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Sunday Evening in the Adelaide Town Hall: A. Neil Bright presiding.



S.A. Conference (l to r) Archbishop Gleeson, Roman Catholic; A. N. Bright, Conference President; W. Tabbernee, Guest Preacher; Archbishop Rayner, Church of England.

PREPARATIONS FOR CWME MELBOURNE CONFERENCE

The Commission on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME) of the World Council of Churches, in a document circulated to all 293 member churches of the WCC, regional Church Conferences and affiliated organisations in over 100 countries, has invited Christians from all over the world to participate in the preparatory process leading up the World Mission Conference being organised for May 1980 in Melbourne, Australia. The theme chosen to help the Church to reflect on their mission is the petition "Thy Kingdom Come".

This conference follows in a line of gatherings focussed on mission and unity that began at Edinburgh in 1910, and includes, more recently, the 1963 Mexico City assembly which introduced the theme of "Mission to Six Continents". and the 1972 Bangkok conference on "Salvation Today".

Over 350 Church representatives and missionary agencies, experts and theologians from all continents will participate in the Melbourne Conference. Is a world conference of this nature appropriate or needed at this time? In its letter of invitation, the CWME declares that it is convinced that "The World's Christian Community must periodically re-examine its mission under God; the Gospel compels us to do so". From time to time, Christians are called to "participate in a personal and collective search of the significance and contemporary realisation of prayers for the coming of God's reign". — E.P.S.

DEATH OF MORO "INHUMAN"

In response to a statement from the Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy, concerning the assassination of Aldo Moro, Dr Philip Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, said: "The ecumenical community has followed recent events in Italy with great concern. We fully share the feeling of pain expressed by you today (May 10) at the assassination of Aldo Moro as well as your deep distress regarding the consequences this senseless and inhuman act is bound to have for the Italian society at large. We pray that God's guidance will uphold you in your continued Christian witness." — E.P.S.

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Australian Consultation: Theologically Trained Women at Parkin-Wesley College, Adelaide.

This Consultation was organised by the Asian Church Women's Conference, April 19-21. Down through the ages the Christian church has been faced with a great challenge which has proved a bane and a blessing, — a source of great frustration and division and the source of breakthrough as well — that challenge, of course, in the two edged sword of "change".

The questions arising have been: What do we change? How do we change for the better and how do we cope with change? The consultation called in Adelaide was aimed at bringing together some people whose role in the church is a relatively new thing in our times. It brought together as many theologically trained women as funds would allow, from all over Australia, two-thirds of whom are ordained ministers of religion working in pastoral ministries.

UK METHODISTS AND UNITY

The UK Methodist Church's ruling conference, which will meet in June, is to be asked to say "yes" to the 10 propositions on church unity but only if they are also endorsed by the Church of England.

Over the past four years, the Churches' Unity Commission, which includes Britain's mainline churches including the Roman Catholics, have set out Ten Propositions which, they are agreed, raise all the crucial questions.

Churches assenting to the propositions would enter into a covenant under which they would recognise each other's members and ministries.

In a statement on the draft response to the propositions, the Rev. Dr Kenneth G. Greet, Secretary of the Methodist Conference, said: "The visible unity of all Christ's people is important simply because failure to achieve it calls in question the truth of the gospel."

The response of all the churches to the propositions was important but, said Dr Greet, "that of the Church of England was vital". — E.P.S.

MATCH POINT (Maylands, N. S. Moore). Maylands was host to Churches of Christ Tennis Assoc. on Sunday evening. Mr Moore's subject was "Match Point." Later a presentation programme took place. Our ladies provided supper . . . Guest speakers have been Bruce Rofe from Gideons International and Miss Hazel Skuce missionary on furlough from India. C.W.F. held tennis barbecue at Christies Beach. Fun-Food-Fellowship resulted in \$61 being raised for Overseas Missions . . . The six monthly return of Mission to Leper boxes was \$99 . . . A "Spot" has been introduced into Sunday morning service for young children.



(Left to right): Sister Carol Hogan (Catholic, Victoria), Robyn Schaeffer (Churches of Christ, W.A.), Mrs Fran Bailey (Uniting Church, S.A.).

There were about 19 participants representing Churches of Christ, Continuing Presbyterian, Anglican, Uniting Church, Roman Catholic and Baptist, and the purpose was to raise issues for discussion relevant to the ministry at large and issues encountered by females in the ministry in particular.

Papers presented included "Theological Training", (relevance of: etc.) R. Schaeffer; "The Day to Day Ministry" Margaret Polkinghorne; "Feminist Theology in the Australian/Asian Setting," "Theology and Woman in the Catholic Church," Doreen Beckett; and special lectures by Dr Barbara Thiering of Sydney University.

An area promoting much of the discussion was concerned with the aloneness felt by many women in ministry through lack

of female models to follow; differing expectations within the congregation and the community at large.

Our models must be taken largely from the effective, caring male minister and his function in the church and from women who have pioneered other professional fields (e.g. women doctors, tradeswomen, etc.).

It was also argued that this lack of tradition could also be a decided advantage for here and now is a golden opportunity to pave a new path as we look to God, our guide and inspirer.

I am grateful to the people at North Perth and elsewhere who have been my encouragers and friends and who have shown in a practical way a trust in my training.

— Robyn Schaeffer

INNER SPRINGS

NOT WHAT, BUT WHOM



In a world where there is much confusion of thought, with too many problems and too few answers we need to plant our feet firmly on a few certainties. The eternal heavens, ever changing yet unchangeable. The seasons that come and go with unfailing regularity each bringing their own measure of enrichment. Nature's perpetual cycle of life and death. Of leaf fall and renewal. Sunrise and sunset, with their breathtaking beauty. The timeless ebb and flow of the sea. These are everlasting realities that man, with all his brilliance of mind cannot change. But more than what to believe in, the human heart needs the certainty of "whom" to believe. "I know whom I have believed" declared Paul. Can we say as much?

Not what, but **WHOM** I do believe!
That in my darkest hour of need,
Hath comfort that no mortal creed
To mortal man may give.
Not what, but **WHOM**!
For Christ is more than all the creeds,
And His full life of gentle deeds
Shall all the creeds outlive.

Not what I do believe, but **WHOM**!
Who walks beside me in the gloom?
Who shares the burden wearisome?

Who all the dim way doth illumine;
And bids me look beyond the tomb
The larger life to live?
Not what I do believe but **WHOM**.

Prayer: Gracious God, we thank you that you minister daily to us by filling the earth with loveliness. But we praise you most of all for the greater gift of your Son to whom we can go and find strength for daily living.

Tim. 1:12

Florence Roseier



EVANGELISM:

CALL FOR NEW THRUST

BY GORDON MOYES

PROPOSAL

I propose that we launch at Federal Conference in Melbourne January 1979 a two year co-ordinated program of evangelism to culminate in a major evangelistic rally as part of Federal Conference 1980 or 1981 in Sydney.

To implement this proposal I would suggest:

★ All State Home Mission Department leaders meet and work on a co-ordinated strategy of national evangelism.

★ Federal Home Evangelism investigate new areas for Church planning.

★ A national Church Study Program under the oversight of our Federal Board of Christian Education be launched.

★ Our Federal Aborigines Mission Department gear their own outreach program with the co-ordinated strategy.

★ A wide scale interstate exchange of ministers on evangelistic missions to bring a focus in the local church's program of evangelism.

★ A new focus on youth mission and witness.

★ The Federal Literature Department to produce the desperately needed new literature on the witness of Churches of Christ.

★ For the first time our Churches engage in a national media campaign to highlight the profile of Churches of Christ.

I believe that Churches of Christ are ready for a major new thrust into the community.

With most of the Christians in this country now belonging to one of three major denominational blocks — Anglican, Catholic or Uniting Church — Churches of Christ need to have some visibility in this country if we are to be taken seriously as part of the body of Christ.

I believe that we need as a Brotherhood to pull together in a co-ordinated activity to recover our sense of self-identity. I believe that we need to work together in the proclamation of the Gospel to rediscover our sense of purpose.

Many of these proposals are already being worked out in a fragmented sense in local and State levels. If we had a co-ordinated program covering these two years and involving many of the aspects of State and local work that we already have planned then our Brotherhood as a whole would benefit immensely.

I am sure that the leaders of our various departments across the nation would respond favourably if they realised that large numbers of members in our Churches felt that the time was ripe for such a major national thrust.

Let the voice of the people be heard! If you feel that this proposal has merit please write to "The Australian Christian", The Directors of Home Mission Departments, The Officers of Federal Conference, and your State Conference Executive so that we might ascertain the feeling of Churches of Christ across this country.

The harvest is ready. It is the labourers that are in short supply.

Now is the time for Churches of Christ across Australia to launch a major new thrust in evangelism. Other denominations are already planning major thrusts in evangelism.

★ The Baptists have already launched an international exchange of evangelists.

★ The Uniting Church of Australia in August meets in a national Conference on Evangelism to promote a three year program of local Church Mission.

★ The World Methodist Council has raised \$300,000 toward a \$1,000,000 target to engage in an extensive program of evangelistic outreach throughout Australia and other countries culminating in 1980-81.

★ The World Council of Churches will be holding a Conference on Evangelism in Melbourne 1980.

★ Billy Graham will be holding his longest Crusade for years in Sydney in 1979 and Leighton Ford and other associate evangelists will be preaching during 1979 in seven Australian centres.

And Churches of Christ?

I travel and preach constantly around Australasia and I sense a desire among our people to be involved in a major Brotherhood thrust in evangelism.

It is over a quarter of a century since the Snodgrass-Pollock Missions were held in this country. The building of the Canberra Church of Christ and the opening of the New Guinea Mission Field were probably the last major federal thrusts of our Churches. Other national projects like the Preachers Provident Fund and the Appeal for the Christian Centre in Bombay did not catch the imagination of our people in spite of their importance.

But the emphasis upon Church Growth over the past four years has helped change the climate within our Churches.

I believe we are facing a new environment that makes the time ripe for a major national thrust in evangelism.

★ The climate in the community is changing.

★ The Church has come out of its era of despair.

★ The spiritual depression of the 1960s worldwide has finished.

★ There is a worldwide concern for the renewal of the Church.

★ The rediscovery of the Holy Spirit in our era has had profound effect in our Churches.

★ The Church community caught up with the union negotiations is now looking beyond the mechanics of union for the message of the Church.

★ People have accepted the Church growth principles and rejected "the small is elite" concept of their Church as a denial of fundamental biblical principles.

★ Many Churches have geared themselves through the Church Growth Principles for outreach.

104th CONFERENCE

The Churches of Christ Evangelistic Union Incorporated met for its 10th Conference, April 26-30.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

For the first time since the Centenary Conference a guest speaker was invited to give continuity of theme. Bill Tabbernee, B.A. (Hons), S.T.M., L.Th., Dip R.E., Lecturer, College of the Bible, Glen Iris, preached on five occasions with versatility in presentation but consistency in standard and conviction in affirmation. Preaching themes were: President's Reception: "I believe in the Church" at Maughan Memorial Church. Women's Conference: "I believe in Creation" at Grote Street Church. Ministers' Conference: "I believe in the Incarnation." Saturday Evening: "I believe in the Resurrection. A Celebration. Sunday Evening: "I believe in Life Everlasting" at the Town Hall, Adelaide.

The Archbishops of the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church, the Moderator of the U.C.A. and the President of the Baptist Union were all present at the President's Reception as well as representatives of the Lutheran Church and of the Mt. Lofty and Wakefield U.C.A. Presbyteries. The Rev. Ian Tanner responded to the welcome. The newly formed Marion Church (previously Ascot and Clovelly Parks) was received into Conference.

Saturday evening's Celebration consisted of two parts. The first was a 25 minute audio-visual prepared by Mrs Daphne Clark and first presented at Balaklava's Centenary late in 1977. Impressive in this presentation were both the Community involvement on the part of this congregation and its contribution to the Conference life of this State in spite of distance from the city. The other part was that led by Bill Tabbernee in contemporary worship with an infectious joy in declaring his belief in the Resurrection of our Lord.

Sunday's Town Hall service was well attended as usual. John Mathieson led the song service during which the Conference Secretary introduced Canadian John Schaper, Director of Adelaide Reachout. The ministers' quartet party — Will Philip, Bob Clymer, Keith Fechner and Jim Wright — very effectively contributed to this service of witness.

THE PRESIDENTS

Conference closed with the Induction of C. H. J. Wright, B.A., as President and the introduction of Mr and Mrs Wright and the theme for this Conference year — "Christ is Lord of All." President-Elect, Barry J. Grear, B. Tech., Grad. Dip. Bus.

Admin., M.I.E. Aus., A.A.M.I., J.P., and Mrs Grear were also on the platform. Jim Wright's first response was one representative of the appreciation of the whole of Conference. In thanking A. Neil Bright for his year as President he referred to his through preparation in every aspect of the leadership he had given, typical of the theme he presented to Conference — "Fervent in Spirit, Serving the Lord."

BUSINESS SESSIONS

These again took the form of deliberative group discussions on notices of motion and departmental reports followed by the decision making plenary sessions. The President gave clear leadership and with grace. All but one of the notices of motion were passed. Consequently the Committee on Social Justice replaces the Provisional Social Questions Sub-Committee. Each full-time minister will now be a member of conference having the same power as a delegate, so recognising his ministry to the whole church. Full-time Conference appointees will need 75% of votes cast for appointment or re-appointment. The present practice of a postal ballot will continue. A Commission of five persons, apart from Departmental Directors and Executive members, will prepare and present an initial Report to Conference 1980 on (a) Brotherhood Structures (b) Ministry (3) Ecumenical Strategies. Approval was given to the Christian Rest Homes Board to erect seven units at Everard Park and to purchase land held in conjunction with the new Marion Church to build fifteen units. The policy of Home Mission Department to encourage inspirational rallies and inner suburban consultation among the 4 kilometre churches was endorsed.

Following the decision of last Conference to research the possibility of establishing an Institute of Church Youth Leadership Training by the Department of Christian Education this Conference agreed to a trial period for two years. The Department was given approval to raise, if not available from other sources, an amount up to \$1,000.00 for initial establishment costs. During the Overseas Mission Report the following Resolution was passed: "That this Conference expresses its support to the Conference of Churches of Christ in the New Hebrides in their grave concern at the divisive action of the South Pacific Evangelical Fellowship (S.P.E.F.) in their churches."



The Ministers' Quartette Party (l to r) Jim Wright, Keith Fechner, Bob Clymer, and Will Philip.

REPORTS

Departmental Reports were all adopted as printed. The fact that there was a slight gain in membership and in average attendance at Communion was good to note, but the fact that the membership gain was so slight gave no cause for complacency. A budget had been set for departmental offerings for 1977 for \$98,000.00. Receipts amounted to \$97,705.00. The Finance Committee pointed out that this amount so close to budget did not mean that each Department received the amount of the approved budget because offerings were not all proportionate. Some further steps were needed therefore to ensure more balance so that Conference-endorsed programmes can be fulfilled. The budget for 1978 was adopted at \$107,400.00 and the percentages to achieve departmental budgets were adopted as follows: Home Missions 20%, Overseas Missions 24%, Department of Christian Education 22%, Building Extension 3%, Aborigines Missions 9%, Social Service Department 10%, College of the Bible 10%, Christian Union 2%.

APPOINTMENTS

Appointments made by Conference were a reappointment of E. W. Heard, B.A. as Home Missions Director from 1.1.80 to 31.12.82 and for the same period J. B. Baker was reappointed Chaplain to the Royal Adelaide Hospital. M. J. Drake was appointed Director of the Social Service Department to assume office for five years from 1.1.79 following the service of R. E. Haskell who becomes Registrar of the College of the Bible later this year.

Conference was interested to receive the announcement that in August of this year Gerald D. Rose, B.A., L.Th., D.C.E. Director would go for a twelve months exchange as Disciples of Christ Assistant Area Minister located at Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. In that period Richard Lauer, B.Sc., B.D. will serve as D.C.E. Director in S.A.

Ed. Roffey.

AURUKUN & MORNINGTON ISLAND

With the passing of the Queensland legislation setting up local government authorities at Aurukun and Mornington Island to replace the former Aboriginal reserves, Aboriginal leaders feel they have been betrayed all down the line. They bitterly criticise the media as well as both the State and Federal governments for either ignoring or misrepresenting their viewpoint.

This report by Russel Davies, editor of "Forward" is reprinted from "The Central Times". Both newspapers are published by the Uniting Church.

Their primary indignation is focussed on the state government. "We feel that Mr Porter has insulted us and told lies about us," said Aurukun chairman Donald Peinkinna in a long letter to the Hon. Ian Viner, Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

"He said that people who might want the state government to manage Aurukun were being threatened and forced to leave Aurukun. This is not true."

State Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs Minister Charles Porter maintain that Aboriginal spokesmen who criticise the state government are being manipulated by communist agitators, and that the majority of 'real Aborigines' on the former reserves are in favour of state.

This is hotly denied by the people of Aurukun, "Mr Petersen calls anyone who disagrees with him a communist," they said, "but we are not communists."

In four days of listening to people at Aurukun I did not meet anyone in favour of the State government.

Holiday

Several community leaders told me they were offered a free holiday at Palm Island to get them out of the way when Mr Porter came to Aurukun to explain the government's proposals. They did not take it.

The council unanimously rejected his proposals, as did an overwhelming majority of the people. They deeply resent the charges of outside manipulation made by Mr Porter, and see his government as the principal manipulators in the affair.

"We wouldn't want outsiders coming and telling us what to do," a group of Aurukun people told me. "We know what we want, and have told Mr Porter so, but he ignores us and tells lies about us. We cannot trust him."

"The people who speak in Brisbane and say we are being threatened do not speak for us," they went on. "Mr Porter had to go to Weipa to find people to support him.

They have not lived in Aurukun for years. They do not speak for us, and he knows it.

"We do not like him using our own people against us in this way, but we have not threatened them. All the people at Aurukun want to manage our own affairs. We want the church to help us, because the church listens to what we say and cares about us."

Betrayal

They are disappointed in the Federal government, particularly in Aboriginal Affairs Minister Ian Viner. They believe that Mr Viner is at least sympathetic to them, but has been forced to back down under pressure from Queensland, and they see this as a betrayal.

"Mr Viner promised to help us, and we trusted him," I was told. "But now he has given in to Mr Petersen and is pretending that the legislation will be good for us. But we don't like it."

They appear to have four main fears about the legislation:

- The Local Government Act is full of detailed regulations which are foreign to their lifestyle and will impose the white man's way on them.

- The advisory council will work for the government, not for them, and will bring in Queensland police to enforce its 'advice' if the people do not agree.

- The outstations will be closed down or decimated so that everyone can be under the government's eye.

- The terms of the lease can be altered at the government's convenience, giving no security to the people.

Mount Isa

Mr Viner called a meeting in Mount Isa, Commonwealth Aboriginal Affairs officers flew in to Aurukun and gave council leaders two hours notice to pack and leave for Mount Isa.

Although the Federal government says it wants to work together with the church

and legal advisers, neither were approached.

However, one of the council members told the mission staff of the meeting and mission assistant manager John Adams was able to catch the plane with them, and to arrange for legal aid representatives from Mount Isa to attend.

One council member expressed the opinion to me that Mr Viner was trying to get them on their own and persuade them to accept the compromise he had made with the Queensland Government.

Newspapers

The third group criticised by Aurukun people was the media.

"Reporters come in to Aurukun and we tell you what we think, but when you go away you do not report what we say. You only report what the politicians say. We hope the church newspapers will report what we say," I promised we would.

"Newspapers are supposed to tell the truth, but they haven't told the truth about us," the complaint went on. "They call us communists, and say there has been violence here. That hurts us because it is not true.

"They say we have threatened people who disagreed with us, and we haven't. We sat down and talked together about all the problems, and our community voted to oppose the legislation.

"Our way is to find something all the people can agree on, but they (the media) don't say that. They only tell what Mr Petersen says, but he doesn't care about us. He only wants our land for the mining companies. Why don't the newspapers say that?"

MOZAMBIQUE FLOOD VICTIMS

The World Council of Churches Commission on Inter Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS) has made an emergency appeal for US \$250,000 to relieve devastation and aid rehabilitation following floods which hit parts of Mozambique in March and which have not yet receded.

The area affected is in the Zambesi Valley of central Mozambique. The waters have already claimed the lives of some 45 people and have left over 200,000 homeless and displaced.

Following a recent visit to the area a WCC staff member indicated the priority needs as including maize, beans, rice, blankets, clothing, axes, hoes, anti-malarial tablets and first aid kits. E.P.S.

FATHER AND SON (Northam, M. Randell). "Father and Son" tea was followed by the film "Sammy" . . . Three young people baptised recently . . . Mrs I. Whelan brought devotions to C.W.F. meeting . . . Members participated in Bible Society rally, Trevor Booth was speaker . . . Several members assisted with street collection and stall for Bible Society . . . The church youth groups active and assist in Sunday evening services.

"LET MY PEOPLE GO"

The 113th Annual Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania (the 25th of the two-State merger).



Dr. Trevor A. Banks



Mrs. Freda Morris

Once upon a time many folk felt that Conference was a good way to spend a dull day, confident the day would stay dull. Conference is seldom dull in Melbourne. Not that there is too much excitement. We are seldom confronted with big bold plans. In these days of struggle for the church, the effort is rather on strengthening our defences and developing skills and strategies and leadership in readiness for coming opportunities for church expansion.

This Conference had some interesting features. The boundary lines between the C.W.F. and General Conferences faded some more when the joint presidents, **Dr Trevor Banks** and **Mrs Freda Morris**, hosted a Combined Presidents' Reception at the Moorabbin Town Hall.

During the programme, **Geoff Foote**, the V-T President-Elect, was interviewed by the President, **Keith Horne**. Is Mr Foote the first president-to-be to graduate through Parliamentary ranks? **Mrs Betty Dow**, the new C.W.F. President, was introduced by Mr Morris.

Dr Banks began his message with the story of a man who fell over a cliff but managed to grab hold of a not too-secure bush. In yelling for help, he called, "Is there anyone up there?" A voice replied, "Yes, I will help you." "Who is that?" asked the man. "This is God," was the reply. "Thank heavens," said the man, "how will you help me? What shall I do?" "Just let go," said God. "Trust me, just let go and all will be well for you." "Is there anybody else up there?" yelled the man.

Dr Bank's theme was "Let my People Go," and he pointed out that we are often unwilling to release our hold on the precarious resources of self and to trust God. This theme was further developed in an excellent musical serious/comedy presented by the Balwyn church group directed by June St. Aubyn.

The business sessions in the Lower Melbourne Town Hall were again relieved by the spotlight being thrown on the triumphs and trials of a few churches. This year it was on Montrose, Stawell, Berwick, Devonport, and Clayton. In addition to our natural interest in real persons in preference to statistics, there was a great deal of information about running a church and developing its growth.

The Conference Secretary, **C. L. Ward**, who masterminded a programme of significance and variety, had to worry about the clock at Moorabbin on Thursday evening and the lack of a sound system on Saturday morning, and the 101 other problems of organisation and disorganisation that beset all secretaries at all conferences, also accompanied the con-

ference singing at the business sessions. He also accompanied a soloist. If he wasn't doing his job for nothing he would deserve a pay increase!

Gordon Moyes, with the seemingly impossible task of giving devotional addresses to tired delegates as the last item on the two business nights, achieved the task with (apparent) ease and sent the conferees home not only awakened and refreshed but with a new appreciation of Moses and Abraham as contemporaries. **New Churches**

We welcomed four new churches into the Conference with enthusiasm: Keilor East, Gisborne, Wodonga, and Werribee. It was exciting to hear of the surge of new life in these causes. We are much better at handling the birth of churches than we are their demise, and the closure of the causes at St Kilda and Benalla received three lines in the handbook and no mention at Conference. **Brotherhood Centre**

The nearest sound to an angry note came when Conference expressed its dismay at the loss of the Brotherhood Centre first floor reception room which has now been leased to the National Bank. The changes to the second floor have provided a lounge/board room for approximately 40 persons, but the larger first floor reception room has gone. The costs of maintaining a city Centre have risen considerably and the large reception area was not used often; but it was used and members felt strongly that there should have been more discussion and opportunity to explore other ways of meeting the cost of running our Centre. **Social Concerns**

There was also a strong pressure for a more active role by our Churches in the areas of social concerns. At the time of Conference there was grave disquiet about Aborigines' rights and about the recommendation to further extend liquor licensing hours. Resolutions were passed about both of these, but it was argued that we should have a responsible and continuing expression of Christian concern for human dignity and social justice in those affairs which may not be content to wait until we hold our next conference.

"**Australian Christian**" Foundation During Conference, the Christian Building Trust announced the establishment of "The Australian Christian Foundation" which will assist accredited Christian ministers and others to undergo overseas training and to develop skills for use in Australian churches. Full details of the Foundation will be given in a later issue.

Other Items

A report on the C.W.F. Conference will

appear in the next issue. As usual the women had a commendable record of achievement. The Golden Bag offering went to Bethany Children's Home, and the 1978-1979 project will be the new church at Werribee. Dean Olafsen spoke on the work of the Council for Christian Education in Schools. About a third of the chaplains in Victoria are Churches of Christ ministers, which is an extraordinarily high proportion, and we often regret their loss to our pastoral work. But in an era when the only contact many children have with Christian influence is with chaplains in secondary schools, this is a new battle line for the faith. We assume that the churches recognise this and support the work as a missionary enterprise, but we could find no mention of the C.C.E.I.S. in the financial pages of the handbook.

The climax again was the Melbourne Town Hall Rally. It was a night of music, fun, sharing, and inspiration. **Malcolm Gray** was compere, **Paul Burnham** song leader, and **Geoff Cheal** was organist. **The Changing Moods** was the featured choral group and **Glenys McDonald** was soloiste. **Gordon Stirling** gave the address "Jesus Liberates" and, there were several responses to the invitation to commitment. In the 1930's, G. R. Stirling was one of our youngest ever ministers; he still is! As President of Federal Conference he is truly representative of churches throughout Australia.

RESOLUTIONS

Liquor Trading Hours:

Whereas there are approximately 60,000 alcoholics in Victoria, and whereas alcohol is a significant contributing factor in approximately fifty per cent of motor vehicle accidents — and therefore a significant contributing factor in 1,600 deaths and 35,000 injuries per year, and whereas alcohol is a contributing factor in many other causes of death, such as heart disease, respiratory disease, liver disease and cerebro vascular accidents, and whereas alcohol is associated with such social ills as violence (including spouse and child battering), rape and divorce, this Conference of Churches of Christ expresses opposition at the proposal to extend facilities for drinking as contained in the report to the State Government by Mr J. D. Davies, Q.C., but supports the emphasis placed on the need for education on the dangers of alcohol abuse and urges churches and members to encourage and support such programmes in the local area.

Furthermore, we urge upon our members that they should accept the

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MUSTARD SEEDS

BY ALAN AUSTIN



In parliament recently our Prime Minister expressed well the revulsion we all felt at the brutal death of Italian statesman, Mr Aldo Moro. The death of Moro was, he said, "a senseless act of barbarism . . . The plague of terrorism has claimed another victim".

Mr Hayden, in full agreement, described the act as "a wicked and barbarous murder".

These reactions of shock and anguish have been echoed around the world. Leaders of all religious faiths and governments of all shades have declared their outrage and sorrow. This column endorses fully all such expressions.

At the same time there are questions raised by acts of terrorism, or barbarism if you like, which must not be ignored in the horror and the grief. ■

Number One

What are the real root causes underlying the deadly fanaticism of groups such as Italy's Red Brigades? Clearly they are motivated by far more than outrage at petty officialdom or bureaucratic corruption.

Questions related to this are: What are the ultimate objectives of Italy's Brigades or West Germany's Baader-Meinhof gang? Why have they resorted to such extreme forms of violence to implement their programme? What factors in Italy's recent history have led to its present political climate? What has been the role of the extremely powerful Catholic church? What is the extent of popular support within Italy for terrorist activity? The Red Brigades are a tiny minority. But how widely shared is their desperate anger and frustration? ■

Number Two

In several countries their

ferociousness and sheer lethal efficiency have rendered terrorist groups virtually unassailable.

"They seem to be able to strike at will," said Newsweek of the Red Brigade, "and have managed to defy — so far with impunity — the entire security apparatus of the country."

So far, however, their threats to structures or to human life have not been sufficiently severe to force compliance with their demands. This despite the deaths now of scores of political and business leaders.

The question (which won't be pursued here but must be raised) is how long will it be until the threat takes the shape of a nuclear device? The technology is available. It would appear the motivation must very nearly be there too. Now all that's needed is the nuclear fuel. ■

Number Three

Along with England and very few other developed nations, Australia is still free from the immediate threat of local terrorist groups. What are we doing here to determine the conditions which breed terrorist organizations? Is the attitude 'It couldn't happen here' realistic? What makes our society more immune to terrorism than, say, Holland, Italy or the United States? ■

I do not know the answers to these questions.

But one thing is certain. If I'm serious about preserving in the future the rights and freedom we enjoy at present I'm going to ask them. And together with others I hope to work towards answers.

Frankly I'm not impressed with angry declarations of an international war on terrorists or meeting violence with violence.

Partly because I believe this is only treating symptoms. But also because it hardly ever works. Witness Italy and indeed, most of the rest of Europe. Military and policy action if severe enough may curtail extremist violence. But only at an enormous social cost.

That's not to say terrorists shouldn't be ruthlessly pursued and punished. Not at all. This is certainly essential. But let's not pretend it's the final solution.

Neither am I resigned to the prognosis that 'political terrorism will remain with us and may come to pose even more serious threats to our open society, our values and our way of life'. ■

May I invite readers to share their reactions to the questions raised here. Are these questions irrelevant for Christians? Should we simply accept our helplessness in the face of such collective evil and concentrate on spiritual matters? What, then, can we and should we be doing?

As always your comments are welcome and warmly invited.

In the next issue I hope to share insights on this issue from observers whose opinion I respect. Hope to have you with us again next time. ■

INPUT

from Randy Beeton

Dear Father . . . As I bow before you today

I confess to you that I am a critic. I see more and more what is wrong in the world,

In the church, in my friends . . . and I can't overlook it . . . as some do Nor can I forgive them . . . as you do I feel miserable that I'm so negative . . . Help me . . .

Son, I'm glad you confessed this to me I never asked you to be naive or blind about your world

In fact . . . I gave you the insight to know the weaknesses . . . and see the hypocrisy

But now let me remind you of the reason for this gift.

It is you, my son, whom I send to them

Show them my solutions . . . tell them they need not be phonies

But always remember, son . . . there was another Gift,

So . . . tell it like Jesus did!

JASON'S HOUSE

DID YOU SAY THE WRONG THING AGAIN, JASON?

GUESS SO. MRS. P WAS TALKING ABOUT HER BOOKLET ON TEACHING MEMORY VERSES AND SPIRITUAL LAWS TO OUR LITTLE SUNBEAMS...

SHE'S PLANNING TO TITLE IT "OFFER THE LITTLE CHILDREN..."

SO I SAID, WHY NOT SHORTEN IT TO JUST "SUFFER"?



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.

NEW HEBRIDES INDEPENDENCE

To the Editor,

At our recent Annual Meeting, concern was expressed at the bias shown in an article referring to the New Hebrides ("Push for N.H. Elections", "A.C." April 1). While we would all agree that a satisfactory solution to the present political dilemma must be found we cannot accept the bias shown in the above article.

One would have expected on ecumenical body such as the Australian Council of Churches to have shown greater discretion and impartiality in such an issue. The New Hebrides Christian Council (NHCC) representing most churches in the New Hebrides, including Churches of Christ, has maintained strict neutrality in the present crisis. While pleading for restraint and peace, it has refused to take sides in the present political dispute. The Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) has likewise remained neutral and has offered its services to New Hebrides Churches in a "ministry of reconciliation".

We are concerned to observe that the A.C.C. has taken sides, on the basis of incomplete information. The views of a large section of the Christian community have been overlooked. The A.C.C. statement amounts to interference in the internal political affairs of another country.

We would point out that even the Vanuaku Party itself has recognised that the present Assembly (referred to as "undemocratic") should continue to operate for the duration of its present term. The "divisiveness" referred to in your article cannot be blamed on the present Assembly. Every sincere attempt was made to include the Vanuaku Party in the formation processes of a new government, from the preparation for Elections to the Cabinet selection. It was the Vanuaku Party which boycotted the Elections, thus creating the present division.

The Vanuaku Party claim to the support of the majority is not substantiated by fact. Vanuaku Party makes this claim on the basis of previous elections statistics (1975). The situation has changed considerably since that time. It is presumed that the Vanuaku Party does have the support of the majority, in that most Presbyterians would support Vanuaku Party. However, this is an assumption, and is not supported by up-to-date electoral statistics.

We would certainly urge our brethren in Australia to pray for the New Hebrides. However, let us not be misled into thinking that the Vanuaku Party is the ONLY "Independence Party" in the New Hebrides, or that it represents ALL Christian interests in the New Hebrides. There are large numbers of Christian people (many from our own churches) who have not bowed to the Vanuaku Flag. They have a right to a voice, and to our prayer support also.

We would urge you to pray for tolerance, restraint, and unbiased judgement on the part of all involved.

G. WARNE, For Missionary Committee
Churches of Christ, New Hebrides.

"REJOICE IN THE LORD"

MELBOURNE

JAN. 8-14, 1979

THE MIDDLE ROAD

To the Editor,

I want to commend your editorial policy and such articles as "Confessions of a Pentecostal Pastor" ("A.C." 29/4/78).

At last through them all is emerging a valid middle road. Too long we have been subjected to a choice of two alternative "hard lines" — e.g. "You're all lost if you don't speak in tongues or demon possessed if you do!"

There are few people who either are all right or all wrong (I'm sure neither category exists in Churches of Christ) and fortunately few people who hold either extreme, so it is about time we began looking for what is good and true to the Scripture rather than bolstering a particular brand of irrelevant intellectual superiority with psychologically doubtful dogmatics from either of the extremes.

Recently, in a Pamphlet Club publication, Keith Farmer said "I believe we have spent disproportionate time and effort gaining the correct sense of a passage, and of scripture as a whole, rather than demonstrating it's reasonableness. (The Pamphlet Club, June 1977, No. 261).

Perhaps if we approached things from this point of view, we might find ourselves closer to reality (Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. John 14.6. A good synonym for truth is reality!)

The Pentecostal doctrine of "baptism of the Spirit" is certainly not acceptable to me, but neither is a flat denial of the obvious work of the Holy Spirit among people who perpetrate such a doctrine.

Every zealous healing prayer may not be answered

as expected but praise God for those which are, even if they be few, and even if many are only a temporary relief of trauma for the recipient. Surely we know enough to avoid the "you're not healed because you haven't enough faith" syndrome. We must capitalise on what is worthwhile.

Every pastor wants to see his people grow in their relationship with Jesus. We ought not to be too proud to be taught from the practical experience of anyone.

In the long run, the "hermeneutical" type of slogan which formulated Churches of Christ ought to keep us true to the Scriptures and thereby exalt Jesus as Lord!

Colin D. Crago,
Tomworth, N.S.W.

GREEK & HEBREW

To the Editor,

I express extreme disquiet caused by a College report in a recent State Conference handbook that "Languages, apart from elementary Greek are not compulsory, and it is now possible to take a 'non-language' Diploma . . ."

At a time when there is increasing need for preaching and pastoral work to be based on principles requiring the most thorough Biblical background possible it is surely relevant to base such a foundation on both biblical languages.

To assume otherwise makes rubbish of previous reformers' and leaders' work. If it is true that we fail to honour our founders by advancing no further than the point to which they brought us, can we honour them, and/or advance, by being less educated than they?

It is imperative for the adequate background comprehension to any pulpit proclamation or social service to the people that whatever the scholastic competence of ministerial students they should include in

Continued on Page 9

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

JUST PRAYING

To the Editor,

I've just noticed that a lot of people pepper their prayer meeting prayers with the word "just". It seems to be some sort of habit that people pick up and use ad nauseum like the much worn phrase "you know"! You know!

They say, "Lord we just pray . . ." Do they mean that it is just a prayer and that's all? I don't think so because they are very sincere. Last week one thoughtful lady prayed for our minister, "Just help him as he prepares for Sunday". Is that all? No other prayers for the minister as he visits, as he teaches, as he administers and counsels. Just a prayer to help him to come up with a couple of good sermons for Sunday. That's just not good enough!

Some begin their prayers by asking God for just one thing. You'd think that if that is all they want they'd stop. But they go on and on with just this and just that right through the whole list. If my wife says to me that she just wants a particular thing I take it that if she gets that she'll be satisfied for a long time to come.

I find myself distracted by unconsciously wanting to count the "justs" in people's prayers. I just can't help it.

I've been doing a lot of thinking about the use of "just" in prayers. I'm sure that it started with some lovely people who realised how busy God is with millions of prayers bombarding him. They really didn't want to trouble him, but if he'd just give them this one thing they wouldn't bother him again for a long time. Then others picked it up until it has just become an epidemic. But these lovely people didn't need to ration their requests, because I remember a verse that goes something like, "in everything with prayer and thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." So we just don't have to apologise. You know!

TERTIUS

OPEN FORUM (cont'd)

their mill the grist of one year each of Hebrew grammar and exegesis; similarly for Greek.

Therefore I most strongly call for the continuance of such a program where it exists, the compulsion of such a program where it does not, and the re-commencement of such a program where, at the moment, it is voluntary.

Martin Suter, Qld.

As Mr Suter quotes from the Woolwich report in the NSW Conference handbook, the editor graciously gave me opportunity to answer the criticism. Mr Suter should know me well enough to know that I would not lightly be party to deleting Biblical languages from the 'compulsory' list of subjects for students.

I agree totally with him about the need for careful study of Greek and Hebrew. But I go further to say that study is not enough. Use of that study is vital. Our enquiries have brought to light what we have always suspected, that very few College graduates ever use the language study done in College.

Our procedure is as follows. All incoming students are given a Language Learning Abilities test developed by Dr Clifford Wilson from Monash University. On the results of that test, we encourage some students to study the languages. In some cases we actually discourage some because we are convinced that the time would be better spent in other areas. It is possible for a student to spend 22% of his course at Woolwich in direct language study, and some do.

Mr Suter's background made him an able student of languages, but not all people called to service have that same blessing.

G.R.F. Ellis,
Principal

WOMEN & LAYMEN

To The Editor,

There is a move in S.A. by a theologically trained group from Churches involving Churches of Christ to push for more recognition of women in Church life.

As I see it, it is an effort to obtain support for women to enter the ministry. While not opposed to greater use of women in the church, I find myself opposed to the concept of more women in the ministry.

Churches of Christ have a tremendous potential for lay ministries of men and this should be fully explored before we attempt to put ourselves in the position where we accept only theologically trained people in the ministry, be it men or women.

Our leaders are reluctant it seems to accept lay ministries, i.e. lay ministries where men are not given full status as ministers of the gospel. This is wrong and not even scripturally based as apostolic practice.

We should make greater use of potentially able, committed laymen in at least part time ministries. This would ease the burden on small churches economically and also help to overcome the shortage of ministers.

I am a retired lay minister. My experience tells me that churches are willing to accept this type of ministry.

L. W. Marshman, S.A.

VICTORIA — TASMANIA CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS (From page 6)

itation of the Premier and Chief Secretary to express their opinion on the matter of extended trading hours in letters to the Premier, Chief Secretary and local member of Parliament.

And, finally, we urge members of our churches to adopt a life-style of voluntary total abstinence as being consistent with Christian stewardship and responsibility. **Aboriginal Communities at Aurukun and Mornington Island**

This Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania gives support to the Uniting Church of Australia for its work at Aurukun and Mornington Island.

We express concern at the proposals of

the Queensland Government and its introduction of legislation without full consultation with either the Federal Government or the peoples of Aurukun and Mornington Island.

We urge the Federal Government to stand firm on the recent promises of the Prime Minister and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and, in particular, that of giving self-determination for these Aboriginal communities.

Furthermore, we request our members to write personal letters to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, their local member, Senator Neville Bonner and/or the Prime Minister.

ELECTIONS

Keating, W. Tabbernee.

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

Aborigines' Mission Department: R. J. Allison, A. J. Bagot, D. P. Barnett, I. D. Corlett, D. R. Oakes, R. Ritchie.

Literature Department: I. E. Allsop, P. B. Burnham, K. J. Clinton, L. S. Dewberry, W. J. S. Gaunson, Mrs S. Ludgater, Dr C. J. McKenzie, Mrs E. M. Rankine, G. K. Scambler.

Nominations Committee: R. L. Croxford, A. J. Emmett, T. H. Giles, E. C.

Department of Christian Union: I. E. Allsop, Dr T. A. Banks, Miss P. D. Bowers, Dr K. R. Bowes, L. S. Dewberry, W. Harford, W. R. Newton, D. P. Pallot, Mrs D. Russell, E. L. Williams.

Department of Social Service: G. J. Crossman, R. E. Hillbrick, Mrs A. M. Holloway, J. T. Holloway, W. R. Huggan, Miss S. Jennings, A. V. Page, W. W. Saunders, P. Strack, R. A. Strongman.

Christian Men's Fellowship: L. H. Anderson, W. J. Burgess, W. A. Carnaby, R. C. Davis, F. Drummond, C. F. Houston, R. T. Johnston, L. Marks, C. I. Mott, E. G. Mott, S. V. Philpotts, R. E. Pritchard, J. D. Watt, G. P. Wood-Burgess.

BIG GROWTH AT WV

Representatives have been appointed in each state to cope with the rapidly increasing work of World Vision Australia. They will be available to speak to church and school groups and other bodies about the needs of the Third World, and how World Vision seeks to serve there both spiritually and materially. Late last month World Vision moved from the city to much larger premises in South Melbourne, but the city office will remain open until June 30.

The new representatives include: Victoria, former insurance agent John Rose; NSW, former soldier and business educator Jim MacDonald; SA, former missionary with UAM and MOM to Aborigines John Thorne; WA, former Ampol sales manager Bert O'Brien (C & N).

HARVEST (Williamstown, Chas. Wilson) Harvest Thanksgiving goods were taken to the College of the Bible . . . A concert given by the Sunshine Choral Society raised \$69 for aboriginal clothing . . . A parent-child dedication service was held on May 14 for Peter and Helbe Cuss and their daughter, Erin Carmen.

BACIK AT BERWICK (Berwick Regional, B. McMurtie, D. McLeod) Jay Bacik of N.S.W. led two evenings to discuss growth. Witness class held over four weeks . . . Weekday sessions followed up sermons on Second Coming . . . Coffee mornings held with Jay Bacik on Housewives Isolation . . . Renewal

breakfast held every Thursday at 6.15 a.m. . . . Ladies' singing group assisted on Mother's Day. Gospel service contained music, interviews, and discussion . . . Latest Win Arn growth film screened . . . Two day camp at Rosalyn Park, Cardinia, held for grades 4, 5, 6.

BEE (Nollamara, A. J. Anderson and N. Head). C.W.F. held working bee to help at Bamberra Hostel . . . Church picnic held at King's Park on Anzac Day . . . Youth Committee arranged gospel concert in Mirrabooka Auditorium. The Rostvit twins delighted the large audience . . . On Mother's day the B.S. and church combined for a family and baptismal service. At gospel "Praise" service young people from "Family night" presented songs from "Music Machine" . . . Fellowship saddened by death of Colin Povey . . . Church librarian is now Mrs Jenny Kent.

TEAM MINISTRY EXPANDED (Epping, K. Farmer, P. Cameron). Don Smallbone has joined Keith Farmer and Paul Cameron (appointed last February) to form a three man full-time team ministry, serving Epping and the new church at Castle Hill, where building of the new manse and chapel is well underway . . . On recent evening, the Music-and-Drama Group led a critical examination of today's church via dramatic presentations . . . Preceding this service about half the church fellowship was entertained to tea at the homes of the other half.

AT RANWADI

By Jenny Marshall



Newly appointed teacher, at Ranwadi High School, Pentecost, New Hebrides.

The situation of the school at Ranwadi is quite beautiful — there's a very rugged-looking ridge at the back, and the school overlooks the ocean. There are palm trees all over the place, and we have had some magnificent sunsets. Across the ocean one can see the island of Ambryn, which has an active volcano. My house is one half of a duplex — 2 bedrooms, a bathroom, kitchen and livingroom.

The other teachers here are Ken and Jan Warne (they have a nine month old daughter, Leanne), Lennyce and David Westaway (they have two boys, David and Mark, who attend classes with the other children at Ranwadi), and Pastor Timothy and Daisy Tor. Everyone was most happy when I arrived, as that meant that their teaching load would be eased (at least for some of them). The other staff members have been looking after me very well — in fact I have quite a gay social life — I go out to tea at least twice a week.

There are 110 students at the school, arranged in three classes. The subjects covered are French, English, Social Science, Maths., Basic Drawing, Woodwork, Homecraft, with typing for the 3rd years. The day begins at 6 a.m. for the students (teachers can get away with a 6.30 or 6.45 start), and ends at 9 p.m. It is a full program for everyone, and one can get very tired. However, there is also time for relaxation and enjoyment.

The children themselves are very attractive. They are keen to do well in their studies, as they realise that they're privileged to be going to High School. There are only five High Schools (as apart from village schools) in the whole of the New Hebrides. I have no problems with the classroom discipline. However the children's shyness can be a bit of a problem; it's quite often hard to get them to answer questions, and when they do I

sometimes can't hear what they're saying. Sometimes I feel a little unsure as to what the children know and what they don't know.

You could really call Ranwadi a Christian Community School. Towards the end of last year a group of Solomon Islands Evangelists held meetings at Ranwadi, and 99 students made commitments and rededications to the Lord. They seem to know quite a bit about the Bible. They also seem to know most of the hymns in Sankey's book and they sing them beautifully, in four part harmony, unaccompanied.

Every so often people from the surrounding villages come to the school. I still feel rather awkward with these people, although I have been introduced to some of the Churches of Christ villagers. Language is not a problem at the school as everyone has to speak English, but in the Church of Christ villagers the people speak their own language and Bislama, or New Hebridean Pidgin. (Even so I thoroughly enjoyed a village church service on Easter Sunday). North of Ranwadi the villagers speak French.

Points for prayer are* Thanks to God for a safe and pleasant journey, and for all the lovely surprises along the way — He seemed to take care of every detail . . .

* Thanks to God for good relationships among the teachers, and with the children, pray that this may continue and deepen . . . * Pray that I might be able to really communicate with the children . . .

* Pray that I may be strengthened physically . . . * Pray that I might have the ability to use the time wisely . . . * Pray that all of the staff might constantly abide in the Lord Jesus Christ, and know and do His will . . . * Pray for the New Hebrides — that they might be granted peace and good government.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL GUESTS (Ivanhoe, A. B. Withers) Ivanhoe C.E.G.G.S. nadrigal and recorder groups presented items at evening service . . . Speaker from M.A.F. presented film . . . Church participated in Week of Prayer for Christian Unity . . . 12 C.Y.F. on camp in Adelaide . . . Y.P. combining with East Kew for after-church Bible studies.

SCOTTISH BIRTHDAY (Parkdale, R. E. Hillbrich) The C.W.F. Birthday was celebrated with Scottish dancing by a local group . . . A special service on May 7 was taken by the ladies with Mrs Freda Morris and Yamala Singers participating . . . Fellowship Day held with members lunching together in church homes . . . S.S. auxiliary street stall raised \$280 and

Good Companions joined in Walk Against Want and raised \$205.

INTERNATIONAL (Box Hill, S. Downie) International service with Russian singing group "Voskres" and testimony by Iranian Christian . . . Smorgasbord guest speaker was Peter Jamieson from Tamworth church. Parker Family Singers, artists . . . Y.P. attended Y.F.C. Youth Happening at Belgrave Heights . . . Brotherhood Sunday guest speaker was Dr K. Bowes . . . C.W.A.F. visited Wycliffe Bible translators H.Q., Kangaroo Ground . . . Youth camp held at Leongatha . . . Minister attended ministers' conf. at Monbulk . . . Film shown at Y.P.C.E.

JAY'S FOR JUNIORS

JAY'S QUIZ

THREE THINGS HIDDEN

1. Who stole her father's idols and hid them under a camel's saddle?
2. Which little boy was hidden in the Temple for six years?
3. Who killed an Egyptian and hid his body on the sand?

ON ICE

Some debris from the Asian area of the Arctic was found much later in the North Atlantic ocean. Dr Nansen of Norway guessed it must have drifted across the top of the world. So he made a ship that, when seawater froze around it, would be forced out of the water and onto the ice. With 13 volunteers in 1893 he sailed the ship into the ice north of Siberia. Their ship was frozen solid into the ice. For three years they lived on the ship as the icepack slowly moved through the Arctic ice. Dr Nansen's theory was that his journey would take him to the North Pole. He didn't quite make it, but got closer than anyone else up to that time. Even our failures can be a help to the world's knowledge.

After working laboriously over his homework, the little boy turned to his father.

"Dad", he said wearily, "what's the use of this education stuff?"

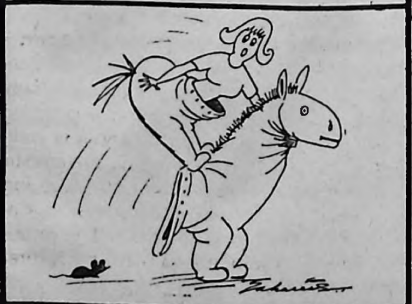
"Why Son," said his father, "there's nothing like it! A good education enables you to worry about conditions everywhere in the world."

"I hope you don't think me too young to marry your daughter," said the young man, anxiously.

"That all right my boy," was the cheerful reply. "You'll age fast enough."

Tourist: "I've come here for the rest of the winter."

Queenslander: "Well, you've come to the wrong place. There's no winter here."



BOOKS TO READ

WOMEN & THEIR MINISTRY

by Kevin Giles (Dove Communications) \$4.95

A woman preached recently in Westminster Abbey, but we have been assured that the Abbey masonry which crumbled and fell lately had nothing at all to do with the presence of a woman in the pulpit for the first time since the Abbey was built in 1740. It was just another recognition that there is "A Case for Equal Ministries in the Church Today." That is the sub-title of the book by Kevin Giles who is at present Anglican Chaplain of the Univ. of New England, N.S.W. Giles analyses all of the significant Bible passages relating to the subject. Not many of us will be easily persuaded that Paul did not write the words prohibiting women from speaking in church in 1 Cor. 14:33-35. Giles says that there is some evidence to suggest that the verses were added to Paul's letter. But if it is accepted that Paul did write them, then what he wrote, if we are to be honest in our study of this subject, must be in harmony with other things that he wrote, such as 1 Cor. 11:5 where Paul speaks explicitly about women praying and prophesying in church. Giles makes a good case and the book is recommended for those who are trying to see both sides of this question. He charges with inconsistency those who do not acknowledge an equal place for women in ministry. He says "If we really believed that no woman should teach the Bible we would not have one woman in our Sunday Schools, not one woman teaching Scripture (in schools), giving a devotion at a young people's fellowship, or speaking even from a lectern in church. As we do these things — indeed if we did not do some of them our church activities would well nigh cease — we must either be hypocrites or we don't believe that the Bible forbids it."

I WILL BE CALLED JOHN (Pope John XXIII)
by Lawrence Elliott (Fontana paperback) \$2.25

There were various reasons given for the unlikely choice of Angelo Rongalli as Pope in 1958. Montini, the present Pope Paul, was overlooked because he was not then a cardinal and non-cardinals are not strong favourites. Giuseppe Siri of Genoa was considered but "was only 50 years old and the possibility that he might still be pope in the year 2000 did not greatly appeal to a body of men whose average age was 73." But it seems that John's own positive qualities, rather than his being a caretaker in the office, were seen to be decisive. He had natural gifts as a statesman, his goodness and simplicity had always been apparent, and the cardinal archbishops believed that he could change the gap between the rigid church and the swiftly changing world. He never lost the common touch, and his concern for all marked him as a pope even the anti-catholics respected. The autobiography by a non-catholic shows John XXIII to be a man of wit, diplomacy, wisdom and above all, compassion.

DREAMS, VISIONS AND ORACLES

Ed. by Carl E. Armerding and W. Ward Gasque (Baker)

One becomes more than a bit cautious when confronted by a book about Bible prophecy. So many writers are able to find current political figures, geological upheavals, military manoeuvres, and social changes as firm evidence of the coming end of the world and a sure pointer to the time of the return of our Lord. This book is not like that. Sub-titled "The Laymen's Guide to Biblical Prophecy", it is a collection of 14 essays on various aspects of prophecy and it is well worth adding to your church library. It is restrained, unsensational, and much more intent on equipping people to think rationally upon the subject than it is on presenting conclusions. It is no coincidence that interest in astrology and interest in prophecy come together. They are both concerned with the future and they are both at their peak of interest when times are bad. Just now they are very bad and almost every newspaper, magazine, and radio has

its astrology expert. Prophets forecasting doom have always been around, and are best sellers right now, when economic, population, energy, political, and social crises abound. In the first article in this book, "The Age of Aquarius" by Wm. Dyrness (he is a professor of theology in Manila, Philippines) says, "It is no coincidence that the publication of Hal Lindsey's first book on prophecy (The Late Great Planet Earth) coincided with the greatest revival of Astrology in 300 years. It is interesting to note how often his book appears in bookstores alongside astrology manuals. Man can escape as easily into prophecy as astrology (emphasis is mine). The second chapter "The Danger of Mistaken Hopes" by Robert G. Clouse (he is a professor of history in the U.S.) reminds us of the reactions to false dates, such as 1260, 1694, 1844. The book is positive about the facts of our Lord's return pointing out that this hope is an essential part of the historic Christian faith. Although it points to the dangers of date-setting it does nothing to detract from the reality of the hope itself. Well worth a place.

THE MEN BEHIND THE KING JAMES VERSION

by Gustavus S. Paine (Baker)

About the only name we have associated with the "Authorised" version, has been King James who, in the English Bible enterprise started the greatest writing project the world has ever known and the most memorable achievement of his reign. At a time when new versions are replacing the King James in the pulpit and home, it may seem a little late to do honour to the men behind the book which held undisputed sway for three centuries. But they have a very real place in the story of the Bible and it is time they were named and known.

LECTURE TO MY STUDENTS

by C. H. Spurgeon (Baker)

In this one book there are three series of lectures given by "the Prince of Preachers" to his students at The Pastor's College, associated with the Metropolitan Tabernacle.

MY LIVING COUNSELLOR \$5.95
Daily Readings from the Living Bible (Hodder & Stoughton)

Two pages for each day, one page for morning and one for evening or, this selection brings together from various parts of the Bible verse which relate to the same topic. The book is described as "q" a devotional selection of related verses drawn together from throughout the Bible and placed in living tension with each other. The text used is Kenneth Taylor's "LIVING Bible."

ALSO RECEIVED

"The Lord's Supper in Pastoral Care" by Brian Spencer (Pamphlet Club No. 268), and "The European Christians' Approach to Aboriginal Lore and Law." by A. D. Pallet, Liaison Officer, Churches of Christ Mission, Norseman, W.A. (Pamphlet Club No. 269).

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



"And as May winds herald the coming of another winter, they serve as a reminder... Reminder... Reminder..."

**CHANGES IN
THE PREACHERS' PROVIDENT FUND
MANAGEMENT**

Ever since its inception, the Department of Federal Conference known as The Preachers' Provident Fund of Churches of Christ in Australia has been managed by a board of eight members of Churches of Christ who have been resident in NSW.

For all these years in order to maximise the benefits to members of the fund and to reduce the running costs to a bare minimum, the members of the Board and in particular the secretaries and treasurers have acted in an honorary capacity. The executive officers have over the years given untold numbers of hours after finishing their daily toil.

While the fund was small and was developing, this mode of operation was acceptable but with the rapid growth of the fund and the amounts of money to be accounted, handled and invested, it has become necessary to seek a competent person who is able to give full time attention to the administration of the fund's affairs.

Consequently the Board is pleased to announce that a manager has been appointed on the basis of three days a week plus such voluntary time as may from time to time be required. Our manager Mr M. Titterton, will handle, in collaboration with the honorary secretary and honorary treasurer, all matters of accounting, correspondence, finance and in-

vestment. The Board will continue to determine all matters of policy as it has in the past. In future, all correspondence should be sent to:-

The Preachers' Provident Fund, P.O. Box 192, Gymea, N.S.W. 2227.

**CHURCHES AND
ENERGY OPTIONS**

Churches from all over the world should, from now on, play the vital role in democratizing discussions on nuclear issues and should organise discussion forums to consider all foreseeable options, in order to combat the energy crisis which is expected by the end of the century. This is one of the propositions coming from a conference on "Ecumenical concerns in relations to Nuclear Energy" held at the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey, May 2-7, 1978. Some 60 physicists, scientists, theologians, proponents for, and opponents of the use of nuclear energy, from 18 countries, took part in this conference, organised by the WCC's sub-unit on Church and Society. The conference was a continuation of the Sigtuna (Sweden) meeting of 1975.

The lively discussions showed that when confronted with the world's increasing energy requirements, one cannot take the risk of "placing all the eggs in one

basket" and choose only one energy source, such as nuclear. The discussions pointed out that the use of fast breeders, although promising to certain people cannot finally be determined upon, before their advantages, risks and consequences, have been compared to those of other energy sources such as solar, geothermal, wave power or fusion, and tidal power. In this field of "alternative energy sources", a lot of research and studying has still to be done before a decision can be made. Due to this, the conference felt that the time for making a final decision should be postponed as long as possible in order to get as many estimates as possible on future requirements, and the reliability of the technologies involved.

The conference was against hasty solutions or leaving the final choice in the hands of a few experts and politicians.

Among the ethical questions to raise, are the following:

— What damage or risk does it impose upon people and nature, particularly in comparison with alternatives?

— Can it be used so that its benefits can be distributed equitably?

— Does it require great concentrations of political and economic power, and if so, how can that power be held accountable?

In the course of these studies, it became clear that one of the tasks of the Churches and Christians was to see that life styles and social and economic systems which meet more the demands of the Gospel become part of the discussion on energy and technology for tomorrow. — E.P.S.

Diary

**6TH
NATIONAL
MINISTERS
SEMINAR**
JAN. 14-17
1979
MONBULK, VIC.

**SUMMER
SCHOOL OF
"PRESENT
SHOCK"**
Melbourne
Jan. 8-14, 1979

**GORDON
STIRLING
SAYS**

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

and
**"REJOICE
IN THE LORD"**

HAPPENINGS

The death is reported of Roy Clydesdale, long time stalwart of Churches of Christ and friend and spiritual counsellor to the Aboriginal community at Mooroopna, Vic.

An interesting reflection on the uranium issue on learning that there has been another disappearance of uranium in the U.S.A., enough to make a bomb: Not only can we not guarantee the safety of its wastes, we don't even know where it is!

In the Adelaide Reachout thrust which will climax with an evangelistic crusade in March, 1979, with Leighton Ford, all major churches are involved, including the Roman Catholics. Ted Heard of our S.A. Home Mission Dept. is treasurer and Graeme Agnew, minister at Brooklyn Park is a member of the Committee.

The Christian Youth Travel Service, which sponsors youth tours, snow camps, and Christian concerts such as the recent one by Evie, have opened an office in Melbourne, at 56 Burwood Rd., Hawthorn.

The Easter worship service in Korea sponsored by 19 denominations on Yoido Island in the Han River was attended by 500,000. This must surely be a record for an Easter congregation anywhere. The service began at 5.30 a.m. Many there had been involved in an all-night prayer vigil.

In a Gallup poll in the U.S. on abortion, 55% said it should be "legal only in certain circumstances"; 22% supported it "in all circumstances" and 19% opposed it completely.

Polish R.C. primate Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski has been nominated for this year's Nobel Peace Prize. In a recent sermon, against a background of protests by communist countries against the U.S. neutron bomb, Cardinal Wyszynski said that protests should not centre on only one kind of weapon, but should embrace all kinds of weapons and all arms traders "who are potential criminals". The cardinal denounced "all kinds of weapons traders, who produce weapons and sell them to poor, impoverished peoples."

An international charismatic group, led by Pentecostal Dr David du Plessis was held in Singapore in April and attracted 1000 people every night for a week of praise sessions.

WHITE PAPERS

ON FAITH AND LIFE

SIR ROBERT GORDON MENZIES: Now that the funeral is over and the important mourners have gone back to their ordinary and extraordinary lives at home and abroad, the experts are analysing his career. The general verdict must lie somewhere between the greatest Australian we have known or the greatest disaster Australia has seen. The extremes are political judgments and each side could produce its reasons. For those of us who are not all that rapt in either major political party, he is remembered as a man who led our country with dignity and responsibility in a time of economic prosperity, accelerating population, low inflation, high employment, and stability of government. One extremist says it was because of his wisdom and strength, and another extremist says he was lucky.

We only once managed to get close to the statesman, in the early 1940s, when his greatness lay ahead of him. It was at the Melbourne University when we were awarded a modest degree. Clifford G. Taylor was there also, to collect a more honorable degree. Mr Menzies gave the graduation address. Neither he nor the two young ministers knew that there were two "Australian Christian" editors-to-be among the graduates. Menzies always knew how best to win an audience. On that occasion, surrounded by V.I.P.s and professors, he began by saying that as a representative of the students he once appeared before the University Council. "They were, as I recall," he said, "a singularly depressing lot." The words didn't have much to do with anything, but the graduates loved it.

He was a master with words. He made complex situations sound understandable, maybe he made them sound simpler than they were, but he did communicate in a way that won the support of the majority of his countrymen for a record long term as the nation's leader.

He was never dull and was at his best on the big occasions. He was good in lesser situations too. We remember hearing him (by radio) at the opening of the Myer Music Bowl. He gave a short address with

three points: "This is a great day for the Myer family . . . A great day for Melbourne . . . A great day for Victoria." Simple, but the Bowl was clearly shown as the gift to the people by one of Victoria's best known families. We've forgotten many more important speeches, but we remember that one.

There was only one speech that we wish we could forget. It was near the end of Dr Evatt's long political life, at a time when he was more to be pitied than attacked. His own party was in disarray and his powers were diminished. It was then in Parliament that Menzies made a brilliant, witty, ruthless speech that left Evatt humiliated among the obvious ruins of his own career. Maybe that's politics, and Menzies did have to take it as well as give it.

We believe that he was a great man and he was the man for his age. It is doubtful that another will equal his place in Australia for the Australia he led has gone for ever.

He had a wide range of interests and gave himself readily to social and community concerns, especially after he was released from his parliamentary responsibilities. If there was ever a breath of scandal, we never heard of it. He was a country boy who won his own way to the top. He excelled as a barrister, he talked easily to the captains of industry and commerce, and he walked easily with Prime Ministers, Presidents, and Kings, and of course with his Queen.

He had asked for a simple funeral service but it was no great betrayal of his wishes when Melbourne stopped to honour its best known citizen, and Prince Charles and other distinguished overseas visitors came to pay their tribute. The address in Scots church did not exalt the statesman but showed Robert Gordon Menzies as a man of honour and humility.

It was a great day for Melbourne. It was a great day for Victoria. It was a great day for Australia.

ROOM-MATES TOGETHER AGAIN

Ed Roffey (l)
& Jim Wright

Jim Wright and Ed. Roffey entered the College of the Bible together in their late teens and were room-mates there. Both are graduates of the College and Melbourne University and served in the Y.M.C.A. Jim in the Army and Ed. in the R.A.A.F. They have conducted their ministries in different States. Now they are together again. Jim is the new President of the South Australian Conference, working closely with Ed. who is Secretary of the Conference.

Jim grew up in Sydney and was baptised in the Rockdale Church. He has had ministries in Melbourne, Brisbane, Launceston, Adelaide and Canberra. His present ministry at Glenelg began in 1973.

Whilst ministering at the Albion Church he was President of the Queensland Conference, and has served on Conference Committees in each state where he has ministered. With E. Lyall Williams he represented Australian Churches of Christ at the Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches in New Delhi, India, and has been involved in other Ecumenical Conferences. He has preached at every State Conference of our



Churches, at some Federal Conferences, and also at the World Convention of Churches of Christ in Adelaide in 1970.

Jim, and his wife Marjorie, have two married children, Mrs Anne Foot and Dr Peter Wright. Both are actively associated with our Churches, Anne at Hobart, Tasmania, and Peter at Blackburn, Victoria.

Ed. Roffey also grew up in Sydney and was baptised at Hurstville. His ministries have been at South Yarra, Lane Cove, Ivanhoe and Blackburn. For eleven years he taught English at the Sydney Technical College while lecturing at the Bible College of N.S.W. in Greek, Hermeneutics and Exegesis, History and Strategy of Missions and Comparative Religions.

Other honorary Brotherhood work has meant for Ed. service for six years as N.S.W. Secretary for Overseas Missions and eight years as Federal Conference Secretary as well as ecumenical representation. A special privilege in 1965 was to open the new Ndui Hospital in the New Hebrides and then in 1974 to become a member of the World Convention Executive. At that Convention in Mexico City Ed. preached at one of the three Communion services.

Ed. and his wife Gwen also have two children, Mrs Margaret Butler and John Roffey. Both are in membership with our Churches, Margaret at Ringwood, Victoria, and John at Lexington, Kentucky, U.S.A., where he is enrolled in a doctoral course at the University of Kentucky.

PREPARATION

The rise of the personality sciences during the 20th C. has given rise to the ministry task of counselling people in spiritual need. One available spiritual resource is the minister as a counsellor.

Yet God himself was always seen as the ultimate counsellor (Ps. 16:7; 32:8). Jesus, according to the prophecy, was to be "the counsellor" (Isa. 9:6; 11:2). The Holy Spirit is the Christian's counsellor (Jn 14:16).

The minister has many precedents for a counselling ministry. Moses appointed judges to counsel the people. The priests and the prophets of the O.T. times had a wise-man role. The various kings of Israel had counsellors in the court, often called "cup bearers".

In the N.T. there are some 30 counselling interviews between Jesus and people in need. Alan Walker in his book "How Jesus Helps People" demonstrates the various counselling techniques employed by Jesus. Bishop Gregory who wrote "Pastoral Care" wrote the first book on counselling for ministers in 590 A.D!

Every minister needs to equip himself well for his counselling role.

PROCLAMATION

Every minister engaged in counselling needs to keep in mind the following principles:

1. People must be accepted as they are. The counsellor may listen supportively, reflect attitudes and question intelligently, but he accepts people in a non-judgemental fashion.

2. Counsellors must realise the destructive force of negative emotions like anger, guilt, frustration, rejection; and the contribution of positive Christian emotions like faith, joy, forgiveness, love, acceptance.

3. Counsellors should have clear Christian standards and values themselves although they should not be pushed on to those seeking help.

4. The Counsellor needs to remember his limitations. He may have a supportive role to medical or psychiatric specialists with his work commencing before theirs and continuing after theirs, but never replacing theirs.

5. The counsellor has unique resources available through his training as a minister, his use and knowledge of the Bible, and the practice of prayer.

6. The counsellor must supplement his pastoral and preaching work but not replace it by his counselling. Each facet is needed in a balanced ministry.

PRESENTATION

Looking back on my diary for the last three days, I recognise the basic counselling ministry I have fulfilled.

I spent two hours counselling a young couple from my congregation who between them last year earned \$55,000 with both working two jobs. Today they possess every material requirement of a young couple aged 23 years. Yet their pursuit of material things left no time for their married love to blossom and grow. They possess a house, but not a home. Counselling is needed before it is too late to build true values into a marriage.

In hospital I sat beside a young driver whose foolish action has killed two passengers, including a dearly loved one, brought upon himself incredible physical difficulties, and serious police charges. His guilt and despair required the counselling that only a Christian minister can meet.

The doorbell rings, and there stands a young couple with whom I had prayed in hospital following the birth of a badly deformed baby. The counsel during that difficult period held them close to each other and helped them find the resources to cope with the difficulties their child will bring. Today they have come to ask me to marry them that their lives might be truly linked in their task of caring for their child. The long hours of counselling have borne fruit in changed lives and commitment to each other and God.

Paul reminded the young minister Timothy, of his counselling role: "Be sure to use the abilities God has given you . . . Keep a close watch on all you do and think. Stay true to what is right and God will bless you and use you to help others". — 1 Tim. 4:14-16 (L.B.)

GORDON MOYES

CHILDREN OF GOD

In a report in "Christianity Today" by Joseph M. Hopkins, disturbing statements are made about the "Children of God" founded by David (Moses) Berg in the late 1960s.

Recent defectors from the group, which include his wife, Linda, have revealed that Berg has introduced new doctrines and practices. Recent "Mo letters" by Berg were produced as evidence.

The letters contain these revelations:

● COG's name has been changed to "Family of Love." The term "colony" has been abolished in favor of "home."

● Trial marriages are preferable to "formal legal marriages" to determine if the relationships will work.

● Each home must submit to regional headquarters a monthly "Flirty Fish witnessing report." (Under the recently revealed Flirty Fish policy, COG male and female members alike are admonished to "go to bed . . . if necessary" with potential converts and donors in an effort to "win their souls for Jesus.") The

report asks a listing of the number of sexual encounters with "fish" (outsiders), mates, and non-mate members, along with the number of spiritual decisions that are made.

● COG disciples and leaders — including Berg himself and his common-law wife, Maria — have been afflicted by venereal disease. Berg seems to find comfort in his belief that Jesus had sexual relationships with a number of women and that he too must have contracted VD.

In a letter dealing with Islam last fall, Berg exposed how far he has drifted from his doctrinal moorings as a Protestant minister years ago. He says: ". . . I don't even believe in the Trinity. You can't find that word in the Bible, so why should I believe it?"

Although defections are on the increase, so is COG membership — if COG statistics are to be believed. Membership in 1977 soared from 6,929 to 8,068, in-

cluding 3,650 live-in adults, 1,451 children, and 2,967 part-time members. Only 10.5 per cent of COG members reside in the United States. The number of colonies — now homes — increased from 736 to 842 in seventy-three countries, the COG report asserts.

OBITUARY

JACKEL Cecil W.

Cecil Jackel was a member of a very well known Church of Christ family. He was born at Berwick, Vic., but lived his early years at Taradale. He made his decision for Christ at the age of 16 years and later offered himself for ministry, training at the College of the Bible. After graduation he served the church at St. Arnaud. His later ministries were at Drumcondra, Horsham, Warragul, Castlemaine and Ballarat at Peel St. and York St., in Vic.; and at Mile End, S.A. On retirement he served part-time at Warburton. He was always an evangelical and there were two decisions on the last occasion on which he preached. Mr Jackel married his wife, Ivy, at St. Arnaud, and she was his able partner during his long ministry. The funeral service was conducted by Clem Clack and his brother, W. E. Jackel, also a minister.

THE BIBLE AND MODERN ISRAEL

Dr. A. G. Elliott

— The Significance of Archaeology

This is a wonderful day of archaeological discovery when so many folk are able to rejoice in the enlightenment the Scriptures can give as a result of interpretations stemming from the spade of the excavator. Yet it should always be realised that the trusting believer is actually in no need of modern discoveries to bolster up his faith. However, while there are those whose reliance on God's Word has been undermined by the inuendoes and doubts of the emissaries of Satan, it is always good to be able to turn to the evidence of archaeology in support of the sure Word.

For this reason the message of 2 Peter 1:19,21 is ever relevant, reminding us that "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto you do well to take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place . . . For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved (carried along) by the Holy Spirit".

In recent years too few Biblical scholars have given serious attention to the prophetic message of Scripture and its possible fulfilment in our day. The late Dr W.F. Albright (1), former professor of Semitic Languages at Johns Hopkins University, U.S.A., and noted archaeologist and palaeographer, was well aware of this fact when he wrote, "The prophets were not only dedicated men, but also predictors of the future . . . but this has been under-emphasised by modern Biblical scholars . . ." Furthermore, the same Divine Voice who, through the prophets, predicted the dispersion of Israel, also with like authority predicted their restoration as a nation.

On Dec. 9, 1917 General Allenby rode into Jerusalem at the head of his victorious army, having won back the Holy Land from the Moslems. From the time of the invasion of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar in 606 B.C. the holy city has been "trodden down of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24). Since those days Persians, Macedonians, Romans, Turks, Egyptians, Crusaders, Arabs — and again Turks — have successively dominated the blood-stained city of Jerusalem.

The Lord Jesus Christ also, in his predictions, not only describes the worldwide scattering of the Hebrew people but when He looks even further into the events of the future He speaks of the kind of situation at His Coming and sees the Jews as a nation, back and settled in the Land. "Pray that your flight be not in the winter", He says, "neither on the sabbath day" (Matt. 24:20).

The Moslem scourge in the 7th century that flooded North Africa and extended into Western Europe as far as Spain and

the Kingdom of the Franks resulted in the taking of Jerusalem and the Holy Land by the Caliphs Omar and Othman. (2) The Crusades of the 11th and 12th centuries, initiated by Pope Urban II and Peter the Hermit, gained the support of the feudal nobility of Western Europe in a short-lived attempt to wrest Palestine from the barbaric Saracens. The carnage and folly of the Crusades is now fully recognised, but the zealous medieval warriors had no such notions, and simply could not understand why the Lord did not appear to bless their efforts. From the greater distance of our day we can perhaps see a little more clearly that their moment of deliverance for the Holy Land was much too early — and did not correspond with God's Time Clock.

Allenby's victory march into Jerusalem may also be seen as the forerunner of the British Protectorate over Palestine, (3) and during this period, as a result of the Balfour Declaration (4), thousands of Jews from all parts of the world returned to settle in Israel. In 1939, however, with mounting pressure from the surrounding Arab States, Jewish migration to Palestine was temporarily discontinued, but of course this state of affairs was speedily remedied with the ultimate rebirth of Israel as a free sovereign state in 1948.

However, let us return to that amazing day, Dec. 9, 1917, when General Allenby's forces captured Jerusalem in rather unusual circumstances. The Turks had been in control of Palestine for nearly 400 years and Allenby expected to meet with stiff resistance. Yet, he was astounded to find that the Turks, hearing of his victorious campaign thus far, surrendered up the city without a blow. Thus Jerusalem was one of the few enemy areas to surrender during World War I without a shot being fired, and incidentally, this unusual conquest proved to be a vital turning point in favour of the Allies and the fall of the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East. (5)

It is significant also that in the scrambling for power and the partitioning that followed World War I, and the further unsettled conditions prevailing during World War II, that the Jews were not able to gain possession of the Land until 1948. And even following that period, with the mounting hatred of Nasser and the rise to power of the Arab States (descendants of Ishmael, son of the bondwoman), the Jews (descendants of Isaac, son of "promise", Genesis 21:10), were still in grave danger of losing the Land which undoubtedly was theirs by right. In fact, not until the glorious God-given victory of the "Six Day War" of 1967 did the Israeli divisions finally win the whole of the ancient city.

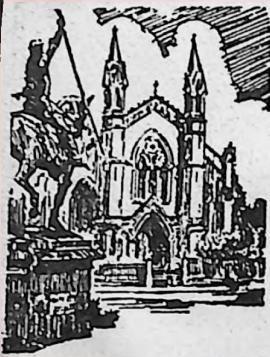
Now although most folk are well acquainted with Allenby's grand feat in 1917, how many really know how he accomplished it?

General Allenby was a Christian who read his Bible every day, and his own records tell us the secret of his conquests in Palestine and the Middle East. In all his military strategy against the Turks he used the Bible together with George Adam Smith's "Historical Geography of the Holy Land". In this way he gained remarkable information about roads, water supplies, and the natural features of the country. He attributed the success of his campaign entirely to the clear and unmistakable guidance of the Word of God.

Furthermore, in his extensive accounts of his invaluable excavations in Palestine during 1938-46, Dr Nelson Glueck (6) abundantly confirms Allenby's statements about the detailed topography of the countryside and the most effective means of approaching the Turkish outposts. Unquestionably the intimate knowledge of the Bible gave to General Allenby a clear start in deciding his strategy. It is also apparent that in all his military campaigns, General Moshe Dayan developed the same plan and followed closely the methods employed by the ancient Israelites under Joshua.

Dr Glueck also comments as follows: "The school children of Palestine use the Bible as a guide-book when they hike through the land. The close relationship between the Holy Book and the Holy Land, fostered by generations of pilgrims, is being confirmed anew by those who delve for the facts in the very earth . . ." While there are certainly other more profitable ways of using the Word of God, and it is clear that General Allenby, as a faithful and devout believer, knew of these, nevertheless the knowledge he gained to help him in the military task before him plainly demonstrates the minute accuracy of the Book of Books — and points inevitably to its Omniscient Author.

- (1) Albright, W.F.: From the Stone Age to Christianity (1946).
- (2) Walker, W.: A History of the Christian Church (1959 Edn) pp. 145, 219.
- (3) British Protectorate, From July 22, 1922 to May 14, 1948.
- (4) Balfour Declaration, Dec. 2, 1917 — laid foundations for ultimate establishment of the State of Israel, May 14, 1948.
- (5) Hunting, J.H.: Israel — A Modern Miracle Vol. I, (David Press 1969). Also Pearson, L.T.: Through the Holy Land (1948).
- (6) Glueck, N.: The Other Side of Jordan (1940), Excavations of Solomon's Seaport (1941), The River Jordan (1946), Rivers in the Desert (1957).



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3. January 15, 1979 for Brisbane, Whitsunday Passage, Honiara, Espiritu Santo, Vila, Suva and Auckland. Accompanied by Rev. & Mrs. W. M. Constable. fares for this 20-day cruise are from \$620.00 — but book early.

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

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ENGAGEMENT

BENTON-MacKENZIE. Mr and Mrs R. G. Benton (Richmond, S.A.), together with Mr and Mrs A. F. MacKenzie (Timboon, Vic.), happily announce the engagement of Pam and Chris., of the College of the Bible.

MARRIAGE

RAGLESS-HEARD Anne and Ian would like their friends to join them in celebrating their marriage. The service will be at Colonel Light Gardens Church at 2.30 p.m. on Sunday 28th May, and afterwards an afternoon tea at Brighton Town Hall, Banqueting Room.

DEATH

TUCKER, Edward George Curtis (Curt) on February 9th at S.C.D.H., of 4 Torrens Street, Victor Harbour, formerly Balaklava. Dearly loved husband of Hazel Joyce, loved father of Elizabeth, John and Juneth, father-in-law of Gordon and Cynara, adored papa of Ashley-Scott, Michael, Alicia and Damien. Aged 72 years. At peace in the presence of Jesus. Psalm 23.

IN MEMORIAM.

WATSON. Loving memories of Geoff, our dear son and brother, passed away 26th May, 1974. Bert and Merle Watson, Bev., Peg and Richard. Always in our hearts.

THANKS

NEIGHBOR. Mrs Beatrice Neighbour wishes to express her thanks for all the expressions of love and sympathy received in the sad loss of her husband, Stan. She has found great comfort and help in the support of her friends.

GOLDEN WEDDING

WELSH-LANG. On May 30 1928, Louisa Jane Lang and Clive Phillip Welsh were married in the Dawson St., Ballarat Church of Christ chapel by the late C. L. Lang. Present address: 3/25 Mt Pleasant Road, Nunawading, Vic., 3131. Phone 877 4292 (Melb.).

PEWS FOR SALE

PEWS N.Z. Kauri timber 9 feet (seven) and six feet (four) in very good condition, will sell separately. Reduced price to churches. Contact Mr C. Finger, phone (03) 231 1730, for further details.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

WANTED TO EXCHANGE, a home in Christchurch, New Zealand, for a home for a family in a Melbourne suburb (preferably Eastern suburbs) for approximately eight weeks from the beginning of January, 1979. Reply to: Ondria and Leicester Cheeseman, 144 Wales Street, Oakland, Christchurch 3, New Zealand. Other enquiries to: E. Keating, 878 1040.

ANSWERS TO JAY'S QUIZ

(see page 10) 1. Rachel (Gen. 31:34). 2. Joash (2 Kings 11:2-3). 3. Moses (Exod. 2:11-12).

NORTH FITZROY CHURCH

invites you
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Sunday, June 11, 7 p.m.

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Saturday June 10 "Where Did Our Problems Start?"

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Audio-Visual 9th Assembly Mexico City

Slides and Information related to Post-Convention Tours from 10th Assembly Honolulu

HARTWELL Church, Vic. 8 p.m. Thursday, 1st June

PROSPECT Church, S.A. 8 p.m. Tuesday, 13th June

Meetings to be announced for July in Brisbane, Newcastle and Sydney

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afternoon tea 3.30 p.m.

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EDITOR: A. E. WHITE

W.A. — J. K. Robinson, 11 Almondbury Rd., Mt. Lawley, 6050.
S.A. — "The Australian Christian," 104 Grote St., Adelaide, 5000.

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

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

Church News Editor: G. T. Alves

ISSUE	DEADLINE
June 10	June 2
June 24	June 16

—PERSONAL—

DISCIPLESHIP

● Mrs Elizabeth Gardner, Pt. Lincoln, S.A. ● Graham Lynch, Louise Dunn, Dorothy Lee, John Salisbury, Kelly Watson, Colleen Amos, Stan Wood, Betty Wood, Veronica Jarman, Melanie Brodsky, Max Lemkin, Arty De Wit, Lloyd Baker, Mary Baker, Connie Baker, Cyndy Baker, John Smith, Marj. Smith, Daphne Thomson, Andrew Allard, John, Monica, Bruce, Darryl and Deborah Stibbe, Southport, Qld. ● Margaret Butcher, Vanessa Hays, Leonie Nichols, Theresa Simmons, Launceston, Tas. ● Mrs Wendy McHugh, Jenny Rowe, Manifold Heights, Vic. ● Roger Buckmaster, Gardiner, Vic. ● Robyn Surtees, Albion, Qld. ● Lou Hardman, John Hughes, Mrs Cummings (Qld.), Mr and Mrs Sallerman, Mr and Mrs Fyffe, Vaughan Steel, Mr and Mrs A. McDonald, Leonie Pandal, Kalamunda, W.A. ● Fiona Talbot, Peta Reither, Jenny Madge, Brian Madge, Kay Madge, Magill, S.A. ● Luke Ashworth, Hamilton Hill, W.A. ● Helen Birch, Ballarat, Vic. ● Michelle Regterschot, John Ingham Jr., John Littleton, Northam, W.A. ● Mary-Anne Horsey, Wendy Crawford, Janelle Logue, Julie Gray, Rosemary York, Epping, N.S.W. ● Margaret Lawton, Stephen Hardsyde, Les Schmelzle, Bayswater, Vic.

MARRIAGES

● Kathleen Steel to Laurence Smith, Box Hill, Vic. ● Robyn Dickson to John Salisbury, Beverley Gray to Bruce Davay, Julie Gordon to Ronald Renison, Southport, Qld. ● Rosemary Younger to Timothy Macleavy, Launceston, Tas. ● Jill Batterham to Peter Trudgian, Albion, Qld. ● Roslynn Young to Graeme Harkness, Magill, S.A. ● Tania Howarth to Steve Fennihough, Tina Morris to Peter Ratty, South Perth, W.A. ● Julie Bentley to John Longridge, Ballarat, Vic. ● Sandra Hewitt to Alan Blencowe, Michelle Rogers to Stephen Fong, Nollamara, W.A. ● Joan Huxhagen to Tony Hunt, Hamilton, Vic.

DEATHS

● William Sullivan, Winnifred Stapleton, Southport, Qld. ● Emily McGregor, James Surtees, Albion, Qld. ● Fred Annal, Magill, S.A. ● Colin Povey, Nollamara, W.A. ● Mrs Eunice Woodroffe, John Jones, Glenelg, S.A.

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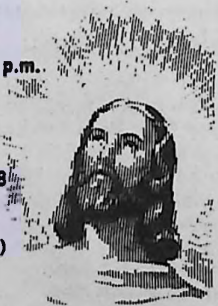
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21

MOUNT GAMBIER CHURCH OF CHRIST

On July 28 and 29, 1979 the Mount Gambier Church will celebrate 21 years of service. Past members are invited home.

PROGRAMME

Saturday: Tea at Fimmell's house at Mil-lel, 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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VICTORIA

NEW TRACTOR (Caulfield, K. Christensen). Enough money given for a new tractor for airstrip mowing, Churches of Christ Mission P.N.G. . . . Special missionary meeting with Haribah and Shalini Waghmode from India . . . College of Bible Committee conducted A.W.F. meeting . . . The monthly Sunday afternoon renewal meetings proving very helpful . . . Pastor conducted dedication service for Rebecca, daughter of Ian and Debbie Prescott . . . A Baptism also the same evening . . . Men's Club has been formed, Pres. Ian Prescott, Sec. Phillip Maxwell.

MELODETTES VISIT (Echuca, L. Westmore) New minister and wife welcomed . . . Group of teenage girls from Melodettes, Mt. Evelyn, gave concert for 120 in Youth Hall, and sang at morning service and at casserole luncheon.

NEW SECRETARY (Swan Hill, J. A. Caporn) Warwick Dahl is new secretary and Fred Robertson has been appointed Board Chairman . . . After service on May

7, 60 shared in barbecue lunch and fellowship afternoon at Malone's home in Ultima. Local C.W.A. were guests at evening service . . . Special service in Week of Prayer for Christian Unity held in our chapel . . . Three young people have made decisions . . . Dale Rogers chosen in Nth. Cent. Schoolboys under 15 football team for championships in Melb. in May vacation.

HANGI! (Mitcham, Ross McLean). 250 people were fed at a Hangi, a traditional Maori feast, on May 9 . . . Seven ladies attended Women's Conference day at Moorabbin Town Hall . . . Mrs D. Heard was guest speaker at Mothers' Day morning worship service . . . Mrs Joy Lusk recovering after surgery.

BIBLES FOR SCHOOL (Hampton, D. Murray/W. Talbot) Hampton Council of Churches has given \$75 towards cost of bibles for use in State School . . . Film service held April 23, family social evening on May 6 . . . Capt. E. Johnson, Salvation Army; M. Dunn, East Bentleigh; and Mrs Armstrong, Ascot Vale; have been visiting speakers . . . Afternoon Women's Fellowship raised \$166 from Jumble Sale and \$170 from Mini Fete.

MUSICAL FOR MOTHERS (Dawson St., Mt Clear, Ballarat, G. Chapman/G. Rowcroft) S. S. scholars presented musical for Mother's Day "Your House" . . . Family service held once a month for informal worship . . . Len Martin showed audio-visual of his trip to Israel at end of term break for small groups . . . David Gurney presented "Jesus Christ, This is your Life" at C.W.F. evening . . . Bus load went to Melbourne to see and hear "Evie" . . . At Mt Clear ladies took the whole worship service, including sermon, for Mother's Day . . . Colin Hocking re-elected board chairman. Bruce Staley is secretary and John Jones, treasurer . . . Graeme and Helen Chapman went to May camp at Hall's Gap (Juniors).

BROTHERHOOD SUNDAY (Croydon, L. Dewberry) Fellowship and lunch shared at Norwood H.S. with Outer Eastern C. of C. Don Smith was speaker . . . Family barbecue held at church . . . Quite a few on sick list.

M.E.D. LEADER (Castlemaine, P. Haylock) Miss Julie Reed, of Dept. of Mission, Educ. and Dev., led a church Family Service on April 30. The B.S. contribution was a playlet on Moses and the liberation of the children of Israel . . . A series of hospitality luncheons began in April and are planned on a two monthly basis . . . Adult Bible Study and Discovery Groups led by Mr Haylock . . . Mrs Audrey Cooper is home after several months in Caulfield Rehab. Centre.

IN FELLOWSHIP (Manifold Heights, P. A. Pitts). A married couple were welcomed as "Christians in Fellowship." There have been two baptisms . . . Three members attended recent "Camp Farthest Out" at Healesville . . . At special Mother's Day and Pentecost service on May 14, our singing group "Shalom" helped in worship and communion service. Evening service organised by C.W.F. with choir, and quartette. Mrs Daisy Smith led the service. Guest speaker was Mrs Hetty Dolley from C.W.C.I.

FAMILY LEAD (The Patch, R. Wesley) Thompson Family conducted Mother's Day Service. Malcolm Gray (Channel 0) guest speaker. S. S. scholars distributed white flowers . . . Experiences shared and slides shown on gospel impact amongst Aborigine community . . . Elsie Charles still hospitalized . . . Recent activities include:- attendance at Outer Eastern Region combined communion service, parent and child dedication service, church family outing to Gladysdale, "Fun & Film" evening sponsored by Y.P.

GOSPEL THEATRE (Bayswater, R.B. Waldron, D. Armstrong). Gospel Theatre Production gave a stimulating message in Drama . . . Faith Smith (C.O.B.) spoke on Mother's Day . . . Three people baptised . . . 40 attending Cell Groups . . . An organ fund has been established . . . C.W.E.F. held craft night . . . First Quarterly Family S.S. service held on Harvest Thanksgiving. Speaker was Paul Coyle.

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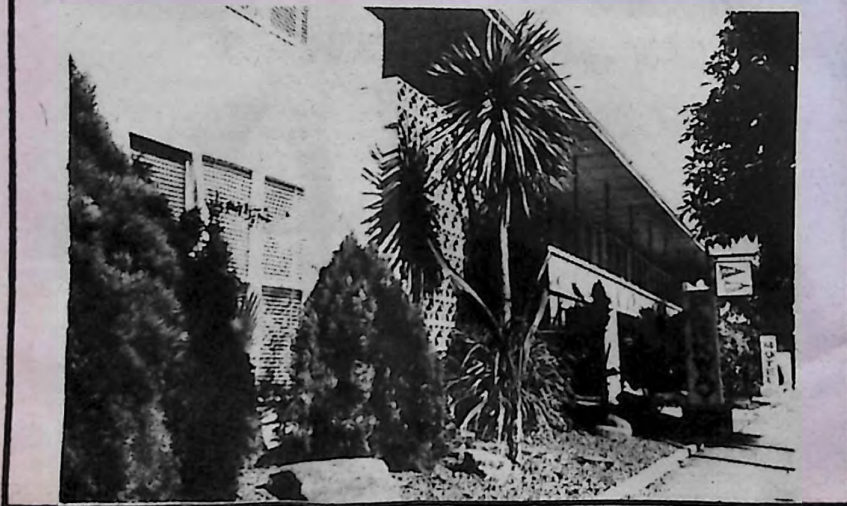
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NEW SOUTH WALES

FONDUE NIGHT (Wagga Wagga, E. W. Taylor/T. Grant) Fondue Night held by Couples Club at Mr and Mrs Merv Howard's home . . . More attending services following Bill Glass Crusade . . . C.W.F. gave \$100 for new carpet for platform and aisle . . . New hall completed . . . Sympathy extended to Mr and Mrs Reveil, following sudden death of daughter-in-law, Doreen, of Canberra.

CONVENTION (Lismore, G. E. Wegner) 150 attended the annual Northern Rivers Convention at Lismore and Jay Bacik from Teloepa Christian Centre was guest speaker. Program began on Friday night with a Coffee House for Y.P. and concluded Sunday night with Mr Bacik being interviewed on radio 2LM.

VISITORS (Gilgandra, A. Franzen). C.W.F.A. ladies conducted evening service on May 14 assisted by Miss Dianne Mudford and Leanne down from Kenmore Bible College, Qld., on holidays. Miss Bronwyn Gers from Woolwich also sang a solo . . . On May 21 the church joined a combined church meeting on the town oval, with Ron Bassett from Jewish Evangelical Witness as speaker. Dick McLealon from Gospel Recording spoke at night . . . Mrs C. Butler still in hospital and Miss Lois Quayle confined to bed.



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PRAYER BREAKFASTS (Kalamunda, D. M. Hughes). Saturday morning prayer breakfasts average 12 for "Renewal, growth and outreach" . . . Three Bible studies during week nights and Y.A.N.S.Y. Forum on Sunday mornings . . . At evening services four to five families take turns to organise a month's programmes, with guest artists, and speakers alternate weeks . . . The women assist with "Meals on wheels" twice a month and visit the folk they attend . . . The minister and family will be taking up a new ministry at Hamilton Hill in Jan. 1979 . . . Joy Barrat has made a speedy recovery and Peter Simpson and Fred Gibson are home from hospital.

FOR HOLY LAND (South Perth, D. Nelson, L. Cox). Christian Tour of Holy Land, Europe and England with 40 people led by Mr & Mrs Nelson left on May 9 . . . Annual Business Meeting occupied two evenings with good attendances . . . Ian Ballantine is now Church Secretary . . . Church had four week series of musical gospel services . . . Youth Service on April 9 featured "Harvest" group . . . Church Camp April 14-16 had over 70 attending . . . Mother and Daughter evening held on May 10 . . . Sympathy extended to Mrs Hanks in the death of Bert Hanks after a long illness . . . Mr and Mrs Mal Peacock celebrated 40th Wedding Anniversary, and Mr and Mrs Hyman their 25th for which son Graham, minister at Burleigh

Heads, paid a surprise visit with brother Neville.

TO CARNARVON (Mandurah, R. Sack) Alex McKay, who has left to serve at Carnarvon, served the church well as officer and C.E. leader, and took scripture classes at school . . . Graham Caddy has moved to Laverton, Vic. in the RAAF . . . On May 14, Mr Sack spoke at the united meeting on Mother's Day . . . C.W.F. is being led by Rita Sambell. Numbers are increasing. Marg Morphet conducted recent devotional. Favourite recipes were tried with morning tea with intention of producing a book . . . C.W.A. ladies attended morning service.

CHANGE OF SECRETARY (Hamilton Hill, M. J. Savage) The Board has regretfully accepted the resignation of Maurice Ashworth as church secretary. He was the first official secretary of the church and retires to concentrate more on youth leadership. Miss Mary Bracken is the new secretary . . . A "Trash 'n Treasure" organised by Stan and Joy Barber netted \$1,050 for funds for erection of a storage shed at rear of church . . . The Ecumenical service for Pentecost Sunday involved six churches and was held in our church at 8.15 p.m. The address was given by Rev. Roy Poole, Sec. W.A. Council of Churches . . . Mr Savage will retire from the ministry at the conclusion of his term in March 1979. Dennis Hughes will succeed him.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PROPERTY REVIEW (Magill, R. Lawton, P. Richter). Board considering immediate and long term property requirements including acquisition feasibility . . . Progressive Dinners being organised by C.W.F. to promote fellowship and raise funds for property improvement extension . . . 50 men attended recent breakfast. Guest speaker was Warren Bonython . . . 34 attended Family camp at Ironbank.

GUEST SPEAKER (Pt. Lincoln, John Braer) Eyre Peninsula Women's Conf. held at Pt. Lincoln with guest speaker,

Miss Hazel Skuce . . . B.S. held Fancy Dress Frolic. Proceeds of \$101 given to Miss Skuce for mission project . . . Visit from Ted Heard of Home Missions Dept. . . . Men's Fellowship toured Wallaroo Fertilizers . . . Combined tea and evening service with Baptist Church, speaker Miss Jan White of W.E.C. . . . W.E.F. meeting held at Old Folks Home . . . Mrs Treasurer recovering from accident.

NEW MINISTRY (Torrensville, G. and J. Fewster) New ministry this year in circuit with Flinders Park . . . Average attendance is up . . . Geoff and Joan Fewster have been leading study group each Tuesday morning with I.T.S.O.L. studies . . . A commitment to Christ has been taken in a home . . . Torrensville has been sharing in gospel service at Flinders Park.

HOME AND FAMILY (Glenelg, C. H. J. Wright). Home and Family week commenced on May 7 with "A Family Celebration" prepared by Colin Fisher. Posters used in service were created by Nola Seidel. Church Family Tea preceded evening service when film "Follow Me" was screened followed by panel discussion . . . On May 14, visiting speaker was Ron O'Grady, Assoc. General Secretary of the Christian Conf. of Asia. Special Mother's Day service at night prepared and led by Mrs Merle Alderton, C.W.F. president. Theme was "Responsibilities of Women in Home, Church and Community" . . . Church saddened by deaths of Mrs Eunice Woodroffe and John Jones.



TASMANIA

VISIT TO CAVESIDE (Launceston, M. D. Hamilton). 100 Launceston members joined members at Caveside for afternoon service on April 23 . . . C.W.E.F. Mothers' Night, "Outback Shennanigans" featured Rolf Harris' deputy (Glenys Hamilton) . . . 40 went in a group to the film, "The Hiding Place." . . . Used Clothes Sale cleared \$50 for C.W.E.F. funds . . . At Boys & Girls Brigade Parade on May 7, four girls made decisions for Christ . . . 290 attended Family Service on Mother's Day.

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QUEENSLAND

20th ANNIVERSARY (Southport, N. Newton, A. Surtees, D. Capuano) 350 attended 20th anniversary tea when "Youth Emergency Accommodation" was launched by the Supt. of the Gold Coast Police, J. Voight. An offering of \$2,250 was received. The project will cater for emergency and short term accommodation for young people between 12-17 years of age. Negotiations for a \$70,000 home are under way. Project will be subsidised by the Qld. Govt. . . . 12 baptisms in May brought total to 24 for year. Active membership now 370 . . . C.W.F. gave \$1,100 to Overseas Missions last year. \$380 has been given this year to Youth Emergency Accommodation . . . Second Retirement Village 51 bed hostel, "Lady Small Haven", plus six equity units were officially opened by the Qld. Premier, the Hon. J. Bjelke-Petersen. 23 new equity units also completed at Golden Age Retirement Village.

LAND PURCHASE (Pine Rivers, M. Chandler) Land purchased for future development as church site . . . Recent activities included mountain climbing by young adults/young married, Devonshire morning tea for ladies, visit to Domino Hedges Bus factory by men, and church family barbecue. Seven-week photography class being held . . . Offerings increased since stewardship campaign led by Bruce Roberts . . . Special Mother's Day service led by ladies. Youth service had Lyall Muller as speaker, dedication service held for elders and deacons, and ministry inducted by Bruce Roberts . . . A. C. Male was honoured as Rotary Paul Harris Fellow.

COMBINED CAMP (Centenary) Combined camp held with Kedron at Camp Cal with studies led by chaplain, Rod Tippett, from Oakey Army Aviation Base . . . Peter and Janelle Schulz each awarded "best swimmer" trophies at Y.P.D. Swimming Carnival in which Centenary finished 3rd . . . Church party attended film "Jesus of Nazareth" . . . Six members participated in Men's Work training session for communion presidents, readers, elders and deacons . . . Chapel decorated with 20 posters and trade tools for special service led by State Director of Inter-Church Trade and Industry Mission, Les Armstrong, assisted by local uniting Church minister, and industrial Chaplain. Catholic Youth Singing group sang items at this service.

FAMILY CAMP (Albion, Colin A. Smith). 70 attended church Family Camp at "Camp Cal", April 28 to May 5. The Christian Education Director, Frank Beale, led the studies . . . C.W.F. held a progressive dinner on April 2 and raised \$132.00 to support our Living Link, Jan Warne . . . A class for new Christians commenced led by Dorothy Armstrong . . . Kedron church joined us for evening Palm Sunday service . . . Ern Paddick spoke to S. S. and church on Aboriginal Mission at Eidsvold.

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VICTORIA

GIVING AND GROWTH (Hamilton, Ron White) Planned giving review held with Trevor Giles; and Church Growth Seminar with Barry McMurtrie held with Warrnambool, Portland, Ararat, Stawell, Kaniva, Port Fairy and Horsham churches . . . Russell Wesley approached for possible ministry Hamilton College in new year . . . Christian Foundation for the Blind speaker, Peter Sumner and wife Pearl, at recent service . . . Ken Danes and Roy Dunn also have been speakers . . . Young lady baptised and gave testimony . . . 22 travelled to Warrnambool for screening of Corrie Ten Boon's film "The Hiding Place". C.W.A.F. sent two cartons of clothing for Social Service . . . Hamilton sent two ladies to Warrnambool for Hospital Visiting Seminar . . . Church family dinner followed by half-yearly business meeting, when audio-visual of work at Berwick and Cheltenham churches was shown and discussed.

AFFILIATION (East Keilor, Mrs C. Johnson) Church now affiliated with Vic. and Tas. Conf. . . . Church dept repaid in full to Properties Corporation by means of interest-free loans by members . . . 82 attended film "Jesus of Nazareth" . . . Study group for H.S.C. students meets weekly . . . Recent speakers were Dr T. A. Banks and R. Allison (North Essendon) . . . Two Y.P. made decisions at Belgrave Heights Youth Happening.

BAPTIZED (Doncaster, K. Horne) Two married women were baptized and two other decisions recorded . . . Covenant Players from Adelaide featured in services and conducted a Drama Workshop . . . Proclaimers have been featured guests . . . Church camp at Rosebud with 140 . . . "Tea Pot", community drop-in centre, established, and telephone service for shut-in and frail aged being established . . . On first Sunday of month,

minister will accept Brotherhood appointments and G. R. Stirling will be guest preacher . . . School for Christians (Series 1) had excellent support, conducted by Bill Tabbernee. Minister released to conduct a Seminar on Pastoral Care with Canberra churches . . . 303 communicants recently.

MUSICAL EVENING (Hartwell, L. Gibb) Musical evening and fellowship dinner-contributed \$260 to Overseas relief . . . John and Eira Clapp lead Boys' and Girls' Club for primary school children and youth group . . . Men's P.S.A. heard of work in India from Hariba Waghmod . . . Friendship and Play Groups continue.

WALKATHON (Chadstone, A. B. Clark) Don Barnett spoke on Aborigines Dept. . . . Junior youth club held walkathon . . . Junior Youth Club took part in Easter Sunday service . . . Bible study group meets one morning a week . . . Picture night held at Waverley Cinema . . . E.W.F. held cake stall and raised \$148 . . . C.W.F. held picnic at Monbulk Conf. centre . . . Sunday night services combined with Ashburton. First Sunday at Chadstone, third Sunday at Ashburton . . . Explorers took part in outdoor sports and spent a night at the church with Maidstone explorers . . . Mrs Crowe is now a great great grandma.

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many Christians in every generation, without speaking in tongues.

Over the centuries there have also been many revivals and renewals in the life of the church which were not accompanied by tongues speaking and until the last two decades hardly any of the evangelical leaders mentioned tongues as one of the evidences of the Holy Spirit (without whose presence revival is impossible) — Moody, Booth, Torrey, Sunday, Graham.

All speech is a gift from God and ecstatic speech may well be used by

charismatics as a gift from God. But this gift of ecstatic praise is available to religions other than Christianity. It cannot be regarded as a uniquely Christian gift, nor a conclusive sign of the presence of the Spirit. Speaking in tongues does not guarantee an invulnerable place in the Christian church. Pentecostals and other users of "tongues" also have their defectors from the faith.

If "tongues" can be authenticated in the early church, even in scant references and in a minor role, why do some of us feel disturbed when "tongues" are advocated? Largely because there is a fear that tongues could cause division and because some Christians will be made to feel that they have not received the fullness of the Spirit unless they speak in tongues; unless they seek a gift the Bible nowhere urges them to seek.

Many Christians feel that they have been demoted to the status of "second-rate" or "once-born" Christians. This has led to division in our churches and we believe that a not very clear reference in one letter by Paul has been elevated to become one of God's most gracious and most to be desired gifts. We don't believe that it deserves this place.

"... speaking in tongues can be learned, almost as other abilities are learned. Whether one calls the practice a gift of the Spirit is, then, a matter of individual choice. Speaking in tongues does make the individual feel better, and theologically it is perhaps possible to claim that anything that makes one feel better is in some way a gift of God. We cannot quarrel with so broad an interpretation of the meaning of 'gift'. But we believe that it is the use of (speaking in tongues) that determines whether or not it is a constructive phenomenon or rather damages and destroys. (Speaking in tongues) rarely benefits a wide segment of the community . . . It is not uniquely spiritual; it is not uniquely the result of God's intervention in man's speech. Whether or not it is a gift of God's providential care for His people depends on varying subjective interpretations of the nature of what is spiritual, and what constitutes a good gift for man."

(John P. Kildahl, "The Psychology of Speaking in Tongues" (Hodder & Stoughton).

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QUESTING

WITH

A. E. WHITE



The charismatic movement — what it is and what does it mean for Churches of Christ? (Conclusion)

The charismatic movement is, unfortunately, equated with speaking in tongues. This is almost certainly unfair to the majority of charismatics who are convinced that God is calling them to renewal in the life of the Spirit. They regard "tongues" as but one of the gifts of the Spirit available to all generations.

The scriptures list many recipients of gifts of the Spirit. Paul, in 1 Cor. 12, named apostles, prophets, teachers, miracle workers, healers, helpers, administrators and, last of all, tongues. In Ephesians he adds evangelists and pastors. Peter adds hospitality. I believe that Paul, in showing the Corinthians "a still more excellent way" points to the gifts of faith, hope, and love.

The absence of "tongues" from practically all of the New Testament writings is worth noting. There is development at length of the presence and ministry of the Holy Spirit, but of tongues there is no reference in the Epistles of John and Peter, or in James, or by Paul in Jude, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Thessalonians, Timothy, Titus, Philemon. They are not referred to in

Hebrews or Revelation. Only in 1 Corinthians does Paul refer to "tongues" and even here the reference is not made with unreserved enthusiasm. (Rom. 8:26 and 1 Pet. 4:11 are not here regarded as exceptions).

There is no questioning the sincerity of those charismatics who testify that "tongues speaking" has developed in them a deeper relationship with Christ, a clearer realisation of the presence of the Holy Spirit, and a greater capacity for praise. (We give no support whatever to the unworthy suggestion that "tongues" in the charismatic movement result from the influence of evil spirits).

But the charismatics will surely admit that there have been Spirit-filled men and women over the centuries who walked in the Spirit and witnessed to the love of God in Christ with grace and zeal. "Tongues" were not essential and their absence did not weaken their discipleship.

Further, it is difficult to identify the "tongues" of Acts, which enabled hearers to recognise other spoken languages, with the ecstatic utterances of 1 Cor. 12. The small number of such experiences in Acts can hardly be regarded as sufficient evidence to establish "tongues" as the "normal" demonstration of the fullness of the Spirit.

All of the declared results of such fullness of the Spirit—evangelistic fervour, love for God's word, praise, desire for the oneness of God's people, compassion — all have been demonstrated in the lives of

• Continued on Page 23

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

THE LAST WORD...

There are pleasures which can injure a man's body and which in the end can have a permanent ill-effect on his health. There are pleasures which can coarsen a man's moral fibre. There are pleasures which can weaken a man's character and lower his resistance power against that which is wrong. Any pleasure which leaves a man less physically fit, less mentally alert, less morally sensitive, is wrong. — William Barclay.

Live as if Christ died yesterday,
arose this morning,
and is coming back tomorrow.

★ ★ ★

Time heals grief; and love prevents scar tissue.

★ ★ ★

"I never say hasty things that I'd have to regret later."

"So what does that make you?"
"A bachelor."

★ ★ ★

Little boy: "Mummy, you've got some grey hair."

"Parents always turn grey when children do not behave properly."

Little boy: "I see. That's why Granny is so grey."

★ ★ ★

"I can't bring my report card back," the boy said to his teacher. "You gave me an 'A' in something and they're still mailing it around to all the relatives."

★ ★ ★

Boss: To no him is to be fired.



"This is my boss, dear. He brought his own can opener."

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