



THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Vol. 81. No. 12

JULY 8, 1978

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

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After the first communion service on June 18, 1978, at the home of Jeff and Lanell Morris (See p.3)

"A.C." Photo.



Haydn Sargent with Jay Bacik at Telopea (See p.9)



A.C.C. 29th GENERAL MEETING ADELAIDE

A group of Adelaide young people act out a bible reading during opening worship in St. Peter's Anglican Cathedral, Adelaide. Photo: Rollason ACC

IN 184 DAYS
"REJOICE IN THE LORD"
IN MELBOURNE
JAN. 8-14, 1979

DISCIPLESHIP IN COMMUNITY

By Trevor Banks

The Australian Council of Churches held its 29th General Meeting in Adelaide June 2-6, 1978.

This "live-in" meeting had the theme "Discipleship in Community" underlined as delegates developed their own sense of community. The changing nature of Australian society was presented so that the challenge to discipleship came as one of following Christ on the path of reconciliation in a changing Australia. Both the Council and its member churches were called to look again at the role each and all should play in this Ecumenical age. A further factor in determining directions was that some of the member churches had posed questions of relationships of the A.C.C. and its member churches and the relevance of its role.

The major issues were therefore directed at the Council itself. First, a programme of restructure of the Council was commenced, then the council sought a more adequate way for churches to express their common purpose in the unity which Christ gives, and thirdly the executive was given a large programme of theological study in many areas of the Council's activities. The Orthodox churches, who met in conference before the A.C.C. meeting, presented a statement which also occasioned much discussion; and indicated a greater involvement of this large section of the Christian Church in the affairs of the Council. In May 1980, the World Council of Churches Commission on World Mission and Evangelism is to meet in Melbourne and preliminary plans for this meeting came before the council for its consideration.

Other concerns were world wide in nature. The plight of Coptic Christians in an increasingly militant Islamic Egypt, and discrimination against Christians in

the Urban Industrial Movement of Korea were considered. Attention was given to the independence movement in the New Hebrides, and the difficulties of divided families amongst Timorese refugees. We were reminded that racism does exist in Australia and there is need for education in this area. The presentation by Justice Elizabeth Evatt on the controversial "Report on Human Relationships" was a challenge that we should take seriously this report (whether we agree with all its conclusions or not) and study its implications in our changing society.

This meeting was also notable for increasing contribution by Women. Two Bible studies were presented on Saturday and Monday mornings by Mrs J. Wood and Rev. Dorothy Wacker, while Mrs L. Tevi's report on the Pacific Conference of Churches was one of the highlights. By deliberate policy increasing numbers of young people are being included and their contribution is also proving valuable.

Kevin Cavanagh, an aborigine himself, was chairman of the Commission on Aboriginal Development.

Churches of Christ representatives. Two are members of the Commission on Christian Education (I. Allsop and G. Rose). Jean Middleton represented Australian Church Women. Dr Trevor Banks, Fred Stephenson, (N.S.W.), Pam Bowers (Vic.), Rod Nankivell (S.A.) and E. W. Heard (S.A.) were the others.

Miss Robin Haskell presented one of the three 7.15 a.m. worship segments. The other two were presented by the Rumanian Orthodox and Salvation Army. Delegates were free to attend worship in churches of their own choice on Sunday morning. In addition two church services were held at which the Most Reverend E. W. Scott, Archbishop of the Anglican Church in Canada and Moderator of the Central Committee of the W.C.C. was preacher.

At the end of four days the A.C.C. was presented with a large agenda of theological discussion to be worked through in the next two years. Without increased staff, with demands for better communications between the Council and member churches, and with urgings for wider representation of the total Christian Church these two years will be one of challenge. But all who attended the meeting believe that we are indeed called to discipleship in the community where we are.

INNER SPRINGS

IN BUSINESS — OR UNEMPLOYED?



Owing to an Industrial strike, my husband spent the early hours of each day seeking employment. As day followed day without success, the thought came to me that though we have difficulty in finding work in our chosen field, no Christian should ever be unemployed. One who has known both the joy and challenge of service has written of it in this delightful fashion.

Life can never be dull again
when once we've thrown our windows
open wide
And seen the mighty world that lies out-
side

And whispered to ourselves this wondrous
thing.
"We're wanted for the business of the
King!"

But for many in today's world life is both dull and empty. The aged and lonely; the weak and ill; those burdened with heavy loads and those who hunger for life's basic needs of food and clothing. We may tell ourselves that such things are not our concern, but if we have accepted the riches of God's salvation or as our little poem has it, "thrown our windows open wide", then we are in business — His Business, however costly. With deep insight into our human weakness, one writes "Too many of us want a cosy discipleship, and its consequent ineffectiveness does not seem to worry us. We have fallen into the moral rut of serving humanity in a thousand ways that do not hurt us." Whether we hear His "well done thou good and faithful servant", will depend on whether we are in business or unemployed.

He might have doled His blossoms out
quite grudgingly
God might have used His sunset gold so
sparingly

He might have put but one wee star in all
the sky
But since He gave so lavishly, why should
not I?

Prayer Dear God, save us from the weakness of self-indulgence. Open our eyes to the needs of others, and strengthen us to meet those needs with loving kindness that speaks of Thee. Amen.

Matt. 25:14-46

Florence Rosier

BLAKE PRIZE

The Blake Prize, first awarded in 1951 for the purpose of interesting artists and the public in religious art, will again be sponsored by the Commonwealth Bank.

Prize money for the 1978 winner will be \$2,500.

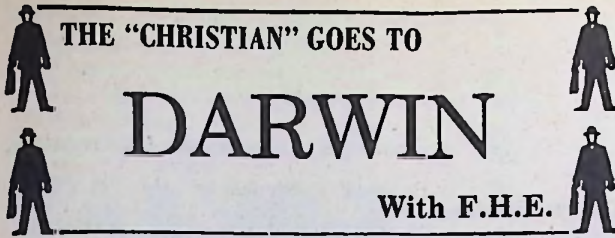
The judges for this year's competition are Rev. A. A. Dougan, Convenor, Kevin Connor, Earle Bracken, Professor J. A. Young, Dean Ian George, and John Olsen.

Entries will close on August 23, and selected works are to be displayed in the Commonwealth Savings Bank, Sydney, from Sept. 11 to Sept. 27 inclusive.

The exhibition will be opened on Wednesday, Sept. 13 by Mrs Jill Wran.

The 1977 Blake Prize was won, jointly by Rod Milgate and John Coburn.

Entry forms are available in Melbourne from the Bank's head office at 367 Collins Street.



THE "CHRISTIAN" GOES TO DARWIN

With F.H.E.

There is a Church of Christ now meeting in Darwin. At the first communion service in the home of Jeff and Lanell Morris (formerly of Newcastle, N.S.W.) on June 18 at 8 a.m., there were 25 present. A. E. White presided and Peter DeWildt spoke on "Coming Alive". Peter and Hennie also sang together and led the congregation. There were visitors from Christies Beach, and Murray Bridge, S.A. and Newcastle.

The three from the "bottom end" to the top end had had a busy week. We visited all of the addresses we had, using the list prepared by Malcolm McArthur and adding names that had come from other sources. We invited all we could to a time of fellowship on the 17th. Some of the folk had left Darwin for good (!), others were on holidays, some were just not interested, and some had made strong commitments to other churches. No attempt was made to persuade the latter to leave churches where they had found a real place in the congregation. We rejoiced that they had a real home in the Lord. All we did ask was that they give what encouragement they could to the new cause and to share in any fellowship opportunities that would not conflict with other commitments.

We visited the ministers of the existing churches and talked with Territorians about the past, present and future. We considered the number of churches already there, the needs of our people and other Darwinians and we decided that we should try to build a church.

We put an advertisement in the local paper, and broadcast a radio message. Lorraine, at the W.R.A.A.F. base, heard the radio item inviting folk to a Church of Christ Saturday Fellowship Hour. She welcomed the chance to share with us.

Darwin was getting ready to celebrate self-government on July 1. In talking to people we found more pessimists than optimists. It was accepted as a fact of life that the Territory people cannot survive without help from the south. The main industry of the capital is building, but the building will come to a halt unless more people go north. And they won't go north unless there is something to head for.

The beef industry, which once looked so promising, has suffered from the beef decline in the whole of Australia. There were once great hopes for a timber industry, but the great forrest plan failed. Some thought that there were big fishing opportunities, but not much is happening (although there are plenty of fishing vessels with other flags fishing in or near Australian waters. The promise of mining is great, but although this may bring wealth to a few, it is not a high labour intensive industry. There are a lot of tourists going through Darwin and we got the impression that not enough was being done to encourage them to go there or to look after them when they got there. A conversation on the homeward plane journey was revealing: "There wasn't much to do, except sit around waiting for the men to come back from beer parties. Beer is what Darwin is all about!" This is far from the whole story, but it is often all that the visitor sees.

We talked with folk about the future. The government majority party expects the growth rate to be about 5 per cent per year; the minority party expects a growth rate of 7 per cent. With Darwin's population now 50,000 (more than before the cyclone), the city can expect a population of 100,000 before the year 2000, at the lower estimate, and 120,000 at the higher expectation.

In talking with our church folk we were confident that we could expect an initial response by about 30 if a church were established. We have a responsibility to meet the needs of our

people living in Darwin. None of the available churches have a weekly communion service, and not all of them find in other churches all they are seeking. We also have to think of the other members of our churches who will go to Darwin in the coming years, and we should accept our share of the responsibility for making a witness for Christ in the area.

Confident that we should make a forward move, we applied to the Wanguri Primary School for permission to hold services there. Permission was readily given. An attractive room is at our disposal, with a piano, and services were planned as from June 25 at 8.30 a.m.

With a new church there is need for minister leadership, especially in the early stages, and we confess that it was not easy to leave. But on returning to Melbourne we shared the need with two ministers and found them ready to go and their churches willing to release them. Within two days we were able to advise Darwin that Roger Brown of the Burwood, Vic., church would be with them from July 7 to July 24, and that Des Kuhl of Murray Bridge, S.A. would go to Darwin for more than two weeks (three Sundays) in September. We can't say how grateful we are to these men and their churches.

Similar short-term ministries are planned. In the intervening weeks, the Darwin church will have specially prepared tapes to assist them in their Sunday services. On June 18, we were able to announce that the "preacher" the following Sunday would be Gordon Moyes of Cheltenham, Victoria. Another preacher to occupy the electronic pulpit shortly will be Gordon Stirling, the Federal Conference President.

For the first service (on their own) in the Wanguri School, Wesley Prosser of Christies Beach, S.A., presided at the Lord's Table. Other visitors during our stay were Mrs Prosser, Mrs Firth of Newcastle, and Mrs May Phillips of Murray Bridge. Darwin has many visitors from the south. They will always be welcome, and they may sometimes be asked to share in leading the worship.

Visitors to Darwin keep looking for our church. On our last day in Darwin we met Mrs Mavis Elliott of Cheltenham, Vic., in the cafeteria. She had been in Darwin two days, and had looked everywhere for a Church of Christ. She gave up looking, and went to the evening service of the Uniting Church and heard a prayer for the new church that had started that very morning!

On the journey home, looking out of the plane window, we were again impressed with the emptiness of the north and the isolation of Darwin. We could see the corner of the Gulf of Carpentaria in the distance. Although there seemed so little to burn, the whole of the Territory sky was filled smoke as far as the eye could see. Far below, on a red ribbon of track running through an even redder landscape was a vehicle heading, we guess for Darwin, and maybe to share in the July 1 celebrations of self-government. From our commanding position we could see behind and also ahead of the travellers. They could have driven out of nowhere and were heading for nothing, for all that they or we could see. But they were going to Darwin.

Whoever they were, they would now find a Church of Christ up there, if they want it, a church of Christ co-operating with the churches already there, to make a witness for the Lord at the Top End of Australia. — A.E.W.

WHEN IN DARWIN

YOU ARE WELCOME TO MEET WITH THE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

AT WANGURI PRIMARY SCHOOL

EVERY SUNDAY AT 8.30 a.m.

IN DARWIN PHONE 81 3536 DAY

85 4872 A.H.

"We must LISTEN if we would LOVE." We must have sensitivity to one another — to each other's need and response."

Ruel Howe.

WELFARE OF THE YOUNG

The Department of Community Welfare has evolved from the amalgamation of two prior departments. Child Welfare and Native Welfare. Both of these departments had been primarily involved in the welfare of children but were handicapped as a result of the discrimination between the two bodies.

Most problems facing Community Welfare have their origin in the home environment. The Department has appointed "Family Counsellors", "Home Economists" undertake the task of involving the "total" family and making suggestions for more harmonious living and more economic stability in the home. The "Family Unit" is given high priority in our society.

There are many facets to the welfare of the young — adoption, fostering, neglect and shelter care, and the most difficult, care of teenagers. Generally our teenagers are a delinquent group. The majority of problems arise from insecurities. These youths are the products of lack of care and concern and a lack of awareness of their needs. Many young people are ill-equipped to enter adulthood, being unable to read, to tell the time, to write their own name. These problems, and the embarrassment and fear of being found to be "ignorant" are only a few of the handicaps some young people face.

What is to be done? We need an awareness that this problem is ours and not only a problem facing the Government. We are "our brother's keeper". As Christians we are commissioned to love the unlovely, the keyword being "love".

We cannot ignore that society has problems and I emphasise society and as individuals we form society as it is today. To survive in today's world as individuals we need all the support and encouragement we are able to receive. If we are from a home where we are loved and feel secure we are truly blessed.

Many of our young people aged between 13 and 18 years are in institutions and incarcerated in juvenile detention centres for crimes which we usually credit only to adults. Teenagers commit every kind of criminal act, taking their elders as their example. Many young people under the care of Community Welfare do not know of any existence other than in an institution.

Deuteronomy 21: 18-21 outlines one way of dealing with a rebellious son. We should rejoice greatly if we are able to win our young people with LOVE rather than fear.

Margaret Martin (W.A.)



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WHAT CHRIST MEANS TO ME . . . AS A HOUSEWIFE AND MOTHER

This topic threw me as I must be the worst housekeeper this side of the black stump.

Born 50 years ago into a family of 9 children where only boys were beautiful, my role was already cast.

Christ has helped me in the discipline of doing distasteful housework as quickly as possible so that I have time to exercise the few talents I have. More important, He has shown me that people matter most, hospitality matters more than the house, and tenderness more than untidiness.

As a Mother I seem to be a failure . . . as far as the Institutional Church is concerned. My three older children 20-25 years, have stopped attending worship services, their main reason being the discrimination of the sexes in them. I guess many mothers have faced this heartache, and wonder how people cope who do not have Christ. I am sure that it is in the home, that my discipleship stands its earnest test. Christ reminds me constantly to love most where I don't understand, to shut my mouth on censure, be gentle, warm, and whenever I can unshockable.

A Christian Endeavour leader for years I could rage indefinitely on the gigantic folly of the Church organisation. I have seen scores of girls lost to it because they are not used.

Through it all Christ is still my beloved Lord, and I haven't found any better way of following Him than to be part of His Church.

S. Potter (S.A.)

VIC NEWS

Mrs Betty Dow presided at the first Council meeting of the new Conference year. 148 delegates represented 55 groups.

Worship by the Oakleigh C.W.F. was led by Gladys McKenzie, highlighting the President's Theme "Living a Life that's worth Living". This Theme will be developed throughout the year using lines from "The Consecration Hymn".

Mr K.D. Horne sustained this theme and challenged those present with, "the words of the Hymn would have no meaning unless they were translated into actions."

Miss Hazel Skuce, on furlough from India, spoke of her work with the Correspondence School.

Welfare Day is to be held at Camberwell Church of Christ, in July.

Heather Miller. Vic.

"For I am delighted and encouraged by your love: through you, my brother (sister) God's people have been much refreshed."

Philemon V.7. N.E.B.

HOW GOD HELPS ME TO COPE WITH ILLNESS AND TROUBLE

We all have our "grey days" and "black days". Most of us at some time in our life, are brought face to face with some degree of sorrow and trouble; maybe it is the passing of someone very dear, or our child is seriously ill and we are in great despair; sometimes we have brought trouble on ourselves by that thoughtless word which, once spoken, cannot be recalled, and what regret we suffer!

I will tell you of an experience, and leave it with you: It was one of those "black days", too deep for tears, and I laid my head on my arms on the table, feeling that I was carrying a tremendous weight, and then, in utter dejection, I slumped at my bedside, pleading, 'My Father, you who have created me and know my sorrow and secret thoughts . . . and then a knock at my door. How could I cope with a visitor at a time like this?'

There stood my visitor with an armful of magnificent roses, 'I thought you might like these.'

Lovely red roses, with velvety petals; soft, creamy pink roses (Peace) and deeper coloured roses!

How could I think that God doesn't care?

Then, through my mind ran the lovely words of Whittier's poem:

"All as God wills, who wisely heeds
To give or to withhold,
And knoweth more of all my needs
Than all my prayers have told.

Enough that blessings undeserved
Have marked my erring track;
That wheresoe'er my feet have strayed,
His chastening turned me back.

. . . and so I coped"
Win. Carledge (Tas.)



ZILLMERE NEWS

May 10th, Zillmere had a wonderful day of Fellowship. Queensland C.W.F. President and Executive were present, also Boondall ladies.

Mr and Mrs Potter showed slides of the Holy Land. Items were rendered by Mesdames Spencer, Capell, and Carasuma. A surprise Luncheon was held afterward, occasion being 80th birthday of Mrs Kubler, better known as Aunty Lil.

A cake, made and iced was donated by Lorna Holt.

Gifts from Q.C.W.F., Zillmere and Boondall were presented to this wonderful Christian lady.

Beverly Birznelks. Qld.

HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE — IN THE PEWS!

Dr. David Hammer

In some church buildings it may well be the pews themselves that are unemployed — just so much dead wood. But with the movement of the Spirit of God in many areas in these days, some of those empty pews are being used. Pray God that they will all be occupied and overcrowded! That, however, would not necessarily solve the unemployment rate in the pews. With all of the pews filled, it is still possible to have a lot of dead wood in the church.

A small book by Paul Benjamin, ★ published only this year, takes up this problem. The title of this article is suggested by it. Paul Benjamin, formerly at Lincoln Christian College, is now conducting a National Church Growth Centre in Washington, D.C. Research students have access to the Library of Congress, and a wealth of Church Growth material from all over the world. It looks as if he is engaged in research himself, but always writes so simply that this may not appear on the surface.

Coming back to the unemployment rate amongst church members, Benjamin points out that, even in what we might consider churches fairly much alive, things seem to be done in a circular way. The Sunday morning service is where people are exhorted to attend the Sunday evening service, and on Sunday evening they are exhorted to attend the mid-week prayer meeting. Those who make it to the mid-week service are then exhorted to attend the Sunday morning service! This kind of thing leads to frustration. People are there to fill pews. Those who sit through church services Sunday after Sunday have been referred to as "God's Frozen People." Well-known world mission writer, Kraemer, tells us "They exist as frozen assets and dead capital."

Whose Fault?

Benjamin suggests that it is sometimes the fault of the minister himself. He likes to keep his position of authority. It may be, not that the people in the pews are uncommitted, but that they are uncalled and untrained.

It is surely a tragedy if the minister is so busy working and so busy thinking up great ideas for Church Growth, that he has no time to "equip the saints for the work of the ministry." Churches of Christ claim to accept a "mutual ministry", but we frequently limit it to participation on the platform and in the pulpit, and the larger ministry of the church is not as mutual as it should be.

On the other hand, it may be the fault of the people in the pew. Some just sit. The larger churches provide opportunity for them to hide in the crowd.

One of the most discouraging things we find in the "ministry" is when a member, moving from another district, links up with the local church; bringing a letter of transfer with a postscript of warm praise

for what a great worker the member has been in the previous church — only to be informed by the new member, "No. I feel I need a rest. I'll keep right out of church work for the next six months." The six month stretches on into years, and finally the church that hoped for so much help has to be thankful if such a "worker" will manage to occupy a pew once every few weeks. In other words, the past energetic worker simply swells the ranks of the unemployed.

Paul Benjamin may have met such people as these. If he has, he doesn't seem to have any magic method of getting them back to work. He does see some problems ahead for the minister who tries to develop a full "mutual ministry" in some churches. Sometimes Church Growth writers give the impression that all you need is enthusiasm, and that people only have to be "motivated." True, that is all you have to do, but often it is more easily said than done. Paul Benjamin does not fall into that trap. He sees the problem, and tries to provide a scriptural pattern for the church.

No Excuses

The problem of some members being happy to be unemployed, however, does not excuse us from seeing that every member has the challenge, the training, and the opportunity (plus a little encouragement and the contagion of enthusiasm!) to share in "the work of the ministry." And this is what this little book is all about.

We are already indebted to the author for a very practical and biblical study on Church Growth called "The Growing Congregation." It came complete with workbook so that readers could do their homework.

This new book places us further in debt to Benjamin. It should be a very good book to share with a group who were willing to be really serious about the "mutual ministry" as a scriptural contribution to Church Growth. Yes, a study guide is obtainable also, so there is no excuse for people not doing their homework. If taken seriously, there could be few in the group who could go comfortably back to their unemployment in the pew — same time, same place.

Anyhow, give it a try!

★ Benjamin, Paul. 1978. "The Equipping Ministry: New Testament Methods for Maximum Church Outreach." 111 pages. Cincinnati, Standard Publishing.

CONFERENCE OF EVANGELISM

The Asia committee for World Evangelisation, the regional follow-up to the Lausanne Congress, is convening an Asia wide Conference on Evangelism in Singapore from November 1-10, 1978.

This Asian Leadership Conference on Evangelism (ALCOE) will bring together some 300 Christian leaders from 20 different Asian countries.

The main purpose of ALCOE will be to:-

1. Understand afresh the implication of total obedience to Christ for the Church's mission in Asia today;
2. Review and evaluate the progress of the work of evangelisation during the past decade;
3. Identify the unreached and unevangelised communities of people in Asia;
4. Examine and clarify theologically the issues and realities which help or hinder the mission of the Church;
5. Wait upon with one accord for His renewal and guidance in planning united strategies for building up and extending His Church.

A Working Conference

ALCOE will be different from the usual conferences in that there will be minimal platform speeches. It will be a working conference which all the participants will actively engage in study and research prior to the Conference and at the Conference itself they will be assigned to various discussion and workshop groups.

They will need to do some hard thinking and sharing as to how the Church in Asia can be more effective and productive in its evangelism. The Conference will seek to look forward into the future and the task ahead and to develop creative strategies.

Major Concerns of ALCOE

The Conference will deal with these important concerns:

- *The Gospel and the Asian cultures and traditions
- *The Gospel and other Asian religions
- *Evangelisation and the contemporary Asian situation
- *The Church in times of hardship and persecution
- *The local Church and evangelism
- *The Church's Social Responsibilities and Actions
- *The basis and prospects of Co-operative evangelism
- *The Missionary Task in Asia today.

The theme which has been chosen for the Conference is:-

"Together Obeying Christ for Asia's Harvest"

Christians throughout Australia are encouraged to pray earnestly for this Conference. Allan Webb, the Minister of our Swanston Street Church in Melbourne has been invited to be a participant at this Conference. It is anticipated that there will be about 10 Australian participants.

WORD TALK

NO. 180

PREPARATION

The spiritual resource that I want to study today is one that is very hard both to find in scripture and to demonstrate logically, but it is wonderfully easy to experience! Every Christian, at some point or other in their uncertainty, has an inner reassurance from God that gives them confidence in the proposed course they undertake. That assurance, or reassurance, encourages our heart, confirms our faith, and convinces us that what we are about to do is God's will for us.

John the Baptist warned spiritual leaders of his day against a false assurance when their confidence was self-confidence and their religion was only respectability (Matt. 3:7-10).

The Christian can live with confidence — this word being used 31 times in the N.T., 13 times John's Epistle (1 John 4:13-18). John says that those who believe in Jesus Christ know God, and they know that God dwells within them, and they know that God guides them. That inner knowledge is the reassurance that God gives. Paul, (2 Tim. 3:14) reminds Timothy that he can be assured of his faith when he remembers what he has learnt, what he believes, and remembering from whom he learnt it, and the sacred writings which instructed him. There was the basis of his assurance.

John (Rev. 1:17-18) indicates that even in a time of fear, he had the presence of the risen Christ who reassured him. This was very similar to Daniel's experience, and many other great saints of God have been assured in a time of difficulty of the presence of God.

The writer to the Hebrews (11:1) reminds us "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." That word for "assurance" is the word in Greek which means literally "the things put under", hence the foundation upon which the rest is built, hence the confidence we have upon which our hope rests.

At the moment of John Wesley's conversion he said "An assurance was given me, that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

PROCLAMATION

We have just been shocked with the incredible tragedy of twelve British missionaries being hacked to death in Rhodesia. Senseless, stupid murder! Why the waste of these good lives?

Sometimes tragedy touches all of us. An accident, a death, a cyclone, a drowning, a fire, — tragedy strikes us down. Yet while tragedy defeats some, tragedy distinguishes others. Note the pattern that occurs when tragedy strikes: it hurts, then weakens, then puzzles, then accuses, then separates and finally overwhelms. Read Romans 8:18-39 and see God's assurance in time of tragedy.

1. Tragedy hurts, but God's love brings us hope. Paul talks of the real hurt, but also the hope that saves us. (8:18-24).
2. Tragedy weakens, but God's love strengthens. Tragedy exhausts us but his love strengthens us with inner might. (8:26-27).

OUR SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

Reassurance

3. Tragedy puzzles, but God's love brings assurance. We all ask: "Why? Why should this happen to me?" Rom. 8:28-32 assures us that nothing is useless, and that God can use anything for good. His love assures us of purpose. What purpose is there in the death of twelve missionaries? We are too close to see it yet, but the death of those five missionaries slain by the Aucas in Ecuador some years ago motivated a thousand others to take the gospel to the most distant parts of the world. God does not cause tragedy, but he weaves man's worst into a pattern for god.
4. Tragedy accuses, but God's love brings acquittal. We always blame ourselves, and are accused by others, feeling guilty. Rom. 8:31-34 assures us that God acquits us from our guilt.
5. Tragedy isolates, but God's love brings us companionship. When tragedy strikes we feel alone, separated, isolated, ashamed. Rom. 8:35-39 assures us that God's love brings us his presence, and that nothing can separate us from him.
6. Tragedy overwhelms but God's love brings us victory. Tragedy always seems a waste, a defeat. Rom. 8:37 assures us that victory can still be ours, because Jesus triumphed over his suffering we can share in his victory. In time of tragedy God reassures us.

PRESENTATION

In a neighbour's home a tragedy over these past few weeks has been working itself out. A husband and wife, fine Christian people, have six children of their own. The wife has nursed her father for 18 months and he has just died. Within the last six months her sister died of cancer and our neighbour has taken over caring for her sister's three daughters. Six weeks ago her husband was killed in an aeroplane crash. Her mother became ill, and was immediately nursed by our neighbour and she also has just died. Unexplainable tragedy! Yet such is our neighbour's faith and radiant Christian hope that she is a witness to the whole community. Her secret? In the quiet privacy of her personal life she has the reassurance of her faith. God is not allowing her to bear this alone.

How does God reassure us? It comes through the word of a friend, through a visit of an unexpected stranger (perhaps an angel unawares), perhaps through some message from God in a Bible reading, or perhaps through some inner insight, or through the prayer of another, or through the letter of a friend, or through a quiet meditation at the Communion Table, or the direct proclamation of the gospel. But God always reassures those who trust him.

Last year, at the point of depression making the most crucial decision of our lives, God reassured us through an article in the Saturday morning's newspaper! Listen, for God wants to reassure you today.

GORDON MOYES.

APPOINTMENT AT TRARALGON



Miss Des Symes has accepted the invitation of the Traralgon (Vic.) Church and the Department of Mission, Education and Development to a ministry in 1979.

Prior to theological training Miss Symes was a nursing sister. She anticipates being ordained following completion of studies this year. This year, along with studies, she serves as student secretary of the College of the Bible and has a student appointment at Traralgon.

Next year she will serve the church in a part-time capacity and hopes to find some secular employment as a nursing sister. The church has recently been much encouraged by increased attendances and interest. A successful children's vacation programme was held in May with assistance from Department field director, Miss Julie Reid. Over one hundred parents and children attended a final evening programme.

RADIO AWARD

Ben Whitnall, Station Manager of the Christian Broadcasting Association's studios at Five Dock, Sydney, was awarded the first **Cosmos Community Service Award** at a special dinner at the Wesley Centre on May 20. The occasion marked the 2nd Anniversary of the Sydney Cosmos Society, an activity of the Wesley Central Mission.

The nomination had come from the ethnic people themselves, in recognition of the service given by Mr Whitnall who has been in charge of Sydney's ethnic broadcasting station, 2 EA, over the past three years.

In presenting the award, Rev. Alan Walker, of Wesley Central Mission, referred to the "19,000 programmes in 35 different languages" which had been broadcast through 2 EA.

Mr Whitnall received the certificate and an inscribed trophy, with the comment, "An opal is made beautiful by the blending of many colours. A nation is made by the blending of many nationalities."

MUSTARD SEEDS

BY ALAN AUSTIN



As stimuli to the hip-pocket nerve often seem to do, the brief reference to taxation in this column last issue provoked some comment.

Seeing it is that time of year again it's perhaps appropriate to consider this question a little further. ■

INPUT

from H. F. R. Catherwood

For the Christian there is no doubt that the absolute right of the state to raise taxes, whether it is democratically elected or is an alien tyranny. We are told by our Lord to render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's and He Himself set an example by paying His due tribute to the alien ruler. We are told in Romans 13 to pay taxes to whom taxes are due. The state is ordained by God and has certain rights over its citizens, of which this is one of the most important — important enough for specific instructions by our Lord Himself. ■

A basic misunderstanding seems to underlie much of our thinking and talking on the subject of taxation. That is the notion that tax is some kind of grandiose parking fine — a penalty or forfeit imposed by a sinister external power and which we must do all we possible can to reduce or eliminate ... by whatever means are available.

(Incidentally, no less a figure than economist Paul Samuelson, writing in *Newsweek* recently, displayed this attitude).

Taxation, if equitably collected, is not a penalty or an unfair imposition. It is simply a payment for services received. If we want a Mercedes or an ice-cream or an annual subscription to the *Australian Christian* (which reminds me ...) we expect to pay for them. Similarly, if we want law and order, schools and our country defenced we must expect to contribute to their cost. ■

Frequently we hear complaints about Australia's crippling tax burden. Or we read that we have one of the highest tax rates in the developed world.

Nonsense. Our rates of taxation on our incomes may appear to be high in comparison with those of other countries. But it must be remembered that, unlike almost all comparable economies, our capital gains taxes, value-added taxes, wealth taxes and sales taxes on most consumer items are either very low or non-existent.

Taking these into account we rank 15th on the list of the most heavily taxed nations in the O.E.C.D. In terms of per capita income we rank 4th! ■

Another serious misconception is that our tax system requires higher income earners to pay a higher proportion of their incomes in tax than low income earners.

In reality, precisely the opposite is the case. The higher the income the lower the proportion of the income that is required to be paid.

At the top end of the incomes scale a wide array of tax avoidance devices serve to lower the tax payable to small percentages indeed. A prestigious Australian weekly news magazine recently ran this display ad on page 2:

"BEST OF OUR TAX SCHEMES"

"A special edition of *The Small Business Letter* shows 32 ways to legally reduce your tax. And this special issue is available free to new subscribers.

"It shows how to take advantage of a loophole in payroll tax legislation; How to make directors' salary rises non-taxable; How to reduce company tax considerably; Shows how to reduce tax if buying or selling a business; and Gives suggestions on how to beat the system with personal tax deductions." (opening paragraphs only)

It should be noted that some high income earners do pay tax at a fairly steep rate. But almost invariably this is because loopholes, concessions or allowances have not been taken advantage of. This has given rise in some quarters to the terms voluntary or optional taxation. The options, however, are available only to the rich. ■

At the other end of the scale there are inbuilt mechanisms which enlarge the tax bite on low income earners far beyond the figures on their annual 'Form S'. These, as mentioned last time, are the proliferation of indirect taxes. ■

Why these two myths — that we are taxed heavily and that those most able to pay more — have been allowed to take such firm root is truly a miracle of modern day freedom of the press! ■

A Christian friend who operates a successful small business was looking recently at the purchase of a high-cost item for primarily private use. He invited my opinion as an accountant on the possibility of claiming the 40 per cent investment allowance offered as a tax saver on the purchase of business equipment.

My findings were that the proposed purchase was not eligible under the straightforward reading of the Act. But, with adroit bookkeeping there were loopholes which could be, and in fact widely are, exploited.

His response seemed to me to display a mature understanding of the simple Biblical principles. "I'm not much good at these tax dodges," he said. "Life's too short. And it's only money." ■

Having briefly alluded to the press, above, may I change the subject and conclude with two quotes?

The first is from Virginia's father in the conversation which led ultimately to the immortal piece of journalism 'Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus'.

Virginia was wondering whether Santa's existence could be confirmed once and for all by writing to the editor of the newspaper which was daily delivered into their lives. "Well," said Virginia's father earnestly. "If you read it in the *New York Sun* then you know it's true."

Then there was the notable English Lord who a century or so ago advised, "Never believe anything you read in the newspapers. Should you ever read something in a newspaper which you know to be true, then you must begin to doubt it at once." ■

JASON IS ON PATERNITY LEAVE

(BACK NEXT TIME)

OPEN FORUM

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

DOWN GRADING THE MINISTRY

To the Editor, — We have a strange phenomena today. It would seem that Bible Institutes are becoming Bible Colleges and Bible Colleges are fast becoming Bible Institutes. I am concerned at the present trend of Colleges playing the "numbers game." There is nothing wrong in giving as many as possible a smattering of Bible training, which could easily be within the scope of the Dept. of Christian Educ. or the home church, but when it is under the flag of so-called specialist training it is high time Bible College Committees came down to earth. Some in high places are down grading the ministry to the level of G.P.'s doing the nitty gritty work of the ministry. Today it takes an expert to go into a spiritually bankrupt church and make it a paying proposition. The ministry today is the ultimate in specialised work. This assessment is vindicated not only by experience but by the fact of increasing drop-outs from the ministry. Graduates indoctrinated with a smattering of social science quickly disappear once appointed to a church, even as one brilliant graduate now lost is trying to find himself. Colleges should concentrate on 30-40 students and turn out top notch preachers. All preachers and missionaries are specialists, not necessarily the guy sitting in an office 9 to 5 racking his brains getting the G.P., as he thinks he is, to put his ideas to work. Give us strong pulpit men! If this is done they fulfil indeed the purpose for which they were originally commissioned.

Dr. A. C. Caldicott, Qld.

CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT

To the Editor, — Until recently, the churches of Christ have avoided open debate on the Charismatic issue, but, following the material appearing in the "A.C." and other brotherhood literature, it appears the situation has changed.

There can be little doubt that the vast majority of members of churches of Christ reject the teachings

and practices of the Charismatic movement. We have always been, and still are, opposed to the claims that;

- ★ the Pentecost-type experience is for all Christians
- ★ the "miraculous gifts" are made available through the "filling of the Holy Spirit,"
- ★ glossolalia is the scriptural "tongues,"

It is also quite obvious that most churches have been unsettled by the activity of Charismatics in their fellowship, and many have been divided.

What should we do? What would Jesus Christ have done? Is this an occasion when tolerance should be shown, or should we begin to eradicate these teachings? I would like to make it quite clear that we should distinguish between the Christians and the teachings, and not become confused as to the real issues. Our individual policy must depend upon how we see the Charismatic movement. Is it a harmless manifestation of something which may be explained by earthly means (hypnotism, auto-suggestion, emotion etc.), or are these phenomena the result of super-natural forces?

I suggest we should look carefully at this question; and we should look at it now.

As children of God we have a responsibility to obey God, and hold fast to those things which are from Him. If, as the Charismatic movement claims, these manifestations are of God, we have no option other than to accept and practise them. There is no other consideration if God indeed intends them for us. But, if these phenomena are of a super-natural source, and are not of God, surely there is no way we could tolerate such teachings in Christ's church.

O. Wainwright, N.S.W.

"NUDE BATHING BEACHES A FAILURE"

The Festival of Light supports the Manly Council complaints concerning Reef Beach which has attracted "sightseers and deviants."

Homosexual papers such as 'Campaign' have also warned their readers about explicit sex acts on these nude bathing beaches. Such beaches have also become homosexual pick-up points.

Residents have complained from all locations from Sydney to Newcastle over these types of activities.

In the U.S.A. the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors have voted to ban nudity on beaches in county areas. The Board acted following complaints by nearby residents of homosexual and heterosexual sexual activity and that exhibitionists and perverts were attracted to the beaches.

"It is time" said Mr Nile, "that we stopped running away from the moral aspect of public nude bathing beaches — children especially are at risk in these localities."

"It is immoral to take public beaches and virtually restrict them to nude bathers and to also suspend our indecent exposure laws in these vicinities without any debate or Bills in Parliament."

Mr Wran says he couldn't care less about the problem — "out of sight out of mind".

However it was a different matter when a rumoured blue movie theatre tried to open near his own home at Darling Point.

Would Mr Wran be as complacent if the nude beach was shifted to a Labor electorate or more to the point adjacent to Darling Point at Rushcutters Bay or Double Bay?

— "Festival of Light"

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

REMINISCENCES

To the Editor,

The wife and I were reminiscing about Sunday School Anniversaries and Christian Endeavour meetings. The experts tell us that Sunday School Anniversaries were meaningless ego-displays and sanctified exhibitionism. They tell us the C.E. is a relic of nineteenth century American platonic individualism. I suppose the experts are right. But I am interested to know who is giving our modern kids the opportunity for creative play acting, choral work and other public activities that may have been "ego-tripping" but at the same time gave the participants the self confidence and self assurance that the same experts tell us every one should be looking for.

Now that C.E. has gone to its archival resting place who is teaching young people to read and pray and speak in public? Where are they learning to express themselves logically about important theological, social and moral issues? The old C.E. pledge has become a museum piece with its odd combination of commitment to Almighty God and to reading a verse at the weekly roll call. But who is getting our modern kids to pledge themselves to anything?

Maybe we are waiting for a new Francis Clark or a new Robert Raikes to show us what the church should be on about to win and hold kids in the technological age.

Yours in anticipation,
TERTIUS

YOU ARE INVITED TO A BACK TO WINGHAM WEEKEND

FOR
THE WINGHAM CHURCH OF CHRIST
CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

THIS SEPTEMBER 22, 23 & 24

GUEST SPEAKER: BRUCE A. ROBERTS
DIRECTOR OF HOME MISSIONS, QLD.

GUEST SINGERS: RICHARD & SHIRLEY
PEARCE OF ARMIDALE, N.S.W.

Please contact the Secretary,
R. H. Budden, 35 Queen Street,
Wingham, N.S.W. 2429 or phone 53 4518 (065).

We will endeavour to arrange accommodation for those who contact us at an early date.

FEDERAL OVERSEAS MISSION BOARD

The Annual Meeting of the Overseas Mission Board was held June 16, 17, at the Stirling Church of Christ, S.A. The new church hall proved an ideal meeting place for this important gathering. The Board expresses its appreciation to the Stirling Church for all the arrangements that were made, for the use of the hall, and for catering for morning and afternoon teas and other meals. Appreciation is also expressed to Dr & Mrs Don Chandler for inviting those attending the Annual Meeting to their home for the evening meal on the first night.

The meeting was attended by Federal Board members located in Adelaide and Interstate, the Principals of our three Bible Colleges, and newly appointed promoters from Queensland, N.S.W. and W.A. and observers from S.A. and Vic. Mr & Mrs Hariba Waghmode represented the Conference of Churches of Christ in Western India and they were able to make helpful comments throughout the meeting.

The following is an outline of some of the decisions reached, and further information will be available in due course:

* **Partnership in Mission** — The Annual Meeting commended the statement on Partnership in World Mission which appeared in the April/May 1978 issue of 'Missionary News', and it was resolved that a Notice of Motion be brought to next Federal Conference seeking approval to implement new structures in our overseas mission work as outlined in that statement.

* **Missionary Education** — A statement on behalf of the three colleges was presented by Dr K. Bowes. The need for Bible College training was stressed, and for those required to go overseas at short notice, they should, if possible, attend a semester at one of our colleges, and be required to study suggested reading material. It was also agreed that a two week Summer School should be arranged when next convenient.

* **Budget** — Missionaries Field Allowances were increased and field budgets approved. It is estimated that \$347,430 will be required this year for the Gospel Outreach fund of which \$323,270 will be required from the churches. This is an increase of \$42,000 from the 1977/78 budget.

* **New Appointment** — The Chairman advised the appointment of George Mathieson as a full time Executive Director to serve in a similar capacity with Ron McLean. It is expected that Mr Mathieson will commence this ministry early 1979 and will be commissioned for this task during Federal Conference.

* **Indonesia** — Dr Roy Millar on behalf of the N.S.W. Conference, presented a motion concerning the possibility of Australian Churches of Christ extending our involvement in Indonesia by establishing facilities for the training of Indonesian Church leaders.

The N.S.W. Churches are prepared to provide finance so that a survey could be made prior to bringing a Notice of Motion to Federal Conference.

The Annual Meeting accepted the proposal and it was agreed that a survey

team should go to Indonesia toward the end of August. Those appointed to the team were, C.L. Fitzgerald (Board Chairman); Dr David Hammer, Acting Principal, Kenmore Christian College; Miss Dianne Feeney, Lecturer, Woolwich Bible College. It was also agreed that John Truscott already serving in Indonesia should be invited to be a further member of the team. Further information on the survey will be available when plans are finalised.

* **Papua New Guinea Five Year Plan** — A Five year plan for the work in P.N.G. was submitted by our P.N.G. Field Council. The Annual Meeting commended our workers in P.N.G. for the plan and desire for Church Growth. Further discussion between the Board and the Field Council on the plan will be held.

* **North-West Maharashtra, India** — The Annual Meeting expressed interest in advice received from various sources, concerning an area in North West

Maharashtra where there has been considerable response to the gospel in recent years. Mr Hariba Waghmode spoke concerning this situation, and it was agreed that we should approach our Indian Conference for further advice concerning the opportunities and needs in the area. Should any work be proposed, the Overseas Mission Board would be interested in the assessment of the Conference.

There was throughout the Annual Meeting a deep feeling of oneness and unity of the Spirit and the Overseas Mission Board encourages prayer from the Brotherhood as it implements the decisions that were made.

Following the Annual Meeting a one day seminar was held for newly appointed Overseas Mission promoters. Those appointed are: Win Beale, Qld., Dianne Feeney, N.S.W.; Jeff Gordon, W.A. As Victoria and South Australia are still considering the appointment of Promoters, they sent the following as observers: Douglas Hughes, Vic.; Eileen Lewis and Jan Hunting, S.A.

SARGENT AT TELOPEA (see cover)

Haydn Sargent, Brisbane's Top Radio personality from 4BC and former Minister at Telopea, shared the weekend with the Church on the theme of Communication.

Some of Sydney's best musical talents shared the Communication programmes from Friday to Monday while Haydn participated in a series of talk-backs with present Minister Jay Bacik and the whole Church.

The topics of Communication with Youth, Communication and the Family, Communication and the Church, Communication and Jesus Christ were chosen to highlight the need to confront the world with "The Word" — God's final communication.

"CAMP NAAMAROO"

The N.S.W. Dept. of Men's Work camp, weekend May 26-28, at "Naamaroo" surpassed all expectation. The weather was perfect, a weekend of golden autumn sunshine (the weather changed Tuesday night and it's been howling southerlies and torrential rain up ever since).

The number of registrations was most encouraging. Eighty-seven men sat down to lunch on Saturday. The program involved 10 guest speakers. An interstate atmosphere was introduced into the meeting by the Gordon Stirling, Federal Conference President, and a surprise visit by Eric Hart, recently retired Director of the Queensland Social Service Dept. Eric was returning home from New Zealand and came to the Camp with the men from Paddington church.

Two highlights were the number of young men who attended the Camp and the first session on Saturday and Sunday mornings between 7 and 8 a.m. The men trooped into the Auditorium and at 7.05 a.m. were lifting their voices loudly in praise on empty stomachs. The sessions were before breakfast. How the singing of those male voices rang up the Lane Cove River Valley! There's a lot to be said for fasting at the right times.

Some Sargent-isms:

On The Media: Radio and T.V. people are very sensitive to the ideas and attitudes of listeners. Get to work and get the programmes you want. Complain when it's bad — commend when it's good.

On the Family Holiday: Going on holiday with the kids is no holiday — it's a different sort of work! For husbands and wives, if you can, go for an intensive week with the kids and then get someone to look after them — and have some time together to recover.

On the Telopea Church: If I could have had a wish about how the Church would develop it would have been realized in the Church here today.

The theme was "In Understanding Be Men" (1 Cor. 14:20) and was faithfully proclaimed by all the speakers and there were signs everywhere of a renewal of spirit amongst the men concerning their Christian life, "In the Church", "In the Home," "In the Community," "In Business" and in "Education and Recreation".

OVERSEAS STUDENTS BAPTIZED

(Swanston St., Melb., Allan Webb, A.H. B. Morton)

During the month of June another seven overseas students were baptised and received into the membership of the church . . . communicants for the month averaged 305 per week . . . At the Mini-Mission with Rex Ellis there were three confessions of faith . . . The screening of the J.E.W. film, "The Last Generation" attended by a large congregation . . . Extensive renovations are taking place to update church hall and kitchen facilities where upwards of 150 overseas students enjoy an Asian lunch each Sunday . . . Glenyce Lovett was recently recommissioned to a further term of missionary service in Thailand . . . A large number attended a recent screening of "The Hiding Place".

MIRACLE OF THE LOAVES

Beverley Moyes of the Cheltenham Church of Christ has a personal ministry of an unusual nature that involves her six days a week in helping people through what three firms consider is waste.

Every night at 5.30 p.m. — a very inconvenient time for anyone with a young family — Beverley drives to a local "Hot Bread" shop to pick up the loaves that have been left from the day's trading. Three shops in the area provide her with bread and cakes six days a week.

She has arranged on some days at some shops for the bread to be collected by other Christian organisations. One shop's supplies are picked up and distributed among residents of the Christian Retirement Centre, another by a Home for Handicapped People, another by a Hospital for the Aged.

Beverley, however, distributes the rest to many Christian organisations including a number of nearby Churches of Christ, where in turn the ministers distribute the loaves to the aged and unemployed in their congregations.

Large supplies of loaves are delivered to the College of the Bible, the Church of England Retreat House, a Spastic Children's Home, and to several projects of Churches of Christ, including two homes for needy people conducted by inner suburban Churches.

Several ministers and members from these Churches also help in the distribution among the needy.

But apart from organising the distribution and making the pick-up from the shop personally, Beverley delivers to many needy families including large families, family affected by illness and unemployment, and to other needy people. None of these people would normally purchase either the bread or the cakes and so this does not affect the trading of the shops and bakeries.

Why This Waste?

About 400 loaves, 800 bread rolls, plus varying supplies of raisin bread, cream cakes, iced buns, coffee scrolls and other delights, are provided by the shops each week. The traders are delighted that their goods are being used among people instead of being collected by a pig farmer. The people visited are always delighted and surprised to have the gift of loaves.

The purpose of the miracle of the loaves (Mark 6:52) was that people might see behind the provision of food the compassion and Lordship of Jesus. There are many people in Melbourne who have witnessed thousands of loaves distributed in this fashion who have been caused to think of the Master.

LAND RIGHTS AND RACIALLY OPPRESSED

The eighth meeting of the Commission of the WCC Programme to Combat Racism agreed that a major priority for the PCR in the period ahead should be its study of land rights and the racially oppressed.

Meeting in Zurich, May 21-27, the Commission said that the study — which is intended to serve as the starting point for action is to concentrate on land rights in Australia and Latin America. It is to be reviewed by the WCC Central Committee at its Jamaica meeting in January, 1979.

The Commission also heard details about the development of the scheme to facilitate the migration of large numbers of white settlers from Southern Africa to different Latin American countries (one of these is Bolivia, whose government has given its enthusiastic backing to the idea). Reports to the Commission confirmed the arrival of Rhodesian white settlers in the north of Argentina, and the already widespread fear among Latin America's indigenous people about the danger of increased racism and possible new forms of slavery.

Developments in Southern Africa were high on the agenda. Possible new initiatives in support of racially oppressed groups in this area will be under investigation during the next few months and the staff was requested to report proposals to their executive group meeting later this year.

Other plans approved in outline include the holding of a series of workshops in different continents on racism in children's books. This will be done in recognition of the international Anti-Apartheid year and of the 1979 International Year of the

Child. The meetings will provide the opportunity to exchange information on racial bias in children's books; seek to establish criteria for assessing racial bias, and explore how more people in church and society could be involved in such a programme.

Another consultation is expected to be held in New Zealand in November on race and minorities. This will be jointly sponsored with the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) and will seek to enlarge the network of knowledge and communication between member churches and action groups within the region.

In the shadow of the WCCs impending budget cuts the PCR Commissioners emphasized the need to look for new sources of income which, it felt, were not impossible. The Commission added that small further cuts could be made but that anything more would make the present programme no longer viable and would seriously affect both programme and staff.

C.O.C.I.A.C. at the farm

(Vic.) A recent Cociac picnic was enjoyed at farm of Mr & Mrs E. L. Williams. The group travelled by bus on a perfect sunny day and all appreciated the serenity and beauty of the farm.

Cociac extends sincere appreciation to Mr Williams, whose thoughtfulness made our day so comfortable and such fun.

It was great to see the "oldies" having a hay ride, and all ages loved the horses.

JAY'S FOR JUNIORS

JAY'S QUIZ

THREE WEAPONS

Paul mentions some spiritual weapons. Here are three of them. Can you remember the meaning Paul gave to them?

1. The shield of
2. The helmet of
3. The sword of the

(answers on page 18)

NEVER GIVE UP!

Some people give up too easily. Some never give up. Like Francis Parkman! Parkman was a writer and he wrote stories about the frontier of America. He loved the frontier people and he made sure that everything he wrote was about real people, not just storybook heroes. One of his books was "The Oregon Trail." To make sure that he had his facts right, Parkman travelled the Oregon Trail himself, a terrible journey for anyone. But few who read his exciting story knew that the Trail almost destroyed him. His health was broken, he could not bear bright light, and he had to live in a darkened room. The very words of "The Oregon Trail" were written (sometimes only six lines a day) by guiding his hand across the page in the darkened room with wires strung across the writing board. This is what our Lord expects of us. Never give up!

The deep sea diver had scarcely reached the bottom when a message came from the surface which left him in a dilemma.

"Come up quick," he was told, "the ship is sinking!"



"Sure, it was a good sermon. But why did he mention my car when he was illustrating how some church organizations don't run right?"

BOOKS TO READ

DEATH AND THE CHURCH: PROBLEMS AND POSSIBILITIES

by Dr Graeme Griffin (Dove Communications) \$5.95

Death is coming out of the closet as a subject that needs to be discussed with people in the pews. The competition and publicity among various funeral firms and the visits of Elizabeth Kubler-Ross have highlighted the Church's concern to humanise the process of both living and of dying. Graeme is Professor of Church and Community in the Uniting Church Theological Hall, Melbourne. A qualified psychologist, he has had experience in U.S.A. and Great Britain. Of particular help to ministers and lay people involved in the caring ministry of the Church would be the chapters on the nature of the pastoral ministry, the ministry of preparation among those facing death, and the direct ministry to the dying and the bereaved. His chapter on the death of Jesus and how it affects our life and death will interest the more theologically minded. Dr Griffin makes a strong point of the Church's refusal to face the issues of the finality of death and urges for an increased pastoral care. Any person working in the caring ministry of the Church should read this book.
— Gordon Moyes.

A GUIDE FOR CHURCH TREASURERS

(Aust. Society of Accountants) \$1.00

There is splendid guide for treasurers in the church. It tells how to keep books, reconcile receipts and payments, prepare reports, present statements, and budget. It has a host of suggested forms and statements (19 of them) which include

pledge card and pledge register, summary of pledges received, petty cash book, trial balance, income and expenditure statement, and statement of assets and liabilities. With money trouble everywhere you will find the chapter on church budgeting very helpful. Easy to read and use, and excellent value for only \$1. Postage is not mentioned, but one guesses it will be extra. Obtain from Australian Society of Accountants, G.P.O. Box 1161, Brisbane, Qld. 4001. - A.E.W.

SOMETHING MORE

by Catherine Marshall (Hodder & Stoughton) \$3.05

Now in paperback, this is a source book of joy through pain, praise through prison, and triumph through tragedy. If you couldn't afford it in hard cover, it is well worth having now in this cheaper form.

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

Church Chuckles by CARTWRIGHT



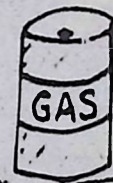
"How much to join your church and become a deacon? I need a Christian image right quick to confuse the income tax people!"

\$\$

Gas for New Guinea/New Hebrides

● \$25,000.00 INVESTMENT FUND ●

MEN! HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED YET?



EVERYONE CAN CONTRIBUTE

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

- TO FINANCE FUEL SUPPLIES TO NEW GUINEA/NEW HEBRIDES IN PERPETUITY
- \$25,000.00 INVESTED AT 10% = \$2500.00 PER YEAR
- A SINGLE GIFT ONCE ONLY, INSTEAD OF CONTINUOUS APPEALS
- IF EVERY MAN OF OUR AUSTRALIAN BROTHERHOOD GAVE A MINIMUM OF \$6.00 THE TARGET WOULD BE REACHED.

THE NEED IS URGENT

ALMOST \$3000.00 NOW INVESTED, TOTAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ALREADY \$6000.000.

Contact your State Representative of Men's Work or W. Carnaby, 11 Southey St., Nth Blackburn, Victoria, 3130.

DEMONSTRATIONS WITH A DIFFERENCE

BIBLE SOCIETY WEEK

The Bible Society is calling for demonstrations throughout Australia in August — demonstrations with a difference. Australians will be asked to demonstrate their love for others.

"Demonstrate Your Love — Send the Good News" is the theme of this year's National Bible Society Week which will run from July 30 to August 6.

The Bible Society believes demonstrations of love are necessary to help overcome the world's problems. Education, medical aid, food, clothing, shelter, technical training and understanding, all flow from an unselfish concern for others.

MERCY SHIP

The launching of a mercy ship to assist hundreds of Vietnamese boat refugees was announced by Dr Stan Mooneyham, president of World Vision International.

Called "Operation Seasweep", the relief effort will be carried out by a 345 ton, 188 foot long, LST-type landing ship. Its mission will be to cruise the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand.

"Our relief effort is certainly not a cure-all," Mooneyham said. "It is just a first step to keep these people alive until the various governments involved can resolve the resettlement issue and allow them to find a permanent home."

He explained that the mercy ship will provide the refugees with packages of food, water, medicines, clothing and personal hygiene items. In addition to the

And the ultimate guidebook to this all-embracing concern is the Bible.

The United Bible Societies are responding to a worldwide need for Scriptures with a record program of translation, production and distribution. This year the UBS will underwrite the cost of more than 500 translation projects, most of them in Third World countries. More than 80 per cent of all Bibles and Bible portions come from the Bible Societies today.

Bible Societies around the world will provide almost \$13 million for this joint program. This, however, is more than a million dollars short of the amount needed to meet urgent Scripture needs.

normal crew, a medical doctor, two nurses and two mechanics will be on board. The mechanics will handle engine and boat repairs when needed and a limited number of spare boats will be available to replace those badly damaged.

According to reliable estimates, about 1500 people are leaving Vietnam each month via small fishing boats. As many as 5000 boat refugees are on the high seas at any given time. The boats are overcrowded, they have little food, water or fuel, and they are often attacked by pirates who rob, rape and sometimes murder the refugees. Between 40 to 60 per cent of them perish at sea.

Mooneyham estimated the cost of the relief ship operation to be about \$50,000 per month.

HUNGER STRIKES IN CHILE

— "The World Council of Churches is fully supportive of the pastoral and prophetic roles of the churches, and particularly the Roman Catholic Church in Chile, in their efforts to support the aims of the hunger strikers and mediate their demands in that country", says a document to be circulated to member churches.

The hunger strike action which began on May 22 in various churches in Santiago and Concepcion, Chile, as well as in the Santiago UNICEF and International Red Cross offices, by 58 women and nine men has since spread to include at least 200 persons — priests, youth leaders, and nuns — as well as relatives of those who have disappeared in that country since the 1973 coup brought General Pinochet to power.

The aim of the simultaneous strikes — now in some 80 places around the world — revolves around the one question: "Where are our loved ones whose names and place of detention were promised to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim in 1977?"

The World Council of Churches makes it clear that it is not a sponsor of the strike although many of its staff have expressed personal solidarity with all the groups taking part.

Since 1973 it is estimated that some 2000 people have disappeared following arrest. During all that time the churches in Chile have expressed, through concrete

action and words, undeniable support and ministries to the thousands of Chilean men, women and children suffering from persecution and from the economic policies of the military regimes. — E.P.S.

LATER

As we go to press we learn that the Permanent Committee of the Roman Catholic Episcopate in Chile has publicly declared that it has appointed Cardinal Raul Silva Henríquez and the president of the permanent committee, Bishop Francisco de Borja Valenzuela to maintain contact with the Chilean Minister of the Interior who stated that the Government will shortly clarify the circumstances of each of the disappeared persons. The Church also requested that, in the light of this development, and because of the serious physical condition of the strikers, the hunger strike be called off.

F.T. MORGAN ILL

Fol. Morgan, a minister who trained at the Churches of Christ in Australia College of The Bible, is ill in Prince Henry's Hospital, Melbourne. Visiting is restricted and intending visitors should check with the family first.

Mr Morgan had ministries in Tasmania and Victoria before serving as a chaplain with the Victorian Council for Christian Education in Schools.

During National Bible Society Week the Society will emphasise the need for prayer and financial aid to keep the worldwide programs going. Christians will be asked to demonstrate their love by helping send out the Scriptures.

● SINGLES & DOUBLES

① ②

The first meeting of the Singles and Doubles took the form of a tea and talk on June 24 at the East Kew Church of Christ.

There were 85 present from churches all over Melbourne and beyond. Keith Horne, President Vic.-Tas. Conference was guest speaker. Mark Dunn was song leader with the help of Warren Talbot (he brought his own instrument!). Jan Gillard and Peter Breen sang together and Alfred White was chairman.

June Prince was in charge of the excellent and economical catering arrangements.

The next singles and doubles programme will be on July 30 when the S.V.D. will lead the morning worship at the new church at Gisborne and then fellowship at a barbecue.

SOUTH PERTH ON ABC TV

The service at the Church of Christ at South Perth, W.A., will be telecast on Sunday July 16, at 11 a.m. (10.30 a.m. in South Australia).

The worship will be led by Mike Flanders, and Des Nelson will preach the sermon.

NEW RESPONSE, SOUTHERN SUDAN

A previously-unreported movement among part of the Mabaan tribe, at Yawaja, southern Sudan, has recently come to light. Pastor Haruun Ruun, General Secretary of the SIM-related Sudan Interior Church, reports, "There have been 300 conversions in three months. This is something unheard of for this area. People from all over the district are coming to the Lord every day."

The response centres around a tiny, 15-member church that was planted by Mabaan evangelists. — Worldwide.

NIGERIAN CHURCH EVANGELISM

Evangelism received the main emphasis at the 25th General Church Council of the Sudan Interior Mission-related Evangelical Churches of West Africa, held April 18-22.

"ECWA is known for evangelism," said Evangelism Secretary Pastor Panya Baba. "Christian students in universities have asked me to come and tell them about our missionary work."

"We must give more than our money," emphasized ECWA President Rev. David Olusiyi. "We must give ourselves. Next year we should have reports not just on response from the Maguzawa and Isawa people, but on unreached people all over the country." — Worldwide.

THE ON-GOING WORK OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST

ABORIGINES MISSIONS

By
A. D. PALLETT

5

In earlier articles Mr Pallett outlined the scope of Aboriginal Missions in 1. Child Care, 2. Christian Centre Contact, 3. Social Welfare programmes and assistance, and 4. Training programmes.

5. Tribal Contact

From Carnarvon, W.A., contact is made on a regular basis with the Kimberleys, Pilbara and Murchison areas, including Jigalong, Roebourne, Port Headland and Looma. The contact with Looma has perhaps been the most consistent with Jim and Olive Bieundury living there as representatives of the Churches of Christ. Looma is a tribal community settlement of up to 500 people. These people are working towards becoming independent. Jim works with the Community Health and, with an old blind tribal elder who is a lovely Christian by the name of Limerick, leads in the spiritual oversight of the settlement. State housing has wonderfully helped the tribal people build their own homes of asbestos. Some 40 homes have already been built and occupied. Plans are now underway to build a primary school within the community. At present the children are being taken some 6-7 miles to Camballin where an Education Department school is operating. At Looma the Christian group is quite strong and they are now working at becoming a registered church. They wish to be affiliated with the Churches of Christ. The group has asked for help in setting the church up and constitutions, etc., are being looked at. A youth group meets regularly.

The group at Roebourne is always an encouragement and it is always good for our missionaries to have fellowship with them and to witness their strength in the Lord.

The visits to the north-west, Pilbara and Murchison are made by regular plane trips and Trevor Booth of the Bible Society has been the pilot. Car trips are also undertaken, but because of the many miles the plane is by far the quickest and best.

From Norseman, W.A., tribal contact is also made on a regular basis. Visits are made to Cundelee, Menzies, Leonora, Laverton, Cosmo Newbery and Warburton Ranges. As U.A.M. have a spiritual work at both Warburton and Cosmo Newbery and A.A.E.M. are working at Cundelee, our outreach to these areas has been mainly on a liaison basis. Although originally we were involved in fairly deep tribal contact, we now liaise more between the children who come down for education and their parents back in these areas. On these trips we like to call in and encourage people along the way and our Norseman work has had a very close contact with the tribal men.

6. Culture and our attitude.

As Churches of Christ we are continually looking at this. We take the line of not condemning the people's way of life. We believe in preaching the gospel and allowing the Holy Spirit to convict a person of rights or wrongs within their culture. We believe that by openly destroying the tribal culture we throw the people into a vacuum and we believe this is not our task. We have witnessed in the past the degradation and shame brought upon the Aboriginal people by misguided white Europeans and until the people see the need for change then they must be allowed to at least maintain some sort of law and order amongst their people. From the point of view of the Christian, it can be extremely dangerous for him to involve himself too deeply in the old practices. This is constantly being reviewed from time to time.

7. Christian Work and Witness

Apart from the normal home visitation, there is hospital visitation, visitation of jails, aboriginal Christians are beginning to visit their own people. We are endeavouring to encourage leadership, responsibility and self-reliance. Aboriginal pastors are now working amongst their own people and we are supporting them in many ways. The

Tamworth church in N.S.W. has seen an indigenous work started with Peter and Vina Jamieson. In S.A., Pastors Frank Johnson and Bob Brown are causing a real impact in the work there amongst the Aboriginal folk. A quiet work is still going on at Mooroopna in Victoria. From Roelands, Molly Damer and Maureen Rule witness in outreach work and visitation. Churches of Christ missionaries stand alongside two other indigenous works in W.A. They are the Noongar Centre in Perth and Pastor Albert Knapp and his wife Maxine in Esperance. In the Christian Centres aborigines are encouraged to take part in the leading of their people. Young people's Bible studies are being held, Endeavour groups meet, each week where children participate. Joe Lannigan, a blind pastor, has been working amongst his people in a quiet way. There is a witness and work being done.

8. Results in the light of development, leadership and self-determination.

We believe that in the light of the foregoing 7 points, we can see a fulfilling of the last heading. Now, as never before, the churches need to lift their vision. There is the need to develop new works. Communism is eating away at the people in the north-west. There is the need for Christian tradesmen to go into areas where Aboriginal young people are. There are organizations willing to help tradesmen if they are ready to make a serious attempt to aid the people. We have witnessed leadership in a spiritual sense. Were are the people who would be willing to sacrifice home comforts in assisting through our work to develop leadership in qualifying apprentices who would in turn be able to teach others and gain back their self-respect? We plead with you as a brotherhood to support these new ventures. And for the works already established, we again seek your earnest prayer and support.

WEEK-END (Taree) Church represented at Port Macquarie manse opening ... Janice and Fay Rostvit from Colorado Springs, U.S.A., shared a special ministry week-end with Jack and Miriam Bond.

MELBOURNE CHRISTIAN RADIO

Many supporters of Melbourne Christian Radio attended a packed meeting at Scots Hall on May 30 to elect a Committee and adopt a Broadcast Policy. A wonderful spirit of expectancy and agreement prevailed throughout the meeting.

Melbourne Christian Radio has now lodged with the Australian Broadcast Tribunal its application for an "S" (Special Interest) Public Broadcast licence. The Tribunal will commence hearing Melbourne applications on August 10.

Melbourne Christian Radio now has 3,000 signatures in support of its application, together with pledges of

annual contributions and programme sponsorship totalling \$39,000. However, whilst the Committee is very encouraged by this response, their prayer is that by August 10, the number of supporters will reach 5,000.

Christians who recognise the effectiveness of the ministry and outreach of a Christian broadcast are asked to join in support of this project by unceasing prayer, and becoming a supporter (see advertisement on page 15).

Further information can be obtained from R. J. Taylor, 8a Henty St., Reservoir, 3073. 469 2609.

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OBITUARY

CAMPBELL, Elvie Alice.

(27.6.1978) Mrs Campbell died at Wangaratta aged 72 years. She was born in Port Melbourne and went to live in Kyneton when both her parents died when she was seven years old. She moved to Melbourne to work and later married Jim there. They lived in Wangaratta and were married for over 50 years having seven children one of which, Jean, died at 13 months. Mrs Campbell was a devoted mother and wife who used her talents of baking and needlework to help the Lord's work in Wangaratta. She won many prizes for her work and donated many things to the church through her efforts. She was known by many who lived in her street as the Good Samaritan of Park Lane. A member of Churches of Christ for over 58 years Mrs Campbell was a most regular attender and worker, until the last two months of her life when she became ill with cancer. She was a caring quiet friend valued by those who knew her. We commend Jim and the family to God's care and support. — Dare A. Stevens.

CROXFORD, Frederick Francis

(17.6.1978) Just one month short of his 97th birthday Frederick Croxford left us. Born in England in July, 1881, he was one of eleven children. In 1912, at the age of 31, he sailed to Australia in the "Ballarat". He eventually settled in Cheltenham and lived there until 1938, during which time he met and married Elsa May Tuck who predeceased him in 1972. There are two children, Kathleen and Lindsay who are both in membership with the Glen Waverley Church. Mr Croxford was baptized at the Cheltenham Church of Christ and he was associated closely with that church until he moved with his family to Shapparton in 1938. In 1940 they returned to Essendon and to the Essendon Church in which the family established many good friendships. Then in 1968 Mr and Mrs Croxford moved to Glen Waverley. Here they were senior members in a very young church, but felt no sense of isolation because of the warm acceptance of the whole congregation. Mr Croxford was loved and esteemed by all who are associated with the Glen Waverley Church. For the last three years he was cared for at the Churches of Christ Nursing Home and the family are extremely grateful for the loving care and attention Mr Croxford received from the staff. We remember him as one of nature's gentlemen. He was courteous personified. He approached life with a measured pace, and gave a sense of stability and calm in the midst of a rapidly changing world. Mr Croxford had a deep love for music. In his boyhood days he was a choirboy in the Church of England in the Old Country. He had a long association with church choirs, and loved to make a contribution to their work with his tenor voice. The church at Glen Waverley remembers his life and witness with gratitude, and share with his family the certain hope of the resurrection. We convey to Kathleen, to Lindsay and Margaret and their family our Christian love and our warm support during their time of bereavement. The funeral service was conducted in the Glen Waverley Church by the writer. Our congregation is warmly grateful for every memory that we have of Mr Croxford. — R. B. Elbourne.

VAWSEER, Mrs Eva

(3.6.1978) Mrs Vawseer, widow of Harold Lyall Vawseer, and mother of Harold and Mervyn, and for many years Member of the Subiaco Church of Christ in W.A., died at the age of 91. Mrs Vawseer, prior to her hospitalization, for many years contributed a very valuable service in time and talent, notably in the Women's work, but also spreading to all aspects of the Brotherhood work. Because her sons were both overseas when she passed away, a Memorial Service will be held in the Subiaco Church at 3 p.m. on July 9, led by Roy Raymond, and all interested friends are welcome. A time of fellowship will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

O/S COFFEE MORNING (Kensington Pk. R. L. Oke). 70 from local and sister churches at Morning Coffee arranged by C.W.F. to hear Hariba and Shalina Waghmode. \$96 raised from trading table and morning tea for Overseas Missions . . . On Hospitality Sunday church members and friends acted as hosts or guests for the evening meal. All came to Youth Service conducted by Y.P. with David Oke giving the message . . . Don Grant, Hawthorn, prepared church for a Letter Drop and Visitation to follow . . .

PARHAM, Leslie William.

(1.6.1978) Leslie Parham died in his 86th year. He gave his heart to the Lord early in life. During the second decade of this century he transferred church membership from Beverley (York, as it was then known) to Croydon, S.A. His ability to relate to young people led to his teaming up with J. Ferris to commence a Boys' Club. He exercised a his home and at Hindmarsh cemetery by Rex Chamberlain and W. N. Bartlett. — W.B.

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WILLIAM BARCLAY C.B.E., M.A., D.D.

an appreciation By D.R. Bowes

With the passing of William Barclay, the Christian church has lost one of its most powerful and distinctive voices. For this was the man rarely heard making pronouncements in business meetings or conference sessions, but who, for millions, had helped to make the Christian gospel intelligible through his numerous books, his lectures and his unpretentious but gripping television series.

Willie Barclay was an unpretentious and loveable man, but with the power to grip you by his character and his lucid explanation of things, be it the meaning of a Greek word in a particular New Testament setting or the fortunes at the Motherwell football (soccer) team which he had supported since his secondary school days at Motherwell, near Glasgow.

But perhaps William Barclay most commanded attention because of his ability to do ordinary things magnificently. For nearly thirty years in the Faculty of Divinity at the University of Glasgow he made routine lectures an inspiration to his students. And for almost as long he coaxed music, with a beat like that of a boxer, from the Trinity College choir of theological students, many of whom said that previously they could not sing. He began writing his Daily Study Bible as a stopgap — until "someone decent" could be found! No one "decent" was ever found, but Willie did it so magnificently

that more than a million copies have been sold.

He was asked to do a television series. So he did it! The result was that portly figure, almost marching to the blackboard with a stubby piece of chalk in his hand, and that "gravelly" voice, coming into the homes of tens of millions in many continents.

His scholarship was of the highest class as befitted the Professor of Divinity and Biblical Criticism, a member of the New English Bible Joint Committee and one who had made his own translation of the New Testament. But he directed his scholarship to the plain man, whether Christian or atheist, Protestant or Roman Catholic, cleric or layman.

For he looked upon himself as a middleman, who by making theological scholarship intelligible, could reach people with the Christian Gospel. The highest honour the Church of Scotland could bestow, the Moderatorship of the General Assembly, was modestly declined so that he could give priority to his University work, his lecturing and his writing.

Willie Barclay would have loved to have visited Australia. However he told me, as the emissary, that his bronchitis made it impossible for him to fly and that he was largely confined to using his pen. Those of you have have read his "Testa-

ment of Faith" (Mowbray Popular Christian Paperback, 1975) will know what might not have been written had he visited you.

Yet those of us who have had our minds opened and expanded by his lucid expositions of the world of Jesus and the life and times of the writers of the Gospels and the Epistles know what you missed. I had the good fortune to attend a church (Methodist — I hope I am forgiven!) in the middle of Glasgow when Willie Barclay, on winter Sunday evenings for a number of years, came to address a "School of Christian Education" and then to answer questions and defend his faith.

While he was often teased by colleagues in the Faculty of Divinity for being a "fundamentalist", one evening he propounded views far too "liberal" for one person in the audience. On being challenged to come into line with the "accepted" view of the church, the clergy and, of course, the Scriptures, he replied that he knew all this but that a still small voice within had convinced him otherwise. "Is this not the way the Spirit works, the Bible remains an open book and we come closer to the mind of Christ?" he added. "Amen Willie" breathed many a person there. For once again this gentle warm-hearted giant had shed light along the way as he has done for so many, so often.

Donald Bowes, formerly of our church at Unley, S.A. is presently Professor of Geology, University of Glasgow.

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Rev. J. deKievit, Reformed Church, Ferntree Gully.
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Peter Maw, Church of England, Greensborough.
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Rev. R. F. Dancy, Uniting Church, Altona North.
Clive Stebbins, Youth for Christ.
Graeme Smith, Baptist Church, Blackburn North.
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10. TOUR OF U.S.A. & CANADA:

Our 37 day tour is fully booked and 77 folk will leave Australia on June 29th. We will repeat this tour in 1979 and registrations are now being accepted.

11. A.C.T.S./SITMAR CRUISES:

We will hold allotments on a number of Sitmar sailings during 1979, and are planning to charter a coach for a 12 day tour to Darwin to board Fairstar for a cruise of the East and back to Sydney in July. Brochures are now being printed and will be forwarded on request.

12. VISIT OBERAMMERGAU IN 1980:

We will be organising a number of tours including the Passion Plays at Oberammergau for 1980, but registrations should be made early to avoid disappointment. Send now for registration form.

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BIRTHS

AUSTIN (Collins) Kathy and Alan are happy to announce the safe arrival of their first, Darren Edward John, born 22nd June at Box Hill, Vic. Mother and son both very well. Father recovering.

HOVEY (nee Haffenden). To David, Georgette, and young Nathan, a boy child was born into our family on 19th June 1978 at the Mornington Bush Nursing Hospital. We named him Joshua David.

NEWTON Noel and Tricia praise God for the safe arrival of Jaye Bradley, born 22nd May, Southport Hospital, Brother for Lyle and Carl.

RISSON (Stevens). Anne and Roger of 122 Alma Terrace, Woodville West, 5011, announce the arrival of our third son, Jarrod Lindley, born 23rd May.

WEDDING

BINGHAM-MUDFORD. Isabel M. Bingham, Kyneton Vic., to Archie C. Mudford, on June 17 at Church of Christ, Bendigo, M. D. Keatch officiating. Present address: 292 Eaglehawk Road, Eaglehawk, Vic., 3556.

DEATH

CROXFORD. On June 17. Frederick F. of 3/4 Florence St., Glen Waverley. Dearly loved husband of the late Elsa, loved father of Eric, Kathleen and Lindsay. Fond father-in-law of Nell (dec.), and Margaret. Loving grandad of Robert, John, Garry, Russell and David. Great-grandfather of Lisa, Michael and Chelsea. In his 97th year. "Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

GOWDIE George Hillgrove of 48 The Avenue, Ferntree Gully, Vic. Called home suddenly on June 6, 1978. Devoted husband of Joyce and dearly loved father of Joy.

"With Christ, whom he loved and served."

IN MEMORIAM

BROOKER, Annie. Remembering with love our dear wife, mother and Gran, who went to rest on June 29, 1977. Les, Marje, Betty, Gwen, Ron and families.

THANKS

Mrs Edna Wyeth and family wish to thank their many friends for their messages of sympathy in the sad loss of Leonard, husband, father, father-in-law, and grand-father, who passed away 7th June, 1978.

you are welcome



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JAY'S QUIZ

Answers to Three Weapons (see page 10): 1. Faith. 2. Salvation. 3. Spirit. (Ephesians 6:13-17)

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21

MOUNT GAMBIER CHURCH OF CHRIST July 29, 30, 1978

On July 29 and 30, 1978 the Mount Gambier Church will celebrate 21 years of service. Past members are invited home.

PROGRAMME

Saturday: Tea at Fimmell's house at Mil-lal, 4-6 p.m.

Saturday Evening: Musical and Social get-together at church.

Sunday: 10 a.m. Morning Tea

10.45 a.m. Roll Call

11 a.m. Special Anniversary Service,

Guest Speaker: E. P. C. Hollard

12.30 p.m. Luncheon at church

Afternoon free time to visit friends

7 p.m. Gospel Service

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Slides and information for Post-
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ALBION Church, Brisbane, 7.30 p.m. Thurs-
day, July 13.

NEWCASTLE 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 18, at
the home of R. and J. Aird, 1 Turana Parade,
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HURSTVILLE Church, Sydney 8 p.m. Friday,
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Lawley, 6050.

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

Tas. — Don E. Stewart, B.A., B.D., Dip. M & E
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Church News Editor: G. T. Alves

ISSUE DEADLINE
July 22 July 14
Aug. 5 Aug. 28

WORK PARTY FOR NORSEMAN W.A.

Mr. S. Graham has asked if a work party
could come to Norseman in January 1979 to
assist in the painting of three buildings, most
of the children of these homes will be away
on holiday and it is a good time for this work
to be done.

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first hand the work that is being done for our
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and talent to the missionary work of our
Church.

If you can share in this work would you
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St., Ballarat, Vic. ● MRS Margaret Bennett, Mrs
Ada Gordon, Mrs Alison Wood, Jenny Wilson, Peter
Dealy, Col. Light Gardens, S.A. ● Cheryl Tuckey,
Pauline Gridle, Carol Yates, Barbara Dix, Gayle
Pryor, Modbury, S.A. ● Marie Jacobs, Wamboony,
S.A. ● Anna Gooderick, Devonport, Tas. ● Mrs
Irene Bull, Elizabeth, S.A. ● Geoff. Hickman,
Horsham, Vic. ● David Hagan, Naomi Crago, Kim
Goodman, Anthony Abrg, Monte Crago, Dean
Crago, Jackie Crago, William McRae, Jason Han-
scomb, Tamworth N.S.W. ● Margaret Butcher,
Leonie Nicholls, Theresa Simmons, Vanessa Hays,
Kim Harwood, Susan Lewis, Darrel Harvey,
Launceston, Tas.

Marriages

● Anne Ragless to Ian Heard, Col. Light Gardens,
S.A. ● Trudy Milligan to James Stevens, Kedron,
Qld ● Heather Watson to Brian Goodhand,
Elizabeth, S.A. ● Irene Mackley to Howard
McAnulty, Horsham, Vic. ● Isabel M. Bingham to
Archie C. Mudford, Bendigo, Vic. ● Sally Skerrett
to Ken Davidson, Karen Gardiner to Geoff Hanly,
Kathy Moore to Phillip Barwick, Jenny Blundell to
Ian Cunningham, Diane Love to Malcolm Carter,
Tamworth, N.S.W.

Deaths

● Mrs Lurline Kurtz, Col. Light Gardens, S.A.
● Les H Walshe, Devonport, Tas. ● Dorothy Cahill,
Preston, Vic. ● Mrs Wheeler, Kensington Pk. S.A.
● Frederick Croford, Glen Waverley, Vic. ● Aruthur
Combridge, Wodonga, Vic.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS SECRETARIES

HAMPTON: W. D. Allen, Unit 10, 19
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DEVONPORT: (all church cor-
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DONCASTER CHURCH OF CHRIST
Saturday August 5, 8 p.m.



VICTORIA

MUSICAL AFTERNOON (South Yarra, Peter Nelson). "Gospel Singers" entertained 75 elderly citizens with afternoon musical program followed by tea . . . For Ruby Wedding of Secretary, Mr and Mrs Alex Davis, a surprise tea was served with 45 relatives and members of the church present.

YOUTH CRUSADE (Horsham, R. Roberts). Calvary Encounter Youth Crusade held morning Bible studies conducted by Don Barnes, from W.E.C. training college, and evening meetings conducted by Kel Willis, former youth director of W.E.C. in Sydney. M.C. was Paul Coyle. Other activities included a gospel concert with "High Road" from Adelaide, a bus trip to the Grampians, and a games afternoon.

GLENGALA (Werribee) members shared in tea then led evening service at Glengala . . . First Sunday of the month morning service is Bible Study . . . First home meeting at Cherie and Wayne Pilkington's . . . Family camp held at Torquay.

HAPPY DAYS (Hampton, D. Murray, W. Talbot). District churches combined for service on June 18 when Rev. H. Christie-Johnson was speaker . . . A young lady made her decision on June 4 . . . S.S. anniversary held June 25, with youth tea followed by 6.30 service . . . Happy Days program held on three days during week attracted over 100 children

. . . Good Companions shared in World Vision 40 hour Famine . . . Miss Julie Leggett, C.O.B. student, working as social welfare officer in Sandringham, spoke at C.W.F.

MALE CHOIR (Blackburn, E. Keating, P. Burnham). On June 18, Male Voice Choir participated . . . "Singles Club - Unhitched" held second program with games and film night . . . C.Y.F. held "Rockin' Fifties" night with supper provided by mothers and friends . . . Visiting Teams and Cell Groups continue to assist church program . . . 40 attended Family Camp at Cowes . . . On June 25 the film "Fiesta" was screened.

WINTER SERVICES (Swan Hill, J. A. Caporn). Evening services at 5 p.m. during winter months have increased attendances . . . P.M. service on June 25 conducted by young people from local High and Technical Schools I.S.C.F. Laurie Barton, (Tech. School Teacher) was speaker . . . Lecturer and six students from the Bible College of Victoria visited church for weekend of meetings . . . Caserole lunch followed recent morning service.



QUEENSLAND

49th CELEBRATIONS (Kedron, J. Dow). 49th Anniversary celebrations included a basket tea with Dr Noel Preston as speaker, Rev. David Lowry, of Stafford Uniting Church, at a.m. service, and at gospel service, Jim Dow showing slides and movie of church . . . C.W.F.

celebrated 90th birthday of Mrs Thompson at Hostel, visited Ma Ma Creek with Q.C.W.F., and held Mother's Day meeting . . . E.W.F. learned how to "tone up" bodies and drank fruit juices . . . Men's Fellowship visited Jewish synagogue . . . Bill Allen out of hospital, but Hec. Weil, Robyn Dance and Jan Craig are in hospital.



TASMANIA

DEVONPORT LOSS (G. Risson). Church fellowship saddened by death of Les Walshe. Deepest Sympathy extended to his wife Jean and family . . . Lord's Day services being depleted by families on holidays in northern and western States . . . Anna Gooderick was baptised on June 18. Michelle Burtt made the Good Confession.

GREATEST THING (Launceston, M. D. Hamilton). A choir of 25 from W.E.C. College presented the musical "The Greatest Thing" to capacity-filled Invermay Centre on June 18 . . . Russell and Dorothy Allison shared with church on June 25 in celebrating 2nd anniversary of the amalgamation of Invermay and Margaret St. Congregations to form the Launceston Church. Brigades, Good Companions and Scouts paraded. 338 at morning service. Seven young people baptised . . . Petitions against establishment of a Launceston Casino being well supported . . . Bible Society Rep., Colin Rodda, farewelled at C.W.F. prior to transfer to N.S.W. . . Sympathy is extended to Mrs McBain of Eventide Homes on death of her husband.



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For further information please contact the Principal, Mr G. R. F. Ellis, P.O. Box 58, Hunters Hill, N.S.W. 2110.
Phone (02) 89 1982.





SOUTH AUSTRALIA

CHOIRS (Brooklyn Park, G.D. Agnew) Church Choir formed and Y.P.'s Choir growing . . . Stan Stewart, Vic., and Pauline Hubner, Qld., conducted one-day seminar on ministry to children. Special Children's Ministry Task Group being formed . . . "Features at Five" service being held . . . Over 50 attended Youth Marrieds' Annual Dinner . . . 1,250 dozen snowballs sold in recent fund-raising venture . . . Small groups studying "In the Spirit of Love" . . . New three Committee system at Board level . . . Morning services average 150 and, following stewardship program with Keith Horne, weekly offerings \$505.

SIXTY-NINTH (Maylands, N.S. Moore) 130 attended 69th Church Anniversary dinner. Rev. M. Chittleborough, Secretary, World Christian Action, spoke. . . Austcare appeal raised \$431 . . . Friendship Centre visited by Hariba and Shalina Waghmode . . . Operation Facelift cleaned and repainted hall . . . Mr Moore to conclude ministry in mid-1980 after 10½ years.

CO-OPERATION (Cowardilla, R.W. Saunders) Members participating in programs with other churches within 4 kms. of city . . . Prayer breakfast was lead up to Reachout program . . . Senior Boys' Brigade held farm camp near Bordertown. At church parade next week one boy was baptised. Section 1 held tea and church parade, guest speaker was Hariba Waghmode . . . Girls' Brigade visited Albert Park Co. and conducted program . . . Members saw film "The Hiding Place" . . . C.W.F. held 29th birthday. Ladies gave \$100 towards Living Link. Josés Sali of New Hebrides, now in leadership training course in N.G.

DECISIONS (Modbury, Keith Fechner) Four decisions for Christ lately . . . 150 attended social night for Rotary Village Senior Citizens . . . Working bee and picnic at Longwood camp site . . . Church collected \$390 for Austcare . . . Adult Christian education courses held . . . Ruth Johns conducting Discipleship classes for teenagers . . . Church has completed study "In the Spirit of Love" . . . Robin Haskell spoke to both congregations on her "Family-to-Family" program . . . Board has recommended Eldership . . . Church participated in Pentecostal service at John XXIII Catholic Centre . . . Two new B.S. groups started . . . Girls' Brigade family night at local Y.M.C.A. centre raised \$180.

ELDER EMERITUS (Col. Light Gardens, R.V. Holmes) Three adults and two teenagers baptised . . . Herb Finger appointed Elder Emeritus after nearly 70 years of service . . . Haribah and Shalini Waghmode, also Sunny and Fran Waghmode, at recent services . . . Church ladies catered for Ecumenical Dinner . . . Men have been working on church building maintenance. Youth radio club formed . . . Minister to conclude eight year ministry and move to Naracoorte in 1980.

FAMILY TO FAMILY (Glenelg, H.J. Wright) Recent speakers Colin Dredge, Syd. Beck, Brian Ricketts, Don Beiler . . . Youth service led by Mark Henley . . . Following church tea, Robyn Haskell, assisted by Mr & Mrs Russell of Flinders Park, presented Family-to-Family program . . . Mrs Kenyon celebrated 90th birthday . . . Miss Ivy Gates and Frank Bartlett recovering from surgery . . . Diners' Club held at home of Mrs Allan Jessup . . . Speaker at C.M.S. dinner was Mr Kaufmann from Minda Home.

MOTHERS FOR DESSERT (Elizabeth, Miss N. Hall, D. Tandy). About 100 mothers attended annual Mothers' Day Dessert and Coffee Evening, with Mrs Pat Richards, former missionary in Nepal, as speaker . . . Y.P. hosted visits from Y.P. from Ivanhoe and Chelsea churches in Victoria where Elizabeth C.O.B. students conduct student ministries . . . Miss Pauline Hubner, Q'ld TV personality and Stan Stewart spoke on Children's Ministry. Segment for children now included in morning service . . . Baptismal service conducted.

NEW MINISTER (Naracoorte). Mr and Mrs Ron Holmes, of Colonel Light Gardens, S.A., to commence ministry in 1980 . . . B.S. held camp at Wrattontully. Allan Young study leader . . . Y.P. joined with Bordertown for camp at Meningie . . . C.W.F. ladies entertained members of the Senior Citizens . . . S.E. Dist. Conf. guest speaker Brian White of Hawthorn Church S.A.

REACHOUT (Dulwich-Rose Park United Parish, T. Lawrie, W. Stafford, T. Rice) Parish involved in Adelaide Reachout . . . 90 involved in Discovery Groups . . . Goals set and adopted by Parish . . . 85 attended Parish Camp at Victor Harbor. Dr Dean Drayton, consultant on Evangelism with Uniting Church, led studies . . . Dulwich member, Lyndon Radbone, captained winning S.A. Table Tennis team to beat Victoria for Camberwell Cup . . . Drupy (Y.P.) picnicked at Para Wirra, and visited Plymton for tea, service, and after-church program . . . J.J.'s (junior youth) commenced this year . . . Parish Fellowship holds monthly Saturday night program . . . Recent speakers — Miss H. Skuce, W. Bartlett, and Rev. P. Holden, S.A.C.C.

RECEIVED (Unley, W. Philp). Two young men were received into fellowship a few weeks ago, and led Youth Service . . . Women's Groups continue to support Indian orphan.



NEW SOUTH WALES

NEW MANSE (Port Macquarie, Ray Smith). New manse opened — two storeys with Study and Rumpus room (kindergarten room for church) downstairs, and ample living quarters upstairs. The project was financed under the I.C.A. Scheme funded by Taree and Port Macquarie members and North Haven church, also help from Hornsby Church and the Dept. of H.M. and Evang. The opening was performed by Conf. Pres.,

Bruce Armstrong, and the key was turned by Arthur Morton, donor of the land . . . There were visitors from Taree, Wingham and North Haven . . . Rostvit twins from U.S.A. and Max Hall from Mayfield visited.

TELOPEA ON ABC (Jay R. Bacik) Church has been through a period of exciting events, a Morning Service nationally televised on A.B.C., Woolwich Week of Evangelism, a stimulating weekend with Brisbane's top radio personality and former Minister Haydn Sargent . . . Average Sunday attendances at all time high 150 a.m. and 130 at night. Teen Seen, an outreach Youth Club under the leadership of Ian and Barbara Spencer is thriving. Frank and Margaret Stimson have moved to Depto after making a magnificent contribution to Telopea. Kel and Joan Thompson (formerly of Orange) are new Christian Education Coordinators . . . Mr. Bacik has been involved in producing T.V. programme with Brian Wilersdorf for C.T.A. and has recently spoken to the Ministers Fraternal retreat in Victoria.

MISSIONARY CONVENTION (Canley Heights, J. Hohnke). Missionary convention held. Speakers included Jean Davis, R.B.M.U. Nepal, Jim Erkma, A.P.C.M.P.N.G., and Shirley Strong, W.E.C., Gambia, West Africa . . . Two of Girls Brigade are working towards Queen's Award . . . Gospel services 4 p.m. during winter . . . Sharing time conducted Sunday mornings at 8 a.m. . . Combined Gospel Services held with Carramar and Fairfield.

OUTREACH (Tamworth, Colin Crago). Outreach started to Murrurundi . . . C.W.F. held Coffee & Dessert night for June Meeting. Mrs Vina Jamieson speaker and twins Beth and Linda Cleavier sang . . . Children's church outing slide night featured Easter Camp at North Haven . . . S.S. started at Somerton under Elder Dennis Newman and wife, Lyn. Two buses have been purchased . . . Drop-In Centre (combined with church offices) in town centre functioning during daytime . . . Ladies Prayer and Bible study on Wed. follows up Sunday's sermon . . . Teen tea at manse started for young people Sunday evening before church.

INDEPENDENCE (Penrith, D. Norling) Lower Blue Mountains fellowship to become independent in February 1979 and Ken Mason has accepted ministry . . . Two morning services now held. Perc. Wainwright has commenced sixteenth year as treasurer. Explorers have accepted challenge from Mt Druitt for billy cart derby . . . Reggie Thomas to conduct meetings in September.

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER (Bexley North, F.J. Davis) C.W.F. held "Mother and Daughter" night and "Meet-the-Minister" evening . . . Quarterly "Night of Prayer" held. Guest speakers were Allen Rae and Barry Berryman . . . Mid-week prayer group attended regional rally at Burwood . . . Weekly indoor bowls held . . . Board visited by Owen Wainwright on concept of Regional Churches and outreach.

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

AERIAL SAFARI (Carnarvon) Three ladies from Christian Women's Conventions International, Miss B. Baddeley, Dean of Women at Melbourne Bible College, Mrs Maralyn Koontz, Perth, and Mrs Beth Brand, Perth, held three rallies. Dick Carter from Meekatharra was their aerial chauffeur . . . Blakemores from Perth, Merediths from Wollongong, and the Mannings from Adelaide, gave invaluable help at Ingada Village in Children's and Old People's homes.

BIBLE STUDIES (Subiaco). Weekly Bible studies at home of Mr & Mrs C. Reid averaging 20 . . . Young adults Bible study held in home of Mr & Mrs M. Beckitt . . . C.W.F. fortnightly Bible studies in cottage next to church. Roy Raymond has made tapes on "Acts" for these. He attends when able . . . Elders Jeff Gordon and Harold Vawser have recently suffered loss of their mothers. Both ladies aged 91, and well known throughout brotherhood. Youth work encouraging, with leaders meeting weekly for prayer . . . Day of Prayer first Wednesday in each month starting with prayer breakfast at 7 a.m.

FIVE GROUPS (Midland, R.L. Baxter, W.A. Van Leen). Five different groups meet in members' homes to study "In the Spirit of Love" . . . Jewel Lamb, Iris Stevenson and daughter Nancy Looyen are overseas. Nancy's husband Albert and daughter Erica surprised them in London . . . Gardening club is flourishing . . . B.S. parents, teachers and pupils held successful picnic.

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VICTORIA

FROM ADELAIDE WITH SONG

(Warragul, R. Pritchard) The Maranatha Singing Group of 20 young people came in six cars at their own expense to share a weekend with us. Jacky Bowden, student minister was leader of the organising committee. Meetings were held in the Combined High and Technical School Assembly Hall. The Sunday 11 a.m. service was held in the church. At 9.30 a.m. the Group sang at the Combined S.S. and at the Fairview Elderly Citizens' Home. Guest speaker at all services was W. Bowden. The Maranatha Group sang at five concerts and there were 35 commitments made during the weekend.

"OPEN DOOR" GRANT (Preston, E. Preston, J. Manallack). "Open Door" received \$3,000 grant from the Government to employ part-time Social Worker . . . Church saddened at death of Dorothy Cahill . . . 30 at C.W.F. heard Ron Mill speak on the Opportunity Shops . . . Doug Morffew organized camp reunion and film night . . . Over 30 at after church B.B.Q. at Bundoora Park.

MEN'S LADIES NIGHT (Red Cliffs) Ladies' Night held at Combined Churches' Men's Fellowship Tea. Ben Eggleton, guest speaker . . . C.W.F. Aft. Group held Direct Giving Day . . . C.W.F. Evening Group held Progressive Dinner for carpet fund.

116 YEARS (Maryborough, S. Warwick) Bruce Alcorn, past minister, guest speaker for our 116th anniversary, accompanied by Mrs Alcorn . . . David Senator, missionary from Ethiopia, showed slides . . . Youth group gave financial support to S.I.M., M.A.F. and Leprosy Mission . . .

Bible Society reformed in Maryborough . . . Ministry conducting discipleship class . . . Girls' Club studying India . . . Y.P. from Prahran came for week-end camp and shared in morning service.

SPEAKERS (Box Hill, S. Downie) Grace Crouch of S.G.A. guest speaker at C.W.A.F. . . . Senior Citizens' service held, speaker G. Grainger . . . Football Club Parade, speaker Graeme Rogerson (C.O.B.). Roper Family Bell-Ringers from Bentleigh featured . . . Barry McMurtrie, Berwick spoke at evening service . . . Missionary Day held. Speakers R. McLean, and Hazel Skuce . . . C.W.A.F. held Birthday meeting, speaker was Miss Nankervis . . . C.W.F. led gospel service. Speaker Mrs Freda Morris, soloiste, Mrs Betty Dow.

NEW LOOK B.S. (Peel St., Ballarat, H. Clark) One in every five members involved weekly in re-organised B.S. programs. There are four autonomous departments and Outreach Bible Schools held in Alfredton Pre-School Centre and Ballarat North Primary School. Community involvement achieved with Vacation Fun Days (Alfredton) and a Billy Cart Derby (North). Appreciation was expressed to Mr & Mrs A.H. Graham and W. Anstis upon retirement after many years B.S. service.

RESPONSIBILITY (Bendigo, M.D. Keatch). Church has accepted responsibility for the "Friendship Village" at Spring Gully . . . New carpet for the church laid . . . At Family tea and service "The Lamplighters" sang . . . Mrs A. Graham has been appointed catering convener . . . No. 4 Burr St., now in use for church activities . . . Mrs Lacy Snr is at the Home & Hospital for the aged. Mrs N. Broad is also there . . . C.W.A.F. members have given groceries to the C.O.B. . . . "Covenant Players" took part in recent services . . . C.W.A.F. contributed \$51.00 toward cost of clothing an Aboriginal

child . . . Helen Baraviks showed slides of recent trip to Holy Land . . . Ivan Bell screened Underground Evangelism film "To Russia with Love" . . . J. McCrohan and G. Doolan have resigned from the Board.

PRAYER (Cheltenham, G.K. Moyes, S. Wilson, M. Humphries) New prayer meetings starting . . . Church ministry active on hotel trading hours question . . . New tennis courts officially opened . . . Prayer groups rejoiced over improvement of 13-year old girl after brain tumor surgery . . . Gold watches presented to Roy and Ercil Barnett on Roy's retirement from his firm. Ercil will still be a cricket widow. Ann Witchell leaves for U.S.A. to join Creation Life Publishers . . . David and Lyn Edwards in New Hebrides seeking carpentry instruction books for use on mission field . . . Church has accepted responsibility for religious instruction in local primary school, by invitation.

WHERE JESUS WALKED (Glen Waverley, R.B. Elbourne). C.W.F. Walked Where Jesus Walked in a slide presentation by Freda Fraser . . . Social Worker, Amy Whittaker, made presentation to church regarding Christian Community Centre outreach, covering counselling, Drop-inn, etc. . . . Waverley Jacees again commenced Jaycee Week by joining in morning worship service . . . "Glenairs" sponsored Variety Concert at the local H.S. Hall.

QUESTING from Page 24

The danger comes when we invest the symbols with a glory of their own and our worship is related too much to furniture, the vessels and the elements, rather than the real presence of Christ to which they point. We have come to worship the Lord, and the symbols should help us, not get in our way.

LET'S SHARE THE PAIN



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QUESTING



WITH

A. E. WHITE

The communion table at our church was used recently for signing the marriage register. The chairman and secretary of the annual meeting use it for a business table, and once someone used it as a base for an overhead projector. Shouldn't the table be used only for the Lord's Supper? We call it the Table of the Lord.

Let me say quickly that my preference is for the communion table to be used only for the communion service. In the church for any other kind of service, the table is a silent witness to the reality of our meeting place with our Lord. It is not always possible to follow such an ideal, and many fine Christians would say that the table is only a piece of furniture and is no more sacred than the church pews.

Many of us have met for worship in a hall or a room that is anything but a single purpose chapel, and have used as a communion table anything that was available. In one such hall, people used the hall the night before for a far different purpose and the smell of alcohol was strong in the air. There was nothing sacred about the old table that became the centrepiece for Sunday worship. A white cloth covered it and the bread and wine were placed there. The worship leader rightly claimed the presence of the Lord and the place was sacred because of his presence.

No one in our brotherhood would claim that the Lord comes with greater grace to

the large, well appointed chapel with a finely carved communion table used exclusively for the communion service.

The Lord looks upon the heart of the worshipper rather than upon the value or appearance of the aids to worship. Nothing is added to the meaning of the bread on a silver tray that is not on a china plate. An expensive communion tray does not increase the value of the cup.

All this is true, but as numbers grow in hall, the members long for the day when they can have their own chapel and dedicate it to the ministry of the word. And they will seek to use symbols that will touch with beauty our surroundings as we worship.

The chapel is a symbol of the house of the Lord, the bread and cup are symbols of the presence of the Lord, and the table is a symbol of that first occasion when Jesus desired to meet with his disciples in a new way. That first table was not specially constructed. It was a common, ordinary table. It was the presence of the Lord that gave everything else significance.

However it is appropriate that we come together with dignity and decency. In an age when our homes more and more reflect a comparatively high standard of living, we like our homes and furniture to be attractive, and we tend to use best bits and pieces for special occasions.

The communion service is always a special occasion and we do well to have the symbols of the table and what is on it worthy of what we do and say, and the table that is set apart for our meeting with our Lord may well help us enrich our worship.

● Continued on Page 23

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

THE LAST WORD...

There is a great procession moving on. It includes all who name the name of Christ. It is moving towards the unknown future to which God calls us. The great procession is not made up of abstract ideas, social movements, buildings of stone, or works of art. It is made up of people, of those who venture to respond in faith to the great commission of Jesus: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel." — Charles M. Gowe.

CLOUDS

Clouds in the sky,
I cannot judge you.
I have no standards
by which to judge clouds.
I can only behold you
in God's perfect plan,
And rejoice!

Man on the street,
I will not judge you.
I will not accept
the world's standard of men.
I will only behold you
As God's own image,
And rejoice!

— Shirley Winston

★ ★ ★

Sticker on rear pump of a station wagon: "You are now keeping up with the Joneses."

★ ★ ★

Some people find that feeding birds is an interesting hobby, while others call it gardening.

★ ★ ★

He: "Did you see the pleased expression on Mrs Jones' face when I told her she didn't look any older than her daughter?"

She: "No, I was looking at the expression on her daughter's face."



"Wouldn't you be happier in some other denomination, Mr. Hillis?"

"The Disciple"



TAA
IS OUR FRIENDLY
AIR CARRIER

"REJOICE IN THE LORD"?

MEMO

To 377 Church Secretaries

Please hurry the return of these blue forms with the names of members of your church to whom we can send invitations to attend the 37th Federal Conference, Jan. 8-14, 1979. All we want are their names and addresses. The conference is only 184 days off!

MEMO

To 30 Church Secretaries

Thanks for your speedy help.