

Please say Yes to Overseas Missions!

How are they to hear without a preacher?

And how can men preach unless they are sent? Rom. 10:14-15 R.S.V.

ANNUAL OFFERING

SUNDAY JULY 6

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ON MY MIND

MISSION AND EVANGELISM

Joan Fewster

Joan Fewster is in a joint ministry with her husband Geoff, serving the churches at Flinders Park and Torrensville (S.A.). Joan was a delegate representing Churches of Christ at the recent World Conference on Mission and Evangelism in Melbourne.

You ask me, what is on my mind, as I return from sharing 14 incredible days with people from almost 100 countries around the world, at the World Conference on Mission and Evangelism, in Melbourne, May 1980.

QUESTIONS AND PRE-SUPPOSITIONS

I went with certain pre-suppositions which questioned the effectiveness and work of such Conferences and the World Council of Churches; but, I also went with a real desire to participate in a positive way, making my contribution as a representative of Churches of Christ; and came away, thanking God that there are such opportunities as this, for people to share around God's Word and see afresh the relevance of the Gospel for the world today, not only in terms of social action but also as the means of salvation for all people through Jesus Christ.

As we listened, shared in Bible Studies, prayer and worship, discussion, dialogue and fellowship together, I experienced countless impressions stamped on my heart, mind and soul. Each challenged the reality of my faith and witness as a Christian.

THE CRY OF THE CHURCH

Each voice I heard enabled me to hear the cry of the church in the world today. Voices of suffering and oppression, pleading for freedom and aid. Voices of men and women seeking to take their place of responsibility in the Kingdom of God. I reflected how we, so isolated and insulated, in our 'land of hope and glory', do not hear the cries of the Church in the world, our wider family.

We pray Your Kingdom come, Your Will be done; and yet we do not accept the responsibility which is ours to allow the Crucified and Risen Christ, challenge our work, our witness and lifestyle.

DO WE CARE?

Do we really care? Living in a land of so-called freedom, are we willing to take up the task we have at hand? To set free the oppressed in our own country! The Aborigines, the marginalised people in our society, the poor, the sick, the migrants, the unemployed, the rich, men and women in our churches who have God given gifts and abilities but not the opportunities to share equally in the work of the Kingdom.

PRAYING HONESTLY

Do we really care? Jesus came to challenge sin and human power. Are we, as His people willing to do so too? To listen and respond to the cry of the Church in the world today? Are we working for unity in the Kingdom and the Church? The Church is called to witness to the Kingdom. We are part of the Church. Let us then, together, bear witness to Jesus the Christ, and go forward into new areas of Mission and Evangelism. Then we can honestly pray —

YOUR KINGDOM COME!

SAYING 'YES' TO MISSIONS

Poor hygiene, dirt, flies, disease,
Superstition, fear,
Another death from neglect,
Turning to business pursuits
Apathy, indifference.
Christians involved in many 'old' practices,
Harassment from a vocal minority with
an axe to grind.
After more than twenty years of
teaching, showing, doing, working with.
What's the point?
Better say NO to missions.
BUT WAIT
There's a spotlessly kept baby —
Mum was a school-girl of ours.
There's a church leader helping others
He's barely literate but he's using what
He's learnt.
There's a national brother imparting his faith
Using his abilities for God, Dedicated to Him
There's a command to each of us TO GO
GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES IN ALL THE WORLD
Part of the world are Papua New Guinea, India,
New Hebrides, Indonesia,
Best say 'YES' to missions.

— Rosalie Rofe.

SAY YES TO MISSION

Missions are here to stay. Of our present world population of 4.2 billion, 2.5 billion are beyond the present outreach of any existing mission or church. There is a call for a "whole new army" of missionaries to move out and meet the challenge of the decade. Many Third World countries are preparing thousands of missionaries for this task.

Are we saying Yes to Missions in the 80's?

(adapted from an article in New Life, March 1980)

When our "needs" are really only "wants" and others' "wants" are really "needs", as Christians we must respond. Sacrificial giving of money, time and prayer provide essential support for our many outreach programs.

The greater blessing, however, comes when we are able to say Yes to Missions and go as living representatives of Jesus Christ.

— Ken Warne,

(Sec. Queensland O/seas Mission Committee.)

Douglas Hughes, secretary of the Vic.-Tas. Overseas Mission Dept., has a whole range of reasons for saying yes to Overseas Missions. We've put a few of them together.

To be involved in mission is one of Christ's commands. It is a corollary to the call to "love one-another". As churches of Christ, we have committed ourselves to this task and the missionaries, whom we have sent, are doing a great piece of service. If we don't support them, who else will?

SAY YES TO OVERSEAS MISSIONS

Cathy Murphy (Santo, New Hebrides)



I was asked to be a leader at our dawn service on Easter Sunday morning. I decided to read Matthew's account of that resurrection morning, to help in my preparation. It came to me afresh how these events of Easter meant the end of Christ's ministry here on earth. He was no longer to walk and talk amongst the people or heal the sick and raise the dead — that was a real loss to all mankind. But reading on, it certainly wasn't the end. He then told His disciples "... to go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" — His earthly work was finished, but it was now up to us to carry it on. I saw then that to say yes to missions was merely a matter of obedience that was required of all who named His name. "For he that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me". Do you love Him that much? "Then" says Jesus, "Feed my sheep".

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST

by Ishmael Bangga
Secretary New Hebrides Conference
of Churches of Christ.

We still need you. Why? Because as I look back to our Church History in the New Hebrides, it was stated clearly that the Gospel came to our islands by the New Hebrideans who were taught by an Australian missionary, Miss Young. Her work was followed up by another Australian missionary, Mr. J. Thompson who was the first Churches of Christ missionary to land on Pentecost to get the work going.

Because of the deep concern about the church ministry in the New Hebrides by the Australian missionaries, I feel that since our partnership once started, we can't break off from the Australian churches. We are now partners in the ministry of Jesus Christ. I would say we are "interdependent" in the ministry. I feel that this is what God wants us to do in our churches today.

I am so pleased with what the Australian Overseas Mission Board established, called "Partnership in Mission".

In one way we New Hebridean churches are part of you, and Australian churches are part of us.

FINANCIAL CRISIS

At the end of May the general fund (Gospel Outreach) had around \$500 to its credit. Around \$35,000 is needed each month.

The need is urgent. Say Yes to Overseas Missions on July 6.

MEET THE TREASURER

Ray Johnson is the enthusiastic treasurer of the Overseas Mission Board. Sometimes his smile fades. Trying to find enough money to cover the increasing costs overseas is enough to wipe the smile from the face of any treasurer. You can help keep the smile on his face by giving to the OVERSEAS MISSIONS ANNUAL offering, Sunday July 6.



SAY YES TO OVERSEAS MISSIONS ANNUAL OFFERING SUNDAY, JULY 6

AUSTRALIANS QUESTION

Paul Williams.

While home on furlough we have often been asked the question, "Do the New Guinea people respond to the gospel more readily than we do in Australia?"

The answer is rather complex, and yet one can recognise similarities between our culture and the Papuan New Guinea culture. Just like Australians, the Papua New Guineans tend to turn to God when something shatters their complacency. A tragic death or accident tends to make them ask the same kinds of questions we ask, "God why did this happen to me?" They experience the same kind of consolation and grace that we receive from God, and often come closer to God through the experience.

Another similarity is the desire to conform to peer group pressure. Papua New Guinea being a very strong tribal and communal society, possibly has more pressure to conform than Australia.

The preoccupation with obtaining material wealth is also found in P.N.G. Possibly more justifiable because P.N.G. is a developing nation. One often hears the answer, 'bihain bai mi senis', (later I will change).

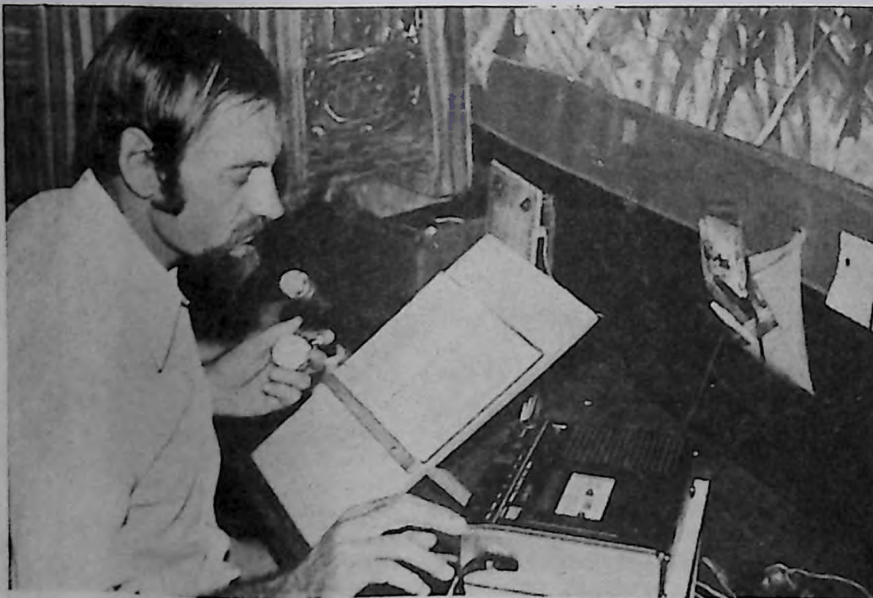
Contrary to Australia where the popular view is that one tends to miss out on so much by becoming a Christian, in P.N.G. the opposite is often believed and practised. By accepting the Christian faith one tends to acquire certain benefits e.g. one has contact with Europeans and all their material possessions and one has access to medical and educational facilities.

Hence one tends to see in P.N.G. mass people movements towards certain Missions and their particular theological viewpoint. We need to be aware of possible ulterior motives when certain groups or individuals indicate an interest in Christianity. This is not to say that we treat each case with scepticism and mistrust, rather that we need to have an extensive Christian 'follow-up' programme to correct any misunderstandings that groups or individuals may have when making their initial decision. In essence, what often happens is that the Papua New Guinean does not distinguish between becoming a follower of Churches of Christ and becoming a believer in and a follower of Christ.

Culturally, certain individuals have a lot to lose by accepting Christ and following Him, e.g. they may lose positions of authority and power within the village structure, they may be looked upon with suspicion, they may be criticised for leaving traditional ways and beliefs, and in some extreme cases ostracised from the village and its social interaction.

It is apparent that some who accept the loss of the above and genuinely respond to Christ and His claim upon their lives, radiate a new authority and power within the village structure. They are looked upon as ones you can trust, believe, and follow. Their lives radiate a new image, a new character, and usually demonstrate a life ruled by love rather than by fear and suspicion. They show a new understanding of the society in which they live and often express a deep evangelistic desire that others may share their experience. It is thrilling to see them cast off all their old fears and doubts and live a new life of hope and certainty.

In conclusion let me say that I don't believe it is any easier or any harder to respond to the Gospel. There are varying reasons for acceptance or rejection as there are in Australia. However, we rejoice that in both nations, people are responding to the Gospel and are entering into a new life with Christ.



Paul Williams prepares cassettes.

WHY SAY YES TO MISSIONS?

Fay Christensen



An old man sits sleepily in church. I start to read a Bible story in his own language. The tired old eyes light up, the wrinkled face creases into a delighted smile. "That's God's Word, and now I can hear it in my own language."

BUT there is still only one book, Mark's Gospel, translated.

A young Sunday School teacher gathers a crowd of eager children around him. They sing, hear Bible stories, colour pictures and love every moment of their lesson.

BUT many villages have no Sunday Schools. Teacher training classes must be held.

The Papua New Guinea pastor walks many miles — teaching, preaching, encouraging and building up the church. He understands his people and can reach them far more effectively than any white person.

BUT he needs encouragement, more teaching, the knowledge that someone cares.

Churches of Christ in P.N.G. have 1750 members in 37 churches.

BUT more villages are asking us to bring them the Good News.

So — I'm saying "Yes" to Missions!

SAY YES TO CARING FOR MISSIONARIES

When missionaries return to Australia there are some things which churches can do to help. They can care by listening, they can pray, they can take practical steps in finding housing and employment.

Another way which is used by the Overseas Mission Board, is a rehabilitation allowance. It consists of six weeks furlough salary after eight years' service. For every extra year of service, another week's salary is added.

Caring for missionaries returning home to Australia is a very important ministry. You can be part of the caring team.

NEW MISSIONARIES

Sending out missionaries calls for more than a well attended farewell service. It calls for the prayer and the giving of the Australian brotherhood in the supporting of missionaries who go to share the gospel of Christ. In the last 12 months, these people have offered to serve.



Margaret Aggar

After six months as a voluntary worker, Margaret Aggar of the church at Earlwood in N.S.W. has decided to continue in missionary service for another six months. We are indebted to Margaret for her work as a nursing sister at the Ndui Ndui hospital on the island of Aoba in the New Hebrides.



Ralph and Barbara Bennett

From the U.S.A. to Australia and then on to Papua New Guinea is a long journey. For nearly 10 years Ralph and Barbara Bennett have served the churches in Australia and now have left their family to minister in Papua New Guinea. At present they are grappling with the intricacies of the pidgin English language so that they may make a greater contribution to the ministry of pastor/teaching in Madang.

**OVERSEAS
MISSIONS
OFFERING
JULY 6TH**



Russell and Jeanette Mutzelburg and Kartika.

Russell and Jeanette Mutzelburg left Brisbane early this year to take up a pastoral teaching ministry on Aoba in the New Hebrides. Their new home has some similarities to Jeanette's home in Indonesia.

During the Annual Conference at Wali on Pentecost, Russell led the Bible studies. Russell's dream is to train pastors in Indonesia for ministry.



David and Robyn Harmer

As a qualified electrician, David Harmer deepened his missionary interest when on work team in Papua New Guinea. Now a graduate of the Kenmore Christian College, he is planning to minister in a new way in Papua New Guinea — as a pastor to the pastors. With his wife, Robyn, (a qualified nursing sister) and their three children, they are planning to leave Victoria for Papua New Guinea around the end of June.



Kathryn Rees

Kathryn Rees is a qualified teacher from New Zealand who is now teaching at the Ranwadi High School. She follows in the fine tradition set by New Zealanders who have served in the New Hebrides as missionaries. Sharing with the students in Bible studies as well as in class, opens up opportunities for Christian work and witness. We're thankful that they are acting as ambassadors for Jesus Christ.

Their dedication is a challenge to our own.

SAYING YES IS COSTLY

R. Rofe



"I don't know about the rest of you, but I want to make the wrong things in my life right. I'll go and see Talio this week. After I've seen him and settled my differences with him, I'll be ready to do God's work again."

So spoke Amori of Mui. Amori's wife died in late October and he has been in mourning for her. Her death was the 12th in the village since mid 1978. Those who have died have all been Christians. After about the eighth death the non-Christians in the village began to stir, saying that all these deaths were the result of not following old customs. Some of the old customs were revived in an effort to stop the run of deaths.

At a recent Bible School held with the Mui church we looked at the Israelites as they moved out of the bondage of Egypt to the Promised Land and compared our lives with theirs, looking also at the way God dealt with His wayward people. How quickly those Israelites forgot God's mercy and power and provision for them. How quickly we too forget! The Holy Spirit used these studies to convict Amori and others of the need for whole hearted obedience to Jesus Christ as well as the need for setting right the things that are wrong in our lives.

What of you? What of me? Is there willingness to obey wholeheartedly and set right the wrong things in our lives?

RAMABAI NAGER.



Sima Waghmode Training

As visitors come to Bombay, it is to the Gateway of India or the Hanging Gardens that make an impression on them, but it is the "pavement dwellers" and the "hutment people". These areas are made up of people who have come from the rural areas to find their fortune in the big city? The biggest exodus from the rural areas was during the 1973-74 famine (but daily people are coming to Bombay from all over India). The main reason for the movement of the people was shortage of water in the rural area. Since 1974 the government has tried to induce the people to return to the villages, but maybe because they have tasted city life, they feel that they cannot return to the old way of life in the villages.

The exodus was in the thousands and no city, let alone one like Bombay, who was already bursting at the "seams" could accommodate such an influx. The only thing for the people to do was set up "camp" on the pavements while others formed small groups and put up "huts" on any vacant land they could find. Some land owners rented out very small areas to them. One such group sprung up on the Great Eastern Highway near Chembur and this group took the name of Ramabai Nagar.

Today in Ramabai Nagar there is a large Christian group, and it is here that the Bombay church has begun their outreach. A number of families living here are already members of the Bombay church. It is estimated that there are over 15,000 people living in Ramabai Nagar of which there are 40 Christian families.

Mrs Sima Waghmode has been working with the women in the Ramabai Nagar area. At the present she has a group of 27 women that meet each afternoon. For the first half, she has been teaching them to read and write. Over 50% of the women are illiterate — the second half is taken up by teaching on nutrition, caring for children, cleanliness and teaching them to sew, so that they can mend their own and their families clothes. Her blackboard has been an old rusty

iron sheet that forms part of the wall in the room where she has the women meeting. It was a revelation to me to see what she has been able to do in a short time and under difficulties.

"Maharashtra Christian Adult Education Committee" are supplying a blackboard and other teaching aids to her for all of the women. The Maharashtra Christian Adult Education Committee is making 1980 a year for literacy. With only about 30% of the 64 million people living in Maharashtra literate, the percentage of women who are literate is much lower than the 30%, the task is an enormous one, but with people like Sima, giving their services to help their less fortunate sister — the task does not seem so frightening.

I think of the passage in Exodus, when the Lord speaking to Moses said "What is that in your hand". He has spoken in the same manner to Sima, and the education that she has received, she is now using it to benefit others.

Maybe there are some C.W.F. groups who feel that they would like to help Sima in her sewing classes, and would be willing to help supply the needles, cotton materials that she needs.

The Maharashtra Christian Adult Education Committee can only help in the literacy side, but I feel that there are many who would like to help these women, not only the present 27, but others who will be joining the new classes as soon as they are started, for other women in the hutment area.

One cannot realize what a "hutment area" is like until you have spent time in them. Whether they are "hutment dwellers" or "pavement dwellers" the Lord Jesus Christ loves them and He gave His life for them.

The Lord is saying to you today, who are reading this article, the same words that he spoke to Moses "What is that in your hand?" What will your answer be? Will you respond like Sima?

WHY SAY YES TO OVERSEAS MISSIONS? David Eagling, (Sec. N.S.W. Overseas Mission Committee.)

The New Testament church received its marching orders from their risen Lord. "You shall be my witnesses in the world"; "Your are to make disciples in every nation". This is your mandate.

There are over two billion non-Christians separated from any Christian witness and one billion non-Christians living among Christians. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded His church to make disciples of every nation. This task has been given to His church, His body. Every Christian in every local church, in every country of the world, is called to be a witness to the saving power of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "Go then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples; baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28: 18, 19 TEV) No matter who we are and where we are, if we claim Jesus as Lord God's command to us is that we should proclaim our faith by what we say and how we live — what have you done with the Lord's command and commission for the world?

SAY YES TO MISSION

God doesn't twist one of our arms behind our backs to force us to our knees. He doesn't push us into saying yes to Him. He respects us as persons. He quietly waits for our assent.

Yet our God is a missionary God. He sent Jesus into the world to be our Saviour. He longs to reconcile men to Himself through His Son. He wants men everywhere to change their mind and their direction and turn to Him. He wants each of us to say yes to Him.

When the decision is made, other exciting opportunities open up. We discover we have a family. His body, the church. We find that we are called to be involved in mission. It means sharing Christ's love with the whole world. This means that the work of overseas missions is not some optional extra to which a person can give a sleepy nod of assent if he feels so inclined. Mission is integral to the life of the church. It calls people with steel in their backbones and a spring in their step.

In saying yes to mission we open ourselves to a range of exciting possibilities. Buoyed by the vision of people with whom we can share the good news of Christ, our lives gain fresh purpose. We become persons for whom words such as prayer and giving and perhaps going, take on fresh significance. We have the promise that, as we go forward with Him, He will never leave or forsake us.

Against His church the very gates of hell shall not prevail. Each of us has only one life to live. Each of us has the capacity to make decisions. Say yes to mission today and every day.

George Mathieson

A NIGHT IN THE LIFE OF A MISSIONARY NURSE (AND HUSBAND)

— *Melanie Van Haaren*

TIME: 3.30 a.m.

PLACE: BUNAM, Keram River, Papua New Guinea

PATIENT: To be disputed ...

ACT 1: Missionary nurse and husband fast asleep in bed. Loud rappings on door.

MAN: (in pidgin) — "Sista, my wife is in labour."

SISTA: (drowsily) — "When did the pains start?"

MAN: "Just now ..."

Sista breathes sigh of relief and gently wakes husband. Stretching, and half asleep they shuffle to door and request the man and his wife to wait at the hausik (hospital). With plenty of time up here sleeve Sista feels relaxed and happy. For once the delivery would obviously be in daylight with access to radio if complications develop. Utopial

ACT 2: Still yawning Sista starts to drag her feet towards the Hausik, swinging the lamp as she begins organising in her mind a textbook 'order of events'. The stillness of the night is suddenly and horrifically broken by the cries of a newborn baby.

Sista stands paralysed by fear and is heard to mutter, 'Oh no ...'. Seconds later she is activated. She charges in the direction of the cries screaming at husband, "Run ... Lamps ..."

ACT 3: Sista arrives at scene and breaks out in sweat. Woman sitting in dirt, newborn rolling down hill, cord round its neck, right side covered in mud. Woman looks appealingly at Sista, one glance portraying the custom that forbids them to touch the newborn.

Sista knocks over lamp in confusion. Grabs baby. Grabs cord. Screams for husband.

Husband arrives with torch.

Sista gives baby to husband, rushes toward hausik. Fumbles at latch with key. Can't find the delivery pack! Finally canters back, and balancing delivery pack on knee and with torch under armpit, cuts the cord and retrieves baby. Delivery pack falls onto ground its contents spilling.

Husband wraps baby in banana leaf and holds it head down. Sista concentrates on wiping dirt from clamps. Woman starts



Rob and Melanie Van Haaren

becoming abusive because Sista will not remove the placenta.

To add chaos to chaos husband suddenly shouts baby is choking. Sista starts running to hausik followed in hot pursuit by husband and banana leaf, their path being lit by a somewhat wobbly torch. Sista clumsily starts sucking out baby.

Husband at this stage pale. Sista and husband battle over who needs the torch most ...

Sista rushes back to woman who is now staring at placenta. Sista stands bewildered as woman stands up and heads towards hausik.

Sista grovels in mud for instruments.

ACT 4: Final Scene. Husband beams as new arrival (a-girl!) sleeps, wrapped in pillow case and lying in a ... baby bath.

Sista beams as woman drifts into sleep without so much as a stomach ache ... she refuses to even think in terms of tetanus or infection until tomorrow ... its all in a night's work. One of those things that 'shouldn't' happen — happened. A midwife's nightmare fades into a very tired, but relieved, 'sista's' dream.

Hand in hand, husband and sista return home, just in time to hear the roosters crow ... heralding a new day.

SECONDED WORKERS IN INDIA

New methods for a new day — that is what partnership in mission opens up for us. Australian Churches of Christ have sent and are supporting missionaries working with other churches in India. It is known as secondment.

Dorothy Holstein who has served so faithfully in the work of Churches of Christ in Western India, is now ministering at Chinchpada in the state of Maharashtra. Her continuing ministry as a nursing sister has taken her into training programs and helping women in the village situation.

Barry and Maureen Jenkins, well known for their ministry in the inner suburban churches in Melbourne, moved to Ootacamund where they are ministering at the Union Church. Part of their recent program included a leaflet drop. When the Nilgiris was to experience a partial eclipse of the sun, 3,000 leaflets were distributed to the fearful populace so that it could be seen as a demonstration of God's constancy in nature.

Would you remember these missionaries in prayer?

SAY YES TO LONDUA

The noisiest corner at Londua would be the carpentry workshop. The one-time dormitory has been transformed into a hive of activity crammed with tools, timber, benches and perspiring students. Londua carpentry workshop is an exciting project as over 40 boys are given an opportunity to learn useful skills for village life.

Exciting because 14 students in that group are receiving intensive training in carpentry and joinery skills for three days each week. Exciting because 11 of these students spend every Thur. night in Christian fellowship and Bible study. Exciting because from that 11 some found Jesus as Saviour, some are still seeking, some are walking closer to God. Yes those of us at Londua are excited to see God at work. Be excited as you give knowing that your interest and prayers are effective.

— Bruce Pederson

NEW HEBRIDEANS GRASP OPPORTUNITIES

Experience overseas can be a great help to church leaders in the New Hebrides. It exposes them to differing viewpoints and ideas to which they can respond.

Last year John Liu the principal of the **Banmatmat Bible College** attended the Disciples Ecumenical Consultation in Jamaica. 90 representatives from 24 Nations shared together. Gordon Lala went to Papua New Guinea where he undertook a pastor training course at the Christian Leaders Training College at Banz. While there he shared with fellow New Hebrideans Bill and Janet Bull who are also preparing themselves for further ministry.

The Haggai Institute in Singapore was an opportunity for Amos Tangwale to learn more of the nature of evangelism and how to communicate the gospel in today's world.

Many factors need to be considered when looking at study opportunities. One is culture stress. To study in a cultural environment

similar to one's own eases the strain caused by change. It is also easier to return to one's own cultural patterns on the conclusion of the study program.

LAND OBTAINED IN MADANG

See the report in an earlier issue of the "Australian Christian"? If so, you'll be rejoicing over the acquisition of leasehold land in Madang at a peppercorn rental.

It's an excellently located site which will enable the church to serve the people living in camps nearby. Papua New Guinea, like so many other countries, is facing the exodus of village people into the urban areas. Some are coming for education, others for work, still others for medical services. These people need a caring community where they will discover the resources of Christ.

The proposed Madang Christian Centre will meet that need. Already the Field Council has met to discuss possible plans for the development of the site. There is need for a place of worship and also accommodation for pastors. The whole project will need to be in keeping with the cultural patterns of Papua New Guinea.

One of the conditions in the granting of the site is that within twelve months \$30,000 worth of buildings are to be erected. This will need to be raised by the Australian churches for this project to get off the ground.

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.

MUSTARD SEEDS, TAXATION, AND EVAN ADERMANN

Evan Adermann in his letter of reply to Alan Austin's comments in "Mustard Seeds" indicated that he could give a full, point-by-point reply, but preferred not to use the pages of "The Australian Christian" for the purpose. Mr Adermann has a strong conviction that "The Australian Christian" should not be used for political debate and declined our offer of equal space for a reply.

Mr Adermann has prepared such a reply and sent it to Alan Austin. Copies of the reply are available to any readers desiring to have them. We appreciate this gesture and feel sure that many readers with a keen sense of Christian citizenship will respond to it. Those desiring copies of Mr Adermann's paper are invited to write to: The Honorable Evan Adermann,

Minister for Veterans' Affairs,
Parliament House,
Canberra, A.C.T., 2600
(Editor)

"MUSTARD SEEDS" (Taxation).

To the Editor,

I sincerely want to agree with Evan Adermann (A.C. 3-4-80) that Alan Austin's article about the Australian Taxation System is unfounded, but Mr. Adermann makes this very difficult for me because he seems to contradict himself and gives inadequate support to his claims.

In his letter Mr Adermann twice opposes the presence of "partisan political debate" in your journal. Yet he associates Alan Austin with the Opposition, maligns the Opposition and for no given reason labels Mr. Austin's article a "partisan theory". Is not such party-oriented categorizing and maligning itself "partisan political debate?"

Mr. Austin's article seemed to me to be a report of facts and qualified academic considerations of their implications. I saw no alignment with Opposition policies in the article.

A factual "point-by-point demonstration of his misrepresentation" from Mr. Adermann would be kind, Christian, and very necessary, but perhaps I do not know what makes a debate partisan or political.

Kim Silverman, Burwood, Vic.

"MUSTARD SEEDS" (Taxation)

To the Editor,

We all recognize that our taxation system has its anomalies and inequalities. Many sections of our community e.g. the self-employed and the single income family, claim with some justification to be disadvantaged or penalised by the present laws.

Taxation is, however, a very complex and sensitive subject and the Government must consider many aspects besides the raising of revenue. For example, taxation policies may be designed to provide incentive or disincentive.

In dealing with this issue, recognition should be given to the problems which must be faced by any government. It would also be fair to give our present Government credit for reforms which have been made and loop-holes which have been closed.

Personally, however, I would much rather see the space in the "A.C.", devoted to articles which would foster fellowship rather than division.

Readers who are genuinely interested in taxation may be better advised to join a taxpayers' association.

A. Rackemann, Vic.

FESTIVAL OF FAITH

To the Editor,

On Sunday night May 18 it was a pleasure and privilege to be a part of the 7500 gathered at Festival Hall for the Festival of Faith Rally in conjunction with the World Council Conference on Mission and Evangelism.

Despite the number present, it was warming to move around sharing the "Peace of God" in greeting. I at once felt part of the service.

The large choir, the Salvation Army band and the inspired singing were better than I have heard at many a rally. We were challenged by testimony from other countries in response to the Bible readings. Overall it was a very professional, smooth presentation, which greatly assisted the celebration of worship together by all who were there. The reading from John 17: 20-26 was certainly appropriate.

As our offering was received we received a piece of "Lego" and were challenged to see the analogy with Christians — alone it was useless, it was made to be built with other pieces — I'm glad I got a piece.

Greg Shaw (Vic.)

"PRAY FOR JIMMY CARTER"

To the Editor.

I have just read your article on Jimmy Carter which you seem to base on a very limited knowledge of the man in question. Your facts and observations would appear to come from the ordinary media.

My reason for questioning your observations follows from an interview I heard on the ABC about three months ago with Dr Bob Jones of the Bob Jones University. His assessment of Jimmy Carter along

with Billy Graham, the World Council of Churches and other modern "Holy Cows" left me with much food for thought.

Back to Jimmy Carter he basically said to compare his actions with regard to language, honesty, sobriety, and consistency with what a Christian should show.

Geoff Fairley (Dapto, N.S.W.)

Pray for Dr Bob Jones (Ed.)

STAMP COLLECTORS' NIGHT

On May 30 the Croydon church held an evening for people interested in this popular hobby. Laurie Finger from the Malvern church gave an informative talk on varieties in Australian stamps.

Forty attended. Some folk travelled a considerable distance but the majority were associated in some way with the local congregation. As a result of the evening \$40 was raised for Overseas Missions.

Considerable interest is evident among local people, particularly the younger ones. Our experience suggests that there is scope for a philatelic club within our churches that would promote fellowship, support our Brotherhood financially and provide guidance for interested youth. The Croydon group would like to hear from anyone interested in such a club.

— A. Rackemann

AFGHAN REFUGEES

A number of international aid agencies, including World Concern and World Vision have become involved with the Afghan refugees. The agencies have already supplied the refugees with 1000 tents, made by local Pakistani villagers. However agency officials estimate if the flow of refugees continues, 100,000 tents will be needed.

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

GIVING GOD HIS ORDERS

To the Editor,

It was a good service and we sang the last hymn heartily. In the hymn we gave God his orders for the week — "Be swift to aid the downcast and the cheerless", "Lift up the fallen on life's thorny road", "Bring in the reign of friendship universal."

After the benediction and three amens we retired to the foyer to greet one another before going home. Our minds were at rest. Now it was up to God to get on with what we told him to do.

But I'm a bit worried about it. I suspect that these are the sort of things that God expects us to do. With his help, of course!

It seems to me that we expect God to do a lot of things that he expects us to do. For instance, almost every Sunday some one at our church prays that the Lord will bring new people along to hear the gospel. And in the church prayers God is regularly entreated to provide more workers for "the Master's vineyard."

I mentioned this to the wife at lunch. She said, "Well there's nothing to stop you from taking over one or two of the things that you say that we put on God's agenda! She's a bit too practical for my good. Maybe it is easier to leave it all to God!

Yours resignedly,

Tertius

A REFUGEE FAMINE

The 1980 World Vision 40 Hour Famine will highlight the plight of the world's 14 million refugees. World Vision, has a massive relief and development program with the Kampuchean refugees in Thailand and in their own nation.

The United Nations High Commission on Refugees has called World Vision into a new disaster area — Somalia. About one and a half million people have been forced to leave their villages in the Ogaden Desert region of Ethiopia and flee to Somalia. There has been a long civil war and villages have been bombed and cattle killed.

About one thousand refugees are crossing the border daily. The camps are crude and medicine and food are in extremely short supply. Dr Mooneyham says that while he was there a relief ship heading to Kampuchea was diverted to Somalia. World Vision has already committed itself to \$500,000 for this refugee crisis.

Proceeds from the World Vision 40 Hour Famine will go to refugee programs. A number of leading Christians have agreed to fast in the Famine. They include Rev. Gordon Moyes, from the Wesley Central Mission; the Rev. Alex Kenworthy, Baptist Minister from Melbourne; the Rev. Barry Huggett, the director of the Anglican Information Office in Melbourne; Rev. Lew Born, a Uniting Church minister from Brisbane and Rev. Ken Anderson, a Uniting Church minister from Adelaide.

The World Vision 40 Hour Famine commences at 8 p.m. Friday, June 27, and concludes at noon, Sunday, June 29.

STATEWIDE YOUTH CAMPING UNDER WAY

A statewide senior youth camp was held at Bicheno Conference Centre in Tasmania over the Anzac Long Weekend. This camp was significant in being the first of its kind for a number of years. The camp was widely and well supported with the 42 campers and five leaders coming from all parts of the state and representing all major churches.

Russell Allison, associate minister of the Launceston church, was responsible for the organisation and running of the camp, which was sponsored by the Department of Mission, Education and Development. The program, which included such activities as study and discussion, hiking, sports, games and recreation, a concert and film, singing and worship, ran smoothly and was well received.

The overall theme of the camp was "Going His Way" and the four studies revolved around the person of Joshua under the titles "Go...Believing, Fighting, Clean, Taking".

The initiative for the re-establishment of a state youth camping programme arose from a visit to the Tasmanian churches by Jeff Deuble late last year. It is hoped that a similar program for high school age youth will be implemented for this coming summer.

THE FUTURE OF THE OVERSEAS MISSION OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST

The overseas enterprise of Churches of Christ for the past 75 years is a success story. Today we find ourselves as active partners with three virile national associations of Churches of Christ in Western India, in the New Hebrides and in New Guinea. But what about the future?

CLOSING DOORS

The story of the rising tide of nationalism since 1945 is the story of the closing of doors to western missionaries. This is happening in two ways.

The first is through government action. Some governments have refused entry visas for Christian missionaries. Others have restricted them to westerners whose missions are already established. Others have only given visas to specialists where it is evident that they are not taking a job from a national.

The other closing of doors to westerners has been much more subtle. They may still gain entry to the nations concerned, but not so easily to the homes and hearts and minds of the nationals. Because of the new nationalism with its overtones of anti-imperialism, if the gospel is going to be heard in these countries, it is going to be heard from Christian nationals.

NO LONGER IN THE BAZAARS

We used to see pictures of western missionaries preaching in bazaars and market places and village squares. Now the native pastors and laymen to the preaching. Westerners are in back-up jobs in administration, literature and cassette production, training and social service. Even in the New Hebrides it is the native pastor who has access to the homes of the people.

Churches of Christ in India are very much alive, but we have never had so few western missionaries there. We may soon have to reckon with the nationalism of the new independent nations of New Guinea and the New Hebrides. In both places we have splendid churches and good emerging leadership. It could be that the days of the western missionary are numbered.

WHAT IS ALL OF THIS SAYING?

Every member of Australian Churches of Christ has to face up to the new situation. Does the reduction in western missionary workers mean a reduction in Australian giving to the churches in India, New Guinea and the New Hebrides? Can we only trust leadership that is white? If there are administrative mistakes do we prefer them to be white mistakes? Do we have to have white faces telling the story of missions to inspire our giving? Do we lessen our giving when the faces smiling at us from missionary prayer cards on our mantel shelves are not white? Can the missionary names of Coventry, Oldfield, Waterman and Vawser which became household words amongst us be replaced by the names of nationals who can likewise fire our imaginations and loosen our purse strings?

THE PARTNERSHIP CONTINUES

We believe that Australian Churches of Christ will not let their partners down. Perhaps our giving will be stimulated by short term visits from nationals who come to tell their story and to share their insights. No doubt there will be short term return visits by Australians to cement relationships and to give something of the benefit of whatever expertise that they may have. (For example the Indian Venture Team type of program). And the giving of money rather than personnel may very well enable us to widen the scope of our outreach to other national churches. Western workers are much more expensive than national workers.

BUT THE DOORS ARE STILL OPEN

But the doors are still open for Australians to go to New Guinea and the New Hebrides as partners in service. Pastors and administrators and trainers are needed. The continuing advertisements of the Overseas Mission Board underline this.

Here are service opportunities to capture the imagination of men and women who are hearing God's call to ministry in interesting and exotic places. Yet the advertisements continue. We wonder if perhaps there is another way.

WHY NOT AN OVERSEAS MINISTRY AS WELL AS AN INTERSTATE ONE?

Santo is nearer to Sydney than Perth is. Pt. Moresby is as close to Melbourne as Perth is. Ministers think nothing of moving from state to state. Churches wanting top flight ministers think nothing of bringing them from distant states. Could we begin to think of our churches in Australia, New Guinea and the New Hebrides as one Brotherhood with ministers and workers being called anywhere in the field? In a lifetime of service, why should it not be possible for a leading minister to have at least one overseas ministry? Advertisements for ministers seldom bring results, whereas calls do. Should we not extend the call system to people we believe would make good pastors and workers overseas.

SUMMING IT ALL UP

To sum up ... as long as the doors are open to New Guinea and the New Hebrides, we should be approaching our ablest people to see if perhaps God is calling them to these fields.

And in case the doors close or the opportunities for western personnel diminish, we can be getting ourselves ready for an imaginative support program that will keep us in effective partnership with the church in India, The New Hebrides, New Guinea, Indonesia and other places.

NO ONE WAS CRYING

Mrs Valerie Main, India

Yesterday I first heard from Manohar Pawar that Dada who was in the Baramati Home had died suddenly on Sunday morning. I looked up my file on him and later in the evening got the full story of his death. I felt very moved by it all and very much feel the Lord's hand in it all. Dada came into the Dhorja Home in June 1976 following the marriage of his sister to a Christian boy from Dhorja. He came from a village 16 miles from Shrigonda, called Shinde, from a poor Hindu family. There are no Christians in his village. When I first met him, Pandrinath spoke very highly of him and in my notes I have written that he is clever, obedient and trustworthy and that he liked the Scriptures and was memorising verses. A later comment is that he was very interested in Christianity and had asked that an evangelist go to his village to preach about Christ. In June 1978 he transferred over to Baramati to continue his high school education. I believe that he had accepted Christ but had not been baptised. Last Friday he complained of a pain in his back but kept on with his normal routine. On Saturday afternoon the pain became really bad and his uncle who happened to be there took him to the local hospital along with Gaikwas Master. He was given some medicine and sent home. At 10 p.m. his condition suddenly worsened and he was admitted to the hospital and died at 3.30 a.m. The cause of death according to the death certificate was an acute gastro attack which caused heart failure.

Dada's parents are at present working in Bombay and there was no chance of informing them. His uncle took responsibility and insisted that the boy be taken

back to his village for the funeral. This was arranged and Hariba who was in Ahmednagar was contacted and asked to come for the funeral. It took some time to make all the arrangements and travel across so it was about 4 in the afternoon before the funeral was held. When the body arrived there was much weeping and wailing — so much so that Hariba said he couldn't stand it. Hariba conducted the service and took the opportunity to tell of the love of Christ, salvation and eternal life. He spoke for over an hour and there was complete silence the whole time. When it came time to seal the coffin and lower it into the grave not one person was crying. This is usually a highly emotional time with wild displays of grief. Afterwards the villagers were talking amongst themselves about the idea of Dada being alive and seeing him again.

Hariba had written some notes for me while I was out and his comments on Dada are, "He was a very good boy. Most clever in his class. Very quiet nature. Gave no trouble to anybody. With very clean habits. Loved by all. Dada was a lovely boy and is a great loss to the Boys' Home and to the High School. We are deeply sad with his departure."

The Lord has taken Dada according to His purposes and I feel that this is connected with His purposes for the people in Dada's family and his village. His younger brother Bhasker is in the Dhorja Home at present. His was the last letter I translated the night before I got the news. I know that you will pray for his family and the people at Shinde. I have already written to the person who was supporting Dada.

"AUSTRALIAN DREAMING"

"Australian Dreaming" is a large recently published and profusely illustrated book presenting 40,000 years of Australian Aboriginal history. Copies of it were presented to Alan Jenkins and Alf Marsh in recognition of long service to the Victorian-Tasmanian Aborigines Mission Department.

THE AEF WERE THERE

The presentations were made at a dinner to which the Department had invited Brotherhood leaders to meet informally with members of the Aborigines Christian Fellowship (A.E.F.).

Already the major denominations have set up a Victorian support group for the A.E.F. and Australian Churches of Christ are involved in partnership in some areas with the A.E.F.

Perhaps this is also "Australian Dreaming" with Aborigines taking the gospel to their own people, backed up by the churches.

THE A.E.F. GUESTS

The A.E.F. guests gave thumb nail sketches of their work. They included Neville Lilley (National Deputationist), and Pastors Max Wright (Mooroopna), Cecil Grant (Albury), and Albert

Knapp (Northcote).

As well as ministering with a number of Aboriginal congregations the A.E.F. is involved in other interesting projects. One is the annual Port Augusta Convention with 1300 camping on the wind-swept plains of the Davenport Reserve, and 2000 attending open air services and a baptismal service for 33 in Spencer's Gulf, and including Christian corroborees and Aboriginal art portraying the great events of calvary and the empty tomb. There is the newly opened Blimbadeen Bible College at Cootamundra (N.S.W.) for training A.E.F. workers; and Ben Mason has been appointed national evangelist for the A.E.F.

IS THIS THE ANSWER?

Is the A.E.F. work in partnership with the churches the answer to the problem of children growing up in mission surroundings and becoming Christians and then falling away in a problem environment? Is A.E.F. together with Aboriginal congregations experiencing the Christian faith in and through their own culture, with white Australians in the background, the way to reach both tribal and urban Aborigines for Christ?

PENTECOST UNITY

The small town of Tumbly Bay, on Eyre Peninsula in South Australia, for many years has had a very active and effective Inter-Church-Council, comprising the Anglican, Catholic, Churches of Christ and Uniting Churches, with Lutheran representation as observers. The main feature each year has been a combined Pentecost Day Service, arranged by the Council, with no meetings in the local buildings, all sharing at 7 p.m., in the Town Hall.

Leadership this year was shared by Rev Roy Todd — Anglican, Father Eugene Hurley — Catholic, and Rev Bruce Jones — Uniting Church, with scripture portions by lay people, and a combined women's choir bringing messages. Peter Chambers, Youth minister with the Uniting Church, led a youth group in presentation of An Australian Psalm for Pentecost, illustrated with relevant coloured slides.

A panel of five people was interviewed and gave their impressions of the Combined Lenten Studies, "Thy Kingdom Come", arranged by the South Australian Heads of Churches, held prior to Easter, as home groups. The message, "How The Holy Spirit Comes" was brought by Murray Williams, Churches of Christ.

Attendance is growing each year, and all felt a great stimulation in the giving, receiving and learning of this shared experience, concluding with supper. The offering of \$60.00 was given to a local Refugee Resettlement Group, to help Vietnamese locate in this area.

PEDERSON'S EXTEND STAY ON Aoba

The Overseas Mission Board is pleased to announce that Bruce and Lyn Pederson will be extending their stay in Vanuatu (formerly New Hebrides). The department of Further Education in South Australia has extended Bruce's leave of absence until January 31, 1982. This will enable Bruce to complete the training program in joinery and carpentry at Londua Training School on the island of Aoba. A recent grant of \$3,000 from the Vanuatu Government makes it possible to extend the training through the purchase of wood-working machinery and 240 volt power tools. Charlesworth Bani is also being trained to help in teaching.

CAN WE AFFORD CLEAN WATER

The greatest cause of disease in the Third World is polluted water. It's estimated by world health authorities that to provide clean water to every human being would cost between \$100 and \$200 billion. According to the United Nations the world spent \$400 billion last year on arms. The United Nations Children's Fund has just prepared a kit which highlights the world's priorities and which also aims to foster awareness among children of the arms race and the need for their personal involvement in building peace.

UPRISING IN NEW HEBRIDES — SANTO OCCUPIED

Ron McLEAN

On May 29 the Federal Overseas Mission Board received a cable from Kay Williams in the New Hebrides advising that the so-called Moderate Political Parties had taken over Santo which is the largest island in the New Hebrides. Communications had been cut and there were no planes.

George Mathieson, Overseas Mission Executive Director, was about to leave Santo for Vila on his way home to Australia when air services were cut. On Santo is our Business Manager Jack Murphy and his wife Cathy and their 18 month old son Nathan also August and Maeline Ben, former missionaries to Papua New Guinea.

This cabled advice was the first received concerning the uprising as there had been no announcements through the media. I telephoned the Department of Foreign Affairs and they confirmed that Santo town had been occupied and all communications had been cut but as far as they knew there was no violence to individuals. They re-assured me that they were aware of the presence of Australian personnel on Santo.

I also telephoned Pastor Jose at the Vila Christian Centre and he confirmed advice that a number of police and the District Commissioner on Santo had been captured. He advised that due to lack of communications little was known of the situation in Vila. I asked Jose to contact Kay Williams by radio and advise her that we were mindful of the situation and would be praying for all of our workers and that peace would be restored.

The Representative Assembly has fixed July 30 for Independence Day . . . I had just finished writing this sentence when George Mathieson rang from Vila. He had managed to get boat transport to Norsup on Malekula and from there a plane to Vila and was scheduled to return to Adelaide on Saturday May 31. He said that the situation had worsened on Santo and there is an urgent need to continue to uphold our missionaries and their fellow New Hebridean workers in prayer.

LATE REPORT:

Jack Murphy telephoned the Overseas Mission Board on June 2 advising that he and his family had been safely evacuated to Vila. The Murphy's will stay in Vila and manage the business affairs of the mission until it is possible for them to return to Santo. August and Maeline Ben were also evacuated from Santo and will be returning to Aoba. People from other islands living on Santo are being evacuated to their home islands. Jack Murphy has advised that Pastor Samuel Wine who is a Santo man, will be living in the mission house and caring for the property. Murphy's address in Vila is C/Sarabetu Christian Centre, P.O. Box 638, Vila, New Hebrides. Prayer is requested for the New Hebrides in this critical time and specific prayer needs have been sent to State Overseas Mission Secretaries.

NEW HEBRIDES AT THE CROSSROADS

George Mathieson

Tangoa could be seen in the light of a full moon.

Ishmael Bangga hailed a New Hebridean in an outrigger canoe to take him across. Arrangements were made for me to join the vessel which would soon be crowded with people. A dinghy was sent to pick me up and very soon I had climbed on to the vessel, deposited my luggage, and paid the fare. It was with thanksgiving to God that I had arrived safely, yet there was also a deep concern for those I had left behind.

As the ship was not due to sail until 2 a.m., a New Hebridean led me to the Presbyterian mission complex. Around 8.30 p.m. members of the New Zealand work party returned from the chapel after sharing in worship. Jan and Rob Hinzs (Australian missionaries, friends of Graham and Jeanette Warne) graciously invited me home until the ship was due to leave. It was a great time of fellowship discussing issues ranging from theological education to the charismatic movement.

Around 1.30 a.m. I suggested we share in prayer. As I concluded, there were shouts from the school boys. We hurried outside. The ship was sailing past — half an hour before the scheduled departure. Frantic cries of 'STOP' made no difference. I then raced back to grab my brief case with the passport and tickets.

Jan, a very resourceful lady, woke up two New Hebrideans who later launched an aluminium boat with a 25 h.p. outboard attached. At 2 a.m. we set off to catch the ship. Thumping and crashing our way through the sea, my two newly discovered friends pushed that boat to the limit. Spray showered over us, as I, at least, hung on for all I was worth. Gradually the ship's light grew brighter. At 2.30 a.m. we caught the ship. After thanking those two New Hebrideans, I clambered aboard. As Kami Shing the Co-ordinator of Scripture Union later said, "another five minutes it would have been too late for we would have been in the open sea." Unfortunately my thankfulness took a deep dive when the sickness of the sea struck with all its vigour.

Seven hours later, a group of very bedraggled passengers put their feet on the shore of Norsup on the island of Malekula. It was a short ride in a truck to the aerodrome. Vila and then Australia were only a matter of time.

Later I reflected. On the previous Sunday evening in an address to the folk in the Santo Church of Christ, I had shared my dream of a united nation in which there would be justice and peace — a dream which Micah expressed centuries ago.

We have a gospel which transcends party politics; a gospel which can transform people. For Christ's sake pray that men and women may accept that message so that peace will truly rule in the New Hebrides.

***** *THE YUKANA SINGERS*

* We are a loving, sharing Christian group
* who because of the death of our conductress
* are in need of a person to lead us.
* Practice is Thursday evenings at the Uniting
* Church, Bayswater. The person would need a
* good working knowledge of music with ability
* to conduct. Sense of humour essential.
* If you feel led of the Lord please contact:-
* Diane Grant (03) 763 6329.

It may have been easy for Martin Luther of the Protestant reformation to separate church and state. Such separation has never been simple in the New Hebrides. For many years Churches of Christ have suffered fragmentation caused by political differences.

At the Annual Conference of Churches of Christ on Pentecost in mid May, Father Walter Lini, the Chief Minister was a special guest. He is a priest of the Anglican church. As he talked of unity and the need for development, one felt his sincerity coming through. He wanted the emerging nation of Vanuatu to be a united nation where justice and democratic principle held sway.

Yet less than two weeks later those dreams were smashed. On Wednesday May 28, forces in Santo captured the police, looted houses and took control. Jack Murphy, the Business Manager of our work on Santo, heard the news of trouble at around 7 a.m. The Harbour Master who lived opposite had had his car taken. On the radio 'sked' to the islands of Pentecost and Aoba at 7.30 a.m., the word was passed, "there's trouble." As I passed on my thanks and best wishes to the missionary team, Kay Williams replied that I might have difficulty in leaving that day — a prophetic word.

Around 8 a.m. Jack Murphy drove me to the airport. As we approached we saw the Solair plane disappearing into the sky. New Hebrideans then rolled 44 gall. drums on to the tarmac, blocking the runway. The airport was closed.

Later, when Jack returned to the office it was to discover that the transceiver had been taken. Ishmael Bangga had the good sense to write on it the name of Churches of Christ for future identification. Phones, radio, planes and shipping were all cut off; we were isolated.

Wednesday was an unreal sort of day. We continued shopping, fuelling the vehicle and the boat, and talking with New Hebrideans. Meanwhile trucks loaded with New Hebrideans carrying bows and arrows and clubs roamed up and down the streets. In the afternoon we were notified that the Air Melanesie plane would leave for Vila. The luggage was put on board the plane, but then a group surrounded the plane saying that they had not given permission to leave. We collected the luggage and returned home.

That night in company with Betty and Ken Robarts, Anglican missionaries from Lolowai (Aoba) we shared in prayers. Humanly speaking there was so little we could do. Yet God's grace and power was still operating in this situation. For as Cathy Murphy reminded us, nothing happens without God's permission.

Thursday dawned. The New Hebrideans were under pressure. Licence discs with the words Ve ma Ra na around the edge were being issued to taxis at A\$60.00 each. The whole coup was well organised. Groups of expatriates were making plans for escape. Tension deepened.

Around 5.30 p.m. heard from Dorothy Dewar who works with the Bible Translators team, that there was a possible way out. Jack Murphy and Ishmael Bangga checked with a Presbyterian pastor. Yes! a ship was leaving from Tangoa.

Immediately we bundled the gear into the van (Brotherhood giving made it possible) and drove down the winding pot-holed coastal road. 20 miles, and an hour later the island of

HAPPENINGS

Scripture Union will celebrate its centenary this year and its encouragement of Bible reading will be the feature of S.U. Week to commence on July 6.

Scripture Union in N.S.W. will be holding a Thanksgiving Rally on July 20 at the Town Hall at 2.45 p.m. The Thanksgiving Service will be held at St. Andrew's Cathedral on the same day at 7 p.m. to celebrate S.U.'s centenary in Australia.

Bishop Paul Reeves has been elected as the new Primate and Archbishop of New Zealand. He succeeds Archbishop Allen Johnston. Archbishop Paul Reeves is 48. He is one of the two Maori bishops in New Zealand. He became Bishop of Waiapu in 1971, and moved to Auckland last year.

Mozambique's Marxist government has confiscated all property

belonging to churches. In a broadcast address president Samora Machel attacked not only the majority Roman Catholic Church and established Protestant churches, but also indigenous churches and religious communities for "splitting the people apart."

Reports of a revival movement in Soviet Central Asia are reaching the West by way of ethnic Germans who have emigrated from Russia to West Germany. Personal letters indicated that 600 persons were converted within a two-week period in Alma Ata, Frunse, and other Central Asian cities. During evangelistic meetings with two Ukrainian preachers, the churches and tents put up for the meetings were filled to overflowing.

diary

NATIONAL

July
6 Annual Offering — Overseas Missions
15-20 World Convention
VICTORIA

June
21-22 Sunraysia District Conf.
July
10 C.W.F. Welfare Day
11-13 Youth Leadership Training Weekend
26 Family and Children's Ministry Resources Day
QUEENSLAND

June
20-22 Launching Out Camp
25-29 Sunnybank Church Teen Week
27-29 Social Service Committee Camp
July
18-20 Marriage Enrichment Seminar

THE PLIGHT OF THE SIBERIAN SEVEN

If the seven Pentecostals from Siberia who have now spent nearly two years in the US embassy in Moscow are not released in the next couple of months they could be there for another two to five years according to Rev. William Villaume, who has just completed a two year tour of duty as protestant chaplain in Moscow.

Mr Villaume stated his belief that the forthcoming Olympic Games in Moscow provided the best incentive yet to the Soviet authorities to solve the case of the Vashchenko and Chmykhalov families. Hitherto it has been to the advantage of the Soviet Union to leave the families in the embassy. Their presence has been a constant source of embarrassment to the American authorities and the prolonged lack of a solution has shown other would-be emigrants that the US embassy is powerless to help them.

However, with the approach of the Olympic games, it seems that the two families will be the only dissident voices left in Moscow to speak to the western press. The widespread arrests of religious and other dissidents since last autumn has been followed by advice from the KGB to those remaining at liberty to take a long summer vacation well away from Moscow before and during the games. But the only way to get the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs to leave Moscow before the Olympics and thus prevent them from talking to western correspondents is to allow them and the rest of their families in Chernogorsk to leave the Soviet Union.

Mr Villaume believes that now is the time for western church leaders to show the Soviet authorities that they are interested in the case and for the western media to make the public aware of their plight, particularly in those countries where the participation of national Olympic teams is going to be covered.

—Keaton

INNER SPRINGS

IN BUSINESS — OR UNEMPLOYED

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

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

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

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

Gracious Lord, enable us to follow Thee more nearly, to love Thee more dearly, so that we shall be willing to pay the cost of serving Thee more responsibly.
Amen.

And whispered to ourselves this
wondrous thing.

"We're wanted for the business of the
King!"

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

1 John 3:16-24

Florence Rosler

ACCOUNTANTS' DIVINE SERVICE

Accountants will be commencing the financial year on July 1. To dedicate the new year and to ask God's guidance, a Divine Service will be held on Wednesday July 2, at 1 p.m. at Scots Church.

This event is part of the calendar of the Chartered Institute of Accountants, the Australian Society of Accountants and the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators and has been organised by the recently established Accountants Christian Fellowship.

The service will be led by the minister of Scots Church, the Rev. Norman M. Pritchard.

The Accountants Christian Fellowship established in 1978 have as their aims to share the Christian faith with their fellow professionals and to learn together how to apply their Christian faith to their occupation. For further information, contact: Kim Smith, Hon. Secretary (03) 62 0381.

SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

Page 13

Churches of Christ in Australia are a small body. There are many small congregations. This is why some among us are impatient to "get with the strength" in union with one or more of our large denominational neighbors. They think that big is beautiful!

Their are many reasons why we should be involved in unity discussions with other Christians, but our smallness is not a worthy one. Is big always beautiful? Is size always a measure of quality? Does truth always belong to the majority?

SMALL NOT ALWAYS BEAUTIFUL

Small of course is not always beautiful. There is nothing to admire about a congregation that is small because of a long history of in-fighting amongst dominant people or families, that has diminished its witness. Small is not beautiful when it is the "clubby" atmosphere of the so-called "friendly church" where no one else is really wanted unless they are "our sort of people". Small is ugly when it is spread thinly over a large mass of timber in a once crowded buildings. (It is not difficult to re-design a church interior to give it some feeling of warmth and acceptance!) Small is not beautiful when it is discouraged and pessimistic. Small is less than beautiful when its only aim is to keep open the shrine of its ancestors. And there is nothing to praise in small when smallness is the result of unwillingness to experiment with new ways of worship and evangelism and pastoral care.

HOW BEAUTIFUL IS BIG?

Big of course can be beautiful . . . and Ugly! The big crowd is inspiring, but one can get lost in it. The big denomination can throw its weight around, but the same weight can impede its progress. Early in my ecumenical experience the late Bishop Holland said to me, "You representatives of the smaller churches must always speak up. We larger churches tends to depend on our weight and size. You smaller churches have to depend more on the quality of your life and thinking, and we need that."

THE PROBLEMS OF BIG

Big finds it hard to create a spirit of fellowship. Big hides the talents of some who in smaller churches would use those abilities. Big has more room for passengers. Big has less reason to think through issues, strategies and mission, because things are going fine. Big can be the Kingdom of God on earth, but it has to work harder at it, because it is so easy to suppose that God is "on the side of the big battalions."

NOTHING VIRTUOUS ABOUT SMALL

There is nothing virtuous about a church or a denomination being small or staying small. But small can be beautiful. A few weeks ago I was in the tiny forest town of Tarpeena. They have a small chapel

and a huge sign that proudly announces the presence of a Churches of Christ witness. The church is the only meeting place being used in the town. We attended a coffee hour in a farmhouse where a dozen women worshipped and prayed and shared together. For most of them this regular meeting is their church, although a few attend the Sunday service. When there is need in the town it is to the Church of Christ group that people turn. It would be easier for the faithful few to jump in a car and get with the strength down at Mt Gambier . . . but they have discovered that small is beautiful amongst the pines at Tarpeena.

SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

Small is beautiful because it is easier to know and to bear one another's burdens. Small means that we have to work harder, think harder, pray harder and plan harder to "keep the show on the road." Small calls for greater sacrifice and loyalty and deeper commitment. Small can be beautiful.

SIZE IS UNIMPORTANT

While both small and big can be either beautiful or ugly, the important thing is not be concerned at all about size. Elephantiasis and "flea-bitis" are both nasty diseases. The important thing is to face facts.

It is a fact that we are a small group and many of our churches are very small. It is a fact that smallness by itself is not necessarily a sign of anything. It is a fact that God has a mission for Churches of Christ in today's world and he does not propose that we should wait until we get to a certain size or until we get with the strength, before we get on with it.

We are in a pagan world where people are desperately in need of loving, caring, liberated, Spirit-filled people to go to them in their need. They are not interested in the labels or the size or the affiliation of those who come to their need. They will respond to those who love and accept them just as they are. They will respond to a life style that is like that of Jesus Christ.

A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE BIG THREE

At the recent seminar on Evangelism for Brotherhood leaders it was suggested that Australian Churches of Christ could be a viable alternative to the big three . . . Anglicans, Catholics and the Uniting Church. There could be a lot of sense in that. The big three are involved in a very big mission in Australia. But there are large numbers of Australians who are traditionally turned off big and traditional and established. The more mobile, free and unrestricted life-style that is part of our spirit at its best, could well be what many of them will be open to, as they find that small can be beautiful and redemptive! (Ed.).

DOREEN PHYLLIS WEST

Doreen West died at noon in her home at Mitcham, Vic. on Sunday, May 11 after a long illness which she had handled with great courage and faith. Her family cared for her lovingly and skilfully right to the end. She was privately cremated at Springvale and a Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance was held the following Sunday in the church at Blackburn.

The Yukana Singers, which Doreen had led for 20 years, sang at the service. This choir, which became a caring, strengthening fellowship through the compassion of its leader, has enriched the worship of many Victorian churches over the years, and many worthy causes have benefited from their service.

There was a very moving moment when Wandjuk Marika, Chairman of the National Aborigines Art Board, a famous didgeridoo player and a close family friend, played an Aboriginal lament. Alan and Doreen West have been associated with Aboriginal affairs for 28 years.

Alan read Scriptures that Doreen had selected for the service, and paid a fine

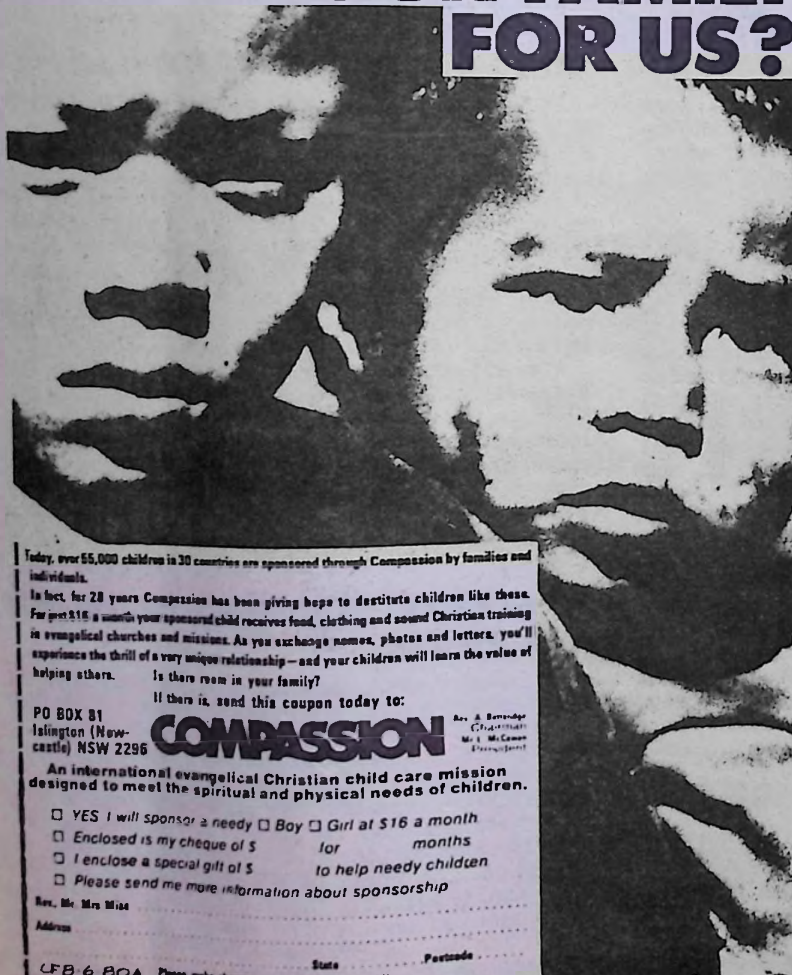


tribute to the joy and encouragement his wife had brought him and their four children.

The whole service was an expression of gratitude for the radiance her life shed upon us, and the sheer enjoyment we gained through her personality and talents. Her husband and her children, Stephen, Paula, Roslyn and Philip, have many precious memories to cherish.

—Jim Wright

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OBITUARY

FEATHERSTON, Stanley (11.5.80).

Stanley Featherston died at the age of 96. Stan was born in 1884 and up until last year lived all of those years in Richmond. At the age of 12 he decided to follow his father's footsteps and be a carrier. In 1914 Stan and his wife Gertrude were married at the St. Kilda church. In May, 1915 both Mr and Mrs Featherston were welcomed in as members of the (North) Richmond church. A short time prior to this Stan made his decision at the St. Kilda church and was baptised in our Brighton church. He served as a deacon, but the type of role he enjoyed and performed well was that of doing work behind the scenes. (Building maintenance, collecting papers, transporting people to picnics in his carrier van, being the friend of anyone in need are roles that he filled more than admirably). His work extended far, far wider than Richmond. During the times of the E.C. Hinrichsen tent missions it was Stan Featherston who offered his time and carrier van to transport the tent to its destination. Also when the camps at Monbulk and Hall's Gap were being established, Stan was again to the fore in helping. Hardworking — patient — respected — friend to all — loved by all who knew him — these are all words that have been used to describe Stan Featherston. As a Christian he went humbly about any task that God asked him to do, always doing it quietly and never seeking any praise. He was a man who truly served his God well.

—Graeme & Bronwyn Rogerson

RANKIN, John William (21.5.80).

John's sudden death was a shock to both family and friends. He had just returned from a holiday in Tasmania with his wife, Jean, and had recently attended a family reunion to celebrate his 70th birthday. He joined the church at Hamilton, Vic., and it was here that he commenced work with his only employer, the P.M.G. After his marriage to Jean Methven he moved to Melbourne and joined the church at Lygon St., Carlton, where he took an active part in leadership. After building his own home at Heathmont they worshipped with the Ringwood church for 20 years. Here John served as deacon, elder and President. After his retirement he spent four years in Tasmania and then came to live on the Mornington Peninsula. After five years with the church at Tootgarook they moved to Dromana and the last period of his life was spent at the Red Hill church. John combined strength and kindness in his balanced and stable personality. He had a warm and generous heart, good judgment and a quiet humor. He was always interested in people and his friendship and wise counsel will be remembered by many. He enjoyed sport having actively participated in cricket and golf. His community concern found expression in his involvement in the Lions Club in which he had held the office of President. A serious operation some years ago placed physical limitations on him but it was typical of him that he never referred to his own condition or thought it important. His son, David, participated in a special memorial service at the Red Hill church. To his wife, Jean, his son, David and his family, and to other relatives we convey our continuing love and support.

—A.R.P.

TAS

LAUNCESTON (M. D. Hamilton, R. J. Allison) 50 officers and members of Boys' and Girls' Brigades paraded ... Constable Mark Crawford left for England for 6 months specialised training under Queen Elizabeth Silver Jubilee Award ... 20 members of New Gene travelled to Caveside on May 25 and conducted service and two junior S.S. classes dramatised story at evening service.

NSW

PADSTOW (E. Holt). Ministry of Ian and Marie Borham (W.E.C. link missionaries to Spain) greatly appreciated ... Fortnightly men's meeting continuing after starting during Ian's visit ... Special service and tea held with David Kirk, Bimbadeen Bible College Principal, and students ... Y.P. who attended Explo 80 now involved in regular visitation ... Combined churches "Eternal Life. Be in it!" Crusade being held June 20-22 ... New work at Moorebank has contacted over 100 families following Week of Evangelism conducted by Woolwich ... One lady baptised recently.

PENDLE HILL (Ron Bassett) Ron Bassett and family settling in ... C.W.F. conducted Mother's Day service ... Carolyn Stocks and Ed de Ridder attended Explo 80 ... S.S. training week great success.

QLD

BOONAH, SILVERDALE (D. W. Telfer) Daryll and Ruth Telfer and family welcomed into ministry on Feb. 3 by circuit Pres. Merv Wood ... Steve Wainwright helped with preaching over 1979 ... Jeff Strong, K.C.C. student, helping in circuit ... New executive is Wayne Vogler, pres.; Lloyd Mandelkow, sec.; Graham Schoenfisch, treas. ... John Timms and Ben Mason (Adelaide), recent speakers ... Governor, Sir James Ramsey, visited Fassifern Retirement Village during Boonah Shire Centenary ... Combined S.S. camp held. Jim Muir of Open Air Campaigners did teaching.

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ANN STREET (E. T. Hart) One confession of faith at recent service ... Ann Street youth group among over 100 at inaugural meeting for all youth sponsored by Youth and Christian Education Department ... Ann Street Women's Fellowship having good attendances. Mrs Thelma Smith organised program for Mother's Day ... Sunday evening Mother's Day service conducted by E. T. Hart assisted by C.W.F. ... Fund-raising morning tea followed by concert by "The Blue Dandies" raised \$100.

SA

LONG PLAINS (John Wilson). Members travelled to Port Pirie for Northern Districts Conf. ... Mrs Glad Daniel recovering from surgery ... Harvest Festival goods sent to Girls' Hostel ... C.W.F. held A.G.M. in home of Mrs Gladys Zanker and Miss Pearl Good. All office-bearers re-elected ... Church voted to discontinue regular services at end of 1980 due to decreasing membership.

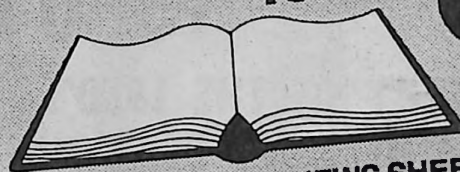
TORRENSVILLE (Geoff and Joan Fewster). Attendances encouraging ... Young woman baptised ... Geoff Fewster spoke and a team from Flinders Park led church anniversary on June 2 ... Recent speakers have been Rob George, Leigh Nerlick, L. Jennings and Debbie Wright (while home from C.O.B.) ... Prayer and Praise service expanded into prayer clinic held on Mondays.

MILDURA (B. Brown) Weekend held with members from Cheltenham ... Board members and church leaders to hold weekend planning seminar ... Youth club, currently 36 members, featured on local TV as longest established youth club in Mildura ... Bill Clack spoke at two services recently ... Kaleidoscope has presented "The Witnesses" at Loxton, S.A., and at Dareton, N.S.W.

BOX HILL (S. Downie) C.W.E.F. speaker Brenda Buckmaster ... C.W.A.F. speakers Ruth Tozer — school principal and Mrs Turner — C.W.F. Hospital Visitation Committee ... Senior Christian Fellowship took part in evening service. Captain Rodger guest speaker ... Football and Explorer clubs paraded. David Brooker speaker ... Mark Riley, M.A.F., recent speaker ... Guest soloists — Bev Lang, Phyllis Eastwood.

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BIRTHS

GALLIFORD (nee **MOLYNEUX**). Pam and Peter, of 24 Dundee Road, Modbury, S.A., are proud parents of a baby girl, Catherine Joy, born on May 4.

MORRIS (HUMPHRIES). Karen and Fred announce with much joy the birth of Lyall Hilton and Geoffrey Alexander on May 27. All well.

NIVEN. Alan and Chris are happy to announce at last that Andrew James has arrived. Both parents are thrilled. Many thanks to our friends for cards and gifts.

TAYLOR-DAVIS Arthur and Merilyn of Lorraine Court Lawnton, Qld announce with pride and thanks to God the safe arrival of a son, Ryan William (23 5 80).

ENGAGEMENT

WOODS — CROMARTY. Tat and John and Shirley and Doug happily announce the engagement of Kerrie and Stuart.

SILVER WEDDING

MUDFORD — WITHAM Congratulations Mum and Dad on your 25th Wedding Anniversary celebrated at the Church of Christ, Bendigo, 11th June 1955 by W. W. Saunders. Love and best wishes from Lynlea, Donald, Mark, Narelle, Peter and Philip.

RUBY WEDDING

SHARP — TULLY Keith and Joyce are happy to announce the 40th Anniversary of their wedding by the late A. W. Connor at Doncaster on 15th June, 1940.

YARDE (CASTLE). Lionel and Mary celebrate the 40th Anniversary of their wedding at Swan Hill on 3rd July, 1940. Congratulations and love from Dorothy, Ernie, Yvonne and Brenda Morris. Present address: 11 May Street, Hampton, 3188.

DEATHS

HOLLAND, on May 17 at Dimboola, Harrie Errol, loved husband of Myrtle, loving father of Annie, Ron, Errol, Marjorie, Norman, Elva and June. Loving father-in-law of Geo. (dec.), Ethel, Arthur (dec.), Beryl, George and Peter. Loving grandpa to 18 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. "In heavenly love abiding."

NOTMAN Alexander George (Alex) of 29 Terrigal Cres., Kilsyth. On May 21 at home. Loving husband of Violet, father of Ron, Janice and Marie. Father-in-law of Joan, Phillip and John. Grandfather of 11 grandchildren. "In God's care".

NOTMAN A. G. — On May 21, 1980, Alex, loved friend and brother-in-law of Arthur and Vera Scaife.

WEST (KEATS) Doreen Phyllis, died at home, May 11th 1980. Loved daughter of Albert and Pearl, Launceston (both dec.), sister of Basil, Myra, Les and Geoff.

WEST Doreen, beloved sister and sister-in-law of Myra and Laurie, Aunt of Barry, Rodney and Jeff Landgrove. Thank you Lord, for every remembrance of her.

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MARRIAGES

● Jeanette Holliday to Glyn Butler, Bunbury, W.A. ● Jan Reidy to Ross Smith, Montrose, Vic. ● Libby Store to Peter Joyce, Nunawading, Vic.

DEATHS

● Frank Lake, Mrs White, Bunbury, W.A. ● Alexander George Notman, Montrose, Vic. ● Stan Featherstone, Richmond, Vic. ● Doreen West, Nunawading, Vic. ● P. Harrison, Maylands, S.A. ● Myrtle Coward, East Ipswich, Qld.

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PENDLE HILL: Minister — Ron Bassett, 78 Dawn St., Greystanes, N.S.W. 2145. Phone (02) 636 7375.

BEREAVEMENT THANKS

NOTMAN Alexander George (Alex). Violet Notman and family wish to thank friends and relatives for their prayers, cards, floral tributes and personal expressions of sympathy during his illness and at the passing of their dear husband, father and grandfather.

IN MEMORIUM

BOAKE Clarence Allen, June 11, 1969. Loved husband of Florence (dec.). Ever remembered by his daughters Lorna (Mrs Coates) and Dorothy (Mrs Baines). Some day we will understand.

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- 2. A.C.T.S./SM TOURS VISIT CHINA 1980 TOURS** — 1. Departing July 5th — 22 days — Hong Kong (4 nights); China (17 nights) visiting Kwangchow, Sian, Peking, Changsha, Kweilin. Group limited to 24 members — Leader Mr Tom Paterson — former Director Road Transport in the Commonwealth Department of Transport. Price: from Sydney \$2485. 2. Departing 23rd October — 22 days — Hong Kong (3 nights); China (16 nights) visiting Kwangchow, Hangchow, Shanghai, Chengchow, Peking; and Manila (2 nights). Group limited to 24 members. Price: from Sydney \$2417.
- 3. GRAND TOUR OF BRITAIN** — Departing August 1st, we spend 30 days touring in Britain — Devon/Cornwall, Wales, England and Scotland with visits to the Isle of Skye, Iona, Edinburgh Military Tattoo, with a 4 day stop-over in Kuala Lumpur/Singapore on the return journey. Leader: Rt Rev G. A. McC. (Pat) Wood. Price from Melbourne or Sydney \$3629.
- 4. LANDS OF THE BIBLE TOUR** — departing on August 5th we spend 11 days in Israel, 9 days in Greece including a 3 day cruise, and 6 days in Rome/Pompeii/Sorrento. Our Leader is Mr John Pocock of the Christian Missionary Alliance in Canberra, and the tour price is \$2825 from Melbourne or Sydney.
- 5. VISIT ALICE SPRINGS & THE RED CENTRE** — Leaving on 17th September by air to Alice Springs with liberal local sightseeing before returning by coach via Victory Downs, Coober Pedy, Port Augusta, Flinders Ranges, Broken Hill, Mildura and Narrandera. An alternative is to travel to Alice on one of the final journeys of the Ghan.

	from MELBOURNE	ADELAIDE	SYDNEY	BRISBANE
By Air to Alice Springs	\$859.00	\$734.00	\$888.00	\$983.00
By Rail to Alice Springs	\$948.00	\$775.00	\$1002.00	\$1110.00
- 6. U.S.A./CANADA TOUR** — We leave by Pan Am on September 5th with Tom Paterson for Honolulu, then on to Canada, through the Rockies, to Salt Lake City and Yellowstone National Park, to Toronto and Niagara, then Montreal, New York, Washington, New Orleans, Phoenix, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Disneyland etc. This 37 day tour is good value at \$3349 from Melbourne.
- 7. BEST OF TASMANIA TOUR** — This popular tour leaves on 5th October and we spend 11 days touring Tasmania visiting the most interesting places. All meals (except one lunch in Hobart) are included. Price: from Melbourne \$679.
- 8. SOUTH EAST ASIA TOUR** — This tour is a little unusual. We leave on October 6th and spend 2 nights in Singapore, 5 nights in Burma, 10 nights in Thailand, 4 nights in Nepal and 4 nights in Hong Kong. There is liberal sightseeing and adequate free time, with an optional flight over Mount Everest. Our Leader is Mr George Glazier, President of the N.S.W. Branch of the Pocket Testament League, and the price is \$1990 from Melbourne or Sydney and \$2014 from Brisbane or Adelaide.
- 9. WEST AUSTRALIA AT WILDFLOWER TIME** — Our 18 day tour leaves on 20th October and all travel is by coach apart from 2 nights crossing the Nullarbor by train one way. This is one of our most popular tours and the prices are — from Melbourne 1st rail \$1111 (2nd rail \$1070); Adelaide \$984 (943); Sydney \$1143 (1077); Brisbane \$1253 (\$1187). Concession for Pensioners available.
- 10. NEW ZEALAND IN THE SPRING** — During October we will repeat our popular 18 day tour of both islands of New Zealand, with an optional extension to the Bay of Islands. Prices are from Melbourne \$926; Sydney \$901; Brisbane \$921.
- 11. OBERAMMERGAU 1980** — We have some vacancies on tours departing in May, June, and August. Send for details.

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wo

BUSSELTON (John Tocknell). Eric Evans talked on Challenge newspaper ... Visiting missionaries have been Elaine Henderson, Japan, and Deanne Catts and Fay Christenson, N.G. ... Mrs. K. Whisson in permanent care section of local hospital ... South West churches Family Camp held on Anzac Day long weekend. Brice Wells, Rivervale, speaker ... Three students and lecturer from Woolwich visited and held meetings.

BUNBURY (Graham Butler). 11 baptised recently ... Packed meetings particularly gospel services taken by Endeavours Club and youth club ... C.W.F. carpeted stage in church hall ... Visiting speakers from Busselton, Harvey and Perth and local men were appreciated while minister was sick during March and early April ... Church saddened by the deaths of Frank Lake and Mrs. White.

act

AINSLIE, BELCONNEN, SOUTH CANBERRA (W. Howard, G. Strack, D. Ryle). Church camp held at Cooma with Cheryl Johnston from East Keilor in leadership ... Special Easter services included Tennebrae and a dawn service in Red Hill co-ordinated with other denominations ... Recent visitors included Dianne Feeney (lecturer Woolwich), Paul and Judy Williams (N.G.) and Dr Roy Millar (N.S.W.conf. Pres.) ... Len Butler and Alan Emmett visited for launching of Darwin Church of Christ Appeal ... Presently interns from C.O.B. (Peter Wells, Steve Curkpatrick and Alison McKaay) working with team ministry in their respective specialities ... Series of outreach training programs conducted by Dennis Ryle. Core group of 20 assist in outreach ... Second refugee

family of eight (Laotian) arrived and being supported. Assistance extended to relatives already here. The first family now self-supporting with Thiet in employment ... Marriage advancement programs being run by Greg Strack ... 12 weekly cell groups operating ... Healing services conducted at Ainslie ... Dennis

Ryle serving as honorary part-time chaplain at A.N.U. ... Fete at South Canberra raised \$1100 towards building extensions ... A remedial reading laboratory for those in need from the WIM group is operating at Ainslie ... Eldership considering its role in context of new church structure and relationships.

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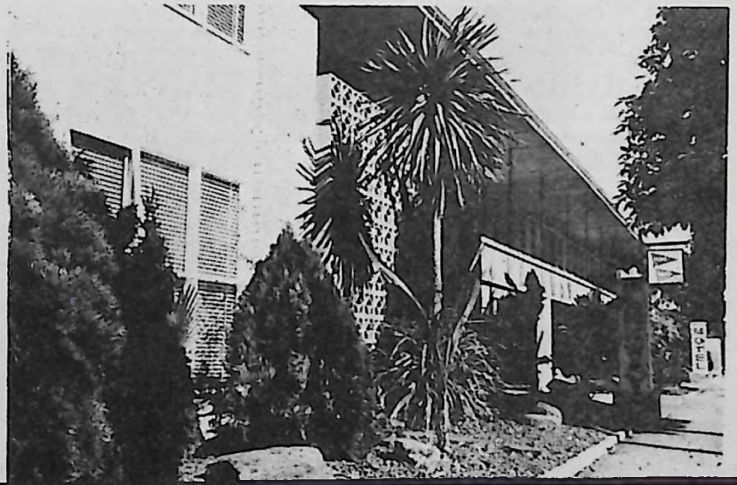
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SO

PROSPECT (R.H. Sercombe). Minister
back in pulpit following back injury.
Albie Jones, Claude Cunningham, Mrs.
R. Edge, Ron McLean and E. Roffey filled
in on short notice . . . Camera Club held
day filming at zoo . . . Lunch time prayer
time still receiving support . . . Mother's
Day service taken by ladies. Mrs. Ruth
Edge preacher . . . A. Turner accepted
call to minister in 1981 to
Prospect/Kilburn circuit . . . C.W.F. held
slide afternoons and afternoon teas.

BRIGHTON (K. J. Harvey). Church now
meets in one combined service at 10.00
a.m. . . . Kevin Harvey assisted in sole
ministry by officers, elders and deacones-
ses. Retired minister Col Curtis also a
great help . . . Church joined ecumenical
studies "Thy Kingdom Come" . . . C. E.
Curtis led four week study on Jonah and
Ruth . . . Tom Edge commenced four
week N.T. studies . . . Paul Criddle,
Keith Bennett, Hedley Thomas and Ray
Dickson appointed as Elders . . . Farewell
planned for Kevin and Gwyn Harvey after
12 year ministry on June 29 . . . Neville
and Joan Moore commence ministry on
July 27. Bob Clymer, Conf. Pres., will
conduct induction service . . . Graham
and Janet Brown ministering to Y.P.
They live in Bennett St. manse keeping
"open house" . . . Youth group organised
hobbies exhibition. Proceeds went to Ken
Ladner Trust Fund.

**FLINDERS PARK (Geoff and Joan
Fewster).** Joan Fewster attended World
Conf. on Mission and Evangelism . . .
Youth Director, Leigh Nerlich, and four
Y.P. returned from Expo 80 in Brisbane
excited about possibilities for our youth
groups . . . Young couple baptised . . . Ed
Roffey spoke at gospel service led by our
four adult bowls teams . . . Geoff Fewster
spoke at inter church service at Seaton
Uniting church during Pentecost week.



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FRANKSTON: Peninsula Singles Club (03) 783 3235 or 781 4257.

WOLLONGONG: Wollongong Singles Society (042) 28 4342.

PORT PIRIE: The Singles Club (086) 32 2435

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Visitors to these centres are welcome and may obtain information re
meeting times by phoning the numbers listed above.

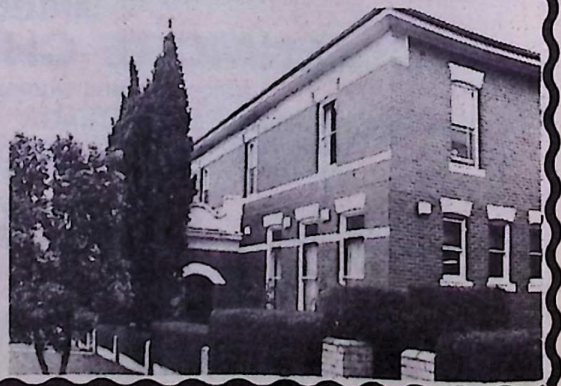
Other Singles Clubs operating who wish to be listed here on a share-cost basis
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VIC

CARNEGIE (R. Ritchie). Speaker at church anniversary was Ron Brooker Conf. President-Elect. 150 attended luncheon following service. Temple Day offering amounted to \$1,620 . . . School holiday workshop held with children prepared project for Sunday 5 p.m. services during winter months. Premiere of "The Magic Toyshop" held on May 25. **CHADSTONE** (Allan B. Clark). Allan Clark conducted evening service with singing group "Agape" . . . Four ladies attended Women's Conf . . . Carnegie C.W.F. shared social night. Afternoon held at home of Lou Clark . . . Rev. Ellis from St. John's Home for boys and girls spoke at Friendship Club . . . Sue Wilson spoke at Mother's Day service . . . Girls' Club held Mothers' night . . . Working bee held in gardens . . . Ron Wilson interviewed the Mayor of Waverley, Dr. Graeme Frecker, an Elder at Glen Waverley . . . Ian Field and John Schmode have taken recent family services.

CHELTHENHAM (A. E. White, S. Wilson, M. Humphries, D. Smith). Ern Henderson, Helen Hall and Douglas Hughes elected to Vic.-Tas. Conf. office . . . Visitors to conference on World Mission and Evangelism spoke at services and interviews . . . Don Jolley, ex V.F.L. umpire, interviewed on Paraplegics and Quadraplegics Assoc . . . Catherine Chong has entered Kingsley College for missionary training . . . Youth Effectiveness Training being conducted as ministry to youth . . . Alf and Beverley White attending World Convention . . . S.S. now called F.O.C.U.S.

MONTROSE (Louis van Laar). Drop-in Centre visited Monbulk Camp before Easter . . . Elderlies outing and tea held . . . Church school Mother's Day afternoon tea held. Pearl Sumner sang and talked.

KANIVA (Pam Bowers). Church grateful for ministry of Mr. & Mrs. A. R. Haskell, Mr. & Mrs. T. V. Weir and Mr. & Mrs. M. L. Lawrie . . . On May 18th Ian Tippet inducted Pam Bowers. Luncheon followed . . . Uniting Church worshipped with us at evening service.

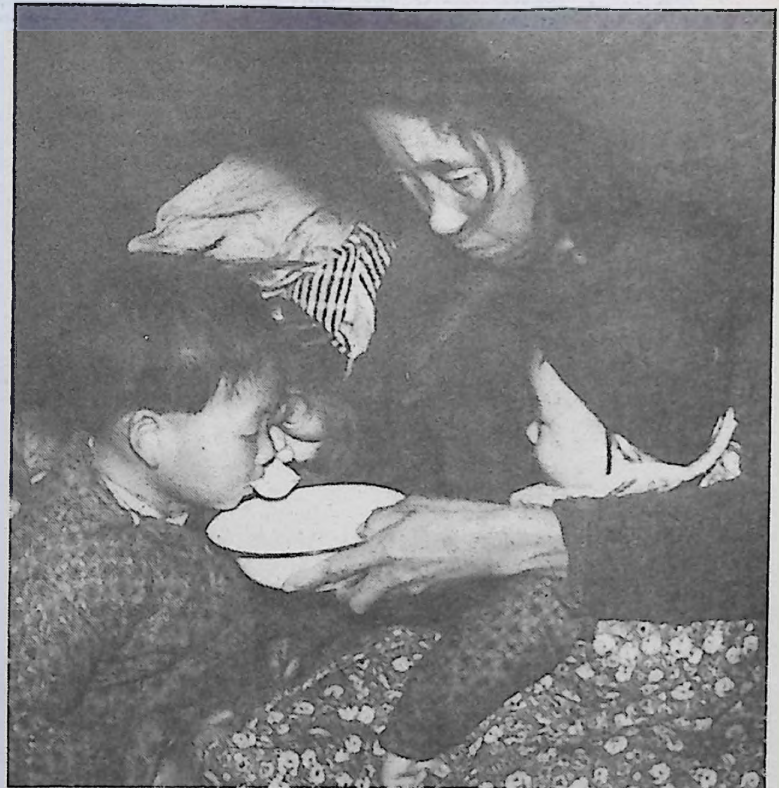
RICHMOND (G. & B. Rogerson). Board retreat weekend at Torquay planned for future activities . . . Planned giving program led to increased giving . . . Combined evening service held with Salvation Army . . . Girl's Brigade numbers increasing and they are preparing for a camp . . . Street stall raised \$420 to aid building fund . . . Attendances increased at both services . . . Church saddened at death of oldest member Stan Featherstone.

COLAC (Ian Smith). Evening services well attended . . . S.S. and youth clubs recommenced . . . Two working bees held with a car load of men from Belmont assisting in second one . . . Two baptised recently . . . C.W.F. birthday held in June . . . Gideons recently commenced in Colac with R. Green and J. Nixon as board members.

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Ambrosia

by Chris Ambrose

GROWTH RESTRICTION

One of the main reasons that we as individuals fail to grow in our Christian faith is because of pride. This pride also limits the growth of relationships especially the marriage relationship. When we look at reasons as to why churches are not growing often there is pride present in people that causes tensions and conflict and the development of spheres of influence that cause the church to be more involved in internal politics than in sharing the good news that Jesus Christ frees people.

When Jesus was asked about the most important of the laws he replied with his answer about loving God. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind". He followed this with the second great commandment "Love your neighbour as yourself". (Matt. 22:34-40 N.I.V.). If you examine these statements closely you can see that what is important is 1. — God, 2. — Others and only then ourselves. We find it very difficult to do this properly.

Most of the things that we do and say are done to suit our own needs. One of the reasons that many marriages today break down is because of pride and stubbornness probably on both sides. Each partner wishes to have the "glory" and the good feelings. Actions are carried out to please yourself. This happens in the sexual relations in the marriage in that each partner wishes their satisfaction first

and then incidentally that of their partner. The result is that tensions increase as neither feels particularly satisfied.

Most of the tensions that we feel come because of pride and the resulting conflict of two or more people trying to get their own ways. Our pride is very subtle and often we act in ways that are not Christian without realising what we are doing.

It is easy to criticise others because they have a weakness that results in their being "less perfect than we are". People with a sin that is visible such as excessive drinking, sexual sins or crime are looked down on while those of us who are especially good in those areas but who are troubled by such sins as greed, vanity and lust are not judged.

For me as I try and live the Christian life I have to struggle with what place I put God in all I do. Am I in my thoughts and actions more concerned to make sure that I am comfortable and feeling good than with doing the things that God would want me to do. I am trying not to say that we should not be concerned about ourselves as we have a responsibility to look after ourselves but not to the detriment of others.

We should constantly look at our thoughts and actions and ask ourselves whether what we are doing is really pleasing God or just ourselves. If we were more conscious of pleasing God, then we would grow in our Christian faith and it would become easier and easier not to have to worry about our pride.

THE LAST WORD

The supreme happiness in life is the conviction that we are loved.

Hugo

Crumbs of Truth

The way the cookie crumbles,
However the word may go,
Is from my children's fingers
Onto the floor below.

DONNA EVLETH



The lady was trying to impress those at the party. "My family's ancestry is very old," she said. "It dates back to the days of King John of England." Then turning to a lady sitting quietly in a corner she asked condescendingly: "How old is your family, my dear?"

"Well," said the woman with a quiet smile, "I can't really say. All our family records were lost in the Flood."

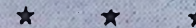


The darkest hour in any man's life is when he sits down to plan how to get money without earning it.



The elderly couple was on their first trip abroad. They were going over on one of the big luxury liners. The wife, who took a lively interest in fellow passengers, remarked to her husband, "Did you notice the huge appetite of the man opposite us at dinner?"

"Yes," replied her husband dryly. "He must be what they call a stowaway."



We can learn something from the parrot, which is content to repeat what it hears without making a good story out of it.



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