall chair replacement.

QUESTING

from Page 24

One minister never fails to mention the Second Coming in every sermon, and another never mentions it. One minister manages to bring in the ordinance of baptism at least one a Sunday, and another goes for years without speaking of it.

I have a suspicion that ministers who stay too long in one part of the gospel do so because they plan their preaching between Sundays instead of planning for the whole year.

They should take a few days off and consider the total needs of the congregation in the light of the whole counsel of God, and maybe use the suggested morning readings as a basis for their planning, both they and their congregations would be enriched by the many and varied paths that lead out into life from the heart of the Good News.

People must be challenged to come to Christ, and when they come they should be equipped to know the joy and assurance which Christ gives to his church, and they should be guided to adopt a sense of Christian love and responsibility to others that will carry over into the society in which they live.

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Dr Hemer, New Hebrides, examining patient.

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QUESTING



WITH

A. E. WHITE

Our new minister has been with us for only a few months and he is so different from the last one that it is hard to realise that they both trained at the same college. Why is it that men who are taught by the same teachers differ so much in their preaching subjects and their attitudes to social issues? The two went along different paths, but each made his path a rut.

I guess that we shall know better how students differ from one another when we work out how it is that children of the same parents differ so much. Even seeds from the same pod produce plants of differing size, shape and colour.

Ministers are individuals before and after they have their training. Students come to college already influenced by their churches and the world. Some already have strong convictions about the urgency and the range of the gospel. Some of them may change while they are at college.

I don't like using labels but "evangelicals" may discover a social responsibility they never knew existed. "Activists" may find an evangelical thread that will run through all of their efforts to change society. Some "evangelicals" may become more social and act as though they have little concern for people outside conversion and the "spiritual" life. Some "activists" may so confirm their stance that they will come from a pulpit-pastoral ministry to services which seem wholly in the realm of social welfare.

Without saying that the World Council of Churches ever lacked a concern for evangelism, there is undoubtedly a greater stress upon evangelism in the Council today. And without saying that the evangelicals lacked a social concern, there is no doubt that evangelical leaders are giving greater recognition to the role the church must play in seeking freedom and justice for others. This was a note struck at Lausanne in 1974 when John Stott said that evangelical Christians had often been guilty of opting out of social and political responsibilities. He said, "God may be calling more Christians to immerse themselves in the secular world of politics, economics, sociology, race relations development and other spheres." While this does not bear directly on your question and without doubting the situation behind your query, I think it bears out the conviction many have that there are not so many hobby-horse riders as there used to be.

Some ministers are rather predictable in their subjects and way of treating them. But they may have a reason. One minister, known for his unrelieved forecasts of doom as found in the minor prophets and Revelation, said he preached that way because that's the way things are.

Another minister preaches confident living and overcoming joy so often that anyone in his congregation who has troubles is made to feel guilty simply because he has them. His opposite number preaches so much upon the misery of the human race and the sinfulness of human nature that there it is the happy outgoing person who is made to feel guilty.

One minister almost never preaches from the Old Testament, and another follows a series on the Tabernacle with an even longer series on Solomon's Temple.

To page 23

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

THE LAST WORD...

Our concern is with persons. If it is not, then I assert that our concern ought to be with persons. To refuse or ignore this concern is a failure to face up to what is involved in being a human being... People who refuse a proper concern for persons are immoral as human beings and wrong as judges of matters of fact.

— David Jenkins.

Reminder

Lord,
you give me no rest.
Everytime I think
of giving up,
something reminds me
that
you never did.
Thank you, Lord,
for that happy knowing.

☆☆☆

Wendy Wallace

The Second Glance

"Her dress is shameful," said I indignantly, "Imagine! At her age showing off her knees."

But when I looked again, I could see She was a window reflection of me!

Helen H. Trutton

☆☆☆

Never put a question mark where God puts a full stop.

☆☆☆

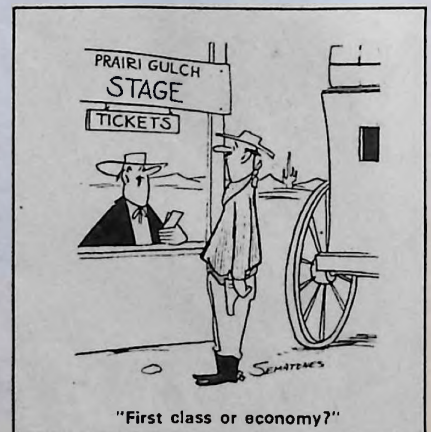
A salesman knocked on a door where just inside, and plainly visible, was a husky boy painfully practising his piano lesson.

"Sonny," he inquired, "is your mother at home?"

"What do you think?" snapped the boy.

☆☆☆

Behold the turtle: he makes progress only when he sticks his neck out.



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