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JOYTONES IN PHILIPPINES

The Joytones from Toowoomba Church of Christ, Qld., are shown during one of their many performances at the Legaspi City Crusade in Albay Province, Philippines, April 30 — May 5. The crusade resulted in 51 converts, and established a congregation at the city jail. Reggie Thomas of the Revival Fires of America and Diego R. Romulo, President of the Manila Bible Seminary, were the Evangelists. Other singing groups which sang at the crusade were the MBS Singing Group and the Cervantes Gospel Singers.



THE HANDICAPPED

An ecumenical consultation on the theme "Life and Witness of the Handicapped in the Christian Community" was held in the German Democratic Republic, in April, organized by the W.C.C. and protestant churches in the G.D.R.



PRAYER VIGIL FOR DISARMAMENT

A small group of Christians gathered in Sydney Square to pray for Peace and Disarmament as the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament began in New York on May 23. The Vigil was organized by the Australian Council of Churches.

Photo: R. Rollason, A.C.C.

PASTORAL CARE IN CANBERRA

by George Warren

The Sacred Heart Monastery may sound an unlikely venue for Churches of Christ to hold a Pastoral Care Seminar, but it proved to be perfect. Motel-like accommodation and a variety of small and large conference rooms provided excellent living and working conditions. The peaceful garden setting whisked us away into the countryside while the city centre was only five minutes away.

Thirty-eight people from the Ainslie, South Canberra (Lyons) and Belconnen churches studied the hows, whys and wherefores of pastoral care in the local church.

Keith Horne from Doncaster Church of Christ, Vic. was seminar leader. As he challenged and encouraged us, sharing with us from his experience, he helped us, young and old alike, to dream dreams and see visions of what our churches can be as the 'Living, Loving, Caring Body of Christ.'

The granting of this vision was, to my mind, the greatest measure of the seminar's success. There were many high points which could describe its value . . . the knee to knee encounter where we explored the way we each reacted to certain situations; the formal and informal sharing in group conversations; the Sunday morning communion and the lectures where Keith shared with us part of himself.

But more expressive of its value were the comments and activity that has followed.

DETENTION IN SOUTH AFRICA

In a statement last week the General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches, Bishop Desmond Tutu, expressed his "shock and dismay" at the reported detention of the members of the executive and their associates, of the newly-formed black organization Azania People's Organization (AZAPO). The organization was only formed some three weeks ago.

Bishop Tutu also said he was "equally appalled" at the banning orders served on David Adler and Clive Nettleton, of SACHED (South African Committee for Higher Education) and Turret College, a correspondence college.

The statement continued: "The authorities have not even given the new organization the chance to draw up a constitution before acting against its officials in this harsh manner. Why are our authorities unwilling to listen to the voices of those who are the authentic spokesmen of the blacks? Who will go on believing that the authorities are really interested in peaceful change when those who are committed to this process are acted against in this manner?"

Referring to the banning orders, Bishop Tutu said this action was difficult to understand. "They have to my knowledge no political involvement," he said. — E.P.S.

CHURCHGOERS AND SEATBELTS

"We need to get to know each other better. We don't really know each other." "Let's begin dropping in to visit each other in a spontaneous way." "Let's form a sharing, praying cell group." "Now I've heard what happened at the seminar, I wish I had gone too." Two of the churches have formed cell groups which will function for a while and then form new groups. In the other church the mid-week discussion group is retracing the points made in the seminar and applying them to its own situation. In one of the morning services an informal greeting time has been introduced where members without need of encouragement get up, walk around and say "Hello!" to each other.

Part of the seminar's purpose was to begin to prepare the way for the coming team ministry. How successful it was in achieving that purpose, of course only time will tell. But I suspect the answer will be affirmative for, since the seminar, we have thirty-eight better equipped ministers.

Motorists who don't wear seatbelts are likely to be nonchurchgoers, say two professors at Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. Said Knud J. Helsing and George W. Comstock, who conducted a study on seatbelt use: "The fact that non-users (of seatbelts) tend to be infrequent church attenders suggests that they could also be lacking in social support from outside groups. Such persons present serious challenges to health educators." Motorists who don't wear seatbelts were found to neglect their physical as well as spiritual welfare. They were less likely to visit dentists and doctors regularly. They generally had no more than high school education, felt dissatisfied with life and felt powerless to change it. Helsing said that despite the effectiveness of seatbelts in preventing automobile fatalities, only 25 per cent of motorists wear them all the time.

INNER SPRINGS

NO RAM IN THE THICKET



One of the most moving and dramatic accounts of man's obedience to God to be found in the Bible is in the story of Abraham as recorded in the 22nd Chapter of Genesis. It begins with a comment from God, harsh to the point of cruelty in its stark realism. "Take thine only son, whom thou lovest, and offer him for a burnt offering upon a mountain I will tell thee of." Was ever a harder task given to man than this? To surrender that for which he and Sarah had waited so long, and now loved so deeply!

Such was Abraham's obedience that without question he prepared for the journey. With two young men and Isaac he set forth to the place of sacrifice. Whether he hoped for some last minute reprieve, we cannot know. Certainly no hope of one was given to ease his anguished heart. Not until he was obedient to the point of death did God speak again: "And Abraham stretched forth his hand and took the knife to slay his son." Then above the thudding of his own heart he heard the words "Lay not thine hand upon the lad, for now I know that thou fearest God!" And Abraham lifted up his eyes and beheld a ram caught in the thicket, and he took the ram as a burnt offering in place of his son.

For Abraham — a ram in the thicket! A way out! Yet we must never assume that God will provide a way out; for often He does not! He does not alter our circumstances that we might be Christians. He asks that we be Christians in the midst of our circumstances. In the book "Splinters from an African Log", Martha Hall writes: "It was not enough that Jesus should set his face steadfastly towards Jerusalem, and keep on getting nearer to the Cross, hoping and trusting that somehow or another it would not be essential. There was no ram in the thicket for Him, and there may be none for you or me." Obedience will lead us to the place of sacrifice as it did the Son of God, but life's last word is not a Cross. It is a triumphant risen Christ, in whom we can rest assured that He will neither leave us nor forsake us.

Prayer: Loving Father of us all, so fill us with the reality of your Presence, that we shall be able to bear the unbearable, suffer the insufferable, and yet remain steadfast and obedient in all our ways.

Genesis 22

— Amen
Florence Rosier

THE CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT

— A CHALLENGE TO THE CHURCH

By Dianne Feeney

In the midst of the argument and comment back and forth about the charismatic movement, little has been said about its social role.

The people who are often attracted to the type of worship and teaching that is called neo-pentecostal or charismatic, have deep personal needs which cannot easily be satisfied by rational theological debate. I hesitate to say 'rational' because so much of the debate is emotionally heated and irrational. The emotion often arises because people fail to appreciate the non-theological issues involved and view theology as something unrelated to life's experiences.

I do not propose to enter into the theological debate here, but to show that the charismatic movement has significant social value. I believe that any assessment of its role or validity in the established church should take into account the sociological and psychological function of the movement.

My comments are based on findings from research undertaken in Brisbane for an Honours thesis in 1975-76. Ten different Pentecostal and charismatic groups were observed, with intensive study of a denominational church which had taken on the charismatic mantle.

Motivation

People are usually motivated to try out new experiences or join new groups because they have deep felt needs. Two consistent patterns of motivation emerged from the Brisbane study.

Protest. One of these was in the form of a protest against the institutionalized church and a desire to revitalize the church. Comments like "the spiritual life was dead", "Some join as an escape from a more legalistic and empty religion", "people lack power and fulfillment in their Christian life", "I was dissatisfied with the fruits of my own ministry and others in the church" were typical of the dissatisfaction that was expressed with the traditional church.

These people did not find spiritual enrichment or meaning in the traditional forms of worship, where spontaneity and freedom of expression was lacking. All the theologizing and concern over traditional values leaves many people cold. In a book entitled "The Secular City", sociologist Harvey Cox says that there is always the simple pragmatist who wants his religion "to work". The Christian who aspires for a deeper religious experience and yearns to feel the presence of God is simply wanting his Christianity to work! He apparently does not feel Christianity working in the anonymity of formal ritual and liturgy.

The Church is also seen by some to be forsaking its original purpose when it becomes involved in social and political issues. Several informants, both from within and outside the charismatic movement, expressed concern that the church was forsaking its original function. Even amongst informants who were not "charismatic", the opinion was commonly expressed that the established church could learn much from the renewal in terms of teaching and enthusiasm. We can hardly deny that where it has occurred, Christians have become more

enthusiastic, and more joyful about their faith and more caring for each other.

Protests against the church are not new. The Reformation sects and the evangelical revivals of the 18th and 19th centuries were just that. They protested against traditionalism and intellectualism in the dominant religious bodies, against indifference and laxity, against stagnation and decline of active religious life. Strange behavioural forms were associated with most of these revivals, a fact that opponents of current charismatic phenomena often forget. Those revivalist groups have now become institutionalized churches, often devoid of "life", and in need of revitalization. This is what the charismatics are trying to do — revitalize a dead church and to restore some beliefs and practises which they believe have been forsaken.

It is significant that the growth of the charismatic movement has been most successful in the hierarchically organized and most traditional, institutionalized churches. I think it is also significant that some of the strongest opposition has come from the evangelical churches — those groups who were once the reformers. The response of one informant — "the last revelation of God to the Church becomes the next agent of persecution" — expresses the experience of many charismatic Christians I have encountered. While his theology may be questioned, what he was trying to say was that the church(es) who believe they have the truth are the most adamant antagonists to the next group who claims to have a more complete body of truth. In other words, the former group wants to preserve its identity as the holder of truth.

Religious protest may lead to secession or it may remain within the church. The current protest movement appears to be in the main, a protest within the church. However, once the initial enthusiasm has expired, this latest 'revival' may follow the same pattern as other revival groups and become traditionalist. There are already signs of this, as attempts are being made to formalize 'charismatic doctrine'.

The Aimlessness of life

The other motivating factor that stood out, was that people were attracted to the renewal out of a sense of aimlessness or meaninglessness in life. This ranged from a lack of meaning in traditional church forms, to confusion over standards in secular life. The sociologists call this a state of anomie, which can vary in degree from a state of hopelessness and despair to the extreme of suicide. Comments like "I was disoriented and unable to find fulfillment", "giving a purpose to life", and "the stress and strain of everyday living is causing people to look for the answer" were typical of the anomie experienced.

In a state of social disorganization people may search for a means of escape or they may search for a new set of beliefs and values to re-establish their role in society. They may do this by opting out of urbanized society and returning to the land, by resorting to violence, or by joining a political or religious group which provides a sort of group identity, and security. If the traditional church does not meet this need, people will go to where they find peace and comfort and security.

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(The second part of this article will appear in the next issue)

WORD TALK

No. 178

OUR SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

Discipline

PREPARATION

In the Bible discipline is acknowledged as one of the spiritual resources available to us to help our spiritual growth. It is associated with training instruction and knowledge, as well as with reproof, correction and punishment.

The word "discipline" is derived from the Latin meaning "to learn" or "to teach". A disciple is a learner or a pupil. It can be seen immediately that discipline is associated with the process of learning. While the word "disciple" which means a learner appears some 250 times in scripture, the word "discipline" appears fewer than 30 times, mainly found in Proverbs and Hebrews.

In the O.T. the usual term meant to correct or punish. Discipline occurred within the family and was part of the process of education. The father was responsible for the education of his son in the Law and the traditions of his people. Likewise God was responsible for disciplining us as his children. Such discipline was proof of fatherly love (Proverbs 13:24; 22:15; 23:13).

In the N.T. "discipline" was closely associated with instruction and education. The education likewise took place within the family. Hebrews 12:5-11, is an appeal to discipline comparing the discipline of earthly parents to their children, with the discipline that God seeks for us. Paul (Eph. 6:4) likewise encouraged fathers to bring up their children in "discipline and instruction of the Lord". It was training by act, example and word. Punishment was not the main feature.

When the Church talks about its discipline it is referring to its standard of conduct and organisation. Voluntary poverty, celibacy, and fasting were three practices of self-discipline used as aids in the religious life. Many early Christians practised asceticism particularly in the first four centuries as an example of their spiritual self-discipline.

One test of our discipleship is our self-discipline. There is today renewed interest in the discipline of fasting and in small group experiences of spiritual growth through disciplined Bible reading and prayer.

Jesus exercised great self-discipline in his life, particularly in the 40 days of the temptations, and whilst he was on the cross. Paul is an example of one who took hardships and translated them into a discipline that brought honour to God (2 Cor. 4:7-15).

PROCLAMATION

I sat in a very comfortable easy chair talking with Dr Norman Vincent Peale, the man who more than any has popularised the

concept of "positive thinking". One of his lesser known thoughts lies in "the power of a positive 'No' ". It is not will-power that many people lack but "won't" power. For many "no" is a forgotten word. 1. We need to learn to say "No" to our friends. So often the influences of our peer group lead us into temptation. So often our adult actions are influenced by the rest about us. There is power in a positive "No". 2. We must learn to say "No" to our society. All about us are double standards, behavioural patterns that are not Christian, cheating, and sexual behaviour which is acceptable in the eyes of the world but unacceptable for Christians. 3. We need to learn to say "No" to ourselves. We have so many opportunities to be involved in sin, undisciplined sex, and socially acceptable sins such as gluttony and laziness. To these we must say "No". "Self-reverence, self-knowledge and self-control, these three alone lead to sovereign power." (Tennyson).

Power flows to those who are able to look the world in the eye, and say "No". Daniel was a superb example of self-discipline and self-control by whose example generations have been encouraged.

PRESENTATION

Alexander the Great was one of the few men in history who deserved the title "Great". He was a strong man yet subject to a mean temper. He had magnificent willpower, but poor control over his passions. Alexander suffered greatly because of his lack of self-control. He conquered the entire known world, but was unable to conquer himself.

Peter the Great of Russia said as he was dying, centuries later, "I have conquered an empire, but I was not able to conquer myself."

Every Minister can tell the sad stories of those within the congregation who have lived great and beautiful lives only to see them spoiled because in a moment of weakness, of passion, of temptation, or of over self-confidence, the life, reputation and personal peace shattered by the lack of personal discipline.

Discipline in our sex lives, discipline in our spiritual devotions, discipline in our social relationships, discipline within our private thinking — these are all areas where we will achieve spiritual power when we use discipline as a spiritual resource.

While the discipline may be applied by the Church, by our parents or those we admire, the greatest discipline is that exercised by the self.

GORDON MOYES

N.S.W. MEN'S WORK

Getting into Gear. The old guard was reelected plus one new member. The Committee:- Messrs Borham, Camlin, Collins, Logan, McAneny, Nutt, and Yelds. The first will not be last neither will the last be first. We are all in this work together. Conference theme is "In Union with Christ."

Donations for "Gas for New Guinea" toward close of Conference year totalled \$446.30. **Keep in Focus.** Colour Slide Competition will commence shortly. Of course, it is fund raising project. The C.M.S. at Toowoomba held a similar competition in June 1977 with the object of supplying an outboard motor for Chungribu Mission Station, to cost \$680. It was so successful that it was repeated a few months later. Prizes will be awarded in various sections. All proceeds will be to

"Gas for New Guinea Fund."

Dial a Christian!! The Service Directory compiled by the Dept. of Men's Work of motor mechanics, painters, electronics engineers, buildings, etc. has been forwarded to Conference for publication and distribution. 22 different services will be available.

Ushers & Usherettes. At the Sunday afternoon Conference service, young men and women students from our Woolwich Bible College distributed programmes and took up the offering, and half a dozen helped count the offering and wrap coins. Other students helped as car park attendants. Each year Conference hands these tasks to the Dept. of Men's Work to organise. The Dept. publicly thanks the students for their help.

TRAINING DAY (Boronia, A. Taylor-Davis) Training day held in areas of youth work, children's ministry and camping... over 60s organising themselves into looseknit group... Gordon Stirling led planning session for "Good News Weekend" in July... June to August evening services at 5 p.m. ... Boronia churches combined for celebration of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity... Maintenance Committee has been busy repairing church kitchen and hall... May Collyer is Chairman of Board, 1978-79... Reg and Jean Allen are overseas, attending son's wedding in Indonesia... Phyl Collyer, Ken Watson and Mary Stephens home after hospital treatment.

OUTREACH IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

A report from Aboriginal pastors, Bob Brown and Frank Johnson

Our work at this time consists mainly of maintaining the ministry and outreach in South Australia.

Hospital work is proving to be a vital point of contact. Frank has unlimited scope to meet people who in turn lead to contacts with patients' families. We feel this ministry will come into its own in the long term.

We do however praise God for the ministry it now affords. John Baker had mentioned that all the other chaplains are very happy with what is going on. Do pray that we may have wisdom in this great ministry as it provides a chance for Frank in particular to demonstrate the love and care and concern that is born of God.

The convention at Amata in Central Australia was very good. There weren't the numbers we had last year however. The guest speakers were two brethren from the Solomon Islands. The vastness of the land was a revelation to them.

The work amongst the alcoholics has been progressing very well. Bob was asked to settle a dispute between two rival groups within the Aboriginal Sobriety Group. When this was done he was further requested to draw up a programme and see the A.S.G. established and on its feet. For the first six months of 1978 the Dept. of Aboriginal Affairs has approved a budget for \$18,900. A further budget for \$73,000 has been placed before the Government for approval.

Danny Colson was guest speaker at the first dinner held by the A.S.G. sharing Christ with the people. Danny comes from Port Augusta. We aim to employ as many dedicated aboriginal people as possible in this area of need. A.S.G. has employed an Administration Officer who is really sold out to Christ. It is part of our aim to see Christians employed in these contact areas. This will add to our church men who are spiritual who will increase contact with the aboriginal church.

As part of the State A.E.F. Committee, Cliff Jones, Frank Johnson and Bob Brown were responsible for the arrangements relating to the 1978 A.E.F. National Convention. With tongue in cheek we report the best Convention ever held at Port Augusta. Some \$1200 was raised by way of cash donations and food parcels. The highlights of the Convention are too many to list.

Over 150 decisions were made for Christ. We ran out of tapes the demand was so great. Fourteen people came to Christ after the Convention finished so



BOB BROWN



FRANK JOHNSON

great was the movement of the Spirit of God. About 85% of the commitments were from young aboriginal people. As a result of much discussion during the Convention times it was decided to establish a Convention Training Centre. Ummewarra Mission which has always been a children's home can no longer work as such because of S.A. Government policy. The place will be maintained however to house young Christian working people. This means accommodation will always

be available for groups up to 50. We plan to use these facilities continually.

We propose to run a two-week leadership training seminar at Port Augusta some time in August/September. We both feel the need for such a training scheme in S.A. for the aboriginal people here. The U.A.M. and Brethren people are excited about it and will send their people to attend. Port Augusta is ideal as the facilities are available and tribal people are very much at home there.

SWEDEN FIRST



Mr & Mrs John Williams, Adelaide (left) with First Deputy Speaker Mr Torsten Bengtson in Parliament House, Sweden.

"Sweden is the first country to use modern scientific research as the model for its new Alcohol Control policies," said John Williams, General Secretary of the Temperance Alliance of South Aust., after a meeting in Parliament House, Stockholm, with Torsten Bengtson, First Deputy Speaker of the Swedish Parliament.

After an extensive investigation by a Parliamentary Committee on Alcohol Control Policies, extending over almost ten years, and influenced by scientific findings brought forward by leading research foundations (working in co-operation with WHO), the Swedish Parliament passed legislation in 1977 aimed to

eliminate the causes of excessive use of alcohol and restrain such use which will lead to injuries and damages. The new legislation is directly aimed at the reduction of alcohol consumption.

Mr Torsten Bengtson said that alcohol control policies are well supported by public opinion.

John Williams explained that Australian research into the effects of alcohol have been expanded considerably in recent years.

During his stay in Sweden, Mr Williams noted a regulation that every place licenced to sell and serve alcoholic beverages must also carry a full assortment of alcohol-free beverages.

THREE PAGES IN A PRESIDENT'S DIARY

By Keith Horne

(Vic.) Since being inducted to office less than one month ago as the President of the Victorian/Tasmanian Conference, I have had the privilege to share in three important Inter Church functions.

Clunies Ross House at the Melbourne University was filled to capacity for the **Conferring of Degrees and Awarding of Diplomas** of the Melbourne College of Divinity. Five of the 1978 graduates of the College of the Bible were among the students receiving awards from Dr Austin Cooper, the President of the College.

While the work at the MCD is only a part of the total education programme offered to students at the College of the Bible, it is nevertheless a most significant part. In a day when more than ever before the man of God must be thoroughly equipped for the work of ministry, I am delighted that our student ministers have an opportunity to attain degrees and diplomas held in the highest regard across the whole of the Church.

Dr Keith Bowes, Principal of the College of the Bible, featured significantly in the evening's programme. We have always had every reason to be proud of the training offered students entering our Colleges in Australia.

A week later, I found myself in St Mary's Church, Dandenong, for an **Ecumenical Service celebrating Pentecost Sunday**. The heads of all churches were present and shared in a warm, meaningful service celebrating the "Birthday of the Church".

I have been a minister of Churches of



CHRISTIANITY DEMANDS FULL COMMITMENT, SAYS CLIFF RICHARD

Cliff Richard, Christian singer and acknowledged pop star, is in Australia for a double tour. It is twelve months since his last visit and already the heavy bookings for his concerts have illustrated his popularity in this country.

During his press conference at Sydney's International Airport, he was asked if he had ever considered "retiring and going into Christian work full time?"

He explained that he did not have to stop singing in order to work "full time" as a Christian. "There are plenty of Christian bankers, businessmen, and others in different walks of life, who manage quite well, going about their normal activities and professions, yet are fully committed Christians. Therefore I intend to carry on my normal style of work, as well as be a fully committed Christian!"

"Full commitment is what Christianity is all about. I guess that's why it's not so popular," said Cliff Richard.

His own "Full commitment" is plain for all to see; his witness is clear and his stand for what he believes unquestionable.

His first tour took him around Australia, commencing in Sydney on May 18. Another National Tour from May 31 to June 9, was in aid of Tear Fund.

In his airport press conference he was asked about his social life, Bible study and search for Christianity.

For relaxation, he loves to play recordings of his favorite singers and bands.

His systematic study of the Scriptures has been greatly helped through the use of Scripture Union Notes. He felt it was important to have such a guide and absolutely essential to study the Bible.

Dissatisfied with life, he was searching when he came into contact with Christianity. The more he studied it and tried to disprove its claims of miracles, the Virgin Birth, etc., the more he came to believe!

During his Tear Fund concerts he will be sharing his faith, through spoken and sung word and funds will be raised for this work in which he shows a very real interest. Also, it will be an opportunity for him to reach others for the Lord.

— Ramon Williams.

Christ for 30 years, and I could not help but feel that the kind of service I shared in would not have been possible not very many years ago.

Many observers believe that we will not see within Australia or the world any major unity movements within the life-time of most of us, and while this may be so, something very precious and beautiful was happening within that service. It was a "something" without which everything else would be meaningless, and it was beautifully expressed in the words "We are one in the spirit and one in the Lord".

The State funeral to honour the late Sir Robert Gordon Menzies on May 19th will find its place in the records of Australian history as a most inspiring and moving event. The setting of Collins Street in the autumn, the beautiful Scot's Church, the simplicity of a free church service, the gathering of dignitaries and State Leaders from across the world, and the sheer magnificence of the pageantry and procession that followed is something rarely seen within Australia. The huge crowd gathered in the streets surrounding the Church were moved by it all.

When the heads of churches moved from the worship sanctuary, I stood outside of Scot's Church in a place where I could observe it all. We captured something in that hour Australia needs so very much today, for far above politics and party, we sensed something of simplicity of faith, national pride, dedication and commitment, the things by which a country can become truly great.

GOOD CITIZEN'S AWARDS

The Festival of Light has requested nominations from the public and organisations for persons to be considered for 1978 Good Citizen's Awards.

The Awards are presented for ten different categories in recognition of outstanding service to the community in the course of their occupation or private life.

"The aim of the Awards is to place greater community attention upon sincere persons who are good citizens rather than the notoriety given to anti-social persons such as murderers, rapists, drug pushers, bank robbers, prison escapees, etc."

These persons such as Ronald Biggs, Donald Tait and now the cold-blooded murderers of the Italian statesman Mr Aldo Moro, should be clearly condemned for their ruthless anti-social acts and not turned into some kind of anti-establishment heroes".

The 1977 Good Citizen's Awards were made to Det-Sgt F. Kitto, Mrs Don Mackay, Noel Latham, Sir Colin Hines, Jim Cameron, Lady Violet Braddon, Steve Raymond, Roger Climpson, June Bronhill, and Rick McCosker.

The proposed 1978 categories include — 1. Radio, 2. T.V., 3. Theatre, 4. Sport, 5. Parliamentary Service, 6. Public Service (Police, Fire Brigade, Services, etc.), 7. Personal Courage, 8. High Moral Principle, 9. National Leadership, 10. Community Concern. However nominations for any area of society are invited to be submitted.

All nominations with supporting information should be forwarded by 1st August, 1978, to Chairman, Good Citizen's Awards Committee, C/- Post Office, Box A 87, Sydney South, N.S.W. 2000.

DOUBLED (Salisbury East) In just 12 months membership has doubled from 12 foundation members to 26 . . . Worship services held in kindergarten building adjoining our vacant land . . . Board elected for first time . . . S.S. commenced this year with average attendance of 23 . . . Ladies' Coffee Group meet monthly and are clothing Carnarvon girl . . . "Prayer and Share" group commencing . . . Weekly home Bible study led by David Althorpe, Nailsworth minister . . . First baptism at church conducted by chairman, Bruce Giddings.

MUSTARD SEEDS

BY ALAN AUSTIN

The terrorist killings of men like Italian leader, Aldo Moro, may yet be serving some constructive purpose. Hopefully they are forcing more and more of us to face squarely the fundamental questions underlying extreme forms of protest (see last issue).

The following extracts are the attempts of six international writers to tackle these questions:

The Red Brigades are not an end unto themselves but a symptom of a much greater problem. That is the disintegration of society, of its common values, its traditional structures, the church, the family.

Our old institutions are collapsing and we do not yet have any real new institutions to replace them with. That is the crisis that the Red Brigades brought home to us.

Luciana Castelina
(Italian Member of Parliament)

It is in a country afflicted by social upheavals that armed parties like the Red Brigades grow up. Such parties could attract thousands of young people who consider violence a legitimate, even absolutely essential, form of political action. They only have to look around them to see there are more than a million university students whose degrees will only lead them to unemployment. They see that the most elementary norms of justice are regularly violated and that the corruption of the ruling classes, even when it is unequivocally proved, constantly goes un punished.

To hope to defeat the Red Brigades solely by an improvement in the enforcement of law and order — however necessary that may be — is an illusion. It is only by taking away the environment in which the armed groups live and prosper — an environment represented by the serious

lack of moral authority and credibility of the Italian state — that the terrorists can be exposed. Only then can the activity of the Red Brigades be first reduced, then eliminated.

Antonio Gambino
(Editor of Italy's L'Espresso)

The young terrorists of the Red Brigade come from a variety of backgrounds, but most of them have been influenced by two of Italy's most rigid orthodoxies: Communism and the Catholic Church. Many, like Renato Curcio, the founder of the Red Brigades, were raised as staunch Catholics and brought a sense of righteousness to their new-found radicalism. "Renato and many of his supporters come from very old-fashioned, conservative Catholic families," says Prof. Franco Ferrarotti, a sociologist who taught Curcio. "They are basically religious people who come to politics and violence with all the conviction of zealots."

Newsweek's Rome correspondent

Almost everybody here was horrified by the killing of five policemen. But I've met many Italians who feel that Moro, as a symbol of all that was wrong with the system, had it coming to him. There is an enormous amount of quiet satisfaction among ordinary Italians over the kidnappings of the very rich — who don't pay taxes, who have been getting away with murder for years. There's a Robin Hood effect. The nobility are holed up inside their Palazzi. I'm told they play a lot of bridge. But they are tenacious. They have been in those palaces for a thousand years, and they will outlast everyone — like cockroaches.

Gore Vidal
(Italian-American novelist and critic)

Our societies by and large remain afflicted with grievous inequalities — which we deny regularly.

The harsh, materialistic edge to our credit-bound, pre-packaged, advertisement-wrapped lives persists. Youth is exhorted to aspire to the unattainable. More frustration.

The old traditions which bound society and constantly honed its values, above all, the family unit, have largely gone.

Even here in Australia to expound the value of family life appears to be largely regarded as the idiosyncratic preserve of Mr B. A. Santamaria and the National Civic Council. I find this tragic.

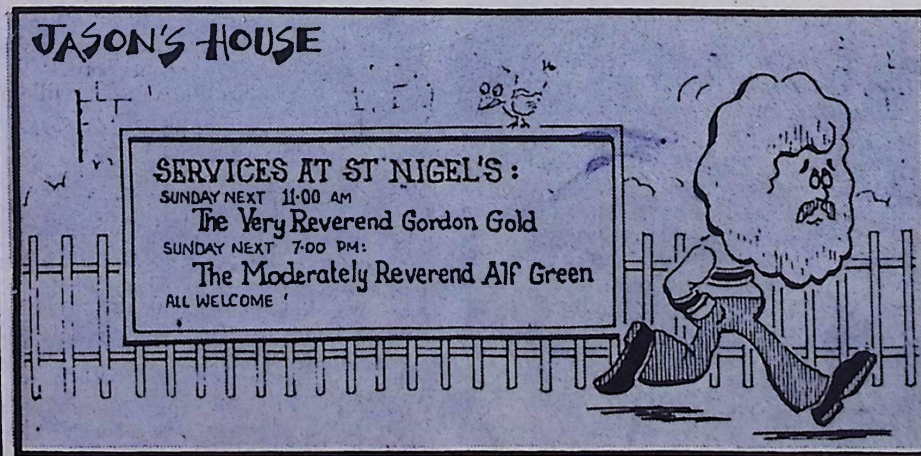
A certain factor in reducing the prospect of home-grown terrorism here would be, in simple terms, a return to some of the traditional values which help knit the fabric of enduring society.

Michael Barnard
(Australian foreign affairs correspondent)

In today's world, too much of religion operates under the insulated blanket of vague 'Christian love'. Our problems as Christians would be clearer if we could better understand the fullness and radicalness of Christ's love, including its cutting edges. Too often we cheapen Christ's love, thinking it offers us quick, easy and painless escapes from hard choices including investigations of our own society. Yet Christ's love is most real when it penetrates the pain and misery, lays bare the exploitation and idolatry of the world and then forces hard choices regarding our complicity and our response.

Perhaps the key point we have to remember is that when Jesus was most aggressive — throwing the money-changers out of the temple — that act was clearly one of love and obedience. This is the kind of love that the Christian Church must dare to emulate if it hopes to confront the idolatries of our time. We must learn that love does not preclude investigation; compassion does not exclude confrontation. Admittedly, there are the ever-present dangers of self-righteousness, the desire for attention, the need for revenge or the lust for power. And when I'm honest with myself I can identify instances of each of these in my writing at some time or another. But the Christian Church has more often succumbed to another temptation: cowardliness cloaked with false humility. Jesus' prophetic stance toward the establishment in his own time provides a stark contrast to, and bold indictment of, the contemporary Christian response.

Jim Stentzel
(American Christian journalist)



MISSIONARY TRAINING MODERN STYLE

By E. T. Hart

The church at Rutherford St. Nelson has just completed a new experiment in Missionary enterprise.

They invited the New Hebrides Conference to send to them an experienced Pastor who could benefit from a three months Study Tour of New Zealand to discover if there were aspects of the work that could be incorporated into the New Hebrides work.

Eventually Pastor Wilson Wayback from Pentecost Island, a graduate of the Banmatmat College who had just completed a five year term as High School Chaplain, was invited to undertake the tour, together with his wife Esther.

Since Wilson was about to take up a new position as an itinerant Youth Leader on the island it was natural that his study Tour in New Zealand would be directed in this area.

Rutherford St. Nelson was ideal for the purpose. Their Youth Minister Tony Barnett, who shares a ministry with neighbouring Annesbrook, entered enthusiastically into the task of initiating the New Hebridean pastor into all sections of Youth Work in the area. B. S. teaching, instruction in schools, auxiliary work through Girls' and Boys' Brigades and senior youth activity all made for a busy and intensive course.

In addition, district Churches invited the Waybacks to see their church life style on a smaller compass than the City Church and by this means an overall pattern of church survey was made possible.

Two additional items also produced dividends. Wilson undertook study and sermon preparation and delivery of sermons in New Zealand fashion. This will be of benefit should the Overseas

Mission Board decide to bring a team from the New Hebrides on deputation work. The other concern was that both Wilson and Esther were able to investigate hand-crafts of various types with the view to incorporate them into village life and provide productive work for trade shops in Australia and New Zealand to augment village income.

The Secretary of the New Zealand Overseas Mission Board, Graeme Todd, and his wife provided basic hospitality, but Church members were encouraged to offer through the week and week-end hospitality so the couple could see a wide spectrum of N.Z. life style.

Churches who are interested may appreciate this cost survey:

1. Air Fares to and from the Field
2. Basic hospitality preferably with one family, but Church members encouraged to open homes
3. Internal Travelling expenses
4. Out of pocket expenses for the visitors

Wilson received his normal pastor's Salary from the field.

The Rutherford St. Church, Nelson, is thrilled with the new vision they have received of mission needs and possibilities.

It is worth noting that this project was undertaken by a New Zealand Church for a Mission area controlled by the Australian Overseas Mission Board.

F.E.B.C. IS 30

June 4, marks thirty years of broadcasting from the Far East Broadcasting Company, Manila, Philippines. A day of thanksgiving and praise was planned in Radio City, Manila, on that day and into the following week as visitors from overseas join with the local staff to give God praise for His faithfulness over thirty years of missionary broadcasting. A party of 16 Australians joined in the celebrations after visiting F.E.B.C. studios in Singapore and Hong Kong en route.

FIRST (Portland, N. Mitaxa) Keith Horne, new Conference President paid his first presidential visit on May 14 . . . Annual meeting elected three deacons and N. Goldsworthy as deaconess. A. Butler is elder . . . For pulpit exchange on May 28, Warrnambool took service at Portland and Portland at Mt Gambier . . . Camp with S.W. District Fellowship held at Narrawong with Mt Gambier sharing . . . Church members involved in hospital visitation, and members attended Hamilton seminar conducted by Berwick church.

"SEED" (Wembley, D. K. Croot) Y.P. opened "Seed Coffee House" Drop-In Centre during school vacation . . . Girls' Brigade held smorgasbord dinner for mothers and grandmothers. C.W.F. also among 75 present . . . Holidaying in Kalgoorlie, Mr Croot is taking services there for two weekends . . . J. K. Robinson speaker here . . . Representative from Scripture Union Bookroom spoke at C.W.F.

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

"EVANGELISTS"

To the Editor,

I have come to the conclusion that most people are "evangelists", in the sense of enthusiastically trying to win other people to whatever they themselves are obsessed with. For instance there's Jim at work. His gospel to everyone is, "Come and have a beer!" and he is very grieved when there is no response.

Our church is full of "evangelists". One woman's obsession is that women's groups are the last stronghold of subjection to male domination, and she works hard to convince everyone that they should be closed down. Likewise there's a brother whose obsession is that God requires of us only one service a Sunday. Instead of being content with just coming once himself he is trying his best to convince everyone else that they should do likewise. In our church we have "evangelists" with obsessions for small groups, for coffee shops, for drop-in centres, for missionary conventions, for prayer meetings, for church dances, for sermonless services and for getting out into the community. We even have potential "evangelists" waiting to pounce on every new idea that comes in the latest paperbacks as the basis of "new gospels". And all of the "evangelists" believe that their particular "gospel" is essential to the salvation of our church and its neighbourhood.

There are so many "evangelists" with so many good "gospels", and so often working at cross purposes that it gets a bit confusing for some of us ordinary people. I often wonder what would happen if we had a year's break from our obsessive "evangelisms" and spent it on old-fashioned New Testament evangelism; the kind that lets people know about Jesus and what he is able to do in the lives and minds and feelings of people who take him seriously. The only trouble is that a revival might break out and we mightn't know what to do with it.

Yours hopefully,
TERTIUS

CALL FOR ACTION ON DRUNKENNESS, VAGRANCY, AND MENTALLY ILL

Following the Sydney City Mission's Operation Understanding National Conference, Sydney May 8-12, the conference delegates passed the following resolutions:

(1) That this Conference believes that the mentally ill are being denied the right to education, training, rehabilitation, and to work to the fullest possible extent of their capabilities.

The Conference calls upon the Federal and State Governments to provide funding for the establishment of hostel accommodation with the required training facilities to enable mentally ill persons to live in the community.

The Conference also calls upon the Governments to provide vocational training programs to enable these persons to work to the fullest possible extent of their capabilities.

(2) The Conference expresses deep concern, and in fact deplors, the situation which exists, that excludes the mentally ill from the provisions of Medibank.

The Conference calls upon the Federal and State Governments to rectify this immediately without further delay.

TODAY'S



VICTORIAN C.W.F. CONFERENCE 1978.

Mrs Freda Morris, C.W.F. President, sustained the theme of "Love" at the 92nd Conference. The Worship segment conducted by H. Miller (Reader) and S. Tabbernee (Soloiste), interview of Shalini and Hariba Waghmode, and the presentation of business also portrayed the theme.

Mrs Lil Main, Speaker — "Here We Have No Continuing City" — set the challenge for the afternoon assembly, ably assisted by the Oakover Singers, presentation of the Golden Bag Service By Bethany, — \$3,727.73, received — recognition of retiring Superintendents and Executive and introduction of the new "working force" for 1978-79.

Department cheques received — M.E.D. \$2,472.53. Overseas Missions — \$3,906.24. C.O.B. — \$1,296.56, and support assured for Social Service Department to furnish a 4 bed ward at the Northcote Geriatric Centre at a cost of \$12,900 for the next three years.

Highlight of Conference was the combined President's reception during the Evening Session and presentation of the musical "Let My People Go" — produced and acted by members of the Balwyn church.

OFFICE BEARERS: 1978-79.

Pres: B. Dow. President Elect: D. Gordon. Junior Vice President: H. Banks. Secretary: L. Smith. Asst. Secretary: H. Miller. Treasurer: J. Witt. Members: A. Roffey — R. Phillips. Country Representative: O. McNeice. Tasmanian Representatives P. Harrison & E. Wilson.

M. Bismire. Vic.

"Cast all your care on Him for He cares for you".

1 Peter 5:7.

MINISTRY IN WELFARE

"Bored housewives and retired farmer enrol in Welfare course at Community Development Centre."

So ran a headline in the "Daily News", a Western Australian newspaper, at the beginning of 1977.

Nothing could have been further from the truth. There were 58 women accepted to do an Auxiliary Workers Course, offered by the Mental Health Department and the Technical Division of the Education Dept. (no farmer in sight) with studies in Sociology, Psychology, lectures in Mental Health, Group sessions in Human Relations and visits to such institutions as Fremantle Prison, the V.D. Clinic and Para-Quad Industries.

The Course, though not as demanding as a first year Social Work course, gave us all a much greater insight into Welfare work, interviewing techniques etc. More importantly, it gave us confidence and the assurance that each one of us had a worthwhile contribution to make to today's world.

Already working at the Christian Welfare Centre as a receptionist, telephonist, and occasional home visitor, the Auxiliary Course filled a gap between being a 'jack of all trades' to being semi professional member in our large and capable Welfare team at the Christian Centre. Too old to learn new things? None of us are, I proved it.

Stell Walkington. W.A.

Methods to include non-church women in fellowship.

To be successful in encouraging non-church women to be involved in our Church Fellowship is difficult and sometimes a delicate problem. We must not force the issue; nor must we expect them to do anything beyond their capability or in which they are not interested.

Firstly, the contact has to be made. How? Begin with our neighbours; then widen our sphere to contacts made in shops, on buses, our children's teachers and others. We invite them to our homes. Gradually win their confidence by kindness.

Sharing is helpful. Take lonely ones in our cars, share gardening interests and products with them, share joys and trials with them. Their shyness, self-consciousness or reserve will soon melt away with the warmth of our sharing.

Then hopefully will come the time when barriers will be gone and we will feel free to invite them to our Church Fellowships. Needless to say this activity must be interesting and informal, but creating an atmosphere of genuine devotion.

The fourth method is important. We must always make sure that when contacts attend our Fellowship they are not "left out in the cold," alone. Introduce them to others; encourage them to bring their friends, so that in the initial stages of their involvement, the feeling of "belonging" will be paramount.

Lastly, everyone in Church Fellowship could endeavour to bring somebody along. "A crowd draws a crowd". But that crowd is made up of individuals — so we treat them as such. Soon our contacts will realise that to be involved in a Fellowship which puts God first is very satisfying and worth-while.

M. Masterman. Tas.



WOMEN

C.W.F. From a student's wife's point of view.

When I came to the College of the Bible in 1976, I couldn't see the relevance of having a College C.W.F. After attending the meetings and becoming involved, I now think that a C.W.F. should only exist if it meets the needs, and stirs us to go forward for Jesus.

College C.W.F., Share groups, and local Church C.W.F. meet the needs of our various women at College. We find them good training for whatever we may be involved in after College.

Some of us might not be Ministers' wives in Pastoral Ministry. We are learning how best to support our husbands in the Ministry or Profession that God has chosen for us. We know that being in the Pastoral ministry today is very different from what it was, even 20 years ago. We realise that there will be hard times ahead, physically, emotionally and financially.

My challenge to the women of our churches is to remind each of us that we can only do what we are capable of doing; and to use our varied talents to God's glory.

I see C.W.F. as being relevant in our churches today, along with Coffee Mornings, Prayer Meetings, Care and Share, Young Married, and Leisure Groups.

We want to be a useful part of our churches, and we need your prayers and support. We also need to develop our own ministries.

C. Hamilton. Vic.

Be happy that today is yours, with all it has to give, Make the best of every minute: that's the finest way to live.

From Qld. C.W.F. Newsheet.

WHAT CHRIST MEANS TO ME ... AS A HOSPITAL WORKER.

In answer to an urgent call through the local press, I became a member of the local Hospital staff. Being attached to the Domestic section proved a revelation. There were women who had little thought for others. Their attitude seemed to be "How much money do I get" and "That's not my job".

This atmosphere, crude conversation, and dirty language almost made me resign. Then came the conviction that here was a place where I could work with God. Accepting the position of Supervisor of Domestic Staff was a challenge, for I knew that God had this particular job selected for me.

Three years have passed, and wonderful changes have taken place, not because of me, but because God chose to use me. I have found direction and purpose in living. God has a plan and a purpose for each of us, however humble and whatever our talents may be.

When we forget our own desires and truly seek the will of God in our lives, when we put our trust and our whole being into His care and solicit His power, great things can be accomplished.

It is with praise and thanksgiving that I read John 15:5 and truly know that without Him I can do nothing.

R. Brown. (S.A.)

MIRACLE IN HEALING

Bob Whan — Chairman, P.N.G. Field Council

In the midst of the continuous stream of sick and suffering humanity, it gives us great joy to witness the direct hand of the Lord in healing through the power of prayer. To witness the power of God has been our privilege over the past six months as He worked His miracle of healing in the life of a young man named Bisung, who for a number of years has been one of the captains of our river craft.

At first Bisung merely complained of toothache and of the infection of one of his molars. This developed into obvious swelling and clotting with almost continual bleeding, finally the area surrounding the tooth became a raised pulpy mass. Usual antibiotic treatment took no hold on the growth and ultimately it was determined that Bisung was suffering from a fast growing melanoma. Almost immediately this fast growing tumor threatened other immediate areas of the body as it began to spread through the glands. Our medical dictionary states of this kind of melanomic involvement, 'Very rapidly fatal.'

A call for prayer went out to our thirty churches in P.N.G. and through the Overseas Mission Newsletters, January and March, to churches in Australia. Special times of prayer were called by the members of Bisung's home church here at Tumba to uphold their brother in his time of acute need.

Meanwhile in Madang an Indian surgeon operated on Bisung removing part of the jaw-bone and glands in the process.

What appeared to be healthy glands were left. After the operation there was an air of hope and expectancy that all should be all right. However Bisung did not do too well in the immediate weeks after the operation, though his resiliency after the operation itself was rather remarkable. Shortly after the operation Bisung began to lose weight and the line of the previously removed jaw-bone began to swell rather alarmingly, suggesting the possibility of secondary involvement. Prayer was maintained. Imagine our relief when it was found the swelling was only a normal and controllable local infection which was readily dealt with. From that time on Bisung has not looked back.

On returning from Madang his first concern was to give his heart felt thanks to the local congregation here at Tumba and by way of our mission transmitter to pass on his thanks to all of our churches who supported him in prayer during this time. On the following Sunday Bisung gave a spirited testimony to the goodness of God and demonstrated in his whole bearing and attitude that God had not only healed his body, but also deeply renewed his spiritual life.

Currently Bisung is in Madang having a post operative check up. Word has just come through that everything is normal. Our thanks to those who joined us in prayer for this brother. May the Lord use this young man in the future to His own glory and honour.

FLYING BIBLE DISTRIBUTOR NEEDED FOR OUTBACK

The Bible society in Australia is seeking a licensed pilot to take the Word of God into the towns and isolated communities of the outback.

For the past 10 years the Society's aircraft has been taking the Scriptures to cattle stations, mining towns, railway settlements and Aboriginal communities. The Aerial colporteur, Trevor Booth, worked in close co-operation with the churches.

In November last year, Mr Booth was appointed State Secretary for Western Australia. At its annual meeting in Melbourne earlier this month the Australian Council decided to continue — and extend — the outback ministry and to move the base from Carnarvon in Western Australia to Darwin.

The person appointed will be the Society's Northern Australia Regional Representative with responsibility for distributing the Scriptures in the Northern Territory, the Kimberleys of Western Australia, and western Queensland. He or she will fly a Cessna 182. Applications for the position close on June 23.

The Bible Society uses an aircraft for this ministry because it is the most efficient and economical form of transport for the type of work.

Since 1970 Bible Society activities in Darwin have been supervised by an honorary representative, the Reverend Canon Barry Butler. The new Northern Representative will take over responsibilities for that city. (See advert. on page 18.)

JAY'S FOR JUNIORS

JAY'S QUIZ THREE ESCAPES

1. Who escaped from prison with the help of an angel?
2. Who helped her husband get away from the enemy by helping him through a window?
3. Who got away from his enemies by being let down in a basket over a wall? (see page 18)

ONE THING

A long time ago an Englishman named John Howard Payne wrote an opera called "Clari, the Maid of Milan". A famous composer, Sir Henry Bishop, wrote the music. Nobody seemed to care much about the opera, but one song became a favourite. It is a song you have heard. It is called "Home, Sweet Home". It's about the only thing left from an opera that is almost forgotten. We can never be sure about failure. The main thing is to try to do well. Maybe John Howard Payne only did one thing well, but all the world knows about it.

Moe: "Boy, are you stupid!"

Joe: "Don't knock me. It's people like me that make people like you look good."

Passer-by: "I see you're putting up a new building."

Foreman: "Yes, sir. That's the only kind we ever put up."

Whenever we have soup at home I never spill a drop. Yet, I, When dining at a smart cafe, Invariably spot my tie.



"Tell us again about the Garden of Eden an' Tarzan and Jane."

BOOKS TO READ

THE DAYS OF HIS FLESH

by David Smith (Baker Book House)

This old book (first published in 1905) was a conservative review of the life of Jesus at a time when the church was still suffering from the worst of the work of the higher critics of the 19th century. Paul Maier in his foreword suggests that conservatives may not like Dr Smith's technical introduction for he was ready, where he felt the need, to criticise the gospel sources, but they will value the main body of the book where the miracles and other supernatural aspects of the life of Jesus are affirmed. The more liberal may favour the introduction. But in whatever category we find ourselves, the book is a scholarly work with sidelined scripture passages to support the unfolding of the story. We don't know if it is still there, but the book was in our classroom in our student days and we found it a reliable guide. — A.E.W.

DICK SHEPPARD

by Carolyn Scott (Hodder & Stoughton) \$14.95

If we had to vote on the most significant Christians of our century, (which we are not supposed to do anymore than we should be quarrelling among ourselves who is to be greatest in the Kingdom of God but if we did) some of the choices would be obvious. Albert Schweitzer, Kagawa, and Dr Martin Luther King, would easily reach the top ten. I would place a vote for Dr Larry Mellon in Haiti, and I know that in England a vast multitude, not the young, who may not have heard of him, would place Dick Sheppard at the top of the list. He nearly came to Australia. A representative of the Brotherhood of the Good Shepherd asked for volunteers at the college where Sheppard was a student. The Brotherhood was a society of Anglican priests and laymen in the Australian outback. Only one man volunteered, Dick Sheppard, but got so involved in his work in London that he never came here. He started in the East End but was called to St Martin's in the Fields, where he made that church known throughout the world. He was deeply involved in the social needs of people and used the new medium of radio and his popularity as a Christian writer to express his gospel. Vera Brittain wrote that Sheppard was "a man of genius — preacher, broadcaster, peace crusader — one of the most popular human beings ever to tread London's crowded pavements." It was the peace movement which was at once Sheppard's greatest achievement and his greatest sorrow (or failure, if you like). He was a man of boundless energy and deep commitment. Although there were times of uncertainty he once said, "Yes, I know, it is almost impossible to believe. I'm certain of nothing, but I'd rather base my whole life on a mistake than give up Christ." Faith is not knowledge, it is commitment. Dick Sheppard died with his enemy demons of poverty and war still triumphant, but for young Christians who want to know what faith can mean even in the midst of failure, then this is a book of hope. — A.E.W.

TOTAL JOY

by Marabel Morgan (Hodder & Stoughton) \$6.95

Once upon a time if a book was written by a Christian, you could be sure that there would not be much about sex. If the book was by a Christian woman, you could be even more sure. Things are different now. Christians are sexual beings as well as human and spiritual and there is flood of literature giving guidance to the newly married, the bored married, and the troubled married. Mrs Morgan, whose first book "The Total Woman" made her wealthy and her ideas about a happy marriage familiar around the world, has written a second best-seller. She develops her four "A's", Accept, Admire, Adapt, Appreciate; reveals some responses to her Total Woman course, and spends more than a little time telling how sex in marriage can be stimulated to make life a total joy. There are 29 scripture references to prove it's a Christian book. — W.E.A.

A New Short GRAMMAR OF THE GREEK TESTAMENT by Robertson & Davis (Baker)

This is one of the most popular of books of its kind and ran through ten editions since it first appeared in 1908. It is not for the beginner but will be found very useful for those who have a foundation of the Greek New Testament and wish to build on it. With the making of many new versions it is perhaps good to be reminded that the modern treasures came from the mine of a very old language. — A.E.W.

ALSO RECEIVED

The Growing Minister by Andrew W. Blackwood (Baker) A timely reprint of a book about ministers by a famous preacher and teacher of preachers. **My Favorite Outline** compiled by Carl G. Johnson (Baker). 52 outlines of sermons by 52 preachers of whom we knew only of Hyman Appelman and Oswald J. Smith. It hasn't got a sub-title, but it could have been "The Art of Attention Arresting Alliteration." **In My Father's House** by Corrie ten Boom (Hodder & Stoughton) \$2.45. This book by the famous author of "The Hiding Place" (The film is now showing in Australia) tells of the years before the book of the film was written. She is a most remarkable Christian and the book tells of some of those who helped to shape her life. **Capturing Voices** by Phyllis Thompson (Hodder & Stoughton) \$3.05. This is the biography of Joy Ridderhof, well known in Australia as a speaker at women's conventions etc. She is the inspiration behind Gospel Recordings. With 4000 languages in the repertoire, Gospel Recordings can reach over 4000 ethnic groups throughout the world, and has speeded up the processes of missionary outreach. This is the story of Joy, her visions, her obstacles, her enthusiasm, her faith, and the way the Lord did something wonderful.

COMPANION TO THE GOOD NEWS OLD TESTAMENT

J. Rhymer & A. Bullen (Fontana Paperback) \$2.75

This is a handbook for the Good News OT. The staggering success of the sales of the Good News Bible suggests that many who now possess copies are not regular church folk and will be greatly helped by a background book. The first section describes the lands and people, everyday life, the Covenant, how to read the O.T., and an alphabetical list of people, places, and ideas. The second section gives a brief summary of every book in the O.T. Handy for the regulars as well as the new readers.

THIS IS MY GOD

by Herman Wouk (Fontana Paperback) \$3.20

Although planned for Jews this outline of Jewish faith and practice has been much more widely received. It is written for the average reader (Wouk is also the author of "The Caine Mutiny" and "Marjorie Morningstar") and is a valuable adjunct to our libraries giving information about Jewish symbols, festivals, Holy Days, prayers, scriptures, the Torah and the Talmud. There is a 1969 reaction to the Six-Day War, an extensive list of books for further reading, and a glossary.

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 Cuckles by CARTWRIGHT-

"The Finance Committee is trying a whole new approach with our pledge workers!"

SYDNEY CRUSADE LAUNCHED

The first issue of CRUSADE NEWS from Sydney Billy Graham Crusade Office for free distribution in the churches was issued last month. In it details are given of the Share Partner Plan, a scheme whereby interested people may promise regular sums of money to help finance Crusade '79.

Crusade Chairman, Bishop Jack Dain, says "We want to emphasise that all giving to Crusade '79 should be over and above what Christians are already giving to their church. We recognise that there are high costs to be borne in having a city-wide presentation of the Gospel. It places tremendous responsibility on Christians,

CHAPLAIN PROMOTED

Chaplain G. S. Brown, currently serving with the R.A.A.F., was promoted to the relative rank of Wing Commander on May 14.

Since 1963, Chaplain Brown, a former President of the Victoria-Tasmania Conference, has served efficiently at Air Force units, which included No. 1 Stores Depot, Tottenham, Vic.; 1 Air Trials Unit, Woomera, S.A.; Edinburgh, S.A.; Amberley, Qld.; East Sale, Vic.; and Darwin, N.T., including valued service during Cyclone Tracy. He is currently serving at Amberley, Qld.

Diary

AUSTRALIA

July
3 O/Seas Missions Offering.
10 National Aborigines' Sunday.

VICTORIA

July
9 Explorer Film Night.
14 C.W.F. Welfare Day (Footscray)
18-22 Explorer Zone Sports
30 Explorer Snow Trip

NEW SOUTH WALES

June
17-18 Wagga Regional Convention

GORDON STIRLING SAYS

**COME TO
MELBOURNE
JAN. 8-14
1979**

and
**"REJOICE
IN THE LORD"**

but as they have proved God in previous Crusades, we are confident they are ready to prove Him again in Crusade '79."

Mr Barry Berryman, Director of the Crusade, says "We are not embarrassed by asking Christians to give liberally to finance the Crusade. It is a Scriptural principle. The opportunity to touch lives with the Gospel is a worthwhile investment for Christians.

"The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in the U.S.A. will meet all salary and travel costs associated with the visit of Dr Graham and his team while they are in Australia."

Ken Baker of Epping Church of Christ is a Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee, and K. E. Crawford, N.S.W. Conference Secretary, is Chairman of the Counselling Committee.

APPOINTMENT TO A.C.T.

Greg Strack this year completes a 5 year ministry at Dalkeith Road, Nedlands W.A. With his wife, Andrea, and two children, Simon aged 5 and Tina aged 3, will commence as a member of our Partnership or Team Ministry in the A.C.T. early in 1979. The special emphasis of Mr Strack's ministry will be in the field of Christian Education.

Mr Strack is a Victorian and was trained at the College of the Bible.

THREE BAPTISMS. (Thornleigh, D. W. Mansell). A young married couple were baptized on May 20 and on 27th an older lady was baptized. Guest speaker on 27th was Dr L. Jones and guest soloist at both services was Mrs Gore of Melbourne . . . Annual B.S. picnic held on May 26 in grounds of Deunmore House, Pendle Hill.

THE AUSTRALIAN

CHRISTIAN

Applications are invited for the position of

EDITOR

(of "The Australian Christian" from Jan. 1, 1979)

or for the position of **ASSOCIATE EDITOR** commencing any time.

For full details write to

The Secretary, Board of Management,
"THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN"

P.O. Box 101, Essendon North, Vic. 3041

HAPPENINGS

Eric Hart has returned to his home in Brisbane after an interim ministry with the church at Nelson, N.Z.

The Uniting Church has had to fund the Arakun and Mornington Island communities since April 1 without Government help. State funding stopped on April 1 when the State had intended to take over.

It is claimed that as many as two and a half million Cambodians have been massacred since the communist take-over. This claim by the former Cambodian Information Minister is supported by other observers, but a group of American communist journalists who visited the country last month said they saw no evidence of a bloodbath.

A representative of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners said that cannabis (marijuana) is less harmful than alcohol. He said there is a recent trend towards increased drinking by early teenagers and alcohol abuse is a gigantic problem. This is not an argument for softening our attitude towards cannabis, but it is a very strong argument for removing alcohol advertisements

from TV, cinemas, newspapers and magazines and anywhere else alcohol drinks are shown as desirable and attractive.

Disturbing facts about mentally retarded persons have just been published in Victoria. There are 4000 adults and children crowded into institutions, sometimes in appalling conditions, and there are a further 4000, some with multiple handicaps, for whom there are no places and not enough supportive services.

To educate his 12-year old children a teacher in a California school had them set up a "capitalist democracy" to run their own affairs. They printed money, charged for the use of pencil-sharpener, books, waste-basket, and even doors. The "police" charged students with trivial offences, accepted bribes and fingerprinted the whole class. The "bank" president used bank funds to pay other students to do her work. But the thing that brought the house down was counterfeiting. The head of the "health" department brought the "nation" down when he used the duplicator to print "\$300,000" which enabled him to "retire" from his job. The teacher finally gave up and announced that he was taking over as a dictator! It was all good fun but, seriously, could it mean that there are built in flaws in the capitalist system itself that makes it impossible to work.

WHITE PAPERS

ON FAITH AND LIFE

CALL TO EVANGELISM

Gordon Moyes' call for a new thrust in evangelism ("A.C." 27.5.78) should be taken seriously by our churches.

There are two ways a church can grow. By adding numbers to the churches is one way (And there is no real growth here if we simply transfer members from one church to another).

The second way of growth is by present members to become more mature and more deeply committed. This is vital, but if it is the only area of growth, the Christian church will be composed of folk becoming better and better and fewer and fewer. We have to grow both ways, in numbers and maturity.

Evangelism is the means by which those who are not Christian become Christian and, as we are reminded again and again, evangelism is not an option, it is commanded by Jesus.

It is also important to use the word "evangelism" for a clear declaration of the gospel and a call for its acceptance.

There are many processes which lead to and are essential to evangelism (the quality of life of Christians, Christian education, social concern, Christian families, and Christian friendship) but these must not be confused with evangelism itself. Without the Christian activities in home, church, and society, evangelism is not possible. These activities are just as important after the response to the evangelistic call. Especially teaching. I remember in my classes at Glen Iris quoting an assessment of our failures: "We have evangelized, and we have baptized, but we have not taught, and that is where our weakness lies." Christian education not only leads to commitment it proceeds to guide the new disciple to maturity in faith and practice.

Prior to the evangelistic call, Christian education prepares the mind and heart for the leap in faith; social concern is an expression of Christ's care for the body and mind of man; and Christian friendship is not discipleship.

C. H. Dodd in "The Apostolic Preaching and its Development" made a separation of preaching and teaching which was too extreme. Critics of Dodd's position have proved their case that in the early church there was no clear distinction between preaching and teaching. The ancient teachers were evangelistic and the evangelists were teachers. But they would never have been confused about the two. There was need for a clear call and a definite response and that was evangelism.

That call is being made and the responses are coming. Each issue of this journal gives the names of new disciples and we must guard and sustain them. To do this well need not stop us from making a new thrust for evangelism.

It is well worth facing the challenge seriously and there will be need for bold planning and dedicated and competent leadership. We have such leaders in our State Home Mission Departments, and among our ministers but it will not be possi-

ble for them to act effectively without the support of the members of our churches across the nation.

ARMS AND THE WOMEN The U.N. is having its first ever session and disarmament and despite the world's concentration on the problems of inflation, unemployment, population and hunger, we shall be forced to have a global look at whether we shall have a world at all if the present frightening arsenal already available is let loose by accident or design.

82 women from 34 different organizations in 23 countries met in April in Vienna for a seminar on "Women and World Disarmament." Their aim was to make the voice of women heard at the U.N. Session on Disarmament, May 23-June 28. They were also attempting to create public awareness on the subject in the 1975-1985 Decade for Women.

The Vienna report said that the "arms race fosters repression as well as discrimination on the basis of sex and race." The seminar decided to ask the UN Special Session to commit itself to a programme to ensure "general and complete disarmament within a limited time." The women want "The one billion dollars now spent daily on arms to be used to eliminate unemployment, disease, hunger and illiteracy and to improve the living conditions of the millions existing in want and economic underdevelopment." They claimed that "high military expenditures slowed economic and social development, caused unemployment and inflation in many industrialized countries, and that women are the first victims of this distorted development."

THIS CRIME MUST NOT PAY In Italy's agony over the kidnap and murder of Aldo Moro, the anguish was added to by the refusal of the Moro family to share in the nation's tribute and memorial service to the statesman, accusing the country's leaders of failing to save Moro's life by refusing to negotiate with his kidnappers, the Red Brigades.

The whole world shares the sorrow of the Moro family, but there is overwhelming support for the action of the Italian government. If the Italian government had yielded, or if any other government yields in a similar situation, to the demands of kidnappers, hijackers, or terrorists, the anxiety and grief of one family might be eased, but innumerable others would at once be placed at risk.

Every time an extortionist is paid off, his kind is encouraged to repeat the offence. No matter how important, or rich, or how much loved the victim is, this is one crime that must not be allowed to pay.

GOOD GRIEF!! "Paint me," said Cromwell to the artist, "warts and all!" Lacking such an open invitation, secretaries, gardeners, chauffeurs, and fellow politicians are writing profitable books telling all but revealing little or nothing of value to genuine history or to the evaluation of character. Why is it that the excesses and the scandal hunting of the worst of the weekend papers are condemned and the books by prominent people doing the same thing receive acclaim and appreciative reviews. The latest chipp off the cromwellian block was an instant sell-out!

NEW FIELD DIRECTOR



Jeffrey Deuble has been appointed to the position of field director with the Vic.-Tas. Dept. of Mission, Education and Development. He commences in 1979. The appointment represents a major new move in the youth ministry area of the Department's field services to churches.

Jeff will have special responsibilities for development of programmes in camping, training and evangelism. He will be available to service local church youth groups as a speaker, leader and resource person and liaise with youth groups and tertiary students through the Department's Youth Ministry Committee. As a part of the Department's team of field

directors he will also have some responsibilities in the areas of church growth, evangelism and planned giving.

He comes from the Toowoomba church and is currently completing studies at Woolwich College. Prior to theological training he studied in the U.S.A. for one year. He is also studying at Macquarie University.

"Is there trouble anywhere?"

REJOICE IN THE LORD!

Melbourne Jan. 1978

OBITUARY

BERLIN Mrs Lydia

(12.5.1978) The church was saddened by the sudden death of Mrs Lydia Berlin. She was shopping with her two daughters when she suffered a severe heart attack. A Christian for 65 of her almost 77 years, her life was one which continually showed the reality of her Christian experience. Her life centred in two areas — her love for the Lord Jesus Christ and his church, and her home and family. The family home at Marburg was always open, and known for its hospitality. Mrs Berlin was associated with Marburg church for most of her life. For many years she served as a Sunday School teacher and as CWF treasurer. Following the death of her husband, Frederick, nine years ago, she moved to Ipswich and lived with various members of her family. Faithfulness in attendance at services was a strong characteristic of her life. She was a woman of prayer, and until recently was regular in attendance at the Wednesday night prayer meeting. Two days before her death she attended the mission meeting at Mt Walker church. There was a large attendance at East Ipswich chapel, and also later at the Marburg Cemetery where many country people gathered to share in the service. V. G. Boettcher, a life long friend, unable to share in the service, forwarded a written tribute. We commend her children Jean, Joy, Don, Maurice, Allan, Roy and Ken, to the Lord at this time. — B. A. Rice.

BIRD Margorie Jean.

Mrs Jean Bird will be remembered as a S.S. teacher, as greatly involved in C. E., ladies' meetings and prayer groups. She faithfully attended church meetings and had a will to faithfully fulfil the plan and purpose she believed God had for her. Even though sick, she seemed to defy many physical laws and went through life developing and maintaining goals. She was an accomplished organiste and pianiste and studied and worked for academic achievements. Her sons, Ian and Neil, and their wives, Elizabeth and Sue, and the four grandchildren were part of real family circle of love. She will be remembered as a woman of prayer with a motivation to encourage and stand with the family, people of the community, and the church of Jesus Christ.

CLYDESDALE Roy.

(5.5.1978) Roy Clydesdale of 6 Young Street, Mooroopna, died quietly in his sleep at the age of 83 years. His service in the community and the Christian church will be greatly missed. He was an Elder of the Shepparton Church and served faithfully and fervently. A large crowd attended the funeral service which was held on May 8, and was conducted by Mr Bruce McIntosh. Don Oaks spoke on behalf of the Aborigines Board and brought the scripture reading. P. Kavanagh brought the closing tribute. There was also a strong representation from the Aboriginal section of the community. Brother Clydesdale's love and kindness to them was not forgotten. The Mooroopna Church held a Memorial Service on May 14 to pay tribute to their friend and Pastor. May the Churches of Christ in Victoria pray for his wife Ann as she faces the task of readjustment.

HINRICHSEN Gustav Alfred.

(14.5.1978) Mr Hinrichsen was born in Rosevale, Qld., son of Marie and August Hinrichsen. He graduated from the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, in the early 1920's and was married to Victoria Gibb at East Kew 51 years ago. There were three children, Eulalie, Bruce and Valmae. During the next 40 years he ministered in churches in Victoria, Queensland, New Zealand and New South Wales, as well as spending quite some time working with his brother E. C. Hinrichsen doing very valuable follow up work in areas where tent missions were held. In more recent years Alf Hinrichsen was involved in business and then in taxi driving, until his retirement. Two years ago he suffered a stroke and has not been really well since then. His lovely faithful wife has been very diligent in caring for him during this time. A matter of weeks ago he underwent surgery from which he seemed to be making a slow but steady recovery until his sudden, but peaceful death. Alfred Hinrichsen was very fond of people, and was liked and respected by many whether

as a result of his ministries or his friendly manner as a taxi driver. He was a lover of God's natural creation. A man in harmony with God, people, and nature. — K.F.

READHEAD William Garwin

Bill Readhead was a foundation member of the Drumcondra (Manifold Hgts.) and Thomson churches in Geelong, Vic. and is remembered as a quiet, positive thinker, a good listener and encourager, S.S. teacher and a friend of young people. He was engaged in many practical activities in the church and community and was treasurer of the Thomson church for a number of years. He and his wife, Val., shared 40 years together during which time he worked with the Ford Co. He was greatly appreciated in the neighborhood where he lived. The character of Bill will live on in the lives of the children, Laurie, Clive, Wilma, and John. The service at La Trobe Terrace church was a time of thanksgiving for a quiet, unassuming, practical man with firm convictions. Those present were invited to leave a living memorial through gifts to Gideons International. \$131.00 was received. — R.J.G.

OVERSEAS MISSIONS CONVENTION

June 23rd - 25th

DANDENONG CHURCH OF CHRIST

Cnr. Mason & Walker Sts.

Programme:

Friday 8 p.m. Missionary Aviation Fellowship.

Saturday 8 p.m. New Hebrides and Papua New Guinea. Various Speakers.

Sunday 9.30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Miss Hazel Skuze of India.

7 p.m. Mr Ron McLean, Federal Secretary of Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board.

Large Missionary Display in church hall open half an hour prior to each meeting.

Prayer requested, visitors from other churches welcome.

CHILDREN'S YOUTH DIRECTOR

THE BIBLE SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA (VIC.)

Requires a suitable person to direct children's and youth activities in Victoria.

* This person is required to move among those of all Christian denominations, be able to communicate well with children and youth, and be thoroughly committed to Christ and the Bible Society cause.

* The work entails administration, imaginative planning, promotion and public speaking.

* It is demanding and responsible, but extremely exciting and varied work, with opportunity to promote our cause in new and creative ways.

* Enquiries should be made in writing or by phone by Friday, June 23rd to The State Secretary, 241 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000. Phone 63 1896.

YOUTH OUTREACH at WEMBLEY

by D. K. CROOT



A Discoverers' Club led by Michael Lush of the C.S.S.M. brought fine results in an outstanding program in which over 40 of our church members participated in some way. It was conducted from 7 p.m.-8.15 p.m. each weeknight for one week. The Club was preceded by a Drop-in Centre program in a week at the Mustard Seed (a renovated cottage next to the chapel, used for small group activities) and the Girls' Brigade Demonstration and

Enrolment service. At the Wembley Primary School Michael Lush spoke in two sessions arousing a great deal of interest.

The Club was aimed at grades 3-7, but younger children were involved in a program run by the older children. Members staffed the Mustard Seed next door to enable parents to wait for their children while enjoying a chat and a cup

of coffee. A pool table and reading room were also available. An average of 67 children attended and by the middle of the week parents were coming early to see what antics Michael Lush was going to use to get his message over.

A Sunday Family Service concluded the Club part of the program, with items from the children and a brief time of communion. The poster work completed during the week was on display.

The next weekend about 80 people shared in a Family Camp. Allan Anderson (Nollamara) was guest leader.

The next two weekends saw another Drop-in program and a Youth Tea followed by a Youth Service with three Senior Netball Teams and Senior Brigade girls on parade. The church also has three Junior Netball Teams and a Senior Basketball team playing in the Churches Competitions.

The Seed Drop-in Centre is a montly program, Saturday, 2-11 p.m. with a full week run each school holidays. This outreach is planned and staffed by the Youth Group.

ACROSS THE TASMAN

by Don A. V. Thomas

We came to Palmerston North (in the North Island of New Zealand) to visit our son Joe and his wife, Judy, and to be here for the arrival of their first-born, Kayleen Maree.

The day after we arrived happened to be the upmteenth working-bee on the new chapel for the Takaro Combined Churches of Christ — Methodist congregation, and there I was with a paintbrush in my hand. It was a good way to meet the enthusiastic band of men who had toiled so long in co-operation with the master-builder, and it was a joy to share in the remaining three weeks of building preparation.

Now, 18 years after their fine all-purpose hall was erected, there stands the beautiful worship centre with its atmosphere of warmth and welcome; a place where one can worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The official opening was on April 29. 250 people saw the builder hand the key to Mrs Scadden, the longest standing member, who opened the door. The N.Z. Conference President, Dr David Coulter, unveiled the plaque in the foyer and led the congregation into the chapel for the dedication service.

The Mayor of Palmerston North, Brian Elwood, aptly summed up the occasion when said, "Here you have erected a building which is identifiable with the community of Takaro." There were greetings from the Council of Churches and district Churches of Christ. Dr Coulter delivered the dedication address and, Harold Bischoff, General Secretary, Associate Churches of Christ, (so long in N.Z. that we may forget that he is a Queenslander and had ministries in Victoria and N.S.W.) led in the Dedication Prayer. The ladies served afternoon tea in the hall.

More than 200 attended the first communion service on the Sunday, with resi-

dent minister, David Brown, presiding, and E. Ray Vickery, former minister, as guest preacher.

It was a rare privilege for a month or two to share in the life of the church at Palmerston North and gain an appreciation of the enthusiastic and warm-hearted congregation witnessing in Takaro.

OFFICE SECRETARY (Engadine, S. Thomas). One of our members, Gail Tams, has been appointed as the church's first paid office secretary. She works three half-days per week . . . The V.B.S. held during May school holidays had the whole church working and praying to reach out to the children of the area. During the five day programme, a total of 578 children were registered, and approximately 150 children attended no S.S. As a result of the V.B.S. and follow up programme, new children are coming to the S.S. and clubs.

BIBLE SMUGGLERS ATTACKED

Dr Paul Hansen of the Lutheran World Federation's department of church co-operation has attacked certain "East Missions" in the USA, West Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway and Holland as being responsible for smuggling Bibles into Eastern European countries and illegally importing into the USSR roubles bought at cheap rates in the West.

The people who illegally take Bibles into the Soviet Union regard themselves as "God's Smugglers," said Dr Hansen. These people should realize that the vast majority of people in the USSR do not understand this. "They look upon the 'smugglers' with disgust, as a kind of criminal, and this attitude is immediately directed also towards those Christians who have contact with the 'smugglers' and unfortunately in many cases also towards Christians as a whole. Every time an attempt to smuggle in Bibles and other religious literature is discovered and reported in the press, whenever the mass media show films of such episodes at the borders, the militant atheists get new 'ammunition' for their anti-religious propaganda, those who oppose more tolerant practices in relation to the churches are strengthened, and much irritation and hostility against everything which has to do with the church and religion are generated."

Dr Hansen also stated that anyone in the Democratic Republic of Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia who really wanted a Bible could get one. "To smuggle Bibles into these countries is a demonstration, not a necessity," he said. He attacked those who only painted a grim picture of life in socialist Eastern Europe. He said "the people who would be able to give a different picture — one that is positive and encouraging — of Christian life and church activities in the socialist countries, and who could set straight the exaggerations, inaccuracies, and generalizations of the East Missions, are often reluctant to do so. They prefer to avoid a confrontation with these people, not to become involved in polemics in which demagoguery is frequent.

"While not playing down the difficulties experienced by churches and Christians in some socialist countries or remaining silent about the fact that there have been severe clashes between religious groups and police, much more should be reported about the life of the official churches and congregations, which include the overwhelming majority of Christians in Eastern Europe and the USSR. Great numbers of Christians participate regularly and undisturbed in an active congregational life." — E.P.S.



VICTORIA

INCREASE. (Bayswater, R. B. Waldron, D. Armstrong). Offerings have increased by about 50%, and Board has decided to renovate Manse in hope of full-time ministry in 1979 . . . Cell Groups are showing signs of God's movement through the Church . . . The June "Features-at-Five" now operating and visitation programme is planned for church contacts in preparation for July Mini-Mission . . . Cedric Hordern showed Central and Eastern Australia slides and Tricia and Geoff Genat showed slides, from European holiday, to raise money for Manse renovation . . . Many past members returned for Tennis Club's 30th Anniversary.

CHURCH GROWTH. (Peel St., Ballarat, H.A.L. Clark). Stimulated by a Church Growth Seminar with B. E. McMurtrie (Berwick) in late 1977, a number of initiatives have been successfully introduced. Monthly inter-generational worship services at 9.30 a.m. average 120 present, incorporating communion and B.S. scholars, and featuring puppets, artwork, musical items, poster displays, drama, illustrated stories using flannelgraph and overhead projector. Parents of B.S. scholars readily attend and new contacts made. Basket lunches following 11 a.m. worship services held regularly when whole church discusses Church Growth progress.

INTERCHANGE. (Mildura, Barry Brown). Mildura & Red Cliffs have commenced interchange of speakers and presidents. Barry Brown speaks at Red Cliffs twice a month . . . "Trash 'n Treasure" day to support Building Fund, raised over \$1400 . . . Work has commenced on alterations and additions to chapel and kinder hall . . . Care Committee catered for group of 60 at Sunraysia Camp . . . C.W.F. held mother and daughter night.

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7 p.m. "Can Truth Change?"

June 18. Preacher: A. L. Webb
9.30 & 11 a.m. Exposition of Acts
7 p.m. Character Study of Moses

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Closing Date: 30th June, 1978.

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The Director,
Community Welfare Foundation,
Post office box 26, North Fitzroy, Vic. 3068.

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IN AUSTRALIA, P.O. BOX 507, CANBERRA CITY, 2601.

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● The Rev. W. M. Constable

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ENJOY OUR 11 DAY BEST OF TASMANIA TOUR. — Departing on 19th November for Launceston, St. Helen's, Bicheno, Hobart, Port Arthur, Queenstown, Burnie, Devonport etc. This high standard tour is conducted in conjunction with Trans Otway and is very popular. From Melbourne: **\$569.00**

THAILAND DISCOVERY TOUR — This 22-day tour will leave on 26th August, under the leadership of Rev. and Mrs Brian Ball, and will spend 4 days in Hong Kong, 4 nights in Bali, and 12 days in Thailand including Bangkok, River Kwai, Changrai, and Changmai where we will share part of the celebrations marking the 150th Anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Church in Thailand. Limited to 35 members. FARES: From Sydney **\$1324.00**; Melbourne **\$1405.00**, Adelaide **\$1484.00**

BALKANS DISCOVERY TOUR — This is a little unusual. Departing on October 5th by Yugoslav Airlines our 24-day tour will take us to Yugoslavia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria. Accompanied by Rev. and Mrs W. M. Constable, this will be remembered as an outstanding tour full of interest. From Melbourne or Sydney **\$1854.00**

SEE BEAUTIFUL NEW ZEALAND IN THE SPRING — We will repeat our 18-day New Zealand Tour leaving on October 14th for Auckland, Waitomo, Rotorua, Napier, Wellington, Picton, Greymouth, Franz Josef, Wanaka, Queenstown, Te Anau, Milford Sound, Invercargill, Dunedin, Christchurch etc. This is NOT a budget tour, land arrangements are by Mount Cook Tours, all meals, comfortable coaches, competent guides. TOUR COSTS: From Melbourne **\$961.00**; Sydney **\$936.00**; Brisbane **\$956.00**.

SEE BEAUTIFUL AUSTRALIA WITH A.C.T.S. & AUSTRALIAN PACIFIC —

1. TOUR TO CAIRNS — leaving on July 15th from Melbourne by luxury coach for Sydney then to Brisbane and Cairns. Cruise to interesting Islands — a well planned 23-day tour. From Melbourne **\$1084**; Adelaide **\$1174**; Sydney **\$905**.

2. TOUR TO ALICE SPRINGS & THE RED CENTRE — departing by air on 3rd August. Sightseeing in Alice and surrounding areas, then back by coach. This 14-day tour is very popular. It is hoped Mrs Rita Dunkley will be able to lead the party. From Melbourne **\$768**; Adelaide **\$645**; Sydney **\$790**; Brisbane **\$862**.

3. TOUR TO WEST AUSTRALIA — at Wildflower time. Leaving by coach on October 2nd this 18-day tour is really something special. Two nights are on the train from Perth to Port Pirie. From Melbourne **\$912**, first class rail **\$872**, second class rail, from Adelaide **\$813-\$773**; Sydney **\$917-\$858**; Brisbane **\$1009-\$950**.

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TOUR TO INDONESIA & SINGAPORE — we are planning to repeat our Indonesia Tour during January 1979 if there is enough interest. Let us know if you would like to visit this fascinating country.

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BIRTH

GEEVES (nee Chalk) Phillip and Jenny give thanks to God for the safe arrival of Wada Phillip, born 18th May at Ipswich.

WEDDING

STEVENS — **MILLIGAN** Jamie and Trudy, together with their parents, Marj and Jack Stevens, and Val and Ian Milligan, are happy to announce that they will be married at the Kedron Church of Christ, Qld., by Mr James Dow at 3 p.m. Saturday, 10th June, 1978.

DEATH

HINRICHSEN, Gustav Alfred, on May 14th in hospital, late of Epping, N.S.W. Dearly beloved husband of Victoria, loved Father and Father-in-law of Eulalie and Jack, Bruce and Dale, Valmae and Eric. Devoted Grandfather of their children. Aged 76 years.

IN MEMORIAM

HAYES Stanley. Passed away Ballarat, June 4, 1977. Dear husband of Hilda and Dad of Marian (Canberra), Eric (Warrnambool) and Barbara (Cheltenham). Loving, happy, memories "Till the day breaks and all shadows flee away."

GOLDEN WEDDING

NORTHEAST-RASMUSSEN Eunice and Jack give praise to God on their 50th wedding anniversary. Married at Fairfield Church of Christ on 18th June, 1928 by the late T. A. Fitzgerald.

RUBY WEDDING

DAVIS-CASLEY on June 11, 1938, Florence Myrtle Casley and Alexander Robert Davis were married at the Short St. Church of Christ, Bendigo, by Mr A. N. Hinrichsen. Present address: 79 McLeod Rd., Carum, Vic. 3197. Phone 772 4354 (Melb.)

MISSING BIBLE

THE BRICKHILL FAMILY Bible is missing and has been missing for a long time. But it should still be around somewhere. It is a large, heavy brass fronted and clipped Bible with photographs and details of births, deaths and marriages of the Brickhill family from 1830 onwards. It was in the process of being repaired when mislaid. Any enquiries to R. Scott, 3 Hardy Court, Benteigh, Vic. Phone 97 5117

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MARSHAMAN Mrs E.A., 11 Urquhart Street, Horsham, Vic. Loving 90th Birthday Greetings from Vina, Dave, Jean, Linda, Margaret, Jack, and families.

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JAY'S QUIZ

Answers: (see page 10) 1. The apostles (Act 5:18, 19). 2. Michael, David's wife, (1 Sam. 19: 12). 3. Saul or Paul (Acts 9:22-25).

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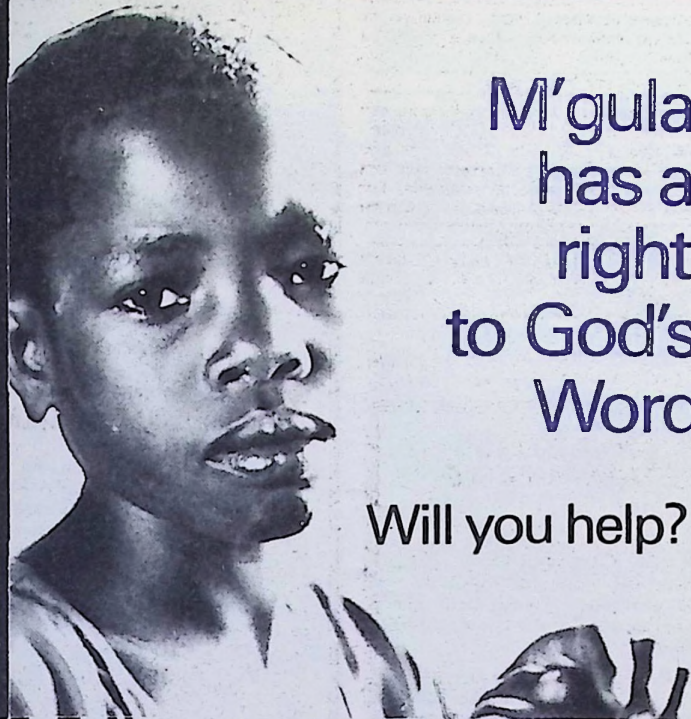
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Church News Editor: G. T. Alves

ISSUE	DEADLINE
June 24	June 16
July 8	June 30

—PERSONAL—

DISCIPLESHIP

- Mrs Joyce Holland, Blackburn, Vic.
- Wally Tassell, Celia Atkins, Warwick, Qld.
- Peter Tarozza, Sth. Melbourne, Vic.
- Stephen Jones, Barolin St., Bundaberg, Qld.
- Mrs Shirley Crawford, Graeme Wolter, Dandenong, Vic.
- Lisa Thomas, Ruth Bunston, Wattle Park, Vic.
- Miss Wendy Unsworth, Thornleigh, N.S.W.
- Grace Brown, Mark McWilliams, Judy Nankivell, Mildura, Vic.
- Pearl Spalding, Salisbury East, S.A.
- Philip Nicholas, Mrs Robyn Shepherd, Wembley, W.A.
- Linda Gellie, Shaun Gellie, Carnegie, Vic.

MARRIAGES

- Beth Quantrelle to Philip Joyce, Blackburn, Vic.
- Lucia Forsyth to Garry McKee, Sue Macdonald to Terry Conroy, Ipswich, Qld.
- Vicki Daniel to Michael Harris, Lynette Parker to Michael Sharman, Pat Turner to Reg Clarke, Long Plains, S.A.
- Jane Efthimiadis to David Pallot, Wattle Park, Vic.
- Alison Murray to Graeme Hall, Thornleigh, Vic.
- Beth Rogan to Malcolm Parker, Inverell, N.S.W.
- Janice May to Murray Smith, Balaklava, S.A.

DEATHS

- Mrs Lydia Berlin, Ipswich, Qld.
- William Garwin Readhead, Marjorie Jean Bird, Geelong, Vic.
- Bill Walker, Peel St. Ballarat, Vic.
- Tom Doust, Inverell, N.S.W.
- Mrs Joyce Macumber, Carnegie, Vic.
- Mrs Pearl Howard, Peel St., Ballarat, Vic.

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VICTORIA

CELL GROUPS (Blackburn, Keating/Burnham) Cell Groups participating in sharing program. There was a baptismal service on May 21, Mrs Ann Whitehead was guest soloist . . . Senior Citizens held celebration for Golden Wedding of Mr and Mrs Clyde Welsh . . . Leanne Johnston was admitted to A. Mus. A. certificate . . . Mother's Day and Pentecost were themes of services on May 14. The film "Celebration" was screened at night and Y.A.F. took part.

WORLD DAY (Tootgarook, David Hovey) At "World Fellowship Day", celebrated at Rye Anglican Church, Mr Hovey was speaker . . . Four ladies were baptised on May 21 . . . B. S. Day Camp was conducted during school holidays by Mrs Pat Moore, with teachers helping . . . Youth Service held on May 28, when the group "Searchlight" was featured . . . Evening services during winter months commence at 5 p.m. . . . C.W.F. debated "Should husbands share the housework, after retirement".

PARK LUNCH (West Preston, B. F. Goldsteen) 50 enjoyed first of series of "lunches in the park" after morning service . . . 60 shared fellowship and fun at family camp . . . Efforts being made to provide class sets of bibles for Church School . . . 60 blind people used our Youth Centre when rain spoilt outdoor reunion following Belgrave camp for Christian Fellowship for the Blind . . . Planning well under way for October Mini-Mission with G. R. Stirling . . . Blind Fellowship

organised and participated in evening service . . . Stephen Robb received second prize for second year of his Wood Machining apprenticeship . . . \$178 given to Leprosy Mission.

INDUSTRIAL CHAPLAIN (LaTrobe Tce., Geelong, Neal Hodgkiss) Mr Hodgkiss has begun as part-time industrial chaplain at A.M.P. He will be full time from July 1, on completing his ministry here . . . Members have left as a work-part for Carnarvon . . . Church saddened at the sudden deaths of Bill Readhead and Jean Bird . . . Keith Lacey, ACTS International, recent speaker . . . Radio service well received . . . Youth group arranged Mother's Day dinner.

HIGH TEA (Montrose, L. V van Laar) The church school staff invited parents and pupils to afternoon on May 18 for Mother's Day celebration. 134 children and adults were present . . . The Conference Evangelistic Rally was attended by 18 from Montrose . . . Mrs Olive McClure is under hospital observation in hospital, and three others are home after surgery . . . Alf and Esma Tapscott celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on May 19.

AUTOGRAPHS (Warragul, R. Pritchard). Children and adults were issued with autograph books and each Sunday they secure names of those present. This getting-to-know-you project led by Mrs Mary Seabrook is a successful church family exercise. About 20 children attend morning service . . . Ladies conducted Mother's Day service with Mrs Freda Morris as guest speaker . . . Don Barnett spoke on Aborigines Missions on May 21 . . . House meeting held each Sunday

night . . . Mrs Marion Boote visiting relatives in England.

WRITE TO GOVERNMENT. (Ormond, C. P. Clayden). Members have been strongly urged to write to the Government objecting to any further relaxing of liquor laws . . . Mr Clayden was speaker at combined Ormond service during Week of Prayer for Christian Unity . . . Hariba and Shalini Waghmode shared in morning service . . . "Drop In" Centre now receives Meals on Wheels from council . . . S.S. scholars held car wash for camp fund for Mill Valley Ranch . . . Ladies conducted evening service on Mother's Day and C.M.F. held 21st annual meeting and tea on May 28. Laurie Dunn screened recent films for which he received awards.

MANSE. (Red Cliffs). Plans are in hand for renovations to manse . . . The ladies conducted the full morning Service for Mother's Day. Mrs Furze (Mildura) presided, and Miss Elizabeth Jones (Mildura) was speaker. An item was given by Kinders . . . Recent addresses have been given by B. Brown, C. Muller and D. Rogers (Mildura) and I. Cameron, M. Milne and I. Cook (Red Cliffs).

SERVICE. (Preston/East Preston, J. Manallack). Three of our ladies are members of committees for Vic-Tas. Conference: Jean Hillier and Linda Morgan are on the Missionary Committee, and Margaret Mill is on the Social Service Committee . . . Six Good Companions went to camp at Monbulk in May holidays . . . Leper Box and Phial opening amounted to \$130.14.



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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

THANKSGIVING (Prospect, R. H. Sercombe) Proceeds of Thanksgiving Day will help growing congregation at Madang to build a church . . . Combined service, Uniting Churches and Church of Christ, held at St John's Uniting Church on May 28 . . . After-school "Jesus Christ Club" had members of church instructing classes in arts, crafts, woodwork . . . Vic. Reeves presented 35mm, 16mm, and 8mm film evening to Camera Club. He is a leading cine authority . . . Mrs Jan McBride gained 7th place in State Nurses' exams . . . A. Roberts is making progress in Modbury Hosp.

PART TIME (Long Plains) John Elliott commenced a part-time ministry here on Easter Sunday. He travels from Brighton Gardens each Sunday . . . Our circuit has joined the preaching plan of the Adelaide Plains Uniting Church Parish which includes nine churches and involves 12 preachers, plus many more from other circuits . . . Members travelled to Kadina for the induction of Ian Adams, and to the Northern Dist. Conf. which was held there.

BANQUET (Flinders Park, G. & J. Fewster) Church banquet held to present goals and aims (set by the board) to church. Evening included message from Des Kuhl, Murray Bridge . . . In recognition of many years of loyal service, the church has appointed George Houston and Fred Russell as "Elders Emeritus" . . . On May 14, approx. 200 people participated in a pentecost celebration, which included procession of children, banners and decorations. Each person shared a slice of birthday cake to remember the birthday of the church. A guest was Shanti Solomon, from India. At night deaconesses organised and led Mother's Day service, at which the Y.P. served supper . . . The church has issued name tags to members to facilitate fellowship.



NEW SOUTH WALES

C.W.F. LEAD (Mosman, P. Seiler/E. Volker) Mother's Day evening service conducted by C.W.F. members. Message given by Carol Seiler (wife of student minister), guest soloist Tom Newberry . . . At regular After Church Fellowship Madge and Ken Hunter were farewelled to Narraweena. Appreciation of many years of service were expressed. Gifts were presented by Edna Walker, C.W.F. Pres., Clarrie Murray, Church Sec. and Elder . . . Hospitals and convalescent homes regularly visited by elders, contacting many lonely people . . . Virginia Howard from Mosman Community Advice Bureau spoke on May 21 . . . C.W.F. Open Door Program continues to grow. C.W.F. visited new Church of Christ Homes at Forestville on May 3.

ANNIVERSARY (Chatswood, T. Butler) Church Anniversary celebrated on April 30 with missionary theme. Sunday morning-speaker was R. Dixon, who recently revisited India. After anniversary tea the speaker was David Eagling, who spoke on missions in New Hebrides. On Tuesday evening, Miss Diane Feeney spoke on anthropology and mission work in Papua New Guinea . . . Gordon Stirling, Fed. Conf. Pres., was recent speaker.

CONVENTION (Inverell, R. Powell) For Missionary Convention, May 25-27, visiting missionaries were Col. McCosker (Kenmore Christian College) formerly Principal, Banmatmat Bible College, New Hebrides; Bob and Anne Burcher (S.I.M. Ethiopia/Kenya); Paul and Anne Weekley (S.I.M. Niger); and Barry Potter (W.E.C. Japan). In past year more than \$1300 given to various missionary projects through Faith/Promise giving . . . Adventure Week programme conducted by Chris Goss of D.C.E., May 8-12, assisted by visitors from Sydney and Armidale and local members. It featured games, craft work and a serial play.



QUEENSLAND

MEN HOSTS (Barolin St. Bundaberg, B. M. Nowitzke) Men entertained ladies to tea on Mother's Day . . . Mr and Mrs F. Prestwood now guests in Pioneer Home . . . Six members travelled to Maryborough for Half-Yearly Convention. Recent speakers have been State Conf. Pres. J. Ferguson, W. Deoberitz, A. C. Male, A. Mortensen, and a Gideons' representative.

YOUTH CAMP (Ipswich, Barry Rice) 65 y.p. attended camp at Neranwood over May long weekend. Studies led by Lloyd Carter of Kingaroy, former associate minister . . . 55 ladies attended coffee morning with Myrtle Breen as speaker . . . Mother's Day service featured answers to questionnaire prepared by parents with teenagers, and answered by V.Y.F. group. Comments were made by Lorna Risson and Ev. Feldon on findings.

Visiting soloiste and song leader was Sherenne Gehrke of Caringbah . . . Church fellowship at Family Group Home Garden Party raised \$1000 towards home . . . The church family was enlarged by three births in one week . . . Monthly youth service conducted by youth leader Glenn Rissen . . . Church supported Doug Willis mission at Mt Walker and Rosewood. Married man made his decision at mission.

FAMILY CAMP (Dalby-Branch Line, B. Thygesen). Family Camp leader at Hervey Bay was Col. Deacon with Graham Barber as study leader. Young children were cared for by Miss Judy Evans. Fellowship at camp was held with Dr. Barry Pitt and his wife, Dr Marilyn Pitt. They were later farewelled at Dalby church on leaving for missionary work in Liberia, Africa. A wallet of notes was presented to them . . . Mothers were presented with a spray of white chrysanthemums on Mother's Day arranged by Mrs Margaret Pedler and J.C.E. . . . Church sympathises with the family of the late Bill Ammenhauser . . . Covenant Players took part in recent gospel service and held a workshop.



TASMANIA

INVESTED (Devonport, G. Risson) Ian Gadsby was invested with the rank of Warrant Officer of Boys' Brigade on May 21 . . . Mr and Mrs Trevor Harman have left on a world tour . . . Mr and Mrs Jenkins represented Churches of Christ Aborigines' Mission work . . . Jane Howard is still in hospital at Ulverstone.

BILLY CART DERBY (Nubeena, C. Neville) Boys' Brigade Billy Cart Derby at Koonya had 36 billy carts taking part. Boys, girls and parents' races were followed by evening social . . . Mr and Mrs Alan Jenkins represented Aboriginal Missions with slides and message . . . Women led special Mother's Day service presenting C.W.F. handbook program "Lamps of Motherhood" . . . Average attendance at Highcroft monthly services has been 17 . . .

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

RESTORED (Scarborough) Restoration work costing over \$1100, following arson-caused fire, has been completed ... Monthly youth prayer breakfasts commenced ... Wolfgang Stumpf of Red Sea Mission Team recent speaker ... Cyclethon, "Gateway" to Moore River held in aid of Youth and Family Centre ... Ethnic and Welfare and community work progressing slowly ... Youth support scheme with two Project Officers under way ... "Happy Daze" operating during school holidays catered for over 100 primary school children each session. Jenni Sutton-Smith and Heather Walkington were in charge ... Three recent decisions for Christ ... Tim Winton and Glenys Davies escaped serious injury in car accidents.

TWO AT 80 (Fremantle, D. J. Ryle) On May 14 large-type scriptures (N.T. & Psalms) were presented to Mrs Mason and Mrs Lowrie to mark their 80th birthdays. Mrs Mason has been in continuous membership here since her baptism in 1912 ... Mother's Day was observed on 7th to leave 14th free for Pentecost Sunday. Mothers conducted morning service. At night the words of one song presented by the Ladies' Choir had been written by one of the mothers. F. M. Ashworth (C.W.C. administrator) was interviewed by the minister regarding Parent Effectiveness Training. Mr Ashworth is to conduct a course here. Mr Ryle was leader of D.C.E. Boys' Camp at York.

FAMILY LIFE (Warwick, G. B. Carslake) Special features on family life attracted morning and evening crowds. 260 attended ... Two adults have been baptised and more baptisms planned ... A record 92 attended the Wed. B.S. ... An overnight camp at Kum-Ba-Yah by deacons planned future programmes. David Beavis assisted as adviser ... Action groups being established ... Mr Carslake preached at Eastern Wheatbelt 5th Sunday services at Bruce Rock ... Home Bible study groups growing and expanding, four daytime, one at night.

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VICTORIA

REACHOUT AID (Sunshine, F. B. Alcorn). Half yearly meeting gave \$100 to Melbourne Reachout. Also decided that Mr Alcorn attend B.S. at Glengala to encourage parents to stay for discussion over "cuppa" . . . Program at Maidstone Church of Christ organised by W.R.O.C. churches when John Paver and Norma Barnett, Chaplains at Peter MacCallum Clinic, gave understanding in ministering to sick . . . Recent speakers have been L. Keatch, C. Johnson (Uniting Church) and L. Norton . . . Ladies raised \$202 at recent stall . . . Mr Osterman recuperating after fracturing leg.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKER. (Glen Waverley, R. B. Elbourne). Amy Whittaker has been appointed part-time social worker and coordinator at our Christian Community Centre . . . School holiday programme "Storytime" was attended daily by 50-60 children . . . Five young people were leaders at Dept. of M.E.D. camps during school holidays, and five of our young men attended Leaders' Training Camp at Gembrook . . . For further outreach into our community, Drop-Inn now holds a "Nearly New Market Day" once a month, as well as a weekly craft day and child play group.

FENCING HONOR. (Wattle Park, D. Hamilton, D. Prestidge). Jeff Crisp was a member of the Victorian Under 13 Fencing Team which won a gold medal at the Australian Championships in Adelaide recently . . . Mother's Day service was led by the ladies of our church. Lorraine James sang a solo, and Mrs Dulcie Quinn from Beaumaris Baptist Church was speaker . . . A supper dance was held 27-5-78. Young and old mixed very well in ballroom dancing. Mrs

Joyce Thom, George Kennedy and helpers were in the kitchen . . . Alan Bunston was elected deacon at annual general meeting.

SCHOOL OF PRAYER. (Dandenong, J. Edwards). School of Prayer weekend conducted by Rev. Norman Renshaw . . . Dandenong North shared with us in baptismal service when one of their members and one from Dandenong were baptized . . . Gospel Theatre Productions presented a concert in church hall . . . Hariba and Shalini Waghmode, missionaries from India, showed slides and told of their work in India.

THREE BAPTISMS (Sth Melb., Bob Ferguson) The church has witnessed its third baptism for the year, Anna Berryman, April Dunston, and, recently Peter Taroza. It is very encouraging to see these young people making decisions to follow the Lord Jesus.

COBURG'S 58TH (K. Milne) 58th Anniversary full to capacity service led by Mark Yarwood. Ron Elbourne, Glen Waverley, was guest speaker. Following informal lunch, "The Glenaires", Glen Waverley, presented the gospel musical, "God's Here, I'm Here, Now We Can Start" . . . C.W.F. Evening Group recently conducted morning service. Illustrated talk "This is Our Father's World" prepared and presented by Miss Val Williams . . . Church buildings have been repainted and new signs erected. Under the guidance of Mr Thompson (Pascoe Vale Field Naturalists Club), grounds have been beautified by planting native trees and shrubs. Church represented in community by leadership of members in St John Ambulance, Citizens Advice Bureau, the N.O.W. Centre, School Councils and Committees, the Opportunity Shop at Brunswick and the Inter-Church Council.

QUESTING from Page 24

it yet. It is much easier to write about the problems of the church than it is to find answers; much easier to catalogue deficiencies than to provide resources for a joyous celebration of our meeting with Christ; much easier to remove from the church roll the absentees than it is to woo them to a joyous reunion.

There are many features of the Lord's Supper. There is heart-searching, confession, repentance, recommitment, and there is also joy. The sad thing is that we can search our hearts, confess our sins, repent of our backsliding, and make a new commitment (in words) much easier than we can show our joy at the presence of our Lord in the presence of his people.

In answer to your question, we should come together to celebrate the Lord's Supper whenever the church calls us, and we should make that coming together so exhilarating that no one would want to miss it.

There are books to help, such as Gordon Stirling's "Down to Preside" which has a chapter on "Some Other Ways of Celebrating . . ." There are other books, but more important than the books is the attitude.

Did you notice in the last paragraph that I accidentally used the word "should"? I guess that is because if there is nothing better, duty will have to do. But there is a far better way: to celebrate with the Lord and his church not because we should but because we want to.

Next Issue: Christians in Fellowship.

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QUESTING

WITH
A. E. WHITE



How often should church members observe the Lord's Supper, and what should be done about those who are absent for long periods?

The early church quite plainly met at the Lord's Table every Lord's Day, but there is some evidence to suggest that the disciples celebrated the Supper every time they came together. In days of crisis this may not have been every week. They would meet when they could, to count the survivors of the latest persecution, to sympathise with those who had lost their jobs because of their faith, or had seen their families divided by the very gospel of love and reconciliation that was designed to unite them — it would have been appropriate to break the Bread to demonstrate that nothing could again break the Body of Christ, the church, and to drink the cup which was never empty of the overflowing love of God.

Sometimes they may have met more than once a week, but eventually, the weekly celebration became the pattern for the church.

There is something disturbing about the very question "How often should we ...?", as though we have an obligation to front up to the Lord's Table so many times a year in order to maintain our continuing place in the Kingdom of God. That's not the way it is!

It is the Lord's people we are talking about, and when they come together to break bread and share in love, what could

keep us away but something that is equally an expression of love for our Lord and his people?

We lose a great deal when we reduce our worship to a duty which should be performed rather than to see it as a privilege which is enjoyed. The use of the word "observe" suggests a work to regulations. A far better word is "celebrate." What we are celebrating is Christ's victory in life and over death, and the bread and the cup are joyous symbols of our oneness in him.

If a fellow disciple is absent from the Lord's Table for no good reason, it is either because there is something wrong with him or something wrong with the church. It could be either, or both.

If someone is missing out on the communion it is because he doesn't know that he is missing anything. It is no good talking to him about his duty. We would do much better to surround him with people who care enough to spend time with him and to share life with him.

About fourteen years ago, a couple of fellows wrote a book called "God's Frozen People." It was written for ordinary church members who were sincere believers but who had moved away from the warming fire of the Holy Spirit and were freezing themselves to spiritual death. A church that lacks warmth won't lack for absenters from the Lord's Table. The Lord's welcome (and I don't mean a few formal words from the president) is expressed by the actions of His people or it is not expressed at all.

Incidentally, in the foreword of that book, the authors suggested that they would write another called "God's Lively People." Either I missed it, (and it would be very welcome) or they haven't written

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

THE LAST WORD...

If the disciple can maintain a constant conversation with his Lord, the greatest of all gifts will inevitably be his. It will be as natural for him to love as to breathe. Love in its highest manifestation is the richest, most persuasive, loveliest, nicest thing God has to offer — it is the only weapon we need.

— H.R.L. Shoppard

ONE WORLD

I raised my eyes aloft, and I beheld
The scattered chapters of the universe
Gathered and bound into a single book
By the sure and tender hand of God.

— Dante Alighieri

★ ★ ★

The fellow who blows his own horn
may end up playing second fiddle.

★ ★ ★

We must have more rigid enforcement
If problems in traffic are solved,
In taking this view, I of course meant
As long as I don't get involved.

★ ★ ★

The spirit, unlike the body, benefits
from aging.

Jack Kraus

★ ★ ★

It is easy to understand the truth of the
recent report that says that the children of
today behave worse than the children of a
generation ago. Those weren't children —
they were us.



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THE KIDS WILL REJOICE, TOO!

There will be an excellent children minding and care centre operating every day so that parents may attend Conference sessions.

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