



# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Vol. 83 No. 13 July 26, 1980

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NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**CHURCH GROWTH**



**WORLD CONVENTION**



**DR. TREVOR TAYLOR**

## BETTER MARRIAGES NOW

(40 years later)

"Close association with young men and women as a Youth Director in Australia and New Zealand has made the author of this book sensitive to the fact that many young people are keen to make a success of the wedded life, but the church provides very little help beyond the ceremony and congratulatory speeches."

— W. R. Hibbert 'The Alter of Love' (1940)

The A.C.T. Conference has responded to this challenge by organizing and staffing a weekend specifically aimed at enriching marriages. The weekend is called a **Marriage Enrichment Weekend** and is suitable for all couples regardless of the length and current condition of their marriage.

To date two weekends have been held with a further two weekends planned for 1981. The retreat is held at a guest house in historic Braidwood (about 1 hrs. drive from Canberra) where couples have the advantage of privacy, full catering and pleasant surroundings at a reasonable cost.

Canberra, unfortunately, has Australia's highest divorce rate, and it has been noted that any divorce of close friends or relations will severely strain the foundations of even a healthy marriage. By encouraging Canberra couples to enrich their marriages through the **Marriage Enrichment Weekend**, it is hoped to reverse this trend.

The course is designed to teach a technique of communication which



Andy and Louise Deck sharing themselves to build the intimacy of marriage.

## LAUNCESTON "SIT-UPON"



L. to R. John Aiderton, Roger Green, Maree Arnot, Nerida Green and Roslyn Hamilton present cheque for \$330 to Dean Hamilton. The Y.P.S.C.E. led by Wayne Kerrison raised the money for the Overseas Missions Department.

couples can use regularly to build their intimacy. Emphasis is placed on such topics as:

- (a) What the Bible says about marriage.
- (b) The relationship of church and marriage.
- (c) What does it mean to love?
- (d) Setting goals for the future.

Following is a sample of comments from participating couples:

"I have learnt things about my partner I didn't fully understand before . . ."

"It has given even deeper meaning to our lives . . ."

"We have been very happily married for over 20 years and after this weekend we can even improve on this . . ."

"We have definitely grown in mutual appreciation and understanding — we have deliberately affirmed our belief in ourselves and our ability to develop every area of our married life to the full . . ."

"It gave me hope where I had none . . ."

"It was helpful to have no interruptions from other people . . ."

"We believe that any couple who attend this course prepared to learn, would benefit greatly. It has been a great blessing to us . . ."

"The fine texture of the wedded experience is spiritual, and because many couples are slow to discern this, the church must minister more actively in this zone of life."

— Dr W. A. Kemp, foreword in 'The Altar of Love'.

Andrea and Greg Strack

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# ON MY MIND

## MISSION IN ASIA

**Denis C. H. Tan**

Denis Tan comes from Singapore. His great grandfather was a worker with the China Inland Mission. He was an Elder of the Manly church until services ceased there. He speaks from first hand experience.

Missionary work in Asia is not as simple as it seems. Take Singapore and Malaysia where the writer comes from, as an example. These countries are the meeting point of three main races and their religions Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism, with several different languages, and only a few churches existing among the many temples, mosques and shrines.

### THE PROBLEM — Background to Paganism

Fear and superstition are very deeply rooted in Asian religion. Among the Buddhists funerals are spectacular affairs when paper and cardboard money, cars and houses are made and burnt with the hope of sending them to the dead in the next life for their use. Idol worship is another problem. For the new believer there, Paul's teachings on this are a great challenge. This may not seem relevant here in Australia, but how does the Asian Christian apply the lesson in I Corinthians — when he is faced with food which had previously been offered to idols. Ancestor worship is still practised in Asia. Buddhist parents demand that their children worship their spirits after they die. My wife had an uncle who had a very elaborate altar in his lounge room with an urn containing the ashes of his father which he and his family worshipped regularly. What is a young Christian to do when faced with this situation at some Buddhist festival?

The background of most Asian people is non-Christian with no Bible in the house and no Christian teaching of any kind. Language difficulties too beset the older generation and can present problems. Parents frequently prevent their children from attending church for fellowship and even forbid the reading of the Bible. How then is a young Christian to have fellowship for spiritual growth and maturity in the face of such obstacle? Baptism for a person also marks the start of his persecution. Some may even be disowned by their parents.

What about marriage? 2 Corinthians 6:14 we find Paul writing that we be "not unequally yoked with unbelievers". What are the chances for a young Christian in a small town finding a suitable Christian wife or husband? What happens if there are parental objections to the young Christian marrying another Christian? What should he or she do if a marriage is being arranged by the parents with an unbeliever?

### THE RESULT — God is Great

This short study of problems faced by Christians in Asia would not be complete without taking a look at the wonderful things God has done in spite of all these difficulties. There have been cases of young people going through the waters of baptism in spite of their parents strong objection. But by their high standard of Christian living and continued prayer, there are many cases where these parents have also put their trust in the Lord and been saved. It is amazing to see what happens to a family when Christ has entered these homes and taken a firm hold. All their altars and idols have been destroyed and through their witness they have been able to bring others to a saving knowledge of Christ. Pray for the workers in these countries who not only have to face these problems but also that of the various languages. To you all, please say "YES" to Overseas Mission especially to South East Asia.

**Federal Conference  
Stanwell Tops  
October 3-9, 1980**



## ELECTIVES

At this year's Federal Conference there will be a wide variety of electives offered to delegates. These electives are designed to stimulate, encourage, train and to look at our future as a Movement. There are also electives that will help an individual with skills they have and apply these to the work of the church.

All electives will be led by the best available leaders in the field. These leaders will stimulate, encourage and help in the area of their expertise.

The list of available electives is:-

- (a) Strategy for the 80's (3)
- (b) Making the most of your Bible Study (2)
- (c) Aboriginal Welfare
- (d) Music in the Church (2)
- (e) Forum on Sunday Services (2)
- (f) Team Ministries (2)
- (g) Meeting Community Needs (2)
- (h) Christian Schools (1)
- (i) Photography — in the service of Christ (2)
- (j) Preparing For and Using Retirement (1)
- (k) Puppetry (2)
- (l) Communication (2)

- (m) The Government and the Church (1)
  - (n) Magic in Marriage (3)
  - (o) Ministry with Single Adults (2)
  - (p) Prayer (2)
  - (q) Christian Women's Fellowship — Where to from here? (2)
  - (r) Painting
  - (s) Ministry to Senior Citizens (1)
- The figures in brackets indicate the number of sessions in each elective.

### REGISTRATION

It is necessary to register NOW to gain good accommodation and to help in the organisation of the Conference. When you register please indicate which of the above electives you are interested in attending.

Registration should be made to Mrs E. Impey, Stanwell Tops, Christian Conference Centre, P.O. Box 55, Helensburgh, N.S.W. 2508.

Ask your church secretary for a registration form or if they have used all their contact either the Conference Office as above or "The Australian Christian."

## NOAH

Two hundred people, the largest crowd ever, filled every seat at **Knoxfield (Vic.)** for the Sunday night presentation of the musical-comedy "Noah". Presented by "the Croakers" ... the church choir ... "Noah" entertained and charmed all ages.

Lloyd Saddler played the title role and Di McLarty the role of Mrs Noah.

The musical and stage expertise available to the group lifted this presentation far above the amateur level, and the audience showed its appreciation by calling for encores.

Meanwhile "The Order Of The Apron" has been awarded on three builders. The three are all retired and have spent their weekday mornings for the past four months building a new kitchen at the church. They are Glad McCredon, Jim Douglas and the minister E. L. Williams.

At the official opening, the church sprang a surprise on the trio by presenting them with their T.O.O.T.A.'s.

The church has also liquidated its manse debt. In three years the manse debt has gone from \$26,000 to zilch!

— Malcolm Gray.

## COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OBJECTS TO U.S.S.R. COMPLICITY IN GENOCIDE

The Australian Council of Churches is inviting people to write or send telegrams to the Prime Minister urging him to do all in his power through the United Nations to prevent the possible use of chemical warfare in Eritrea by the Ethiopian invasion forces (supported by the U.S.S.R.).

### ERITREAN RELIEF COMMITTEE

Already the Ethiopians have been using defoliants supplied by the Russians to denude the Eritrean countryside and thus to starve its people. (Over a million have fled.) Now the Eritrean Relief Committee (P.O. Box C199 Clarence St., Sydney) reports stockpiling on the Ethiopian-Eritrean border of anti-personnel chemicals, with Soviet helicopters to distribute them, and Soviet personnel to direct the operations.

### ALL THIS AND NAPALM TOO

This method of attack is cheaper than that of conventional weaponry. Probably it is the only way to bring to their knees the brave Eritrean defenders of their country who so far have not been deterred by napalm and sophisticated military hardware from the U.S.S.R.

The Soviet Union is a signatory of the Geneva Protocol aimed at preventing chemical warfare.

### SNAKES, SCORPIONS AND AMOEBAS

Steve and Val Warwick and their two children have had a lively initiation into life at **Diko, Nigeria**, with the **Sudan Interior Mission**. They have had snakes, scorpions, rats, centipedes, goats, pigs, chooks, and many people visiting them, but not necessarily in that order. The children have had amoebic dysentery, but recovered well. Steve and Val are learning the local dialect while teaching English and Bible. They have all been given new names by the local Christians. Steve is Atnach (doing things without worry). Val is Bmazhini (helper). Andrew is Adayilo (we are happy). Little Naomi is Dnacelo (we didn't think,) referring to the fact that the people didn't think that the missionaries would ever arrive.

Their address is Ecwa Church Diko, P.O. Box 17, Suleja, Niger State, Nigeria.

### RETARDED BOYS

World Vision will fund an Indian hospital-school which is assisting retarded boys. 35 boys are attending the Boaz Memorial Hospital near Madras. World Vision has given the hospital \$8000 to assisting boys in agricultural training. The program includes rabbit, poultry and dairy farming and vegetable growing. The project aims to give the youngsters skills to earn their own living.

## SOCIAL SCIENTIST PROJECTS MINISTERS INTO THE FUTURE

Dianne Feeny, Social Scientist, and member of the faculty of the N.S.W. Bible College was one of the guest speakers at the recent In Service Training Seminar held at Monbulk for Victorian and Tasmanian ministers. She worked with 35 ministers as they looked together at the church as it is now and the world into which it is sent to serve and to care and to evangelise. And together they looked at what ministry must be if the church is to be truly the body of Christ in the rest of this century.



Dianne Feeny

### TOWARDS AN AUSTRALIAN THEOLOGY

Dianne stressed the need for the church to look at the Word of God as it speaks to now people in the now situation, and using now language, help them to find the truth for their lives and families and communities.

She was joined by Bob Smith of the N.S.W. Department of Social Service, who added a practical dimension to her insights. Bob saw pastoral care as reaching beyond "going round the traps" amongst the faithful, to every one with any kind of need. He helped the ministers to define needs and to design programs to meet these needs. He showed how to use programs, not as ends in themselves, but as a way of reaching people where they are and bringing them through the accepting fellowship of the church to discipleship.

### BIBLE BASED

Dr. Keith Bowes of the College of the Bible brought to the Seminar some of the insights from his studies in Romans during his recent overseas study leave. The gospel in Romans was seen to be the basis for the caring and outreach that both Dianne and Bob were talking about. This came through in the climax session where the three lecturers "put it together".

### WORKSHOPS

One workshop saw ministers busy writing for evaluation, material for the



Bob Smith

church and secular press. The other was entitled "Management by Objectives" where groups worked through local church situations that involved goal setting and methods of working towards goals.

### TEAM WORK

The College of the Bible planned the program with the Victorian-Tasmanian Ministers Association. Conference President Ron Elbourne presided over all of the sessions, with Lyndsay Smith and Dare Stevens handling the business management. Another member of the team was Audrey Caudwell who came to look after baby Heidi, so that her daughter Robyn Schaefer, North Essendon minister could attend the Seminar.

### ANOTHER PROJECT OF CHRISTIAN PROJECTS LIMITED

#### LIMITED

The Seminar is the second In Service Training Program in 1980 sponsored by Christian Projects Limited, a Trust set up by the Christian Building Trust to encourage the growth of Churches of Christ in Australia. The first was in Western Australia.

C.P.L. paid the fares of the visiting lecturers and the expenses of the Seminar and generously subsidised the costs of ministers from Tasmania and distant country towns.

Already plans are being considered for C.P.L. sponsored In Service Training in 1981 in two other states.

— G.R.S.

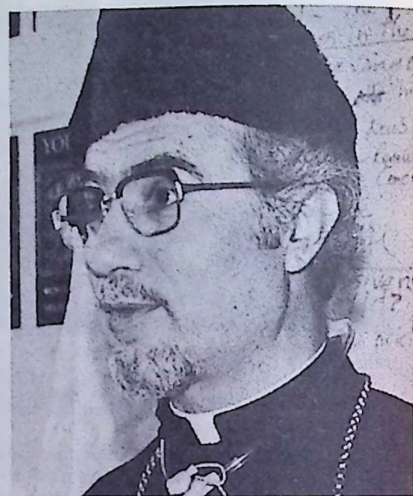
### CULTS SEMINAR

A two night seminar on the cults will be held at the Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University on July 28 and 29 at 7.30 p.m. The main emphasis on these evenings will be on the major cults especially the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Mormons. The speaker will be Bill Centar who was a member of Jehovah Witnesses for 22 years including 8½ in an executive position at Watchtower Headquarters.

## ORTHODOX BISHOP ELECTED PRESIDENT OF A. C. C.

His Grace, Bishop Gabriel Gibran of the Australasian Antiochian Orthodox Church has been elected President of the Australian Council of Churches.

Bishop Gibran is the first Orthodox churchman to head the Council and becomes the 16th President of the A.C.C. He succeeds Anglican Bishop Graham Delbridge tragically killed in a car accident on June 8.



Bishop Gabriel Gibran

Commenting on his election, Bishop Gibran said "I'm praying that I can contribute as an Orthodox to the A.C.C. Often there has been a lack of co-ordination between the social and liturgical. Both exist, both are authentic expressions of Jesus Christ. As an Orthodox I hope I can play a part in bringing increased co-ordination between these two elements in the life of the Council".

In November 1969, Gabriel Gibran was ordained Bishop and in December came to Australia to lead the Antiochian Church here and in New Zealand. He subsequently left Australia in February 1976 to become Vicar to Antiochian Patriarch Elias IV in Damascus. After resigning as Vicar to the Patriarch in July 1978, he was reappointed Bishop of the Church in Australasia.

The Antiochian Church was established in 52 AD by St Peter and St Paul and the early history of the church is recorded in Acts of the Apostle. Today the church has a worldwide membership of some 750,000 adherents, with approximately 25,000 in Australia.

### FIELD DIRECTOR REAPPOINTED:

Jeff Deuble, a field director with the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development, has accepted a further three-year term from 1982. He will be married to Miss Pam Mason in October.

## A.C. SCHOLAR ON CHURCH GROWTH

Graham Carslake of Warwick (W.A.) is the present "A.C." Scholar studying under a grant from Christian Projects Ltd., at Fuller Theological Seminary.

### CHURCH GROWTH EXPERIENCE ON LOCATION

Our course was held at Tulsa, Oklahoma, a city of 450,000 with over 500 churches and often referred to as "the buckle of the Bible belt." We had little difficulty discovering growing churches. Three were over 4,000 strong, the fastest growing was Garrett Rd. Church of Christ, 91 members to 1600 in 10 years, 2318% growth.

### A STEWPOT OF PEOPLE.

Where else would you meet such a stew pot mixture of Christians and nationalities than at a Church Growth seminar? There were 40 of us from Norway, Korea, Taiwan, Australia and U.S.A., a cross section of Christian traditions. One had a ministry to deaf people, another in the ministry team to a 10,000 member church, one a leader of 130 churches, another a hispanic leader. Some were at growing churches, others dying churches, all together to learn to discover the will and way of God for today.

### THE PROGRAM

Lecture time was 8 hours a day. Subjects included Biblical Principles of Church Growth, Culture as a Key Factor, Defining Evangelism, Pathology of Church Growth, Spiritual Gifts, Homogeneous Units in the N.T., Diagnostic Clinic and the Church Growth Pastor. Fundamentally we were working towards Peter Wagner's definition of Church Growth which was "All that is involved in bringing men and women who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ into fellowship with Him and into responsible church membership."

### AMERICAN-AUSTRALIAN CONTRAST

In America, religious faith is a public matter, there is a deep Christian heritage from the Pilgrim Fathers, people go to church (41% is the weekly national

average), church offerings are tax deductible, big is beautiful. There is a high population density and a different lifestyle. They are task orientated (get the job done) with fierce religious convictions (over 1200 registered faiths here).

Contrast this to Australia where religious faith is seen as a private matter, where we have a convict heritage (freedom meant getting away from Church parades), low church attendance (varies from 10 to 19%) and the secular society of "waltzing materialism". We are more process orientated, stand up for the underdog against bureaucracy and authority and an 85% urbanized society. Church Growth Principles have to be contextualized.

### PLANT MORE CHURCHES

Doctor Donald McGavran, Church Growth founder, and for 25 years a missionary with the Disciples of Christ said to me "Plant more churches, have daughter churches, Graham tell them to grow ethnic churches amongst your vast immigrant population, plant a cluster of churches. Send men to Nth. and Sth. Italy and Greece, to learn the peoples culture. Don't expect these people to come to your Australian style church service. These people have been uprooted from their cultural and national heritage. Let the church become the new centre."

As well as a priority to plant daughter churches, we should do some open heart surgery with a diagnostic analysis of our local churches to move boldly into the winnable areas by sending pastors in there, giving high priority to discipling rather than decision making, and being willing to pay the price for growth.

### THE NUMBERS GAME AGAIN?

God is interested in numbers since he is not willing that one man, woman or child should perish (2 Peter 3:9). Our priority in all things is persuasion evangelism.

I thank God for the opportunity to be exposed to Church Growth teaching and trust I can share it in the life of the Australian church. My deep appreciation goes to Christian Projects Ltd. for making this possible.

## COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL

### Seminar at Brooklyn Park (S.A.)

Guest speaker for the Seminar was Dick Innes of Acts International and we were so impressed by his leadership and the quality of his literature that we are now wanting to "spread the word" to other ministers and church leaders.

### "TELLING IT LIKE IT IS"

Dick is a man committed to the task of communicating the Gospel of Christ in terms which the people of our highly secularised society can understand. During his 11 years in the Acts ministry his approach to the Encounter literature has undergone some basic changes in format and content. Today, the Encounter leaflets and magazine are more attractive and readable than ever before.

During the Seminar Dick shared with the group the reasons behind these changes and in doing so, he skillfully out-

lined some of the basic principles behind effective communication in the church today.

An added bonus at the Seminar was the fact that Dick included insights on counselling, drawn from his vast experience in this area.

### SPREAD THE WORD

In all, this time of learning and sharing was extremely worthwhile and I for one would like to see Dick given more exposure in local churches, at Ministers Fraternals, clergy retreats and other similar get togethers.

He is involved in a unique form of ministry and thoroughly deserves our interest and support.

Dick Innes can be contacted by writing to ACTS International, 51 The Parade, NORWOOD. S.A. 5067 Phone (08) 42 5644.

— Graham Agnew

## TASMANIAN FIRST



Leonie Peart from the Launceston church has achieved two special distinctions in the Girls' Brigade. The first of these is the achievement of the award of the Pioneer Pin. Leonie is the first girl from the 1st Launceston Company of the Girls' Brigade attached to the Launceston Church of Christ and the first girl in Launceston to achieve this award.

The award of the Pioneer Pin is the highest award at a national level in the G.B. To gain this award a girl must gain 4 triangles, complete her preliminary training (leadership), be interviewed by a divisional or State Committee and the award is then made on their recommendation.

The other distinction is that Leonie is the only Tasmanian in a group of six Australians to attend the Girls' Brigade International Fonomarae which is being held in Scotland during July. A feature of the Fonomarae was a church parade at Holy Trinity Church in St Andrews on July 20. Another feature was an international day at which each country represented had an exhibition of photographs, handwork and cultural material.

## GARTH HEWITT TOUR

A top English gospel musician Garth Hewitt is to tour Australia in July-August sponsored by Scripture Union. Garth is a close associate of Cliff Richards and his records have been produced by Cliff.

Garth writes most of his own material. "My songs are a reflection of what I am and the way I see things as a Christian". His new single "I can Hear Love" is now released as well as his new album "Did he jump...". There has been a concerted effort in the U.K. to sell this album and single onto the charts there.

He will be accompanied on his Australian tour by Trisha Watts, an Australian singer. She has regularly performed at coffee shops, schools and concerts.

Peter Gray, well-known Jesus Clown, will also perform at all concerts.



## BROOKLYN PARK'S PLAYGROUP

Maxine Webb, S.A.

The Playgroup is one of the front line bridge-building activities of our Church.

Although primarily meeting the needs of women and children in our community, the Playgroup program makes an overall impact on the total family unit, because when a mother and her children join Playgroup, automatically the entire family comes under the "Pastoral Umbrella" of the Church. This opens up the way for the Church to build bridges of friendship and concern to that family through its auxiliary work (especially Sunday School, Young Marrieds and the sporting groups) — through its continuing publicity campaign; its "specials" and through the regular Playgroup Parent nights to which both husbands and wives are invited.

The young married women of the Church commenced Playgroup about five years ago. Progressively the work has expanded until now we have a separate group meeting for two hours a day, five days per week, with a total enrolment of about 95 families. The Playgroup is officially classified as an auxiliary of the Church with the appointment of the coordinator requiring Church Board approval.

Playgroup provides the opportunity for the Church mothers to meet community people, establish friendships and eventually share on matters of faith. In addition, the mere fact that community people are on the premises, getting "the feel" of the place, reading our bulletin boards, borrowing material from our Resource Centre, picking up literature, chatting informally with our Minister (who regularly drops in) — all of these things are factors which hopefully will lead many of these contacts to eventually see the Church as "their Church".

In the last couple of years two complete family units have become members of the Church, but in addition to this we have attracted many Playgroup children to Sunday School and a number of Playgroup parents have participated in our Discovery Groups and Young Marrieds' program. Dads have attended several Men's Dinners and Breakfasts which we have held in the last twelve months. In Playgroup we are seeking to fulfill — Step 1 in meaningful evangelism:

"Finding a need and meeting it; finding a hurt and healing it."

This is the Sixth and last in a Series of Activities done by C.W.F. women and which come under "C.W.F. Umbrella Name".

# TODAY'S WOMEN

## THE HOMEMAKER'S PSALM

The Lord is my Homemaker and I have all the comforts that I need.

He makes my home a sanctuary from the busyness of life and in its quietness I meet Him,

And He makes me whole again.

Each day He guides me back into its beauty; it's safety and joy flows within me giving me new life.

How wonderful to rest within it's homeliness.

In times of stress and anger, fear and disappointment, sadness and grief, loneliness and despair, I will not be afraid.

For here in my home He is with me, and I feel comforted in being able to do the routine tasks which every day brings,

For I try to do them within the love and strength which He gives.

As he loves and cares for me, so do I try to love and care for my family.

He has given me so much.

My home is a place of treasures, of joys, of memories, of daily living within His spirit.

These things I will cherish within my heart, Until I leave all that is here in this earthly home

To dwell forever within the Home of my God.

Pat Kerr, A.C.T.

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THINK ABOUT IT!  
"What's on your mind?"

Philippians 1:3,4. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

Have ideas of action or has concern for a person persisted on your mind, and given you no peace?

God is speaking to you. He wants you to do something about it.

Maybe it is to write a letter, phone call, or visit.

Seek His guidance, ask for His direction, then go and get on with the job.

The answer will come, the words will be given, and peace will last.

PRAYER: For open mind and willingness of spirit.



## "DO IT NOW"!

The title for today's Bible reading, makes a good title as I write this contribution.

By inclination, I am a procrastinator, putting off doing a job until the latest possible time. But I was cured (almost) of that a few years ago. On this occasion, the name of a dear friend flashed into my mind, and I said to myself, "I must write to her tonight". I told myself the same thing for several days, then let other things crowd out the thought, almost at the same time convincing myself I had written the letter.

Some three or four weeks later, I had news of my friend's sudden, serious illness, which I was able to work out had occurred at the time her name had flashed into my mind. I have learned my lesson!

Now, I take those sudden thoughts of persons that flash into my mind without rhyme or reason, as a message that they are in some need, and I send up an arrow prayer in the midst of what I may be doing, and if possible visit or contact them by letter or phone.

On many occasions, it has been said to me, "You came — or rang — or wrote — just when I needed someone most."

So, when the Spirit prompts (and I do believe the prompting is by the Spirit), do it now. Tomorrow may be too late.

P. Harrison, Tas.

'Think about It' had already been prepared for this issue when Peg Harrison's article arrived for this issue. Great minds think alike!

## LET THE CHILDREN COME . . .

A seven-year-old lad, who attended a special Family Sunday church service with his parents, sought permission to take communion. His mother granted permission, because it was a special service. The bread had been baked and given by a woman of the church. The lad whispered to his two mates the meaning of the Lord's Supper, and they were able to understand what was going on. Returning home he said to his father, who had been helping at the service, "I took Communion today, and it was a wonderful spiritual experience."

Do we underestimate the comprehension and devotion of young children? Perhaps this lad was more advanced in his appreciation of Christian truth and practice, but children who come from Christian homes, and attend church regularly, take in more than we given them credit for.

Has the time arrived for us to review our teaching and practice of the Lord's Supper and its participants in the light of scriptural teaching about children? I am not suggesting that it be dispensed indiscriminately, or treated lightly, but after teaching, and with due respect. The lad was reminded by his parents that the church teaches that normally participants of Communion are Church members, and suggested that he wait until he becomes a member of the church before he takes it regularly. He fully understood because the subject had been discussed before at home.

I sometimes wonder if some children are not more prepared in their relationship with God to celebrate the Lord's Supper than some of us are.

L. Stirling

# MUSTARD SEEDS

BY ALAN AUSTIN

As a very little shareholder in some big companies and a big shareholder in a very little company, your correspondent has been delighted with recent economic trends.

Day after day newspapers are reporting record company profits and increased payouts. A recent Profitability Study by the Sydney Stock Exchange confirms that this is the general pattern. According to the computer-based study, 1978-79 saw an all-time record of profitability, in terms of both assets employed and shareholders' funds invested.

One major factor underlying this has been the action of the government in increasing grants, allowances and other handouts to private enterprise, whilst, as the same time, reducing company tax. The Stock Exchange report states: "In fact, the effective tax rate for all companies has consistently fallen from 43.13 percent in 1974-75 to 33.54 percent in 1978-79. The Effective Company Tax Rate in 1978-79 varies significantly from the prima facie rate of 46 percent.

That was 1978-79. What about 1979-80? Figures released recently by the Bureau of Statistics show that for the first three quarters of the financial year just ended, this trend has not only continued but accelerated.

Company profits are up 14.62 percent on the corresponding period a year earlier. Are company taxes also up 14 percent? No, they are only up 8.9 percent.

Clearly, the private sector is enjoying remarkable prosperity.

★ ★ ★

Precisely the opposite is the situation of those least able to manage financially: welfare recipients and the unemployed.

As Treasurer, Mr Howard and the Minister for Finance, Mr Robinson



reported earlier on this month, the government paid \$73 million less for unemployment benefits during 1979-80 than budgeted. And \$60 million less for pensions.

Why? The government claims this is due to "improvement in employment opportunities during the year." And although there has been a marginal growth in employment, this is not the full picture. Evidence strongly suggests that the government's concerted efforts to remove unemployed and disabled people from the registers have been effective.

Last year, the Minister for Employment, Mr Viner, brought in harsher work tests for assessing eligibility for benefits. Then earlier this year, Social Welfare Minister, Senator Guilfoyle, announced major changes to the application form for unemployment benefits, making it much more complex and intimidating.

Both these moves are regarded widely by social workers — CES staff and others — as having prevented large numbers of legitimately unemployed people from claiming their rightful benefits. The treasurer's own figures now substantiate this.

★ ★ ★

Precisely the same has been happening with invalid pensions. Sydney psychiatrist Dr Yolande Lucire told the *Sydney Morning Herald* on July 9th, that the government was "simply not telling the truth" in denying there was a crackdown on invalid pensioners. She claimed that 60 to 70 of her own patients had had their invalid pensions stopped in the past two years.

In some cases, she said, after an appeal which took more than a year to hear, pensions had been reinstated, but without retrospectivity. "This has caused grave distress to invalid pensioners who have had to live on the much lower sickness benefit."

Dr Lucire claimed that the government began taking a harder line two years ago. "Events since then have indicated a search for justification rather than for justice." She told the *Sydney Morning Herald* of cases where up to six doctors recommending a patient for an invalid pension were over-riden by an administrator in the Social Security Department.

A woman recovering from a major illness, known to your correspondent, has recently been troubled by government officials over her invalid pension. After months of steady progress she is now back in the psychiatric hospital, possibly permanently, as a direct result of the government's crackdown.

What makes the below-budget welfare payments particularly disturbing is that the allocations were miserly in the first place.

After her critique on ABC radio of the 1979 budget, Eva Cox of the NSW Social Service Council concluded: "Most of the gains have been made by people who could well afford to have done without them. The unemployed — and the disadvantaged generally — are taking the brunt of this economic crisis. The government has callously written them off."

★ ★ ★

This is not intended as a party political gripe. These are surely matters about which all people concerned for the rights of the underprivileged should feel compassion and anger — regardless of political preference. Jesus clearly stood in solidarity with the poor and oppressed. He showed a profound concern for their well-being here and now as well as eternally. He spoke out forthrightly against those who denied them mercy and justice. And he said to his followers: "As the Father sent me, so I send you."

The Bible emphatically affirms that those who oppress the poor and aid the privileged come under God's condemnation. Proverbs 22:16 could not be clearer: "He who oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to want."

With a budget coming up, and an election too, what better time to advise our representatives — in all parties — of our concern regarding our nation's priorities?

## JASON'S HOUSE

HEH HEH... ANOTHER YEAR... ANOTHER PAY RISE... ANOTHER NEW COMPANY CAR...!

SORRY! AM I INTERRUPTING?

IT'S OKAY... LUKE WAS TELLING ME HOW HE'S JUST BEEN TO HIS 200<sup>TH</sup> JOB INTERVIEW.

THERE BUT FOR GOD'S GRACE — AND THAT INDUSTRY ASSISTANCE GRANT — GO I.



# 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.

## CHRISTIANS AND POLITICS

To the Editor,

At the next election for whom will you cast your vote, a crusader for Christ or a servant of Satan? Moreover, have you really thought much about voting at all? For some it is a matter of putting in an appearance, while others hold tenaciously to one or other of the major parties. Some even vote informal claiming that none of them are any good! As concerned Christians perhaps we should not hold with any of these electives.

What do the names of Fraser, Anthony and Hayden mean in terms of God fearing men? Perhaps they are fellow believers; few of us would know! Yet, we keep returning them to power.

On the other hand if every Christian invited his local member to church, two things could eventuate: The politician would be going to church most Sundays or we could have a new member at the next election. I suspect that neither will occur until God's people accept the challenge that he has laid upon us. We are his voice in the community! Never by Liberal or Labor, as such, will this land become a mighty nation for which it has the capacity. It will by the power of Almighty God working through dedicated men and women.

We need Christian men and women in politics.  
— Kevin Wissman (Qld.)

## FAIR PLAY

To the Editor,

I appreciate your rule of open discussion in the "A.C." and expressions of opinions but I wonder if you are giving equal opportunities for discussion. Most of us are allowed an article of 150 words on "Open Forum" once in a while and must be true, kind, necessary and Christian. Do these rules apply to Alan Austin who is given near to 1000 words in nearly every "A.C.". Alan is a very controversial figure and it does not appear fair to me to give him so much space to express his views as compared with others especially when so much of his writings seem to be more political than Christian and it is very doubtful whether he always checks the truth of his reports and I don't think that his sarcastic remarks are kind.

— R. D. Clark (Chinchilla, Qld.)

(Equal space is always available to answer Alan Austin concerning any matter that appears to be politically biased. — Ed.)

## "CHURCH GROWTH"

To the Editor,

Recently I read an account of a Church of Christ congregation in England which had experienced considerable growth. The article dealt quite frankly with the problems which can arise when there is a large influx of new members and new ideas.

What impressed me though was the concluding statement — We do not want our neighbourhood to say "What a nice building", or "What good services they have" or even "Don't they do a lot of good things!" We want them to say "Look! How they love one another."

Perhaps we in Australia could learn something from this. If in our individual congregations we are seen to "love one another", I am sure our witness to the community will be effective. Likewise our con-

tribution to the ecumenical movement will be meaningful if we show first our willingness to love and understand all within our Brotherhood and the various streams of the Restoration Movement.

— Alan Rackemann, (Croydon, Vic.)

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

To the Editor,

Thank you for the contribution Page 13 is giving to "A.C." Particularly did I find "Church Membership" of the Australian Christian, May 31, to be both timely and constructive. We are seeking to work along similar lines and so it was reassuring to read of others prepared to go into print on this subject.

I trust the Editor would not be opposed to our reproducing his article for wider church discussion.

— John Morrow (Hobart Tas.)

(Our own humble contribution is never copyrighted. Ed.)

## TERTIUS IN TROUBLE

To the Editor,

I always enjoy reading Tertius. I think he has many very practical ideas but I am sorry that he is worried about the forgiveness of God (A.C. June 28). I think that this has worried many Christians who do not take the whole teaching of Christ into consideration.

He is worried that Judas who had served for three years went to Hell and the thief on the cross was forgiven at the last minute. I believe that the condition of forgiveness according to the Bible is not the seriousness of the sin but the sincerity of the repen-

tance. Judas did not repent but went and hanged himself. The thief repented and was forgiven.

Peter also committed a very bad sin but was forgiven because he repented. Christians are not perfect people but they have eternal life because they are forgiven and the forgiveness of our sins is given on repentance and faith independent of what those sins are. "Except you repent you shall all likewise perish" Luke 13; 3 and 5.

— R. D. Clark (Chinchilla, Qld.)

## CANCEL SUBSCRIPTION

To the Editor,

Last week I said to myself, "It is a waste of time writing to editors. I shall desist forthwith". But my resolution didn't last beyond the next issue of "Mustard Seeds".

This time, however my message is very short and curt — PLEASE CANCEL MY SUBSCRIPTION. To continue to read "Mustard Seeds" is like attending a football match and being forced to stand next to an extremely one-eyed supporter — so I think I'll shift to another section of the crowd and pretend that such political naivety and one-sidedness do not exist.

It is not that I am against his policy of pointing out the evils and mistakes of our western society: I am simply against his lopsidedness. This utterly destroys his credibility.

I shall re-subscribe when someone points out to me an article of his in which he clearly and uncompromisingly denounces Communist brutality and oppression. After all, do not the many thousands of our fellow Christians who are languishing under torture and mind-destroying drugs in Soviet prisons and psychiatric asylums deserve some word of support?

— Len Martin (Ballarat, Vic.)

## LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

### SERVING THE COMMUNITY

To the Editor,

We are told that the business of the church is to serve the community. I am sure that it should, but I wonder which community! There are 43,000 people in our suburb, but there is no community. In fact there are many communities. There are service clubs and sporting bodies and trade unions and car clubs and adult cultural communities. There are communities of the aged, of the sick and of the various ethnic groups. There are communities of public speakers, karate enthusiasts and vegetarians. There are communities at the pubs, on the bowling greens, at the R.S.L. and in the lodges. And there are those people who prefer not to be part of any community, and thank God in a democracy no one is going to make them, to the disgust of the sociological purists. And there is the community of the church!

As I see it people join the community that fills some sort of need that they feel. That's why I wonder if the church, in some great burst of Christian altruism, should be trying to meet so many of these needs, especially when so many other groups meet them so well. It occurs to me that the church should concentrate its fairly meagre resources on being the sort of community that meets those needs that the church is best equipped to meet. For instance, helping people to be sure of God and helping them to find answers to the problems of faith and life and death.

Maybe we don't need to serve some sort of nebulous community, but rather to be the loving, serving community that God has called us to be. That I can handle. The "serving the community" cliché I don't understand!

Yours bewilderedly,

TERTIUS

## OPEN FORUM

### SPECIAL EDITIONS

To The Editor,

I agree with Don Stewart's comments about the special editions of the "A.C. (July 12). Regular up to date news would promote the Departments and activities of the churches more so than do the special editions. I heard it said of the last special edition 'Oh! This is the one where you skip the first 15 pages to get to the interesting stuff.' It would seem that others also agree with Don Stewart on the impact of special editions.

By skipping parts of the A.C. readers miss out on articles of the impact and calibre of "The Future of the Overseas Mission of Churches of Christ" (A.C. June 14 p.9). These articles should be available right throughout the year in settings where people are most likely to read them.

— D.W. Walladge (Vic.)

## CARNARVON FLOODS

Thank you for your prayers and concern for us while the Gascoyne River was in flood. We praise God for the beautiful rains that preceded the flood as we had experienced five years of drought. Though several church families suffered flooding, it was more of a mess than a disaster and there was no serious damage or people injured.

At Ingada Village the Edwards family and Alex McKay and Edna Lincoln had to evacuate their homes and two were badly flooded. In the frail and aged homes, four had the excitement of a helicopter rescue when flood waters threatened. The Village was isolated for a week and with all that water around them the water supply to all the homes failed and all water for bathing and washing had to be bucketed from the family swimming pools, where possible. Air drops of food were needed towards the end of the week.

Fencing has been extensively damaged and floor coverings lost.

A married couple, Kevin and Kath Kirkman who recently made decisions had to delay their baptisms until the muddy waters cleared.

Criss and Ron Jones who had been holidaying in Victoria heard the flood news on their way home. Due to the damage to major highways, they could get only as far as Perth, where they waited eight days for roads to open.

— Lyn Price

## NEWCASTLE — 1982

Dr. Luis Palau, renowned Bible teacher and evangelist, has accepted an invitation to return to Newcastle, N.S.W. for a two week crusade in March, 1982. His acceptance comes as a result of a meeting of 60 church leaders from nine denominations in the Newcastle area, who extended the invitation.

Dr Palau held a four day crusade in Newcastle in April, 1979 in conjunction with the Sydney Billy Graham Crusade. Over 23,000 people attended the Newcastle Showground venue, where 450 people were counselled.

The crusade postal address is: Luis Palau Newcastle Crusade, P.O. Box 8, Adamstown, N.S.W. 2289.

## EDITOR AT WORLD CONVENTION

Gordon Stirling, Editor of "The Australian Christian," and a member of the Executive of the World Convention of Churches of Christ, gave the message of greeting on behalf of Australian Churches of Christ on the opening day of the Convention in the vast convention centre in the Hotel Sheraton at Honolulu. Here is his statement.

Australian Churches of Christ are enthusiastic about the World Convention of Churches of Christ and the idea of World Brotherhood, as evidenced in the presence of over 400 of us at this Jubilee Convention.

### WE OWE SO MUCH

We owe so much to other countries in this world fellowship. Our first debt is to New Zealand from whence Thomas Magarey brought our plea for the unity of Christians through the restoration of New Testament Christianity.

Our second debt is to the settlers who came as pioneers to Australia from British Churches of Christ talking about freedom from forms and dogmas and traditions to a new life style with the living Christ as exemplified in the first century church.

Our third debt is to the United States. The little churches set up by the British settlers cal-

led on the American Brotherhood for help and a number of distinguished evangelists were sent, and our growth was significant.

### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

These three factors in the early life of Australian Churches of Christ point to the way that our World Brotherhood can go in the future, in terms of evangelism, a life style for our day, and a plea that is still relevant.

We are called to evangelise in a post-Christian world, where even those claiming a Christian heritage need the good news that Jesus Christ liberates us from our sins, and hang-ups and life defeating ways.

We are called to demonstrate a dynamic life style that depends not only on propositions about Jesus Christ, but upon a vital daily relationship with him as living Lord and friend.

We are called to be true to our plea, which implies strenuous efforts to come with other Christians, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to discover together from the New Testament, the will of Christ for the contemporary church, and thus its unity.

Australian Churches of Christ greet with love their brothers and sisters from round the world.

## TREVOR TAYLOR

An Adelaide Christian doctor has left Australia to serve World Vision in Somalia. Dr Trevor Taylor is a member of the Elizabeth Church of Christ, and will spend three months working in the Las Dure refugee camp near the town Hargeisa, the former capital of British Somalia. He will team up with World Vision's Dr Sri Chander caring for about 40,000 people. Most of them are suffering from malnutrition and malaria.

Dr Taylor grew up in the Forestville church. In 1973 he worked on a mission in the New Hebrides. He is currently the S.A. State Chairman of the Overseas Mission Committee.

### PUTTING FAITH INTO PRACTICE

"I want to put my faith into practice in a way I haven't been able to do before", says Dr Taylor. "As Christians we must be concerned about people who exist in these circumstances. We have a great responsibility to care for the total man. His material needs must be met just as his spiritual hunger must be met".

"When I heard about the need in Somalia through another Adelaide Christian doctor, Eric Nicholls, I started to think about my priorities." says Dr Taylor.

Mrs Glenys Taylor and their three children, David, Carolyn and Julia will remain in Adelaide while Trevor is in Africa.

### 40 HOUR FAMINE PROCEEDS

Apart from the proceeds of the World Vision 40 Hour Refugee Famine, about \$200,000 in gifts and donations has been sent to the agency for use in Somalia.

The situation in East Africa region is likely to worsen before it improves. The



A father brings his child into the World Vision clinic at Las Dure.

World Vision Africa office in Kenya reports that about five million Ethiopians are being seriously affected by drought. These people do not include the one and a half million who have crossed into the Somali refugee camps.

World Vision Kenya says that most of the drought victims are suffering from diarrhoea and malnutrition after eating food that has rotted or cooked tree roots.

### YOU CAN HELP TOO

The situation is so bad that World Vision is running a special refugee appeal to be used in conjunction with the 40 Hour Famine proceeds. People wishing to help can send donations to World Vision Box 9944, GPO in any capital city.

## MAKING DECISIONS IS TOUGH

Diana Catts P.N.G.

It was a public holiday, so we thought we should have a peaceful day with few interruptions. Good, we should be able to get that newsletter ready to go out on Thursday's plane.

At 9.30 there was a knock at the door. "Please, my wife has given birth to a baby, but the placenta hasn't delivered." "Oh I'm sorry, but there is no nurse or hospital here."

"Yes, I know, but I thought that the mission might have a motor (outboard) that could take us to the hospital. My wife just can't walk on the road."

One of the hazards of being a missionary is that one is apt to become mean and suspicious. Mean, because funds always need to be carefully eked out. Suspicious, because many times mission facilities and services are taken for granted, and used as an alternative for responsible action.

The man was waiting for my answer. I said, "We are short of petrol". We did have one 44 gallon drum of petrol. It had just arrived at Chungribu because Michael Burgar had persuaded a local man to bring it up on his canoe for K5. We didn't know when we would get the next drum, and we wanted to visit some churches and pastors some distance up river. We certainly did not have an abundance of petrol.

"Where is your village? Where have you come from?" He said the name of a village some distance up the Sogeram River. I later learned he had paddled most of yesterday well into the night, and a few more hours this morning.

"Well, you had better paddle down to Kwangga. It is downstream, so the current will help you."



"Oh, all right. Thank you."

He went. I was worried. The woman would probably need to be evacuated, and if they arrived too late, they mightn't be able to get a plane today. I felt like the Levite and the priest that had passed by the man lying on the Jericho road. But our fuels and oils budget is already overspent by K1150. The trip to the hospital would take five gallons at nearly K2 a gallon.

And then I thought of COCOA. Surely we could get COCOA funds to buy the petrol. So I caught up with the man, had a look at his wife, and knew that something had to be done fast.

What a relief when the boat at last pulled away from the shore on its way to the hospital. Thank you COCOA!

P.S. Don't hold your breath waiting for my newsletter.

Note: K1 = \$Aust. 1.30

## MELBOURNE PRIEST WITNESSES GREAT HORROR

The Rev. Titus Mubiru has just returned to Kenya from a visit to the northeast of Uganda where he witnessed unbelievable horror. The former Melbourne Anglican priest is heading up World Vision's relief and development work in Uganda. His family has moved to Kenya because the situation in Uganda is so dangerous.

Titus Mubiru said that he visited a hospital that usually accommodates 40 patients. The hospital now has 5000. Some are lying outside, others on every inch of floor space inside. There are no medicines or beds.

The northeast of Uganda, known as Karamoja, is dying as a result of a savage famine. Added to this is the fact that authorities have no proper control over Karamoja. The area is being ruled by armed groups. They have set up roadblocks and when visitors arrive they are often stripped of everything. Some voluntary aid agencies have been forced to leave because they cannot give their personnel proper protection.

World Vision was forced to close down

its program that started earlier this year because of the lawlessness. However World Vision is about to commence a large program directly through the Anglican Church.

"One of the major problems we are facing is to find reliable people to channel our aid through. The government is demanding that agency and church relief go through it. But World Vision has refused to do this because there is widespread corruption and some aid has ended up being sold on the black market."

In Karamoja tens of thousands are starving. People are so desperate that they are turning to cannibalism. Corpses are being pulled from the ground and eaten.

Nobody has a real picture of the situation in the extreme northeast of Uganda. Mr Mubiru says that this area is infiltrated by former soldiers and supporters of Idi Amin. He has heard that as many as 500 people are dying daily from killings, hunger and disease.

It is estimated that 100,000 Ugandans have fled into Kenya in recent weeks because of the unstable conditions.

## UNIQUE MARKET PLACE MISSION

Churches of Christ are well represented in a front line work bringing the gospel to men in all sections of the business world. C.B.M.C. - A. Christian Business Men's Committees Australia is an active arm of the church involving men from all the main protestant churches.

### PURPOSE

Its clear purpose is to present Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord to uncommitted men in the market place.

### PROGRAM

Its program includes regular prayer meetings and outreach dinners, luncheons or breakfasts. It has been found that business and professional men will accept an invitation to a dinner while they are reluctant to go to church. These meal time meetings are held on neutral territory, usually a motel dining room or where the guests are in familiar surroundings and do not feel threatened. The speaker, one with whom the guests can identify, will share something of his business involvement and the relevance of Christ to him personally, challenging all present to carefully consider the claims of Christ on their lives. Opportunity is given for counselling while relaxing with coffee after the speaker has concluded.



Graeme Ratten

### CARINGBAH ELDER

Caringbah Elder Graeme Ratten, National Chairman of C.B.M.C. - A. says "it's an exciting work to be involved in as we see men's lives transformed by the power of the risen Lord. At present we have almost 1000 members in Australia operating through over 70 committees. I am happy to report that Churches of Christ men are to the fore in leadership in this work. Our Executive Secretary and Field Director is Laurie Brown, in membership at Cheltenham Vic., and another National Director - responsible for member training - is George Varidel from our Toowoomba, Qld. church."

The National office was established in 1977 to co-ordinate the work and keep the lines of communication open. This office would be pleased to provide more information for any one interested. Just write to P.O. Box 187 Bentleigh, Vic. 3204.

Graeme Ratten is part of the resident management team responsible for the Christian Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops, New South Wales, site for Federal Conference, October 3 to 9, 1980.

# BOOKS TO READ

## RESTORING THE IMAGE

by Roger Hurding (Paternoster Press)

This is a paperback on counselling, one of the few from England. It is manifestly Christian and Biblical. It is written by a professional counsellor. Unlike books on counselling by some evangelical writers from the U.S.A. it does not advocate hitting people on the head with texts. But it does show the way in which the Bible can be used by Christian counsellors to help people to find some answers to their problems. The book is as much for lay people as it is for pastors. But it discourages those who would "just love to counsel" as an ego trip for themselves. We can imagine the book being used by a small group of deeply concerned, humble people who are already involved in the church's caring ministry. They could take turns in presenting a chapter a night on successive nights, using the excellent discussion material at the end of each chapter. When he talks of Christian counselling Hurding does not think of clinics and couches, but rather of loving, caring, Christ-filled people "being there" alongside of God's troubled people. By "Restoring the Image" he means helping people towards their full potential which is "the image of God".

— G.R.S.

## WORKING IT OUT

A second look at the unemployment crisis.

We have been looking for a succinct statement on unemployment in Australia and what might be done about it. At last we have found it. The research people of the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace have just published "Working It Out". It is a 16 page pamphlet. It carries no price tag, but their address is P.O. Box J124, Brickfield Hill, N.S.W. 2000.

## THE SECULAR SAINT

by Robert E. Webber (Zondervan)

This book is intended as a guide to the Christians dealing with the issues of his relationship to society. The subtitle of the book is "A case for evangelical social responsibility". Robert Webber after defining the terms and the problems involved in this area looks firstly at the biblical background to the question.

Three models that have been followed by various wings of the church throughout its history are then outlined. These models are the separational, the identificational and the transformational models.

The final chapter examines the case from an evangelical point of view for the Christians involvement in social issues. The author notes that many evangelicals were at the forefront of social responsibility but that this was lost. He argues that a fourth model the incarnational model which contains aspects of each of the other three models should be closely looked at as the best model.

Each chapter ends with a series of questions to stimulate further discussion and a list of further readings. Recommended.

## THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TONGUES

by Wesley L. Duwel (OMS International) \$2.95

This is an excellent study of the place of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian. The author looks at the place of the gifts and the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian. I particularly appreciated the honest way that the author deals with Satan's imitations of the gifts. Whilst for those who hold strong views for and against the charismatic movement the book may be offensive, it is an excellent help for most of our members.

The author's experience includes being President of OMS International, 25 years as a missionary in India, 20 years as editor of Revival Magazine plus involvement with other inter-denominational organizations. What I particularly liked about the book was the obvious love and maturity shown by the author.

— J. Urquhart

## BOYS, URCHINS, MEN

by M.E. Hoare (Reed) \$8.50.

Michael Hoare is a trained researcher and has brought his skills to digging out from literally tons of material, the history of the Boys Brigade in Australia and Papua New Guinea from 1882 to 1976. The fortunes of the Boys Brigade varied during those 94 years, but the story reveals how this world-wide Christian movement for boys brought thousands of them to allegiance to Jesus Christ and helped to provide the churches with large numbers of committed Christian leaders. Many names of Churches of Christ people appear on the pages of "Boys, Urchins, Men." They include John Baker, the late Bill Morrow, Keith Caldicott, Vic Taylor and Neil McLean, all of S.A., and Stan and Gwen Houghton of the A.C.T. It is the cheapest hard cover book (287 pages) that we have seen for years. It is \$8.50 plus postage from Church Bookstores or from Stan McClaren, 207 Canterbury Rd., Forest Hills, Vic. (G.R.S.)

## THE SOBER TRUTH

by J. Kenneth Lawton (Paternoster Press)

A short booklet by the secretary of the Churches Council on Alcohol and Drugs which outlines some of the facts about alcohol. The first half of the booklet gives facts relating to use and health from the British scene. The second half has two sections the first of which is the examination of the biblical references to drink. The final part of the book relates to outlining the signs of a drinking problem. A book written for the British situation and therefore all the addresses given are not those we need to know. Unfortunately the review copy was badly bound with many pages out of order.

## INTRODUCING OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS

by S. S. Urberg (Baker Book House)

The subtitle "with an Emphasis on their Chronological Relationship" helps to explain this book. It is basically a time chart of the O.T. books and their relationship to each other. The charts are developed book by book and thus take up over half of the 61 pages of this book. The small amount of text gives too sketchy an outline of the contents of each book. At a price of around \$6.00 this book is too expensive and the text is too basic for most readers. Some of the terms used by the author only confuse the reader.

We have recently received a new paperback version of Billy Graham's book "The Holy Spirit". This is published by Fount Paperbacks and retails for \$3.50, and is now available. We reviewed the hardcover version in the issue of 22. 9.1979. We recommended the book for its wide view of the biblical material on the Holy Spirit.

Unless otherwise stated, books reviewed on this page may be obtained from: The Baptist Book Store, 162 Russell St., Melb. 3000; N.S.W. Churches of Christ Book Shop, 9 Endeavour Arcade, The Kingsway, Carlingbah, 2229; United Church Bookroom, 15 Mathers Lane, Hobart, 7000.



"...through sickness and health, for better or worse, through baseball season, football season, golf season..."

# HAPPENINGS

About two-thirds of the Cubans who have crossed to Florida since mid-April are men arriving by themselves. This presents a new problem to church refugee resettlement programs because churches are used to dealing with family units. The men are either unmarried or fathers and husbands who have left families behind.

August 1980 has been designated "Epilepsy Month" by the Health Commission of Victoria. During the month the Epilepsy Foundation of Victoria will conduct its first public appeal.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland has voted to withdraw from the W.C.C. The council suspended its membership on Nov. 1978 largely in protest over the Program to Combat Racism grant to Zimbabwe's Patriotic Front.

A Pentecostal pastor was apparently electrocuted in Sweden during a baptism service. While the minister was standing in a heated pool, an assistant handed him a microphone. A church official reported that there was a noise like an explosion and the pastor collapsed. He died while being taken to the hospital.

British clergyman Robert Taylor is claiming 100 pounds (SA200) compensation from his local city council for new vestments. The old ones caught fire as he led a funeral service at the city crematorium.

In March this year, abortions in New Zealand reached the level of one abortion for every eight babies born. If this rate continues, the country will see more than 6500 terminations of pregnancy by the end of 1980.

Anita Bryant, American crusader against homosexuality and the "disintegration of the American family", has sued for divorce. She accused her husband-manager, Bob Green, of co-operating "with certain hired staff who conspired to control me and to use my name and reputation to build their personal careers instead of my ministry."

Bahran Dehgani-Tafti, 24, son of the Bishop of Iran, was ambushed and killed by gunmen on May 5 while driving in Northern Tehran. The assassination brought an expression of "grief, shock and concern" from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, who called on President Bani Sadr to protect members of religious minorities in Iran.

Persecution of the church in Ethiopia continues. German Roman Catholic sources report that 40 Christians in Bale

province have been sentenced to death for continuing to witness after "training in scientific socialism." They also report the closing of all churches in Gamu Gofu province. Fifteen workers of the Ethiopian Evangelical (Lutheran) Church Mekane Yesus have been arrested and imprisoned in the West Wollega province.

Japanese scientists have found a way round the Jehovah Witnesses' refusal to have blood transplants... they have invented artificial blood. Three American Jews were recently given artificial blood after suffering severe stomach injuries. And 52 other patients have also been saved through its use.

The first school year of the Evangelical Bible Seminary of Southern Africa began in February with 10 students. Authorities have granted permission for the seminary to enrol both white and black students.

# diary

- NATIONAL**  
**August**  
 17 Annual Offering — Social Service  
**September**  
 7 Father's Day N.S.W.  
**August**  
 11 Brotherhood Representative's Conference  
 24-29 D.C.E. Camps VICTORIA  
**August**  
 2 Central & Northern District Conf.  
 2 C.M.F. Interchurch Men's Breakfast  
 2 & 9 Explorer Indoor Sports  
 13 C.W.F. Missionary Rally  
 16 Youth Leadership Seminar  
 23 Sept. 7 School Vacation Camps QUEENSLAND  
**August**  
 17-22 Midgets/- Juniors Camp  
**September**  
 6 Overseas Missions Bible School Rally  
 12-14 Men's Camp — Camp Cal

## INNER SPRINGS

### DESIGNED — WITH YOU IN MIND

At the close of the service, a young man turned to me with the words, "That article you wrote last week was tremendous, but this week's, that didn't turn me on at all!" His gentle honesty delighted me. And I have learned to welcome both adverse and favourable comment. The one saves me from the danger of self pride, the other assures me that I am still saying something of value. The fact that the found one article meaningful and the other not was as it should be. Those of us privileged with the responsibility of sharing our faith, whether by the written or spoken word, do not have all the answers.

"It may be given to us all to see some of the truth: it is given to none of us to see all of it." I am well aware that what I have to say will elicit no response in some places. From my own experience, I have learned that a book recommended to me, acclaimed by the many and printed in several editions testifying to its worthiness, has left me cold and unresponsive. Whereas some unpretentious volume, purchased at a bargain table for twenty cents has pointed the way to a new truth and given me a fresh glimpse of a loving God.

Because we are all so uniquely different, we require answers designed to our specific needs. But the gospel is adequate to this. It is as many faceted as a diamond. And it is designed with you in mind. Your needs, your expectations, your hopes of fulfilment can all be met in the Man of Galilee as depicted in that gospel. If I am not saying what you need to know, then someone else is! All that is required of you is that you make a diligent and sincere effort to discover Him for yourself. "When ye shall seek for Me with all your heart," says God, "ye shall find Me." (Jer. 29.13).

And as the loving father ran to meet the prodigal son, so He will come to meet you in a way that will amaze and delight you.

Loving Father, when we are given the responsibility of sharing your word, grant us the wisdom to do it in such a way that others will see Jesus and be brought into the circle of His love. Amen.

Jeremiah 29:13

Florence Rosier

### Church farewells minister

The Hurstbridge church overflowed with people who attended the farewell service for minister, Vic Quayle at the morning service on June 29.

Mr Quayle had had more than five years with the church. He was the first fully ordained minister in the history of the church commencing 24 years after the start of the church's work in Hurstbridge.

The brownies and their leaders held a parade during the service then a sheaf of flowers was presented to Mrs. Quayle by Mrs. D. Mynott. The church secretary, Henry Pietzsch, presented Mr. Quayle with an Exposition of the Psalms and the Sermon on the mount.

The leader of the Youth Club Colin Pietzsch presented a cassette and a signed card from the members.

Vic Quayle will be taking a well earned rest from the ministry at present which will enable him to give extra care to Mrs. Quayle who has not been in the best of health for many years.

The Baptist Preachers' Society will conduct temporary services until a new minister is appointed.

The new hall was well under-way and should be at lockup stage in a fortnight. The need for the new hall was vital because of the rapid growth of the Bible school, Sunday school and youth clubs.

We all know what S.O.S. means and most of us learned to tap it out in Morse when we were children. The letters are said to be the initials of the words save our souls. If that is true, then those who created the expression knew more about the biblical meaning of the word souls than many Christians do. When people on a ship in distress signalled S.O.S. they did not mean saving some sort of "heart-shaped blank" inside them or some "God-part" of them. They meant save us. Souls are people.

### **YOU DON'T HAVE A SOUL!**

You do not have a soul. Biblically the word soul and the word self are synonymous. I am a living soul; I do not **have** a soul. My body, my mind, my feelings, my memory, my attitudes, my habits, and all that I am go to make up the soul that is me. The body part of the soul is only temporary packaging for the self or soul on its earthly journey. It is a very useful collection of water, minerals, fats, and chemicals, that eventually wears out and is discarded. But the death of the body does not necessarily destroy the soul or self.

### **SAVING SOULS**

Saving souls is saving people, whole people, and not a little spiritual bit of people. Because we are all keen to save souls it is good for us to keep this in mind. I remember hearing a pathetic complaint from a little old man about a church where he occasionally attended with his wife. He said to me, "They are only interested in my soul, they are not interested in me." Actually they were not interested in his soul because they were not interested in him as a person, only as a statistic.

"How hardly souls are wooed and won", says the hymn writer. Some one should have told him that it is a lot easier with people.

### **DEFINE OUR TERMS**

Which all goes to show that we tend to use the familiar words of our faith without stopping to define them and to find out what they really mean.

When we talk about "saving souls" we are really talking about liberating people. The word salvation in the biblical sense means liberation. It is used twice as often in the Old Testament as in the New. It usually referred to liberation of the nation from some sort of bondage, because for hundreds of years at a time they were not free people.

### **SALVATION IN THE N.T.**

In the New Testament salvation also means liberation; from "hang-ups", limitations, meaninglessness, self-destructiveness, death, darkness, sins, inhibitions, and indeed everything that destroys life both here and here-after.

Salvation is not the right that a spiritual bit of us has to survive after the cemetery. It is God liberating us as whole persons here and now, and thus making it possible for us to be people whom even death will not be able to defeat.

### **NO PARTICULAR VIRTUE IN PARTICULAR WORDS**

As there is no particular virtue in using particular English translations of words that describe vibrant

biblical experiences, and as certain long-used words have come to be misunderstood, we ought to give the old words a rest for a while and let ourselves be challenged by other words that are more descriptive of these experiences. I am proposing that we talk about people rather than souls and about liberation rather than salvation. We are in business to let people know that God can liberate them as he has liberated us. Liberation is one of the "in" words today which makes its use even more relevant.

### **A WORD FROM PETER**

In the first chapter of his first letter Peter has a few words that sum up what the liberation of people by God is all about. In verse 10 he says that we are liberated if we really believe that God can and will set us free. He records the three tenses of liberation. The past tense is in verse 3 where we read that we have been renewed or liberated by a merciful God. Verse 5 talks of the present tense where God's power is now guarding us, to keep us liberated and filled with a fantastic joy (verse 8). Verse 5 refers to the future and ultimate liberation when we will be freed from death, because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ (verse 3). It is great to be liberated people in business to help others towards their liberation.

### **BUT THAT IS NOT ALL**

While it is our business as liberated people to let others know of God's way of liberation, we also remember that a soul is a person. It is only God, through Christ, who can liberate souls or persons from the destructive things within them that have them all bound up. But we as their friends can help to liberate them from a lot of other bondages.

### **OUR WORK OF LIBERATION**

Those who think of people as having impersonal souls can confine their interest to getting those souls saved and their owners onto the church roll. But people who have really been liberated by God are full of love and compassion. They are interested in whole people rather than just the "God-shaped blank" inside them. So they liberate others from their loneliness by being with them. They liberate them from hunger by feeding them. They liberate them from oppression by working for justice. They liberate them from discrimination by accepting them and getting others to do the same.

### **SAVING SOULS**

So saving souls is liberating people from everything that destroys, binds, hurts, inhibits, confines and stunts growth. A great deal of this liberation only God can achieve through Christ. But some of this liberation is the job of compassionate people who themselves have been liberated by God. So saving souls is not only getting people down to the front on Sunday nights. It is also feeding the hungry, liberating the captives, caring for the sick, comforting the bereaved and lifting up the fallen. And when we are busy with out part of the liberation process, there are likely to be more people coming down to the front on Sunday nights for "the salvation of their souls". (Ed.)

## OBITUARY

ANDERSON, Richard Leigh.

(29.5.80). Mr Andersen was born in 1886 at Woodbrook (Vic.). In 1907 he married Mabel Margaret Hogarth. There are five children Harold, Joyce, Doris, Lyla and Shirley. Through them Mr Andersen became grandfather to nine and "grandpa the great" to 19. Family residences were at Barkers Creek, Glen Iris, Boronia and McKinnon. In 1968 due to Mrs Andersen's failing health they resided at Christian Guest Home Oakleigh. Later in that year Mrs Andersen died. Mr Andersen accepted Christ and came into membership of the church at Castlemaine. He served the Gardiner church as a deacon and choir member, and in Boronia and Benteleigh churches. He loved nature and won the home garden competition of the local Horticultural Society in nine years. He had a rare poetical gift and expressed his ideals in many poems. At the Christian Guest Home he engaged in occupational therapy as a means of assisting the home's finances. He was grieved when arthritis and failing health eventually prevented this activity. Mr Andersen was considerate of others and was co-operative with all for which he was deeply loved. "A gracious Christian gentleman" truly described Mr Andersen. Mr Andersen died in his 93rd year leaving precious memories with his loved ones. A crowded thanksgiving service was conducted by the writer in the Benteleigh chapel assisted by C. J. McKenzie with a final tribute paid at the Springvale lawn cemetery.

## ANCIENT CHURCH JOINS ACC

The Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch, established in Antioch, the then capital of Syria by St. Peter, has joined the Australian Council of Churches becoming the 12th member church.

The official language of the Church is Syriac, the language which Jesus spoke. Members of the Syrian Orthodox Church number approximately two million, the majority living in India, and the rest in Syria, Lebanon, the Jordan, Iraq, Turkey, Egypt, Europe and in the two Americas. Sad news of the death of the Pope of the Syrian Orthodox Church, His Holiness Mar Ignatios Yacob III was received by the ACC meeting. Pope Yacob died on July 2 in Damascus, Syria, the location of the Holy See.

Although established in Australia for close on 15 years, up until the purchase of a previous Methodist church in Lidcombe in Sydney's western suburbs five years ago, members of the community had attended services at the Coptic Orthodox Church. The Syrian, Coptic, Armenian and Ethiopian Orthodox Churches are all in full communion.

The Rev'd Father Zeki Zitoun is the first priest for the church in Australia and has the care of 700 members in Sydney, 60 members in Wollongong and some 350 members in Melbourne. The Melbourne community has plans to purchase a church property in the near future and then hopes to invite a priest to minister to the Syrian Christian community.

## A SHOW-TRIAL WITH A DIFFERENCE

Repression of believers in the Soviet Union has taken many forms over the past 60 years. Beginning with murders of clergy and summary executions in the 20's, graduating to the show-trials of later days followed by 'legal' prosecution under repressive legislation, the party apparatus has kept pace with the times by adapting the actual form of persecution to the most profitable means available at any given time. Use of television to discredit dissidents is not new. In the early 1970's human rights activists Pyotr Yakir and Viktor Krasin were 'shown' recanting.

Last Friday (June 20), viewers of the popular Soviet current affairs programme 'Vremya' ('Time') witnessed Russian Orthodox priest Fr. Dimitri Dudko read out a statement admitting to 'systematic fabrication and dissemination abroad of anti-Soviet materials', and then answering a number of leading questions posed by 'Sergei Dimitrievich' who was introduced as 'a journalist'.

On Saturday, Fr. Dimitri was allowed to return home.

Keston College has been able to contact believers in Moscow for their reactions. Everyone we spoke to was in a state of shock, though we have been told that there is no condemnation of Fr. Dimitri. As one of our contacts pointed out: 'We know all too well what measures can be employed in such cases. This could have happened to any one of us. We do not know yet exactly what occurred, but no matter what it was we can never forget that Fr. Dimitri has brought the light of God to thousands of people. Now the authorities want to make him pay by discrediting him by attempting to

immobilize him as a priest by sowing seeds of doubt among the faithful about his spiritual integrity. However, all that Fr. Dimitri has accomplished over the past 20 years cannot be wiped out by a scenario such as the one beamed across the country on 'Vremya'. Since Fr. Dimitri's release, nobody has seen him. Reportedly, he is resting at home.

For obvious reasons telephone conversations with people in the USSR had to be very guarded, but it was conveyed to us, in veiled terms, that the possible use of some euphoria-inducing drug has not been ruled out. As one of our sources pointed out, it seems strange that a person admitting to charges which could result in 7 years in prison and 5 years exile would smile happily as he read out such a statement without any sign of stress.

Keston College comments that until more details are known, it would be wrong to advance any definite conclusions.

The propaganda advantages to the authorities are obvious. A trial in court would have only reinforced Fr. Dimitri's unique position among believers. There is also considerable mileage to be gained in the international relations sphere. The 'confession' whether genuine or not, is a slap in the face to the West, which has been vocal in protesting the arrest of Fr. Dimitri.

It is also a direct blow at Fr. Dimitri's individual supporters in the Soviet Union and the Christian Committee for the Defence of Believers' Rights, who have stressed that Fr. Dimitri's activities were of a purely spiritual, and not political nature.

— Keston College

## GROWING DEMAND FOR BIBLES

The world is experiencing an unprecedented demand for Bibles. This year the United Bible Societies have budgeted a record \$17 million for worldwide translation, production and distribution programs. However, the UBS is still six million dollars short of the total required to accommodate all the available Scripture programs.

With the world population growing at the rate of 128 persons a minute, there are great pressures on the Bible Society movement to keep pace with the accelerating demands for the Word of God.

The Christian Church in Africa is growing faster than anywhere else in the world. Availability of the Bible in the indigenous languages of the African continent is the primary reason for this expansion.

All over the world people are wanting to read the Bible in their own language so they can relate its message to their particular culture and personal needs. Complete books of the Bible have been published in 1685 different languages and during the past year, Bibles were published in five new languages for the very first time.

God's word for the 80's is the theme for this year's National Bible Society Week, July 26 - August 3.

## VIC. FOLLOW-UP OF W.C.C. CONFERENCE

"Your Kingdom Come — in the local church" is the title of this year's Victorian Council of Churches Conference. To be held in Maryborough August 1-2, it will bring together some 100 people from the Council's 11 member communions to discuss local mission.

Secretary of the Council, the Rev. Douglas Dargaville, said that the recent W.C.C. Conference had made a significant impact on Victorian congregations. Some 50,000 people had been involved in small and large groups hearing delegates, and studying the issues involved. They plan to bring together a cross-section of these people to explore local strategies in mission. The Maryborough gathering will hear reports of some significant local church experiments. The Maryborough and District Council of Churches will host the weekend activity, and its work will serve as a focus for discussion.

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OCTOBER 1-3?

## BINTORO AND HIS BATIKS



Bintoro is an Indonesian Christian. He makes high quality Batiks and has been travelling round Australia exhibiting some of them on behalf of "Trading Partners".

### TRADING PARTNERS

Trading Partners has been set up by the churches and Community Aid Abroad to find a market in Australia for cottage industry products from villages in the Third World. All proceeds go back to the poor

crafts-people enabling them to get just above the poverty line.

### AUSTRALIAN STORE SET UP

From August 7 Trading Partners will be operating from rooms on the mezzanine floor of Willard House, 46 Russell St., Melbourne, and will be open on Thursdays and Fridays from 10 to 4. Inter-staters desiring to help by making purchases can write to Jean Yule, 13 Jackson Rd., Highett, 3190.

## NOONKANBAH

by Colleen Ison

Noonkanbah station is well-known to most Australians as the centre of a dispute involving commercial interests, the West Australian Government and local Aboriginal people over land rights.

Eirlys Richards and Joyce Hudson, members of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, last year were asked by the chairman of the Noonkanbah School Community Board, Ginger, to assist with the introduction of the local language, Walmatjari, into the school curriculum.

Aboriginal parents in the community were concerned that by learning only English in school, children were being alienated from their traditional ways. Some cultural subjects were introduced, and this involved the need to use Walmatjari.

Eirlys and Joyce have lived amongst the Walmatjari since 1967 and are fluent in the language. They have a home at Fitzroy Crossing, where they do linguistic and translation work.

Walmatjari, the language of normal conversation for most, is used during church services by the church elders at Fitzroy Crossing who can now read and write in it. There is also available a small library of Walmatjari books. It is, however, one of five languages spoken at Fitzroy — the Bunaba, for example, are also vehemently proud of their language.

Social and economic changes have also taken place. A major one being that some of the Walmatjari people hold the lease and run Noonkanbah station themselves. Before, they had worked only as domestic helps and stockmen to a white boss.

Until recently, children had to board in Fitzroy Crossing in order to attend school. They now have a school in an old woolshed at the station, controlled by the Noonkanbah people themselves. They employ two non-Aboriginal teachers and several Aboriginal trainees.

The people of Noonkanbah station are pleased that the education their children are receiving now contains the elements of their language and culture which they have chosen.

DAWSON ST., BALLARAT (G. L. Chapman). Visiting speakers Trevor Banks and Dr. Bill Tabbernee. Both spoke especially to church officers on Sunday afternoons . . . Church participated in World Vision 40 hour famine . . . Marriage Enrichment group to meet regularly . . . Luncheon to aid Christian Education in Schools held . . . Families feature in evening services . . . I.T.C.H. presented cabaret gospel service . . . Graeme Chapman lecturing one day a week at C.O.B. . . New song books purchased.

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## TAS

**NUBEENA** (Cec Neville). New group house Bible study commenced for young Christians in addition to senior groups. Ladies also meet once a week for share group ... Rob Head and family from Wycliffe Translators showed slides of work ... Tony Williams from Howrah spoke on his call to ministry ... Anne and Henry Cleaver, Howrah, gave testimonies.

**HOBART** (G. E. Powell, J. D. Morrow). Elders and deacons visiting members' homes to hear thoughts on church life, also distributing new church directories ... First Sunday evening service at Howrah Centre had attendance of 100. To be held monthly at 5.30 ... Family services held six-weekly at both centres ... Board meetings have been opened to all members ... New piano in Collins St. chapel ... Two seminars held for newer members to understand basic background and principles of C. of C. ... Ministers attended in-service training course ... Winter luncheons organised by C.W.F. held monthly ... Prayer meetings in both centres commenced each Saturday morning between 8-9 a.m. in preparation for "Project Philip" ... Play Group started in Howrah centre.

**LAUNCESTON** (M. D. Hamilton, R. J. Allison). Eight members of Y.P. S.C.E. raised \$330 for Overseas Missions from a Sit-upon-a-thon ... Combined service led by New Gene. Leonie Peart presented with G. B. Pioneer Pin. Leonie is one of six Australian G.B. members attending International Fonamarae in Scotland ... Four attending World Convention ... Old Time Family Social arranged by Pastoral Care Committee. 120 attended ... C.W.F. making feeders for local geriatric hospital after sending 100 to Vic.-Tas. C.W.F.

## VIC

**CHADSTONE** (Bruce Skillicorn). 25th anniversary celebrated. Past ministers attended ... Girls Club entertained club from South Yarra ... Baptismal service held ... Allan Clark resigned to allow full-time minister Bruce Skillicorn to commence ... Loan from Properties Crop. paid off. Cheque for \$3,108 handed to Allan Emmett at farewell to Allan and Lou Clark ... Bruce Skillicorn inducted by Gordon Stirling on July 5. He will be part-time till the end of this year ... Two took part in World Vision 40 hour famine.

**THE PATCH** (Tom Frazer). Sharon McNeil and Dianne Bons raised \$220 during 40 hour famine ... Seminar led by Don Smith and Ian Tippett at home of Wes and Eileen Treloar ... Mrs Iliff has moved into Emmaus ... Lance and Enid Fisher going north visiting and surveying areas for evangelism to Aboriginal people ... \$26 from men's breakfast given to Overseas Missions.

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# nsw

**TWEED HEADS, COOLANGATTA (L. Wylie).** Five received into fellowship after baptism. Seven made confessions of faith during June . . . Junior Church monthly family service had 150 present. Four couples from different stages of Christian experience spoke . . . Gifts to the Memorial Fund for Jim Layton will provide a projection screen and a piano stool . . . Recent visit of Margaret Parkinson of the B.M.M.F. Mission.

**PENDLE HILL (Ron Bassett).** Peter Croft spoke on Scripture Union. Ray Hawkins on new work at Maitland . . . Open house at new manse . . . C.W.F. had Mrs P. Cook from W.E.C. After talk sent \$50 to Somalia appeal . . . Young couples held progressive dinner . . . Carolyn Stocks raised over \$150 for World Vision famine . . . Anniversary planned for Aug. 10.

**WYOMING, BERKELEY VALE (E. K. Morrison, I. Morton, M. Leask).** Plans drawn up for B.V. Church . . . B.V. took part in Community Fun Day held Queen's Birthday weekend. Christian bookstall held for first time . . . Wyoming Y.P. have restored old bus donated by Belmore Church. Visit made to Belmore to show bus and say thank you . . . Y.P. held "Andrew Dinner" in home of one of the members. 28 attended . . . Several took part in 40 hour famine for World Vision . . . Ed and Peg Morrison to move to Lismore church in 1981 . . . Seven decisions since March.

# OLD

**ALBION Search Squad** conducted gospel service with singing, play acting and puppet show. Several parents who do not usually attend present . . . C.W.F. organised sacred concert raising \$160 for their Living Link, K. Murphy — N.H. . . . Group planning and raising funds for mini-bus . . . Property adjoining manse and church purchased for future development . . . Four baptised and six received into fellowship.

**TRARALGON (Miss D. Symes).** Ian Tippet met with Board to plan coming goal setting camp . . . Happy Kingdom Club helped in recent worship service . . . Sue and Ron Picken helping with Y.P. group which meets fortnightly for fellowship . . . Members participated in 40 hour famine . . . Kerygma Bible studies being held in members homes . . . Playgroup holding educational evenings for community . . . Week of Prayer for Christian Unity held . . . \$145 raised from mobile menu when 35 attended.  
**EAST KEW (P. Broadbent, J. Tudor).** P. Broadbent held preaching series on the church . . . S.S. numbers increasing. They take part in occasional morning services . . . Soup and sandwich lunch held after morning service.

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**MELBOURNE:** Singles and Doubles (03) 857 7766 or 277 1787.

**DONCASTER:** One-Upl (03) 848 1546 or 848 8636

**ALBURY:** Albury Singles Club (060) 25 1910.

**NUNAWADDING:** Unhitched (03) 877 6077 or 873 4531

**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

**BRISBANE:** Gleneagles Singles (07) 379 9122

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

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### BIRTHS

**WILSON (AUSTIN)** Robyn and Charles give thanks to God for the safe arrival of Anthony Charles on June 4.

### DEATHS

**BALDOCK** Victor Henry — Passed away at Bordertown Memorial Hospital, July 3. Age 77 years. Loved and loving husband of Ivy, father and father-in-law of Kevin and Gwen, Les and Glamis, Beverley and Max, Verna and Alan. Loved and devoted Dadda of eight grandchildren. In Heavenly Love abiding

### IN MEMORIAM

**DUHS LW.** (Louie) Treasured memories forever, our dear husband, Father and Pa, called home 30.7.78. We thank God for his happy life, for the love and joy he gave us.

**LAUNDER.** Treasured memories of Graham our dear son and brother passed away August 6, 1957. Father, Mother, Malcolm and Joy. "Until the Day Dawns"

### ORGAN FOR SALE

**YAMAHA** electronic organ. Excellent condition. Suit small church or home. Price \$1,080. Contact C. MacKenzie, 15 Gilbert Gve., Bentleigh 3204 or phone (03) 557 2896.

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Church of Christ  
15th Anniversary  
Sunday, 10th August

9.00 a.m. Worship Service  
Speaker — Denby Holmes  
3.30 p.m. Pleasant Sunday Afternoon  
Special artists  
5.30 p.m. Tea  
Speaker — Denby Holmes  
Past members and friends welcome to share in this happy occasion.  
(There will be no 7.00 p.m. service)  
Ring L. Bills 449 4742  
W. Stephenson 44 3617

## NOBLE PARK

Church of Christ  
26th Anniversary  
on August 3rd

Services at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.  
Tea at 6 p.m.

All former members and friends invited to share with us.

**Further Information**  
Ring T. Small  
(03) 546 4139

### PRELIMINARY NOTICE

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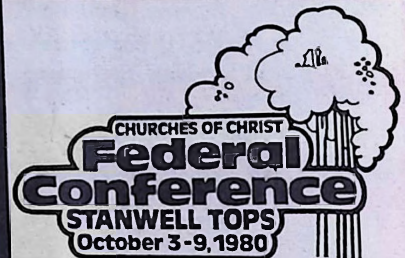
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2. Bowral Tulip Gardens — Full day, October 7.
3. Wollongong and South Coast — Half Day — October 7.
4. Captain Cook's Landing Place, Opera House, The Rocks, Vacluse House plus Harbour Luncheon Cruise — Full day, October 9.
5. Four day tour of Central Western New South Wales — October 9-12.
6. Five day tour of Snowy Mountains and Canberra — October 9-13.

If you have any further questions regarding tours, please contact Tour Convenor Mr Graeme Ratten, Post Office Box 55, Helensburgh, 2508. Phone (042) 94 1432.

## AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP — 1981

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### MARRIAGES

● Christine Potts to Richard Fotheringham, Traralgon, Vic. ● Mary Grant to Michael Redman, Red Hill, Vic.

### DEATHS

● Lindsay Scown, Fullarton, S.A. ● Mrs Jessie Sando, Maylands, S.A. ● Jim Layton, Tweed Heads, Coolangatta, N.S.W. ● Mrs Ethel Edward, Dawson St, Ballarat, Vic. ● Mrs Flo Smith, Albany, W.A. ● Mrs Elsie Wallis, Glen Waverley, Vic. ● Mrs F. Veal, Ormond, Vic. ● Victor Henry Baldock, Bordertown, S.A.

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# VIC

**HORSHAM** (W. Gibney). Young man baptised . . . Commissioning service held for Robyn and David Harmer prior to their leaving for N.G. . . . A. Thompson, Life Challenge House, screened film . . . Mrs Pomeroy, dietitian, National Heart Foundation, showed films.

**COLAC** (Ian Smith). 100 attended C.W.F. morning coffee for birthday . . . L. Williams very ill. Has been in hospital . . . Parent child dedication service held . . . Recent working bee held to tidy and paint kitchen . . . With no organist visiting organists helping out.

**BENDIGO** (M. D. Keatch). Church rejoicing in additions following Amazing Grace crusade conducted by Bill Gaunson . . . S. Curkpatrick, student minister, and J. K. Martin conducted services while minister on holidays . . . Mrs. Briggs celebrated 91st birthday and Mrs. D. Jones her 80th . . . C.W.A.F. visited. Castlemaine C.W.F. . . . Several in church have experienced deaths in their families.

**PEEL ST., BALLARAT** (Jim Cunningham). Mature couple baptised . . . Almost immediately Norm Sced, retired painter, led team to repair and paint exterior of manse. Laundry also re-painted, new floor coverings laid and oil heating converted to gas . . . Neighbourhood visitation led to two additions by baptism and added numbers in B.S. and youth clubs.

**SWANSTON STREET** (A.L. Webb, B. Morton). Services continue well attended . . . Group of Teen Missions International led evening service . . . Elder and wife, Harold and Hazel Parsons, returned from four years of missionary service in the Philippines . . . Three baptised . . . Church looking for Christian Education Director . . . Day of prayer planned for Aug 2 . . . Family tea attracted families from nine countries.

**YORK ST., BALLARAT**. (D. Gurney, L. Martin). Recent speakers Bert Storay — Director of Life Line, Ballarat; John

Rose — World Vision . . . Three welcomed into fellowship. Albie Waters appointed as youth leader . . . Three recent baptisms . . . Y.P. participated in 40 hour famine . . . Billy Graham film of recent Sydney crusade screened . . . B.S. attendances in 50's and increasing.

**ORMOND** (G.O. Stibbe.) Y.P. screened film on poverty to generate interest in wakethon for Kampaucha . . . W. Crittle participated in 40 hour famine . . . Raoul Wittick won Australian championship in Tae Kwon-do . . . Week of Prayer held. Chapel open 7-9 a.m. each morning . . . Ian Saunders took part in broadcasts for Melbourne Christian Radio . . . Ted and Dora Gray showed films of N.G. mission field . . . Large carton of baby clothes forwarded to Marion Lawry missionary in Niger . . . Marriage rededication service held. Chapel full. Beverley Beazley soloist . . . John Whittaker has completed 50 years continuous service as a church musician . . . Alf Knee nominated as Assistant Secretary of Fed. Conf. Exec. . . . Alf Knee appointed Elder Emeritus at annual meeting . . . Church saddened when Mrs Veal only foundation member still attending, died.

## CHURCHES SEND \$20,000 TO UGANDA

The Australian Council of Churches has made a special grant of \$20,000 to assist the starving people of Northern Uganda. The money will be used by the Church of Uganda for the purchase of food and hire of trucks within Uganda and in neighbouring Kenya.

Close on half a million people are affected by severe malnutrition with at least 150,000 facing death by starvation as a result of four years deficient rain and two years conflict. The food situation in the north of the country is critical.

The UN estimates that 34,920 tons of food is required in the next two months. The Church of Uganda (Anglican) has been working with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in food distribution using about 8 trucks. But more food and trucks are needed and the A.C.C. has launched a \$600,000 appeal through which the W.C.C. has channelled its grant.

## INTERNATIONAL BIBLE CONTEST

The Fifth International Bible Contest will be held in Jerusalem early 1981. The contest is interdenominational and many countries will participate. It is of interest that the Third International Bible Contest held in 1964 was won by an Australian, Graham Mitchell, a Seventh Day Adventist.

The aim of the contest is to promote among the members of every faith an interest in the Bible and to encourage as many individuals as possible to study the Bible, so as to be enriched and inspired by its truths.

The contest will comprise several stages: an elimination contest in writing, State finals and an Australian finals. The exact dates will be announced later. Questions from the Old Testament only, especially from the Prophets and the Writings, will be asked.

At present they are anxious to enlist candidates and for this purpose all who are interested are requested to fill in now the entry form and send it to the International Bible Contest, 99 Hotham St., E. St Kilda, 3182. The committee will furnish all candidates with information and details in due course.

TO: THE INTERNATIONAL BIBLE CONTEST  
99 HOTHAM STREET, E. ST. KILDA.  
3182

NAME . . . . .  
ADDRESS . . . . . TEL. NO. . . . .

I am interested in the I.B.C. and wish to participate in it.

DATE . . . . . SIGNATURE

## REFORM CHURCH

The South African apartheid policy has no Biblical basis, according to a declaration from the black, colour and Indian branches of the Dutch Reform Church.

However, the major section, the white church, doesn't agree. The moderator of the Reform Church in South Africa has refused to recognise the declaration and also refused to pass it officially to the government.

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# WA

# NT

**MERREDIN, BRUCE ROCK** (D. Good). Merredin S.S. held Indonesian night with Indonesian food and activities to raise funds for Bible Society Children's Project . . . Merredin C.W.F. had sheet appeal for Welfare Centre in Perth, while Bruce Rock C.W.F. supplied blankets many of which were handmade patchwork . . . Rev. Poole, W.A.C.C., visited Merredin. Rev. Vaughan, Bible Society, at Bruce Rock . . . Bruce Rock had special offering to help Morawa suffering bad drought.

**ALBANY** (Dan Lundgren). Half-yearly meeting decided to proceed with new manse. Work underway. Special offerings for new manse total over \$6000 . . . 70 adults involved in eight Bible studies throughout week . . . Several new families attending . . . Baptism held . . . New set up for worship started with emphasis on whole family worshipping together . . . Church saddened by death of Mrs. Flo Smith.

**NOLLAMARA** (A.J. Anderson, J. Hicks). Move to two morning services seen as a Church growth opportunity. Commencing on June 8 first service at 8 a.m. with adult Bible class at 9.15 a.m. coinciding with B.S. and second service at 10.30 a.m. Attendances increased slightly with 45 regularly attending adult Bible class . . . Special "winter series" theme "Heaven help the home". Guests were I. Viner, R. McLean Federal M.P.'s, local M.L.A. B. Burke, A. Stout, Dr. G. Collins (U.S.A. Psychologist), Mr and Mrs R. Davey and G. Smith. Attendances averaged 173. Film seminar "Focus on Families" by Dr. J. Dobson conducted over this period on Wed. evenings. Over 100 attended including many from local community . . . Six baptised recently.

**SOUTH PERTH** (K. Denton, L. Cox) L. Cox has accepted a call to the church at Narembeen next year . . . July Come Alive Crusade well received by district. Publicity included shopping centre cover by ladies. Gospel services well supported with commitments still being made . . . Recent midweek speakers were Robert Plumb — Capernway (a series) and Ian Borham — W.E.C. . . . Sue Whitham spoke at meeting on her way to Africa . . . Men's Motivational Group meets fortnightly . . . Quiz night held to aid Bible Society . . . C.W.F. ran smorgasbord followed by marriage talk by George Smith . . . Paul Brown baptised in river . . . Social Aid Project providing low cost food to families in need . . . Mrs Pallot attending World Convention . . . Tom and Laurel Scotland have moved from W.E.C. headquarters. They hope to resume full duties after Tom's recovery from illness.

**MANDURAH** (M. Suter). Tea held with Randell Edwards who spoke at service . . . Y.P. and B.S. took evening service led by Richard Suter. Maxine Pierce, organist, trained children . . . A.A. visited service and spoke of God's help in overcoming their problem.

**DARWIN** (P. D.EWildt.) Church celebrated 2nd anniversary with record 78 in attendance . . . 10 local preachers used during absence of the DeWildts. They

represented eight different Christian organisations . . . Minister conducted a series of radio interludes . . . Nurse made commitment just prior to her transfer to S.A. . . . Y.P. sharing in discipleship class . . . Movement of families in church is in common with changing population trend in the north . . . Church land negotiations in final stages.



## Swanston St. Church

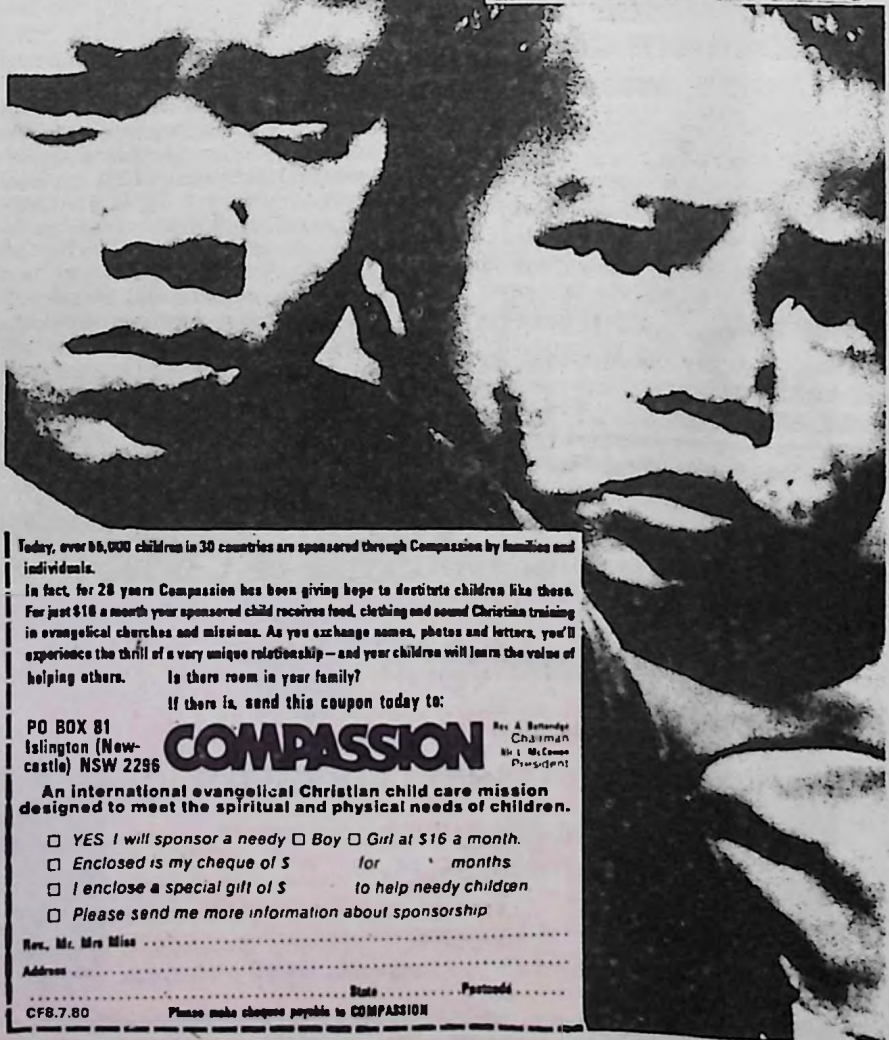
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p.m. Gleanings from Genesis

**MINISTRY TEAM:** Allan Webb, Bruce Morton,  
Pam Mason.

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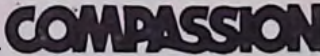


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**CROYDON** (Rex Chamberlain). Elaine Chamberlain guest preacher at service conducted by C.W.F. Ladies formed choir for occasion . . . Minister represented S.A. Brotherhood at A.C.C. Conf. in Melbourne . . . Ted Heard spoke at morning service on Strategy for the 80's . . . In addition to providing helpers for annual Austcare appeal church supported an evening of slides by Jim Bartlett . . . Jean Memers attending World Convention. Social evening held to farewell her.

**MAYLANDS** Claude Cunningham and Chas Dow will occupy pulpit for two months each prior to the coming of Mr. and Mrs. L. Cooke in Nov . . . 10 members attending World Convention. Supper held . . . Extra \$779 given to Overseas Missions . . . Geof Heath, board member, elected Mayor of Campbelltown . . . Church saddened by death of Mrs. Jessie Sando.

**FULLERTON** (W. J. Philp). 16 Asian students attended baptism of Alfred Li . . . Hymnfest held . . . Church saddened by death of L. Scown . . . Bible studies on Creation . . . C.W.F. held Devonshire tea and film on C.O.C.O.A., their project; raised \$74 . . . Guild held meeting in home of Mrs. Jim Luff, Ingle Farm . . . Member to World Convention.

**BALACLAVA** (Jeff May). Hawaiian Pineapple program arranged by Fellowship Action Group following family tea to farewell nine members travelling to World Convention . . . Geo Matheson spoke on first weekend back from N.H. . . . Recent missionary speakers M. Langford — Ethiopia and Jan White — Iran . . . Combined weekend with Col. Light Gdns. started with "Back to the Country" social in Roger Baker's barn and ended with a luncheon following morning worship . . . Exchange of pulpit with U.C.A. . . . Rev. Dennis Kowalick spoke to study group on Uniting Church . . . Deidre Howard, nursing at Port Augusta, came home for her

baptism . . . WASP (Workshop Appreciation Singing Praises) evening to stimulate singing and learning new tunes from hymn books.

**MARION** (E.P.C. Hollard). First anniversary started outside the building for ceremony of placing papers etc. including a roll of members of board in time capsule covered by the foundation stones of the former analgated churches (Clovelly Park and Ascot Park). Colin Dredge gave address. At 11 a.m. service B.S. took part and E.P.C. Hollard preached . . . Features at Five Special had Dr Rob White on piano and Julia Brittain accompanied by her father on violin. A baptismal service followed.

**NARACOORTE** (Ron Holmes). Tea held to welcome 21 new members for first half year by baptism and transfer . . . Paul Williams home on furlough spoke and showed slides at B.S. and service . . . M.A.F. spoke and showed slides to B.S. and afterchurch fellowship . . . Family day held with luncheon and Rod and Brenda Nankivell speaking of their recent visit to India . . . Several members on sick list . . . C.W.F. entertained senior citizens of town with social evening . . . Ladies have completed a considerable amount of clothing for Aborigines Missions.

**NOARLUNGA** (Morrie Munyard, Frank Hunting). Frank Hunting celebrated 50 years in ministry July 6 . . . 86 present at fortnightly Friendship Centre . . . S.P.I.C.E. (Small People Illustrating Christ's Example) put on mini musical for Mother's Day evening service. Group to perform at Prospect. Group comprises of 10 children over 8 years who take part monthly in evening services . . . Seven growth groups held in homes each week . . . Several Y.P. made decisions . . . C.W.F. had visit from O.S. Missions Committee who showed slides of Living Link missionaries.

**BORDERTOWN** (Barry Reid.) During school holidays Y.P. enjoyed camps at Longwood, S.A., for juniors and Halls Gap, Vic., for seniors . . . Small group studies continuing . . . Series of films and addresses on the second coming being held . . . Large attendances at present.

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# VIC

**RICHMOND** (G. & B. Rogerson). Picnic held at Monbulk ... New members welcomed into fellowship ... Social nights held every second Friday of month ... Doncaster and Brighton Y.P. shared in evening services ... Dutch auction raised \$250 for building fund ... Girls Brigade camp held at Torquay.

**CHELTHENHAM** (A. White, S. Wilson, M. Humphries, D. Smith). C.W.F. day group donated \$100 to Overseas Missions ... Principal Emeritus E. L. Williams, Reg Barlow — veteran Olympian and Malcolm Gray — Channel 7 filled pulpit during Alf White's absence ... Malcolm Humphries conducting night series on the Holy Spirit ... Overseas Mission weekend included play and Lowanna Singers, outreach for M.E.D. and Wycliffe Bible Translators ... Gifts of \$400 forwarded to Overseas Mission ... Progressive dinners being held. Funds for replacement of organ ... Morning coffee ladies' had speakers from Melbourne Tourist Authority ... Rosa Hargreaves produced 45 minute closed circuit T.V. program for Retirement Village.

**GARDINER** (C. G. Taylor). Combined services held with Conf. Pres. Ron Elbourne ... Recent speakers while C. G. Taylor in hospital included G. Stirling, L. and E. Hawkins, I. Corlett and R. Haskell ... Michael Buckmaster attended Explo 80 ... Ladies held cake and white elephant stall to assist C.W.F. and church Living Link ... S.S. students had Saturday tea with games and audio-visual ... C.Y.F. took part in Austcare doorknock.

**NOBLE PARK** (K. Clinton, L. Mayes). New people coming to services ... Student minister and wife visited Brisbane for Explo 80 ... C.W.F. held street stall also visited Emmaus Guest Home ... C.W.F. and Friendly Door now combined ... Sunny and Fran Wagmode spoke and

showed slides of Indian Sharing Venture ... Sub-committee on church finances looking to eliminate outstanding debts ... Ladies joined in 40 hour fast to support World Vision.

**WARRAGUL** (B. Crowden). Period of song held each Sunday morning before service with Jacky and Robert Jeffery, Graham Holding, Roger Hollard and Pauline Gullies ... Church has purchased new electronic organ ... Wally Tabensky leading studies on Amos ... Joyce Young underwent surgery in Springvale Hospital ... Youth Club held progressive supper with Phil and Jan Bell and Colin Murdoch.

**FRANKSTON** (A. Avery, W. D. Mills). Drama group presented play reading ... Mrs. Millicent Warne "Greenways" celebrated 80th birthday ... Minister visited Swan Hill for 70th anniversary ... "Changing Moods" gave items ... Child dedication service held ... Mrs. Greta Koolstra, a church member and nursing sister, appointed Hostel Supervisor at "Greenways". Greta's husband Gary, will also live-in ... Allan Avery spent several days in Peninsula Hospital ... Mrs. Shirley Allen returned after serious illness ... Darryl, Della and C.Y.F. have regular spot in evening services ... G.O.D. committee led two morning services ... C.Y.F. to deliver letters to 600 homes then follow-up letters and finally 40 members will visit ... Four to World Convention and consequent tour ... Mrs. Frances Emmett will be special assistant to Mr. Mills while Mr. Avery is away.

**KNOXFIELD** (E. L. Williams). Nine received in to membership July 6 ... Opening of a new kitchen added to the hall by voluntary labour and the liquidation of debt on the manse celebrated ... Church and S.S. continue to grow.

**RED HILL** (A. Pigdon, D. Walladge). Church donated \$450 to Overseas Mission Board for New Hebrides, N.G., India ... Two attending World Convention ... S.S. 200th Anniversary celebrated by special services, fellowship tea and visit by past teachers ... Y.P. raised \$1400 in

recent World Vision fast ... 50 attended weekend family camp at Monbulk ... Two-day working bee at manse ... Temple Day offering 1980 to be used in manse alterations for ministry of Mr. and Mrs. Ian Cartmel in 1981 ... Prayer meetings continue at J. Holmes (Red Hill) and Dromana members' homes ... Mt. Eliza Uniting Church youth group presents musical.

**BOX HILL** (S. Downie). Missionary day speaker Alan Baker ... C.W.E.F. birthday speaker Shirley Ludgater ... C.W.A.F. birthday had Yukana Singers give items ... Y.P.C.E. visited Oakleigh Nursing Home ... Y.P.C.E. guests U.A.M. youth group ... C.W.A.F. visited Northcote Nursing Home ... Gospel services presented by Y.P.C.E. and Youth 2 ... C.O.B. students featured in services one Sunday. Speakers were Bruce Williams and Jim Keatch ... Mark Riley (M.A.F.) and Ian Allsop guest speakers at gospel services ... Oakover Choir presented cantata ... Film "Megiddo" screened.

**DANDENONG** (W. J. Edwards). Five Y.P. shared experiences at Explo '80 ... Mrs. Mitchell celebrated 90th birthday ... C.W.A.F. celebrated birthday ... Box of winter clothes sent to council ... Austcare doorknock raised \$103 ... Morning service June 8 conducted by C.O.B. students ... Seven Y.P. participated in World Vision famine raising \$222 ... M. Wood in hospital following surgery ... Church sent \$600 to Overseas Missions. C.W.F. sent \$1000 ... 20 Y.P. spent long weekend camping at Lake Burrumbeet.

## Albury Church of Christ,

524 David Street, Albury  
Sunday Services 9 a.m. and  
9.45 a.m. Visitors welcome.  
Minister Bob Aldred (060)  
25 4508

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38th CONFERENCE, STANWELL TOPS, N.S.W., OCTOBER 2-9, 1980

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# Ambrosia

by Chris Ambrose

## GIVING

Having just completed my income tax return it is also time to review the amount of my giving to the church and to Christian work. Personally we as a family tithe our income to the work of the church. Such passages as Genesis 14:20 and 28:20-22 support the Old Testament understanding of the individual giving 10% of his income to God.

For some people this is not possible as other commitments and small incomes preclude giving at this level. Yet often in our churches it is people on smaller incomes such as pensioners and students who are the best givers on a proportional basis.

In recent discussions a treasurer of a large suburban church commented that he had noticed that offerings are changing. It was noticeable that now the \$2.00 note is the most common amount in the offering plate. A couple of years ago it would have been the \$1.00 note and before that the 20c piece. Maybe we are taking note of the effect of inflation on our incomes and giving to God of the increase.

In the Bible we gather that the people mostly did give to God faithfully of the income or produce that they grew. However Jesus took the Pharisees to task for being so pedantic that they counted the mustard seeds to tithe them (I wonder if they could even see them as they're so small). I would not advocate such extremes but we should be aware that if we are true about committing our lives to Christ then this automatically includes all that we have and are including our money.

At times in the Old Testament the

people also gave an extra tithe as a thanks offering for the way that God had looked after the people or saved them. Probably some individuals gave of the extra tithe for the way that God had bountifully blessed them but it is surprising that for many when they are blessed with a greater amount of money or goods they are more reluctant to part with any of their goods.

I try hard to give generously of my weekly income and we have even budgeted to give God's portion before anything else (even tax). Unfortunately many operate on the system of giving to God what is left over after all other amounts have been deducted. Unfortunately this is most often very little if any at all.

However I also have a small income from invested monies. I now realise that I should also be giving to God from this income as it is also a gift that God has given.

It is very important that we should not limit our giving to just our money. As an accountant I have known many Christian accountants who have given of their time and abilities to help churches and Christian organisations in the management of their finances. Car mechanics have offered and given of their service and costs in maintaining missionaries cars whilst they are on furlough.

We could also give of our time to raise extra income for God's work by sidelines that raise some income to be given fully to the church. This could include such activities as baby sitting, washing cars, selling of paintings etc.

We should all at some time sit down and ask ourselves just what am I giving to God and is that enough.

# THE LAST WORD

Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday. Try instead faith and courage.

(Anon.)

Let that great love of Christ  
Be often pondered o'er,  
He once for thee was sacrificed  
And loves thee evermore.

★ ★ ★

The telephone rang in the real estate office. A hesitant female voice inquired: "Do you sell maternity clothes?"

Stiffing his laughter, the salesman recovered quickly and replied: "No, Madam, but could we interest you in a larger house?"

★ ★ ★

A barking dog is often more useful than a sleeping lion.

★ ★ ★

A letter addressed to "The Occupier, St. Luke's Church, Winnington, Cheshire (England)" stated: "We have no record of a TV license for your address." To which the vicar firmly replied: "The Occupier has not yet installed a set. He is still using me to communicate."

★ ★ ★

"What are those?"

"Cranberries."

"Are they good to eat?"

"Sure, when they're cooked they make much better applesauce than prunes do."

★ ★ ★

Independence is the price a woman is ready to pay for the happiness of being married.

★ ★ ★



A. Campbell

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