

IN THIS ISSUE

WORLD  
CONVENTION



JEHOVAH'S  
WITNESSES



BICENTENARY  
BOYCOTT?



# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

## POWER TO NEW GUINEA



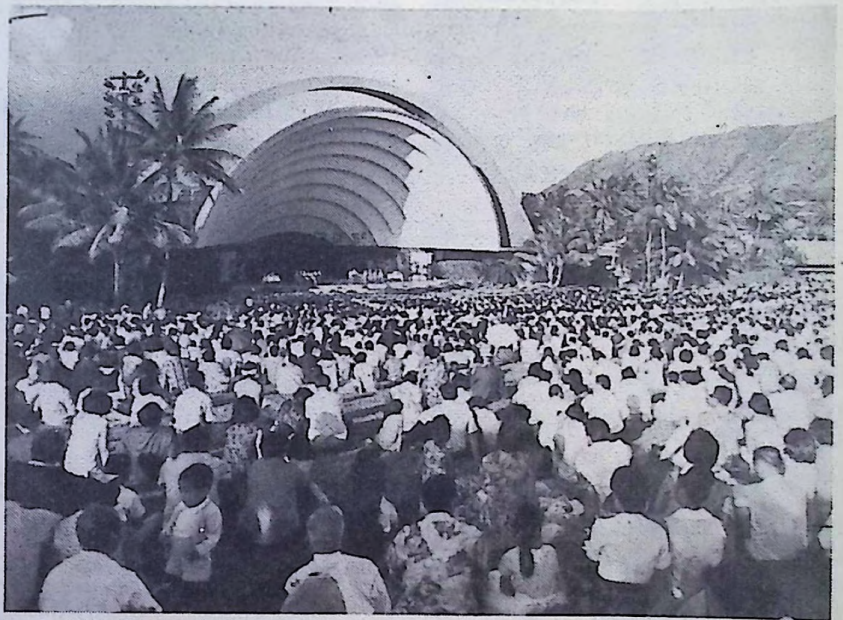
Laurie and Mary Needham with Kinsa and Dwayne.

Electricity was cut off for the day. The congregation shivered. They were deprived — of heating, of lighting, of amplification, of electronic music. Roger Hollard stood up and said, "How would you like it to be always like this? And all the time there is a generator out in the shed, but no-one to fix it."

That is part of the challenge the Warragul church is trying to meet as it has undertaken to meet the cost of sending one of its members, Laurie Needham, to our New Guinea Mission area for three weeks. Laurie is a diesel mechanic, and has volunteered to give his holiday to helping get some of the sick mission motors ticking again. His wife Mary is a deaconess at Warragul; he has two children, Kinsa and Dwayne.

His departure date was August 11. The Warragul church has been contributing for some weeks to the cost of this venture, and appreciates the help of two donations from South Australia. The Special Fund Box was opened on Sunday morning, August 10 and revealed a total of \$726 with a promissory note to meet the total cost which was \$801.

We trust that this project will provide some of the needed specialist doctoring for the motors, release the missionaries for the work they are there to do, and again help them and their goods to be transported as reliably as is needed. We pray that in this practical way God's power may be seen at work even more.



Waikiki Shell site of communion service at World Convention.



Abraham Akaka speaker at World Convention. Articles on World Convention can be found on page 3 and 6.

## FIERY PREACHING AT SOUTH YARRA

While the preacher was explaining the intercession of Abraham for Sodom and Gomorrah the listeners were smelling a strange smell. Was it the sulphur of Sodom or the bakelite of power points and double adaptors? But as the great issues of mercy and judgement were being preached upon, a living visual aid appeared. The pulpit platform caught fire. At least we know its origin was different from that of Sodom and Gomorrah's judgement for it came from beneath the platform. Mercy and Judgment were suspended temporarily while a member of the congregation acted swiftly and quelled the fire with an extinguisher. As one listener remarked on leaving the service "Never a dull moment when there's fiery preaching."

— Peter Nelson.

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# ON MY MIND

## SHARING THE WORD WITH THE WORLD

**Forrest D. Haggard**

Dr Forrest Haggard is Minister of the Overland Park Christian Church, Kansas (U.S.A.) and was president of the World Convention of Churches of Christ in Honolulu, 1980.

What is the Word of the Lord to a world of hunger, poverty, pollution, inequality, and materialism. It is a Word of Faith, of Family and of Flesh.

### A WORD OF FAITH

The Word for the world is not in structures, culture, economics or in political power. It is the Word of faith in Jesus Christ communicated in the personal witness of those who have made him Lord.

The Word of faith in Jesus Christ is a Word of unity in diversity. I would like to challenge our churches throughout the world to intensive Bible study together, hoping that much study would enable us to understand the deep diversity within the New Testament church. Its diversities were many and its essentials were few. It found its unity, not in structure nor in doctrine, but in a deep personal faith in Jesus Christ.

### A WORD OF FAMILY

The Word of Faith implies a Family of Faith. Paul wrote "All this is done by God, who through Christ changed us from enemies to friends and gave us the task of making others his friends also." It is easier to make friends with your neighbours than it is in your own family. Yet our witness to other Christians and the world requires that we be seen to be a family. Waldron Scott of the World Evangelical Fellowship says, "We need to see ourselves as part of a single, independent global family and act accordingly." God is saying afresh "You are your brother's keeper." The World Convention of Churches of Christ is a family of many different traditions, and witnesses to the fact that a family operating under Christ may have a great deal of personal and corporate freedom in structure and personal growth. The world needs the witness of the Word, that in Christ, we are one family.

### A WORD OF FLESH

Our fellowship is personal, not organizational. It is bound by our personal commitment to Christ, and not by theological commitment to a system or systems. We share the Word with our own flesh. We are personally involved. "We are God's own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God."

The Word becomes flesh to other Christians and to the world through us.

We have a Word to share with the world. It is the historic Word of Faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. It is the corporate Word as evidence in the Family of Faith. It is the Word made Flesh in us.

## "PRESSED FOR TIME"

Abraham Akaka, Pastor of the Kawaiahoa Church, Honolulu, was one of the evening speakers at the 50th Anniversary World Convention, before 6,500 people. The program had been going nearly two hours before he rose to speak. He confronted us with the story of an Egyptian mummy who was "pressed for time". Then he talked of the Eternal Word who created all things and came in Jesus and later was made flesh again in the missionaries who came in 1920, bringing life and order to the chaos that was Hawaii.

## THE GOSPEL ON A UKELELE

There was something unusual about Abraham. His humility came through. Yet he was a real personality — not describable in human terms — but in terms of the Holy Spirit. The audience was held captive.

He took a simple ukelele and plucking a string at a time told of how God created the black, and the white, and the brown and the yellow, so that there could be a perfect harmony. And God does the tuning. Deliberately tuning strings out of harmony he showed what happens when too many of the strings say, "We don't need a tuner!" Quietly bringing the strings into harmony again he said "The Gospel is God's true pitch for the world. And the 'City of God' is the song of those who have found the right pitch."

With that he took the ukelele and sang to the glory of God in the Hawaiian Tongue — backed by his own choir of Hawaiians.



Ed. Roffey — newly elected Vice-President of the World Convention of Churches of Christ.

## CONVENTION MARATHONS

Conventions always turn out to be marathons. The day started with Bible study at 7.45 a.m. The morning sessions were from 9.30 to noon and often going beyond, leaving scarcely any time for a

## KALUA PIG AND LOMI LOMI SALMON

On the Saturday of the World Convention of Churches of Christ at Honolulu three great breakfasts were held with a thousand or more at each. The World C.W.F. women had their's at the Sheraton, the laymen were at the Princess Kaiulani, and the ministers were at the Royal Hawaiian. A free afternoon left the conventioners free for two climax celebrations — one on Saturday night and one on Sunday morning.

## THE ALL NATIONS LUAU

The Sheraton ballroom was packed for the biggest luau ever held there, with 3000 attending. A luau is a traditional Polynesian celebration with a feast and music and ceremonial dancing. For us it was celebrating a great Convention, a week in the most beautiful islands in the world, and the Christian fellowship that made us one from all round the world.

## STEAK TERIYAKI

The food was Hawaiian food cooked in the Hawaiian way. There was Teriyaki (steak cooked with ginger soy sauce), Chicken with Taro leaves, Kalua Pig (steamed on red hot rocks in and underground), Imu, Lomi Lomi Salmon, Poi (pounded Taro root), Fried Bananas (in batter), and Kumara (sweet potatoes to you.)

During the eating a group of Christian Hawaiians sang their faith to their own unique music. They were followed by Jack Tihati Thompson and the Tihati Musicians in a Hawaiian spectacular of singing and dancing. The whole thing came to its climax with a fire dance against the mounting rhythm of the drums, followed by thanksgiving and benediction.

snack before the Convention tours at 1 p.m. Tours over by five, another quick snack and we were on the bus at 6.15 p.m. for the Blaisdale Centre for the evening meetings. Ten o'clock saw us "busing" back for another snack and bed. The ones who found the lengthening programs hardest to take were the final speakers. Why do final speakers, when time is running out spend five to ten minutes commenting on the situation instead of getting stuck into it. And why do they say that they are going to cut it short when they do not? However all of the late start speakers were winners.

## AUSTRALIANS AT WORLD CONVENTION

Six Australians appeared in the Convention Book "Who's Who," all taking some part in the program. Two were elected to the World Convention Executive, Ed Roffey is a Vice-President and Gordon Stirling as a member. Our adopted Australians, Elza and Lois Hawkins who taught at the College of the Bible for the first semester of 1980 were at Honolulu on their way back home through China. It was Elza Hawkins who baptized World Convention President Forrest Haggard, a youth in a little rural church in the middle of the U.S.A. — (Editor)



Richmond I. Nelson (incoming President — Jamaica) and Mrs Donald I. Black (President W.C.W.F. 1974-1980.)

## COCONUT SHELLS AND COMMUNION

The second celebration was in the sound shell at the far end of Waikiki. 6000 people sat in the early morning sun to celebrate the Lord's Supper. To sing and pray and hear the word and to share the bread and wine with such a crowd and in such a setting stirs the emotions deeply. Each of us was handed a tiny polished half coconut shell which contained our morsel of bread and a miniature paper cup of grape juice with a small lid fitted.

Alan Lee (General Secretary) used Acts 2:42 to remind us of our call to teach, to trust, to taste, and to talk. He told of an Indian villager who picked up a fragment of a Bible and read about the Bread of Life. The words reminded him of his deep inner hunger for something. He set out on a quest for the Bread of Life, and through a distant Christian found him. Alan referred to his visits to our 50 Polish churches and our six in the Soviet Union. One of the latter has the use of an orthodox building and is packed at 10, 2.30 and 6 each Sunday with people standing everywhere. It was good to reel ourselves in a fellowship of teaching, touching, tasting and talking with these and the rest of our people round the world.

## BENEDICTION

The Benediction was pronounced by the new President of the World Convention of Churches of Christ, Richmond Nelson of Jamaica. At 12 years of age this descendent of African slaves found his way into a new mission school. He was one of five. The school is now Oberlin College, with 1500 students. The boy of 30 years ago is now its Principal. He is a Christian statesman as well as a highly respected educationist. We must try to bring him to Australia. In any case, Australians will be able to see him at the World Convention at Kingston, Jamaica, in July 15-20, 1984.

# NARRE WARREN

## "CAROLS BY TWILIGHT"

— Rob Wilson



1979 carols from across the lake at the Civic Centre

What a sight! One thousand candles shining brightly while about 1500 people sang the favorite Christmas Carols on the lawns beside the lake at the City of Berwick's Civic Centre at Narre Warren. The Narre Warren "Carols by Twilight" is now an annual event presented and organised by the Berwick Regional Church of Christ. The carols are part of the church's outreach into the community, finding a need and filling it.

The Berwick Church, being a regional one, has many towns from which members and contacts are drawn. Four years ago, the Narre Warren Area Group — one of six church groups — sought to find a way to witness to their area. They came up with the idea of putting on a carols service in their main street. Using the back of a truck, a duplicated carol book and ink duplicated leaflets, a crowd of 200 locals was drawn. In 1977, the carols booklets were printed as souvenirs. The carols were advertised in the local paper — full page — and high class leaflets were printed. The local businesses were offered sponsorships of the Carols to make it a community project. The sponsors were given space at the bottom of each page of the souvenir booklet. The church had the inside front page to advertise its Christmas Day services. The whole project cost the church nothing. 600 people attended. In 1978, the same format was followed, with careful attention given to the program. Professional sound and lighting was used. A local business donated gifts for all the children who came as well as candles for all who came. People streamed in from everywhere. Over 1000 came.

The 1979 "Carols by Twilight" venue was shifted from the main street to the newly-laid lawns of the new Civic Centre.

As well as local businesses, the local council became involved, allowing free use of the lawns and providing a power generator. The mayor, Cr W. Hudson, officially opened the Carols. The Minister of Transport, Rob McLellan, and local member, Rob Jolly attended, as well as several councillors.

John Marshall, a member of the Berwick church and a member of the Victoria State Opera, sang. He was backed by Sugar And Salt, the church's ladies group. Hilary Clifford and the Good News Singers sang also. Two spotlights highlighted the items given. After the program gifts were given to the children. One thousand souvenir booklets had been professionally printed by Bruce Gearing, who has made printing his ministry in the church. The booklet for 1979 had the inside front page advertising the regular worship services plus a centrefold advertising the Christmas Day services. The Carols cost just on \$900 to present, not including the donations of 1000 candles plus 1000 gifts for children. The total cost to the church was just \$125.

### MURDERED PRIEST

The Catholic Church in Guatemala is under more gun-fire. Father Jose Maria Gran has been murdered after being ambushed in a northern province. Another man was also killed in the attack.

Meantime the Secret Anti-Communist Army, which is reported under the patronage of the Guatemalan army has threatened to kill all native born Jesuits and to expel all foreign Jesuits. The threat follows a presidential statement in Guatemala that political members of the Society of Jesus have thrown away their cassocks for subversion.

## THE END OF THE MATTER!

We heard the other day of a very wise church that looked at its Sunday School and discovered that there were only four left in it. Both children and teachers were discouraged. After all this church once had a Sunday school of 300. You couldn't call four children and two teachers a Sunday school could you? So wisely it was decided to close the school down and arrange for the transfer of the four children to the Baptist Sunday school down the road which had 20 children. This would be good for the children, the teachers and the Baptists where four more represented an increase of 20%. SO THAT WAS THE END OF THE MATTER!

But was it the end of the matter?

A nearby state school has some 600 children. Most of these obviously are not going to come to Sunday school. On Sundays they go to the beach and the hills or to sporting activities. Or they luxuriate in the long day's activities with their friends in the street, up gum trees, on trail bikes, or kicking a "footy" in the lane.

We cannot get them to Sunday school. So what! The Lord still wants us to get them and their families for him. Is Sunday school the only way to get to modern kids and their families? Thousands of kids are at a loose end most weekday afternoons after school, waiting for their parents to come home. Could this time be used?

And is there some way of making God and faith and the Christian way as exciting and colorful as many of the other things that they do?

We have a feeling that our Christian Education Departments have all of the resources and know-how available for churches that are wisely looking again, at their mission to the children of their communities and their families.

### ALCOHOL AWARENESS DAY

SEPTEMBER 16, 1980

People for Alcohol Concern and Education, in an effort to alert Christians of the social and health costs caused by alcohol use and abuse, have listed some of those problems on an announcement sheet which can be used over six weeks.

As well as the problems P.A.C.E. have listed some responses which individual Christians are encouraged to consider. Alcohol has been described as 'Australia's major drug of abuse'. P.A.C.E. is concerned with the apathy expressed by our leaders and the general community towards the alcohol problem. It can't happen to me. It is our responsibility to continually warn people of the problems associated with alcohol.

We need the support of Christians to shape our message in the 80's.

People for Alcohol Concern and Education, 91 Hutt St., Adelaide, S.A. Phone (08) 223 1777.

## CENTRAL & NORTHERN DISTRICTS RALLY

On August 2 the Half-Yearly Conference Rally was held at Pyramid Hill with representatives from most of the ten churches in the Conference area. 180 attended, belonging to the Central & Northern Districts Conference of the Churches of Christ.

The President **Mr Westmore**, Kyabram, was in the chair, and song leader was **Keith Lacy of Bendigo**. **Mr Henderson, Boort**, gave the devotions. **Greg Deuble, Shepparton** was the guest speaker.

**Mrs Mavis Elbourne, Glen Waverly** was the speaker for the ladies and emphasised nine points on our Christian walk.

The **Shepparton Gospel Singers** with two instruments and six voices frequently entertained in addition to **Mrs Smith, Boort**, and **Mrs Ladgrove and Mrs Hipwell, Echuca**. While **Greg Deuble** addressed the men, **Fred Rosenow, Echuca**, had charge of the children with **Stephen Curkpatrick** leading the teenagers.

An enjoyable program of audio-visuals was ably presented by **Mrs Mavis Elbourne**. Hot soup preceded an enjoyable basket tea.

The evening session was opened by the song leader with favourite hymns.

**Mr Mott, Bendigo**, read.

A presentation was made to **Mr and Mrs Keatch, Bendigo**, in recognition of ten years service in our Conference area, especially his interest in the Eppalock Camp. **Mr Keatch** had been three times Conference President and Vice-President once.

A Youth Camp will be held at Eppalock the first week in the next holidays. The Annual March Conference will be held at Echuca.

— **Alice Broad**

## INDONESIAN NEWS

Since February six adults and two younger boys have been baptised in the Bundung church. One man used to own a number of black magic charms but he has since burnt these. The officers and the workers in the church have begun a Saturday evening class using "Training for Service" lessons.

Visa renewals were 10 weeks overdue when completed but an extension of a further 12 months was granted. Others in the group also received another years extension.

At the moment it is kite time. Every afternoon the game is to bring the other persons down. Also the Muslim month of fasting has just commenced with the loudspeakers blasting everybody awake at 4 a.m. Children have been given firecrackers to stop them thinking about food.

Our address is P.O. Box 3 Cimahi, West Java, Indonesia or we can be contacted through our Australian agents **Noel and Jean Flint**, 22 Edna St., Warrimoo, N.S.W. 2775. Phone (047) 53 6585.

**John and Shirley Truscott**

## CHRISTIAN PARENTS AND STATE SCHOOLS

Many Christian parents are concerned about their children at State Schools. Many, however, seem unaware of the open door for involvement, especially in Victoria and South Australia.

State Schools in Victoria each have a School Council, including elected parents (sometimes up to 10) and teachers (often 4-5). The exact composition has been determined by each school community. These Councils have enormous potential. They look after the grounds, buildings and equipment, and all finances except teachers' salaries. More importantly they may advise the staff on educational matters and set the ethos of the school via a 'school policy'. **The door is open for friendly positive involvement.**

It takes not time, so much as emotional energy. As a Christian you have to realise that the state school is not an evangelistic agency. But the need is great for people with fair, open minds, of honesty and integrity, with no axes to grind, who will be reconcilers and peace-makers, building for community relations of quality. The opportunities for Christian service and witness are there, but it must be **service**, not manipulation.

It is an almost unparalleled way of getting to know the cross-section of your community, and very good training for

further political involvement apart from party politics.

### WHAT DO YOU DO?

First, volunteer to help in the school. Most will welcome you because there is not much help with reading, library chores, equipment care and just individual attention these days. (The teacher Unions are quite correct about the Federal Government on this point at least.) And keep being involved.

Secondly, find out who your School Council members are. What sort of policy exists? Do they get on well with the teachers, or is there antagonism?

If there is a Proposal Committee join it. Such a committee controls new projects, and is always looking for people with ideas and principles. Or there may be sub-committees for Grounds, Finance, Canteen and Education. These are an excellent training ground, too, in how the Education industry works.

Finally you may be able to stand for Council. If you are asked about "Christian Bias" don't be defensive, but point out that your Christian faith should assist you in being honest, being fair in assessing others' ideas, and being concerned for the welfare of the children.

— **Evangelical Alliance**

## CHURCHILL FELLOWSHIPS APPLICATION

The Churchill Trust is calling for applications from Australians, of 18 years and over, from all walks of life who wish to be considered for Churchill Fellowships tenable in 1982. Completed application forms and reports from three referees must reach the Churchill Trust by February 28, 1982.

People wishing to be considered for a Churchill Fellowship should send their name and address NOW with the request

for a copy of the Churchill Trust's Information Brochure and application forms to: The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust (M), PO Box 478, CANBERRA CITY, ACT, 2601, or, for residents in South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory, the appropriate address below: The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust (M), GPO Box 498, ADELAIDE, South Australia, 5001, PO Box 6209, Hay Street East, PERTH, Western Australia, 6000, GPO Box 1260N, HOBART, Tasmania, 7901, PO Box 2147, DARWIN, Northern Territory, 5794.

## MUSLIMS AND HINDUS IN FIJI

In the latest census, Fiji has a population of 650,000 out of which there are 234,530 Hindus and 45,247 Muslims. For some time it has been the concern of the Bible Society as to how to reach the Hindus and Muslims with the word of God. About two years ago, an amazing thing began to happen. The Bible Society started receiving letters from Hindu and Muslim primary school children asking for "Love" and "Joy" stickers. These were sent to them with a copy of the Hindu Gospel of John and also a follow-up note.

Inoke Kubuabola, Distribution Secretary for the Bible Society in the South Pacific, said recently "It is really exciting to receive second and third letters from some of these children asking for more information about Jesus Christ. It is also really encouraging to hear that these Scriptures do reach their parents. God is using these children as doors to reaching their families. About 10 letters are received and replied to each week".

## CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

Since the beginning of 1980, under the leadership of **Norval and Penny Bunch**, a children's choir known as the "Little Lanterns" has operated. Meeting at 4.30 on Mondays this group of children has shared together around musical activities. As a result they have participated in Celebration Services at the **Berwick Regional Church of Christ**.

Over recent weeks they have spent the majority of their time learning a children's musical "Down by the Creek Bank". Through word and song the children were able to bring simple truths to the congregation in a new and exciting way. **Graeme Burgess**, one of the young marrieds at the church, played the group leader. **Jim Larkham** painted the attractive backdrops and **Ian Adamson** controlled the special lighting effects. The chapel was packed as the children brought to adults the Gospel message.

# THE CONVERSION OF JOHNNY WALKER

Johnny Walker was a 30 year old drunk living near the Hawkesbury River in N.S.W. He did not have a very good start. Both of his parents had been transported to Australia for stealing. When they were released they lived together in a de facto relationship. Johnny was the result of their co-habitation. Up the Hawkesbury came an itinerant Methodist preacher and Johnny Walker was soundly converted. Fifteen of his descendants have been or are ministers or missionaries. One of them is Alan Walker, Director of World Evangelism for the Methodist Church (late of Central Mission in Sydney.) Alan Walker gave the Jesse Bader Memorial Lectures on Evangelism at the 10th World Convention of Churches of Christ in Honolulu.

## EVANGELISM IS IN

The Convention was in the mood to hear some straight talking about evangelism. Even in the U.S.A. where to belong to the church is a sign of respectability in many places, it is not as easy as it was to fill churches. Dr Walker's challenge to evangelism was enthusiastically received — even when he said that there were social implications of evangelism. After the final lecture the crowd of some 3000 people gave him a standing ovation. He was easily the highlight of the convention. The following are some notes that we took of what he said.

## THE CHURCH EXISTS FOR THE WORLD. IT DOES NOT EXIST FOR ITSELF.

Of the three worlds, the toughest area for evangelism is the western world with its affluence, moral decay and rejection of God. The practical atheism of the West is only matched by the theoretical atheism of Communism. Yet in Russia there is no pornography and no open prostitution. Alan Walker was just back from a mission behind the Iron Curtain and reported growing churches. Thousands flocked to hear him in Estonia. He visited a Baptist Church with 2500 members. In the "Third World" the church in many places is ahead of the population explosion.

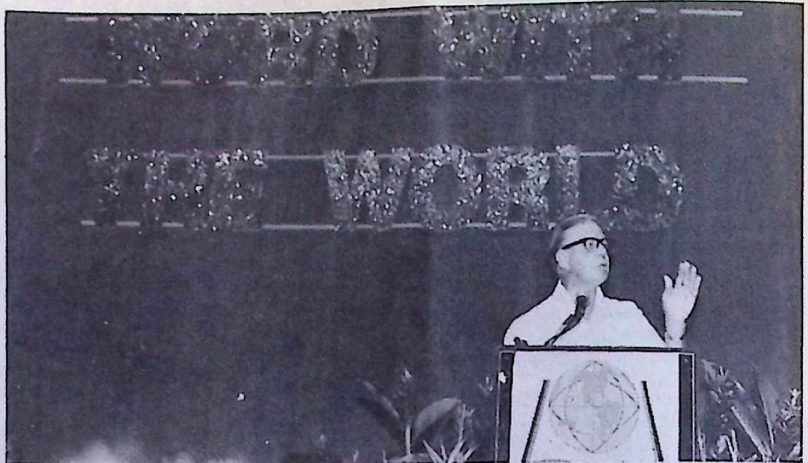
Mission today is not sending — churches helping receiving — churches. It is indigenous churches sharing faith in every area of need, and in co-operation with other indigenous churches.

The Western churches can give maturity to Third World churches. Third World churches can give something of their enthusiasm to the West. And both First and Third Worlds need the commitment and dedication of the Second.

## MAINTENANCE RATHER THAN MISSION

Alan Walker suggested that many theological colleges spend more time on counselling and Christian education than on evangelism. Churches soak up the grace of God instead of spreading it.

Lay people can no longer contract out of personal evangelism and expect the evangelist to do it for them by proxy.



Alan Walker at World Convention

Christians in Hungary are rejoicing in the fact that it is illegal to publish religious books and pamphlets and evangelistic tracts. They have to spread the gospel by word of mouth. And many more thousands are being won to Christ.

## THE LOCAL CHURCH IS THE BASIC UNIT FOR EVANGELISM

The church should claim Sunday night for evangelistic worship and it should be folksy, flexible and joyous.

The local church should be a daily centre for people in an age when loneliness is the biggest social problem. But fellowship must be seen not only as being for nurture — it must be for outreach. Schools for Seniors (55 and over) give older people the opportunity to learn new things — both secular and christian — in creative fellowship.

## NOT ONLY PERSONAL

For too long evangelicals have identified evangelism with personal religion, and have only recently awakened to the fact that the gospel also has to do with social concern. A born again Christian without a social conscience is a menace and a Christian with a social conscience who is not born again is just as much a menace.

## POWER FOR MISSION

There is plenty of people, words and analyses in the church, but often not much power. Yet power is what the New Testament is about "Ye shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon you."

## THE HOLY SPIRIT INTERPRETS

The Pentecost miracle was not one of speaking but of hearing. The miracle of hearing is possible today if preachers and people are open to the Spirit. Preaching is not as essay or a lecture but preaching good news in the power of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit interprets that sort of preaching to hearers.

## THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE AGENT IN CONVERSION

The Holy Spirit is getting people ready for conversion, but that conversion is often aborted because preachers, and lay witnesses do not go for a verdict.

## THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS MORE POWER AVAILABLE THAN WE HAVE RECEIVED.

Does God suffer from a spiritual energy crisis? We need to accept the Doctrine of the More — God gives more than we can ever fully receive.

## THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US INSIGHTS FOR ACTION IN AREAS OF CHRISTIAN CONCERN

What can we do about world poverty, we are so very few. They were fewer still when Peter said, "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us . . . to care for neglected Jerusalem families."

We can meet the need in our street and town.

We can exercise self-discipline in a world in which 6% of the population consume 40% of the world's resources.

We can live more simply so that others may simply live.

We must do something about our economic system that favours the minority of halves at the expense of the masses of have nots.

## THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN HELP US TO OUTLAW WAR

If war breaks out between the major powers every major city will be destroyed in the first 30 minutes. The U.S.A. Trident submarine can pin point 408 war heads on as many targets 6000 miles away within minutes. Each warhead is 500 times as powerful as the bomb that obliterated Hiroshima. Russia also has such submarines.

Evangelism points the way to Christ who redeems people — the people who exploit other people, who kill people, who pollute the people's world. People can change the world if they are changed. "If any one is in Christ, he is a new creation."

# MUSTARD SEEDS



... SECONDHAND CLOTHES...  
HYMN BOOKS... PEDAL ORGAN...  
... AFTER ALL WE'VE DONE  
TO BRING THEM OUT OF SIN  
AND DARKNESS I JUST CAN'T  
UNDERSTAND THEIR  
INGRATITUDE...!

FROM 'ON BEING MAGAZINE' WITH PERMISSION

# OPEN FORUM

Correspondents are requested to say only what is true, kind, necessary and Christian, and to say it in no more than 150 words.

## SUBSCRIPTION CANCELLATION

To the Editor,

In reference to Mr Martin's letter ("A.C." July 26) I wonder if he also cancelled his subscription to the daily newspapers due to their apparent lopsidedness e.g. where scandals relating to one major political party make front page headlines yet those involving the other party barely make page three.

I do not always agree with Alan Austin but his interesting articles always makes us take notice. This is obvious by the constant flow of correspondence appearing in Open Forum.

There are evils and mistakes in our society and I am in full support of someone who is prepared to speak out on behalf of those who are not getting a fair go in a great country that has enough for all.

— G. Clarke (Heathmont, Vic.)

## THE CHURCH IN THE LOCAL PRESS

To the Editor,

Several weeks ago an article appeared in the "A.C." and if my memory serves me correctly a local newspaper offered space to the local churches. The offer was turned down.

For your interest our local Ministers' Fraternal has been presenting a weekly contribution for over a year now and the whole thing is gaining increased interest. It is printed in our local paper "The Boort & Quambatook Times" which incidentally has won the John & James Cook award every year except one since 1970. Each minister takes month about and we try to get something topical and interesting together with a constructive thought. If we have found a place in the Lord's work for a local church paper, surely we can accept an offer to make a contribution to the local district paper.

— C. G. Henderson (Boort - Pyramid Hill, Vic.)

Gordon Henderson draws illustrations for some of the articles — Ed.

## BARRY McMURTRIE COMMENDED

To the Editor,

Congratulations for the initiative of the South Australian Home Missions Dept. for inviting Barry McMurtrie to speak at the recent "Church at Cocks' Crossing" Seminar. Barry's concise, palatable and Christian concepts of mobilising the local church for growth will have an influence on Australian churches comparable with the E. C. Hinrichsen era. E.C.H. used methods of evangelism suitable to his day. Barry is effectively doing the same. His humble but forthright style is inspirational. Rather than impose "Americanism" on Australian churches he has spent time in researching church styles which will attract the Australian community. His ideas need further spreading especially as we prepare for a National Strategy of Evangelism.

— Trevor Giles (Blackwood, S.A.)

Perhaps the 'A.C.' could be informed about what Barry said about the church at Cocks' Crossing —

## JUSTICE AND THE NEEDY

To the Editor,

I wish to thank the "Australian Christian" and to express my hope that its Editors will continue to give appropriate emphasis to the subject of human need. The Christian church receives praise and encourage-

ment for healing wounds and caring for the needy. However, when the church becomes concerned and endeavours to remove the causes of much of this suffering it faces strong opposition from those who exploit their fellow man. Sections of the church are now winning many friends and also facing violent opposition for identifying with the needy in their fight for justice and human dignity.

I trust our voice will continue to be heard as the unintimidated voice of Christian liberation, whether it be through Page 13, Alan Austin, or whoever proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ in its fullness. I am encouraged by the way the Christian church is responding to the cry of human need today.

Thanks again. You are helping us to understand and to see a little better.

— Colin Curtis, (Brighton, S.A.)

## "CHRISTIANS IN POLITICS"

To the Editor,

Kevin Wissman means well in "A.C." (July 26.) But where does the parochial party politician end and the committed Christian begin? Where does the love of God begin to be overruled by the party "sacred cow" syndrome?

Unfortunately, some so called Christian politicians we have experienced have proved insensitive, unsympathetic, authoritative and sometimes untruthful and thus unsuited to the task of initiation of fair and just legislation.

Kevin, might glance across the page to the "Cancel Subscription" contribution to appreciate that a perceived offence to ones own political position often manifests itself in most extraordinary ways against

fellow Christians and others.

Of itself, church membership and/or church going is not necessarily a training ground for politics. The fact that it is not needs more discussion that 150 words allow.

— L. Ross (Vic.)

## "CANCEL SUBSCRIPTION"

To the Editor,

What a pity Len Martin has denied himself the privilege of further reading of "The Australian Christian." Might I suggest a solution for both Len and Alan Austin. Alan is correct in exposing injustices in the capitalist system and who knows, but God himself, how many more injustices are committed which we do not know about. Rather than stop informing us, I would rather be set about the task of exposing all injustices whether they be capitalist, communist, or whatever. Above all Alan could check out the accuracy of sources and facts. Len could have a positive input, by informing Alan of some injustices he knows about that Alan overlooks. I hope Len won't really deny himself our national church paper just because of one page, whatever he decides to do. Let us all strive for truth. After all aren't we playing in the same football match?

— Trevor Giles (Blackwood, S.A.)

Len tells us he will not cancel. It is just that Alan Austin makes his blood boil — Ed.

## MILITARY EXPENDITURE

According to figures prepared for the British Council of Churches, \$424,000 million was spent by the nations of the world on military activities last year.

Of this sum, \$120,000 million went into the manufacture of weapons. The arms business is the most buoyant sector of the world's economy.

Since 1960, Third World nations have increased their arms spending by 400%. Ethiopia for example is spending \$128 million on arms, as against \$70 million on education and \$26 million on health.

## LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

### WHICH IS THE RIGHT CHURCH?

To the Editor,

Sadly the Church of Christ that my sister Cynthia goes to has been involved in some in-fighting. This led to a number of families leaving the church, some to the Baptists and some to the Uniting Church. Sure it was a bitter fight and a lot of bad things were said and done on both sides, and the atmosphere is still tense and one or two of the leaders are hard to get on with. But I am still left wondering why people leave Churches of Christ and go so easily to other denominations. It doesn't seem to take much to have them toddling off to the Baptists because they baptise like we do, or to the Uniting Church because we believe in unity.

I've been giving it a lot of thought and I think that I have discovered two things. The first is that in these days there are a lot of people in most denominations who don't really care which church they go to, as long as it is warm and accepting and alive and free from in-fighting.

The second thing is that there are a lot of people in Churches of Christ who don't think what we stand for is worth standing for at all costs, or perhaps no one has told them what we stand for.

This seems to underline a possible new strategy for Churches of Christ. That is for us to make up our minds what we really stand for and then to convince ourselves that it is worth living and dying for. And then to offer that to the people who don't care much which church they belong to. It is probably the sort of thing that they would be looking for.

Yours profoundly,  
TERTIUS

## OPEN FORUM

"OTHER MISSIONARY OUTPOSTS"

To the Editor,

In the "A.C." of July 12, it was mentioned that the Dorwin church is the Churches of Christ Northern Australian missionary outpost. It is not the only one. Our seven churches in North Queensland are in the same category. With the help of the Queensland Conference Departments, they are prospering and have doubled in many ways since the late 1960's. Despite this our work in the north is still small and fledgling.

Scattered over thousands of square miles, they often feel very isolated, lonely and neglected. The total active membership is only 200 — insignificant compared with the population of 500,000. Some large centres such as Bowen, Ayr and Ingham have no representation of the Restoration Movement. Major cities like Townsville (100,000) and Cairns (60,000) have very small congregations (50 and 15 active members respectively). The northern cities continue to be the fastest growing in the nation. Only four of our Churches possess their own chapels. To the shame of our Brotherhood — Australia wide — the whole of the north of our continent is still a missionary outpost in the late twentieth century.

— R. Wissmann, (Charters Towers, Qld.)

## 1ST NORTHERN MINISTERS AND LEADERS CAMP

Scattered over an area nearly the size of N.S.W. or South Australia, our Northern Churches in Queensland are very isolated. Communication of our ministers with each other and with the Conference centre in Brisbane at least 600 miles away, is limited. To help overcome this, 14 people gathered for the first Northern Ministers and Leaders Camp at Magnetic Is. near Townsville on July 15-17, 1980. Don Stewart organized the camp.

No less than 10 of those present took part in leading devotions and presenting various papers. Areas covered included a fresh look at John 3 & 4, the book of Jeremiah and prayer, a review of the Conference on Evangelism, some Church Growth principles, developing counselling skills and the work and problem of the manse, the ministry and the church.

Not only was the camp a source of great personal inspiration to each one but also a time of gaining good practical ideas that we could implement in our Churches.

— R. Wissmann.

## SOMALIA'S WATER NEED

Clean water continues to be a major problem for the refugees camped in Somalia. World Vision, which is responsible for the huge Las Dure camp, has purchased three 10,000 gallon water tanks. Each tank will hold half a day's water supply.

World Vision of Canada has purchased three large gasoline-powered water purification systems. These will purify the brackish water found near most of the camps.

## CHURCHES OF CHRIST REPRESENTED AT YOUTH CONSULTATION



Left to Right:- Louise Mulroney — U.C.A. N.S.W., Mary-Ruth Marshall — JBCE Kevin Caulton — Y. & C.E. W.A., Bill Paul — U.C.A. QLD., Judy Cambridge — U.C.A. QLD., Jeff Deuble — D.M.E.D. Vic. Tas., Gerald Rose — D.C.E. S.A.

Representatives from Churches of Christ, the Anglican Church and Scripture Union were observers at the recent Uniting Church Youth Consultation conducted by the Joint Board of Christian Education. Churches of Christ representatives were Jeff Deuble and David Brooker (Victoria), Gerald Rose (S.A.) and Kevin Caulton (W.A.).

The purpose of the Youth Consultation was to allow young people and youth leaders opportunity to speak to the structures of the Uniting Church local (parish), state (synod) and federal (assembly).

Electives were held in various areas of youth work and state and denominational groupings were provided for over the weekend. As a result of the sessions a set of guidelines were developed for effective youth ministry. They were:

- \* Basis needs to be the ministry of the church as a whole, i.e., the calling, equipping and nurturing in faith in Jesus Christ.
- \* Effective youth ministry needs to involve young people from various life situations and recognise their different faith stages.
- \* Leadership should be carefully selected, maturing Christians with enthusiasm and training.
- \* Effective youth ministry should not just be "programs" but be a service to young people aimed at wholeness and diversity. Young people should be seen as part of the whole congregation both in and out of the local church setting.
- \* Youth ministry should be for, by,

with and between young people and be more than a youth club.

The process of developing these guidelines was valuable as an opportunity and a learning experience for those involved. It was an opportunity to crystallize essential aspects of the church's ministry with young people.

## CHURCHES OF CHRIST PRIORITIES

Churches of Christ representatives formulated points that related to our churches and which arose out of the consultation.

- \* Churches of Christ would receive value from a youth consultation of their own.
- \* Young people and young adults should be involved in the decision making structures of Churches of Christ at local, state and federal levels.
- \* More effort should be made to link youth ministry and Christian education with evangelism.
- \* Training of youth leadership should receive a high priority in our churches.

— Kevin Caulton

## CHINESE BISHOP RELEASED

Bishop Dominic Tang of Canton, China, has been released from prison. Bishop Tang is 78. He was arrested in 1958 on the charge of being a counter-revolutionary. The story says that Bishop Tang is now released because he had "shown signs of correcting himself".

## INTEGRITY CARING

"How are we to offer to others a care that is truly caring and also truly pastoral?" Alastair Campbell of Scotland believes that an answer may be found in the concept of integrity. 'Integrity' refers to both steadfastness and wholeness. Contemporary pastoral care needs to rediscover both of these qualities.

Alastair Campbell and his wife Sally are visiting Australia and New Zealand in August, 1980. After an extensive itinerary in United States, Fiji, New Zealand and most capital cities of Australia, the Campbells arrive in Perth, W.A. on August 20, having conducted lectures and seminars for doctors, medical students, chaplains and ministers of all denomina-tions.



Alastair Campbell

From 1964 to 1969, Rev. Dr Alastair Campbell, M.S., B.D., Th.D., was Assistant Chaplain to the University of Edinburgh. Since 1969, he has taught in the Department of Christian Ethics and Practical Theology at the University. He gained his Th. D. after study at the San Francisco Theological Seminary. Alastair Campbell is the author of two books. Since 1975, he has been the founding editor of the quarterly "Journal of Medical Ethics."

### WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SESSIONS

Dr Campbell will be the guest lecturer at the 1980 Pastoral Care Workshop, conducted by the Chaplaincy Service of Royal Perth Hospital. Sessions will be held at Miss Maud's Convention Centre, Murray St., Perth on August 25 and 26 under the theme "Re-Discovering Pastoral Care". Cassette tapes of these five lectures at the workshop, together with other lectures to be given at metropolitan hospitals in Perth, will be available at a cost of \$4 (each incl. postage and packing). Orders for these tapes may be sent to Roger Ryall, Chaplain, Royal Perth Hospital, Wellington St., Perth.

While he is in the West, Dr Campbell will be chairing a panel of people of several professions to culminate wide-ranging discussions on medical ethics, he will lecture at W.A.I.T., preach at St Andrew's Uniting Church, Perth, appear on open-line radio and also discuss the teaching of medical ethics with the heads of the clinical departments of the Faculty of Medicine, University of W.A.

— Roger Ryall

## EL SALVADOR BLOODSHED

The nation that the Spanish called The Saviour continues to move toward full-scale civil war. World Vision of El Salvador reports that more than 1000 died when government troops supported by air power recaptured four towns in the southern provinces of Morazan and San Miguel.

A World Vision project at Perquin, in the Morazan province, has been turned into a large refugee centre. Initial reports say that there are 7000 displaced persons, 2000 of whom are children.

World Vision's director in El Salvador, Julio Contreas, says the situation will continue and probably worsen. The agency is bringing in emergency supplies of food from Guatemala. The first shipment will be 100 tonnes.

The situation has been on a downward slide since a new government was installed late last year. It reached a crisis point just before Easter, when the Archbishop of San Salvador, Oscar Romero, was assassinated while celebrating Mass in the capital. Christians in Latin America say that Archbishop Romero was a champion of the poor and frequently challenged the authorities over the sub-human conditions of the majority of the population.

Amnesty International reports that hundreds of peasants have been detained and killed by security forces since the Archbishop's murder. Recently a Catholic priest was gunned down at the altar. The local church has blamed right-wing extremists for the death of Father Cosme Spessoto. He is the ninth priest to be assassinated by extremists in El Salvador since 1977. At least one Protestant pastor has been murdered by the warring factions.

According to church authorities in Guatemala, the terror campaign has only served to strengthen the oppressed in that country.

## ACC SUPPORTS ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCILS

The Australian Council of Churches has given grants totalling \$10,000 to the North Queensland and the Kimberly Land Councils.

The grant of \$4000 to the North Queensland Land Council was made to assist the Council to cover basic operating costs. This Council represents 17 reserves, and 23 towns across an area of North Queensland larger in size than Victoria.

The Kimberly Land Council received a grant of \$4000 for general expenses as well as a grant of \$2000 for office equipment. Jimmy Beiundurry, Chairman of the Council, was one of the participants in the recent WCC Consultation — "Churches Responding to Racism in the 1980" — held in the Netherlands.

In recent months, the Kimberly Land Council has been at the forefront of efforts to stop oil drilling on Aboriginal sacred land at Noonkanbah and diamond mining on sacred sites in the Lake Argyle area.

## STAGE GOOD NEWS

Following a successful season in April-May this year, the Victorian Christian Theatre Group has announced details of Season Two: Three One-Act Plays. The season is to be performed over eight nights in community theatres in Kew, Maribyrnong, Elwood and Warragul during September.

The night's entertainment will commence with *Strike It Rich*, a play set around a T.V. game show of the same name.

After a short interval, the curtains open to *Let's Be Devils*, a hilarious but thought provoking play that portrays everyday situations with which everyone will identify. The play is in episodes and each one shows how "The Tempter" manipulates and uses people for his own good.

A second interval is followed by the final play for the evening, *Dust Disturbed*. Man and Woman arrive at the local theatre to commence their regular cleaning duties. They find a tape recorder, and being a couple of hams, act out the recorded story.

A well balanced program that will suit the whole family is just one of the features of Season Two. For *Strike It Rich* and *Dust Disturbed* this will be their World Premiere Season!!! Both were written by Phil Wilkerson and Mark Fletcher, members of the theatre group. Details available from the Secretary, Glenda Addicott, 7/28 Riversdale Rd., Hawthorn, Vic. 3122. Phone (03) 818 2538.

## HELP ON THE WAY FOR PARISH EDITORS.

Local church magazines and newsletters could improve in both appearance and content if editors take advantage of a new publication to be launched in October. *Editors' Clip Sheets* will offer local editors across Australia a monthly selection of material and illustrations suitable for reproduction in their magazines and newsletters. It will be edited by the Rev. Tony Nancarrow, and published by the newly established communications agency MediaCom Associates Inc.

Mr Nancarrow is Communications Officer for the South Australian Synod of the Uniting Church. He has had wide experience in parish communications and was instrumental in arranging workshops on this subject under the auspices of the Australian Religious Press Association.

Each month it will offer the church editor a wide selection of brief articles, quotations and illustrations. Whether it is an appropriate quotation to fill the bottom of a page; a story or puzzle for the children; contemporary devotional material; or an illustration for your own articles, editors will find something of use for their publication.

It will be mailed direct to the subscriber's address for a monthly charge of \$1.00, payable annually.

Readers seeking subscription details can do so by writing to: MediaCom Associates Inc., 6 Sheffield Street, MALVERN, S.A. 5061.

# BOOKS TO READ

## GETTING DOWN TO TIN TACKS

By Russell Davies. (U.C.A.) Board of Communications Service). \$3.50

The task of producing a quality weekly newsletter and quality advertising is not always easy and often costly. This book seeks to help editors and public relation people in churches who often take on these jobs without the necessary expertise. In simple steps it covers such areas as interviews, different styles of printing, negotiations with printers, copyright problems, interesting headlines, duplicating and writing for local papers. It shows how to achieve the best quality that budgets will allow. The book has an interesting format with diagrams and examples of style, technique and how to up grade the quality of all local church produced printing and publicity. A valuable book for every local church. The book is available from Department of Mission, Education and Evangelism, 52 LaTrobe St., Melbourne.

— Ian Tippett.

## BIBLICAL ETHICS

by R. E. O. White (Paternoster) \$14.40

The first in a series of books looking at the area of Christian ethics. This book examines the variety of approaches to ethics that are given in the Bible. There are two chapters discussing in brief overview the ethics of the Old Testament which could have been given a fuller treatment in a book of this nature. This is followed by four chapters on the ethical teaching of Jesus and in particular as it relates to several areas. The rest of the book deals with the ethical teaching of the New Testament writers such as Paul, Peter and John. This book is designed more as a text book for a college course than as a book for the casual reader.

## JOHN WESLEY: HIS LIFE AND THEOLOGY

by Robert G. Tuttle (Paternoster Press) \$18.95

A biography of the life of John Wesley set out in four sections: — The Early Years, His Early Ministry, Aldersgate and The Revival. Each section concludes with an analysis which examines the development and the breadth of Wesley's theology. Each section is then rounded out with a bibliography.

The biography is written as an imaginary autobiography at times using extensive quotes from his Diaries, Journals and Letters. This made the reading of this section difficult for me especially as I had no knowledge of the life of Wesley before. The growing split from the Church of England was not really developed nor the ups and downs of the establishment of the Methodist Societies.

The aim of the book was to produce a readable biography, present a comprehensive theological analysis, to spark interest in reading Wesley himself and to inspire. Best suited for the scholar with a background and not for a first knowledge of Wesley.

## NOTES FROM MY BIBLE

## THOUGHTS FROM MY LIBRARY

By Dwight L. Moody (Baker) \$17.25

A combination of these two titles into the one hardback binding. Both parts of this one volume are quotes from other authors that Dwight Moody has found helpful on verses of Scripture. Both halves are collected in Bible order. More of an item for Moody fans than for most casual readers.

## THE PECULIAR PEOPLE

by Mark Sorrell (Paternoster Press) \$18.95

An interesting history of a small group of Christians, who existed in England, mainly in Essex, from about 1840 until the 1950's, when they became part of the Union of Evangelical Churches. This group did have some distinctive beliefs, especially in divine healing and refused any medical treatment at all. However, they were vehemently opposed to the pentecostal movement when it first started in England. A fascinating history of a very small group of the church unknown in Australia.

## THE BEST OF ALEXANDER WHYTE

Edited by Ralph G. Turnbull (Baker) \$3.95

## THE BEST OF DWIGHT L. MOODY

Edited by Ralph Turnbull (Baker) \$3.95

The above two books comprise selections from the sermons and writings of two great but contrasting preachers of the 19th century. Alexander Whyte had a 40 year ministry in Edinburgh where his congregation was mainly university based. Whilst his teachings are excellent and show real insight into both God and man, they are pitched at a very high level and so to fully comprehend them takes a great deal of concentration and can be hard work.

Dwight L. Moody was a former shoe salesman turned evangelist. He has been criticized for his lack of theological training and his poor grammar but I believe he makes up for this with his excellent insight into the nature of God and man, his wonderful sense of humour and his obvious modesty. The book is easy to read and understand and it has much to offer to Christians of all levels of maturity, experience and understanding.

— J. Urquhart

## SOMETHING TO BELIEVE IN

by Robert Short (Harper & Row) \$7.50

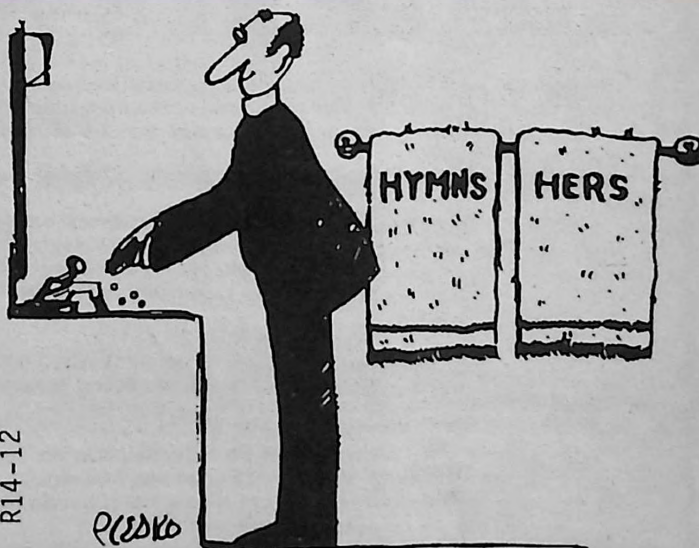
By examining in turn the writings of Kurt Vonnegut Jr., William Blatty's "The Exorcist" and the rock opera "Jesus Christ Superstar" Robert Short looks at a three stage search for something to believe in. He sees in Vonnegut's novels atheism fading into meaningless nihilism. "The Exorcist" symbolises nihilism's desperate search for answers. Finally he argues that the only place that God does reveal himself is in Jesus Christ.

As with his previous books, e.g. "The Gospel According to Peanuts", Robert Short again makes extensive use of such cartoon strips as Peanuts, Doonesbury, B.C. and Hagar the Horrible to illustrate very graphically his point. The thesis that he is arguing is interesting but I disagreed with his consistent attempts to deny a literal hell and devil.

Two interesting papers produced by the Zadok Centre have recently arrived in our office. "An Australian Perspective on Robert Schuller" by Jim Stebbins (80c plus postage) is an excellent examination of the reasons for the success of Robert Schuller's ministry and an application of these principles to Australia. Highly recommended.

The second is a reading guide to "The Women's Movement" by Dawn Mendham (60c plus postage). Theses paper provides a selection of the written material — books and articles — from a secular and religious side on the growth of the women's movement.

Both papers are available from the Zadok Centre, 13 Edgar St., Ainslie, A.C.T. 2602.



R14-12

PECKO

# HAPPENINGS

Woolwich Bible College has a new location and name. The Churches of Christ Bible College is now located at 216 Pennant Hills Rd., Carlingford and their phone numbers are 630 7185, 630 3252 and 683 2437.

Garfield Todd has been appointed a Senator of Zimbabwe by President Robert Mugabe. Gerfield Todd was a Churches of Christ missionary in Rhodesia from New Zealand who later became Prime Minister of that country. He had suffered arrest because of his support for black rule of the country.

Poland's Roman Catholics have won significant concessions from the country's Communist government. 200 drafted seminarians have been released from military service, some 6,000 priests working in church administration have become eligible for state social security provisions, and the new Polish edition of the Vatican newspaper is being allowed unhampered distribution.

Churches in Hungary are experiencing a modest building boom. The report indicated that 57 churches in one denominational grouping had building projects under way.

Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper" — the famous painting which has survived World War II bombings and deterioration caused by pollution and a bacterial mould — is now threatened by a six and a half foot crack in the priory wall on which it is painted.

Religious broadcasting in the U.S. generates more than half a billion dollars in annual contributions, according to the Wall Street Journal.

One in every five of our hospital beds is occupied by a person suffering from the adverse effects of alcohol.

Signboards offering counsel for would-be suicides at Sandanheki, a scenic precipice overlooking the sea in Japan have saved more than 100 lives since they were put up. The majority of those coming to Sandanheki are middle-aged men hard put to support their families.

Billy Graham has accepted his doctors' advice to cut back his activities during the next 12 months. Graham has cancelled most of his engagements until October when he will lead a Crusade in Japan.

Deaths from Cirrhosis of the liver have risen 75% in the past 10 years.

Simeon Nkoane, the black Anglican dean of Johannesburg, has been charged with violating a South African law that says he has no right to live in an area reserved for whites. Nkoane, the third highest ranking cleric of the Anglican diocese of Johannesburg, has been living in an apartment adjoining St. Mary's Cathedral since his appointment as dean in 1977.

A three-year-old, \$8.6 million hymn-pirating suit ended recently in an out-of-court settlement. F.E.L. Publications, accused the U.S. National Conference of Catholic Bishops of complicity in "pirating" the firm's hymns (the best known, perhaps, "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"). The settlement calls only for the conference to notify all U.S. dioceses that it is illegal and immoral to use copyrighted material without written permission from the copyright owner.

The average family of four spends approximately \$800 per annum on alcohol purchases.

A "Christian institute for aid to people persecuted because of their religious

convictions" has been organised in the Netherlands as a 'Christian alternative' to Amnesty International. The organisers have set up the organisation because of biblical and practical objections to A.I., and state as their objectives, to support the right of all Christians to freely profess their faith, to make the voice of persecuted Christians heard in the free world, and to publicly protest against all forms of inhuman treatment of those imprisoned for their religious convictions.

The 3.3-million-member Seventh Day Adventist Church is expanding. During their World Conference, the 2000 delegates from 190 countries were told that Africa should be the church's top mission priority. In South America, where there are 500,000 Adventists, a new Adventist church is being built every 56 hours. Other figures: 50 publishing houses around the world; a missionary airplane fleet of 130; and in the last five years, more than 15,000 "five-day plan to stop smoking" sessions.

A University of Tasmania recent study reveals that more than 65% of young people took their first drink with their parents.

# diary

NATIONAL  
September  
7 Father's Day  
October  
1-3 Federal Ministers Seminar  
3-8 Federal Conference  
5 Annual Offering — Colleges  
5 World Communion Sunday  
QUEENSLAND  
September  
6 Overseas Missions Bible School Rally  
12-14 Men's Camp  
19-21 Youth Group Exchange to City  
October  
20-22 Minister's Seminar  
24-26 State Conference  
VICTORIA  
August  
23 Sept. 7 School Vacation Camps  
September  
12-14 H.S.C. Camp  
16 Tertiary Students' Tea  
16 C.M.F. Meeting  
21 Engaged Couples Program  
26-28 Combined Wildflower Camp  
October  
4 Youth Rally  
NEW SOUTH WALES  
August  
24-29 D.C.E. Camps  
September  
20 Boys' Home Fete  
28 College Function

## 25 Years Ago

The proposed new building to house the historical records of the Disciples of Christ (Christian Church) in the U.S.A. was announced on the front cover of the August 23, 1955 issue. This society holds many documents today that are of interest to our history in Australia as a Movement.

The Editorial of this issue written by the editor C. G. Taylor was entitled "Baptising Them."

It is apparent that no language has one word with which to convey all that Christian baptism implies.

It implies a death. We die to an old life (Rom. 6:3.)

It is a burial. We are buried with him by baptism into death (Rom. 6:4.)

It is a resurrection (Col. 2:12.)

It represents a change of state into which one enters and was only made possible by the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord.

J. E. Brooke of Balwyn, Vic. wrote an article on Christians' supplying leadership.

The Christian must be beforehand in his social responsibility, and seek to exercise a Preventive Ministry.

The Christian has not only a right, but an obligation, to speak out on the affairs of life and the world.

## FORMER MUSLIM IS NOW BIBLE TRANSLATOR

The name Abu Bakar is a very important name in Islam. The title of the Reverend Abu Bakar is a very unlikely eventuality. However, there is a Christian preacher by that name in the South Celebes of Indonesia.

Abu Bakar is a former Muslim who became a Christian in 1965 through observing Christian witness in action. "I saw how much the Christians in my village paid attention to people like the poor, the sick, the disabled," he said.

Abu Bakar is translating the Bible into his native language of Makassar. He has recently completed translating the Scripture portion "The Man You Can't Ignore" (The Life of Christ) and is transcribing it by hand in the old Makassar script.

Abu Bakar plans to finish translating the rest of the New Testament in about 12 months.

## HEY! LISTEN!

It was early in my ministry. She was brought to me by a friend who had assured her that I could help her with her problem. How little she knew!

The story was poured out; a harrowing, complex domestic mess. The more she revealed the more confused I became about what advice to give. Eventually the grim story ended. For once I was silent and bewildered. Groping for some words that would enable me to stall for time, I began to speak. She interrupted me. "I won't take any more of your time," she said. "You'll never know how much you've helped me. I know what to do now. Thank you!" I had done nothing but listen to her. That was all that she needed.

### "I FEEL TERRIBLY GUILTY!"

It was another occasion and another person. She was weeping copiously. "I feel terribly guilty. I don't know how to forgive myself," she sobbed. So it went on with crying, professions of guilt and deep anguish. She had come to the right person. I was an expert on the theology of the forgiveness of sins. I awaited a lull in the crying to explain how God forgives everything. She accepted my word, dried her eyes, and even prayed after me a little prayer accepting God's forgiveness. It was that easy. Except that the next day she was back worse than ever. I could think of nothing more to say to her. So she sobbed out the whole story that she had needed to tell me the day before.

### PEOPLE NEED TO BE LISTENED TO

Our neighbourhood, our churches and our families are full of people who need to be listened to by sympathetic, caring, accepting persons. Most of them cannot talk it out with those closest to them because they are emotionally involved. They need people like us who are close enough to be trusted and concerned enough to care. Yet it is because we are so concerned and caring that we want to talk our heads off to them when they need to talk their heads off to us.

It is easier for us to talk than it is to listen. Talking gets their burden off our shoulders with a bit of cheap advice. Listening gets their burden onto our shoulders where it belongs.

### THE SHY ONES

Another area where some of us are short on listening and long on talking is in committees, on church boards, in discussion groups and in informal socialising. The talkative ones have all the say. They enjoy talking. They are confident in the expression of their opinions; often too confident. They cope better with their own ideas than they do with the ideas of others, and so avoid listening to them. Meanwhile the shy ones who lack confidence, but who often have excellent ideas, are seldom heard, and the committee or group are the poorer for it.

# Page 13

## MANY TYPES OF LISTENING

Sometimes it is a good thing to take stock, especially we talkative listeners, to see where we are in the communication business. The following possibilities are selected from the lists of those who are expert in telling us how to listen. **Polite listening** while I think of what I am going to say when you shut up. **Negative listening** which makes me want to interrupt you to put you right. **Selective listening** when I am bored with what you are saying and looking round for some one more interesting to talk to. **Threatened listening** that makes me so mad about what I think that you are saying that I am not really listening to you. **Interruptive listening** where I am only listening for a suitable moment to take over the conversation from you. **Absent minded listening** in which I am "away with the birds" but hopefully saying yes and no at the right time. **Interested listening** in which I am paying attention to you as though you are the only person in the world, at that moment.

## LISTENING AND EVANGELISM

We inherit a tradition that evangelism is the church doing the talking to the non-christian. It has been assumed that there is no point in listening to his point of view because it is wrong. That is why so much so-called personal evangelism has failed.

Evangelism through listening is where we encourage the other person to talk about what he believes and thinks and feels.

Often we find that he already believes in God and prayer and the Bible, even if church attendance and puritan ethics do not appeal to him. As he talks about God and faith and his own beliefs to a concerned and interested listener, he is likely to think again about some of these things. And the interested listener is able to ask the sort of questions that help this re-thinking. And sooner or later the person is going to say to the listener, "What do you think?" "Then he is ready to listen. Listening earns us the right to be heard.

## LISTENING TO AGNOSTICS

Even agnostics should be listened to with a great deal of genuine interest. How else can we find out what makes them tick and what they are on about? Mostly, if we are willing to give them a genuine hearing they will give us the same courtesy. We may not be able to change their thinking. But if they have felt accepted by us and have responded by giving us the courtesy of a hearing, the Holy Spirit could well be working in their minds after we have finished the conversation.

And the chances are that the more we listen in love to people, the more we will hear the voice of God!

# OBITUARY

**BALDOCK, Victor Henry**

(37.80) Victor Henry Baldock died in the Bordertown hospital. He was born at Yanipy, south of Kaniva in Victoria in 1901, the son of pioneering parents and his school days were spent at Yanipy and Bill's Gully. In 1922 the family moved to Serviceton and thus began his long association with that area. In 1930 he married Ivy Coad and they enjoyed a long and happy partnership of 50 years. It was in that same year that he contracted polio and as a result lost the use of his right leg. He was a man of determined spirit and with the aid of a caliper he was able to carry out most of the duties of the farm. His whole Christian life was characterised by this same spirit of rising above his handicap and being cheerful and uncomplaining. It was in a mission in the Kaniva chapel in 1931 that Vic went forward on his crutches to confess Christ as his Lord. Throughout the years he served in the churches at Serviceton and for a time at Kaniva as a S.S. teacher, reader, president and Elder. He fell seriously ill in 1966 and then again in 1969 when his 'good' leg had to be amputated. This did nothing to diminish his faith in Christ. Together they retired to Bordertown where they actively supported the church. He kept on faithfully serving and though limited by his wheelchair he became involved in Gideon work. At the last his illnesses gradually overtook him but he was safely resting in the peace of God. The prayers of the church continue to uphold Ivy and the family at this time.

**BARRY, Mrs Pearl Selman**

(31.7.80) Mrs Pearl Selman was born in the Inverell District in February 1906. The fifth child in the family of the late William Henry Fox, her three brothers predeceased her. One Reg, having been killed in France during World War I. Three sisters — Melba (Mrs Banfield of Coffs Harbour), Millicent (Mrs A Bendaich) and Marj (Mrs Jolliffe) both of Inverell, survive her. Mrs Barry's father was one of the foundation members of the Church of Christ in Inverell. In her younger years Pearl used to drive by horse and sulky from Beaulieu to Inverell each Sunday to attend the church services with her sisters. Until unable through her illness these past 19 months, Pearl was not only a regular attending member of the church on Sundays, but also she was an active participant in the Christian Women's Fellowship and Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study Group. Her husband, Leonard Sydney Barry, whom she married in 1925 was for many years a member of the Board of Deacons of the Inverell Church. He died in 1957. Their two children Bill (Mr R. W. Barry) and Miss Joyce Barry, two grandchildren — Douglas and Beverly and one great granddaughter Rachel survive Mrs Barry.

— R.A.P.

**BEASON, Tasman William.**

In a service of thanksgiving friends and relatives of Tas Beason expressed their appreciation of wonderful man. Although nearly 90 years of age when he died, Tas Beason maintained a spring in his step, a light in his eyes and cheerfulness on his lips. These were outward expressions of a life lived in the Spirit of Christ. His great romance with the Christian faith began 74 years ago in Zeehan at a Salvation Army

Citadel. On coming to Melbourne Tas led the band of the South Yarra citadel and always maintained a deep love for music. He later served the Ontario Rd., Methodists with great distinction, being a local preacher who specialised in Sunday School Anniversaries, taking over 100 in his lifetime. In 1960, out of deep conviction he was baptised at the Malvern Church of Christ and for 20 years served that congregation. He was an Elder and later elder-emeritus of that church. Although orphaned at six Tas Beason experienced a very warm family life. With his first wife Florence he enjoyed the love and respect of their daughters Gwen (Mrs Evan Stafford) and Thelma (Mrs Alan Dingle.) In the past nine years of his life he experienced loving and happy years with his wife Nellie. Tas Beason worked with Brooklyn Accessories specialising as a salesman of ball bearings. He was a man whose gracious, joyful and ordered life spoke of Christ. The service was jointly conducted by G. Crossman, Rev. Ed. Munkin of Kooyong Rd Uniting and the Minister.

— P. Nelson

**DAVIS, William Charles.**

(16.7.80) The death occurred of William Charles (Bill) Davis husband of Hazel Marjorie Davis of Wagga Wagga during a fishing trip to Burrinjuck Dam. Bill was well-known as an amateur fisherman. As a builder he was, in his earlier days always ready to help with working bees involving the erection of buildings and assisted in the construction of church buildings in other parts of the State. He was 75 years of age. Chaplain Glen Brown, who lived in Wagga as a boy and was a close friend, officiated at the funeral service assisted by E. W. Taylor. Daughters, Judith and Margaret with their families were able to attend the service and sympathy of the church goes to wife Marj. and the family.

**HIRUNS, Horace**

Horrie Hiron was born in 1891. He lived a full and active life and was elder emeritus at the South Yarra church. Horrie served the church faithfully at Croydon, Manifold Heights, Balwyn Baptist, and Colac Baptist. Horrie loved the Scriptures and took delight in explaining his Bible-reading plan. During his long life Horrie worked in a variety of places with a variety of occupations. He had been bootmaker, carpenter-joiner, conductor on the old cable trams and a worker with leather merchants. He was a man who enjoyed his work and sought to do his best at his job. Horrie had a strong sense of right and wrong and that did not make him universally popular, nonetheless he was respected. He was also associated with Lodge Canterbury and was a Past Master. Sympathy is expressed to his surviving sons and daughters, Keith, John, May and Joyce. The service was conducted by the minister.

— Peter Nelson.

**MAULSBURY Mrs Esther J.**

(26.7.80) Esther Maulsbury, widow of the late William Harold Maulsbury died at Wagga at the age of 83. She was born at Kaniva (Victoria) and lived most of her life at Wagga. She is survived by two daughters, Wilma and Isobel, six grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Esther was loved for her graciousness. She lived at "The Haven" in recent years and residents and members of the staff at the Haven were present to pay tribute. The funeral was conducted by E. W. Taylor assisted by Terry Grant.

**SIMPSON (nee Hollister), Roma.**

(16-7-1980.) Roma Simpson was born in December 1919 and lived much of her life at Campbelltown, S.A. She was baptised at Grote St. Church of Christ and later attended the Newstead Methodist Church. She married Bob Simpson at Magill Church of Christ in 1965. Roma and Bob, a devoted couple, became worshippers together at the Kensington Park Church of Christ for many years. Roma loved to serve the church, especially in her talent for singing. She is survived by her brother Ron who has been recently admitted to hospital. Roma's patient and devoted nature, in spite of serious illness over recent years, has been treasured by many who knew her and she will be greatly missed by Bob and step-daughter Anne. The church at Kensington Park, extends sympathy to them and other members of the family. Services were conducted by the writer at the Kensington Park chapel and at the Campbelltown cemetery.

— Darrell K. Thoday.

**SMITH Ida.**

After years of illness Ida Smith died. Ida was well-loved by all who knew her and in particular by the church at South Yarra where she served for 45 years. During her early life Ida worked at Hoadleys Chocolate Factory. She was actively involved in the young people's groups at the church, taking a keen interest in the lively concerts that were arranged. Later she became a valued member of the church board. Ida married later in life and was pre-deceased by her husband by 20 years. However, her home was always open to those who had come from the country areas or Interstate. In her home she also ministered unto the sick and her service to Sylvia, Doris and her friend Ev. Bale was lovingly done. Her last months were spent in the Fred Cambridge Nursing home and her faith and quiet strength were a continuing witness to the Lord she loved. Although she had no family she enjoyed close family ties with her nephews and nieces. The service was held at the South Yarra chapel and was conducted by the minister.

— P. Nelson.

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## A BOYCOTT OF THE BICENTENARY? *Noel Gilmour*

The proposition that Australian churches consider a boycott of the Bicentenary of European Settlement celebration deserves far better than the 'what nonsense' treatment accorded it by Gordon Moyes (A.C. July 12).

### ENTIRELY REASONABLE

It is entirely reasonable and rational for the churches of this nation to be asked to consider what may be an appropriate stance to adopt vis-a-vis the Bicentenary. "Celebration" may be entirely inappropriate for the churches on this occasion. When one recalls that 200 years of European settlement on this continent has meant near genocide for the Aborigines; when one recalls that these two centuries have been centuries of land theft, of cultural destruction, of deprivation and relegation to the least-educated, worst-housed, poorest-in-health strata of society — celebration has a hollow ring, not only for the aborigines. Reasons aplenty may be adduced for celebration from the European settlement side of the story but where is the church to take stance if it is to maintain integrity?

### CORNS IN UNCOMFORTABLE PLACES

To suggest that a boycott would "isolate the church from the rest of society," aside from being suspect both Biblically and theologically, underlines a major difficulty which has beset the Australian churches from the beginning. That difficulty is the unwillingness, with some notable exceptions to take a stand over against the society. The desire to be "in" with everyone, with the "right" people in particular, leads to fence-sitting which does no more than produce corns in uncomfortable places. Both Biblically and theologically there are good grounds for the churches to take the side of the poor and the under-privileged. Jesus' words as he commences his ministry in the synagogue in Nazareth (Luke 4) are but one instance of this major Biblical theme.

### NO ACTION CAN CLEAN THE SLATE

Mr Moyes makes a series (nine in all) of excellent suggestions which may well be taken up by the churches as a Bicentenary program. Given, however, the track record of successive colonial and Australian authorities and governments one would be sanguine indeed to imagine that these things will be achieved without major struggle. This is no reason at all for not attempting these things and one hopes that we may see positive and strong action from both churches and government in these areas. At the same time it must be recognised that no amount of positive and strong action will wipe clean the slate of two centuries of wilful neglect and worse. Thus there still remains the question of appropriate participation in the Bicentenary.

### FROM THE POTTER'S WHEEL

With no more power-base than that afforded by my potter's wheel, let me suggest that the appropriate stance of the churches towards the Bicentenary should

be that of penitence. Penitence for what two centuries of European settlement has meant for this land and its people.

There yet remains seven years to the Bicentenary. It would be good and creative to have some such body as the Australian Council of Churches, jointly with the Episcopal Conference of the Catholic Church, call the churches and Christian people to a "sabbath" of penitence. One need not envisage seven years of wailing and breast-beating — that is cheap penitence. True penitence is both costly and life-changing. Response to a call to penitence would necessarily involve the commitment of resources, both human and material. Response to a call to penitence would necessarily involve the churches aligning themselves with the most needy and underprivileged groups in our society.

### WHEN GOD THREATENED BOYCOTT

The failure of either the churches to respond to the call or the government to act may well lead some, even many, Christians and churches to decide to boycott the Bicentenary. If one imagines the likely scenes accompanying the Bicentenary — that is, the flag waving, the mouthing of platitudes about democracy in a nation which did not so much as deem the aborigines to be citizens for the first 180 years — it is easy to feel nausea about the whole thing. There's an uncomfortable parallel to that situation in Israel for

which God himself threatened boycott . . . to use the delightful words of the Authorised Version, "I will not smell in your solemn assemblies . . . let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream." (Amos 5:21-24)

### REPENT AND BE CONVERTED

There has been opened in recent days in the national capital a building of unconscious and uncommon irony. The irony is so strong as to make the building a national obscenity. That building is the High Court of Australia; monument to a legal system which works only when its rails are liberally greased with money. Some \$50 million spent on a building to house the High Court when legal aid languishes for that kind of money, makes the building a monumental obscenity. Australia is in grave danger of repeating that scene in the building of a great and imaginative Parliament House at a cost of who-knows-how-many millions of dollars; a monument to a political system which denies its poorest and most needy the most elemental of services and rights, whilst preserving the rights, powers and freedom of the wealthy.

In that situation, to suggest that the churches consider their attitude to the Bicentenary, even to the point of boycott, is not to put one's head in the sand. It is an invitation to see ourselves as we really are — to repent and be converted.

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# OLD

**CROWN ST., TOOWOOMBA** Short-term interim ministries conducted by Eric Hart and wife Madge; Frank Beale, and Mr and Mrs Roy Clark. Ron Sansome and Geoff Charles from Harlaxton Church gave assistance . . . Church and B.S. attendances showing improvement. . .

**BAROLIN STREET, BUNDABERG** (B. M. Nowitzke). Some families travel to Gladstone each three weeks to assist in work and help in services . . . Church heard Dr Hammer, Kenmore College, at prayer meeting and worship service . . . C.W.F. combined with Avenell Heights for meeting. Q.C.W.F. President Mrs Roberts was present. Also present was Mrs Holloway wife of the chaplain of the Southport Retirement Village.

# nsw

**THORNLEIGH** (D. W. Mansell). Morning Family Service conducted by Atkins Family . . . Family Fun Evening held with fifties theme . . . A.B.M. held. All retiring Elders and Deacons re-elected. New Constitution adopted.

**CHATSWOOD** (D. Hayman). Church participating with others in Northside Reachout in preparation for Leighton Ford Mission in 1982. Rallies held in various areas. Gordon Moyes speaker at Lower North Shore Rally held at Chatswood Town Hall . . . Visiting speakers from Wycliffe Bible Translators . . . Group home meetings to study "One in the Spirit."

**LISMORE** (Glen Wegner.) Church celebrated 96th anniversary. Frank Ewers was the guest preacher . . . B.S. now using bus to gather extra children . . . Y.P. raised \$200 for Operation Sit Upon . . . Glen Wegner concludes six years of ministry at end of year and moves to Bendigo. Ed Morrison of Gosford will be the new minister in 1981.

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

**WOLLONGONG: Wollongong Singles Society (042) 28 4342.**

**PORT PIRIE: The Singles Club (086) 32 2435**

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

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

Other Singles Clubs operating who wish to be listed here on a share-cost basis should write to Mr R. K. Aldred, P.O. Box 478, Albury, 2640.

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# WQ

**MERREDIN, BRUCE ROCK** (D. Good). Merredin C.W.F. held Friendship Evening with Mrs Shirley Smyth, who screened film on Vanuatu (New Hebrides) ... Christian book stall held ... Child Thanksgiving and Parent Dedication Service held at Bruce Rock ... Murray Arnold elected to Bruce Rock Shire Council ... Mrs Ellis has had surgery in Perth and Mrs Ruth Arnold suffering prolonged illness ... Two at World Convention.

**WEMBLEY DOWNS** (John Somerville). Gavin Riches won Hale School scholarship 1981-1985 ... Warren Bowers has been very ill now recovering ... Church celebrated 200 years of S.S. in morning worship with children participating ... Sunday evening service a musical mix with Murray and Jan Phillips, Brad and Lyn Riches and Ron Hancock ... Open House held on Thursday mornings.

**KALGOORLIE** (L. Gibb). C.W.F. held workshop on prayer. Rosemary Bond spoke on "Cancer in Women". Group of ladies visited C.E.S. careers room. Five ladies visited Norseman mission and helped with mending ... Youth group holding regular coffee shops. Concert organised with Chris Foley and Tim Link ... Team of students and lecturer from Kenmore visited ... A.G.B.M. held ... Two baptised recently.

**CARNARVON** (B. Yesberg). Men's and women's fellowship held sit down dinner with guest speakers John and Moira Prince, Scripture Union. 100 attended ... Fortnightly half night of prayer commenced ... A.G.M. held commencing with casserole tea and films for children ... Several Eastern state visitors helping at Ingada Village ... Outreach trips made to Noonkanbah the

centre of controversy over drilling on sacred sites. Christians there are in good heart.

**COLLIE** (D. L. Krause). Kenmore College visit held recently ... "Noongah" S.S. planned for third term along with other Aboriginal outreach projects conducted by Roelands ... C.W.F. purchased urn and tea-pot for church ... Monthly youth services continuing with expansion of youth program in third term ... Minister's parents from Hawaii recent visitors.

# SO

**MARION** (E. P. C. Hollard). Reg Brand recent preacher in the absence of E.P.C. Hollard ... Sympathy extended to Mrs Mavis Bull on the death of her mother Mrs Rogers ... At recent features at five service Mrs Marg Battersby led the service and Reg Brand conducted a baptismal service. Mrs Phyl Crowley was soloist accompanied by her son John on the piano.

**SEMAPHORE** (R. Anderson, J. Luff). Jim Luff has commenced a joint ministry with Bob Anderson ... Two attended World Convention ... 70th Anniversary celebrated on August 10. Saturday evening barbecue held. Bob Clymer, Conf. Pres., guest speaker. 140 attended anniversary luncheon including ministers from local churches. Presentation made to Jack Brooker as secretary for 34 years. Marnie Brooker also recognised.

**HAMPTON** (T. Hanna, D. Morffew). Baptismal service held ... Progressive dinner and church luncheon held ... Youth group held camp at Monbulk ... Visiting speakers have been Wayne Clinton - C.O.B., Gail Mellor - African Inland Mission and Dirk Evenhuis - Jewish Evangelical Witness ... Boys' and Girls' clubs growing.

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### MARRIAGES

**WHITTAKER - BROOKER** Amy and Max of Glen Waverley, announce that the marriage of their elder daughter, Mary-Ann Louise to Stephen Brooker, was celebrated on Aug. 15th, at the Old Telegraph Station, Alice Springs.

### SILVER WEDDING

**GILMOUR - PEERS** On 3 September Lenice and Graham celebrate the 25th anniversary of their wedding by Howard Earle at the Surrey Hills Church of Christ, Vic. Love and best wishes from Heather, Jenny, Linda, Barbara and Bruce.

### RUBY WEDDING

**GOSS - EAST** Jean and Arthur announce with pleasure their 40th wedding anniversary. Married at Ascot Vale Church of Christ on August 31st, 1940 by Mr. C. M. Thomas. Will be at home to friends and family from 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 31st at 8 Eltham St., Flemington.

### GOLDEN WEDDING

**STOKIE - ROBBINS** With gratitude and much pleasure the family of George and Muriel announce the 50th anniversary of their parents' and grandparents' marriage which took place at the Preston Church on 6.9.30. We advise friends they will be at Home at 1 Coral Court, Cheltenham, on Sunday 7th September between 3 - 5 p.m. and would be delighted to see them. We do request... no gifts please for seeing friends will be a gift in itself.

### DEATHS

**HARRIS** On Aug. 5th, 1980, at W.G.H. Warragul Norman of 21 Rangeview St., Warragul. Dearly loved husband of Dora, loved father of Valma (Mrs H. McDonald), Glenda (Mrs J. Winter) Parkdale and Bruce. Fond father-in-law of Hugh, John and Lesley. Devoted Grandpa of Bryan, Geoff, Trevor, Darren, Peter, Mark, Matthew, Laura and Ben. In his 78th year. Treasured memories till we meet again.

**SMITH A. A.** May, late of 98 Barkers Rd., Hawthorn, died at St. Vincents' Hospital on July 29th 1980, aged 79 years. Dearly loved wife of the late Charles Smith, devoted and greatly loved mother of Joyce (dec.) and Keith (dec.), and mother-in-law of Valerie (Euroa). Wonderful Granny of Elizabeth, Colin, Rosemary, Trevor and Alison. A great heart at peace. Always remembered with love and gratitude.

### IN MEMORIAM

**ALLAN** In loving memory of James Ernest. Passed away August 23rd 1957. Treasured memories. Doreen and Freda.

**LEE** Horace Treasured memories of my beloved husband called home September 3rd, 1987. "In God's care". Edna.

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Sunday 14th September

All are welcome to share with us

11.00 a.m. Communion Service  
Speaker — C.H.J. Wright  
Singers — The Deslanders

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LUNCHEON  
ACCEPTANCES

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L. Ramsbottom (03) 89 5436

## Churches of Christ Inner Areas Conference URBAN MISSION SEMINARS

Two seminars regarding aspects of Inner City ministry

1. Tuesday, September 9

### MINISTRY TO MIGRANT FAMILIES

— Rev. Doug Purnell

(Minister with the Church of All Nations, Carlton)

2. Thursday, October 2

### YOUTH IN THE INNER CITY

Approach and Directions

— Rev. Alan Marr

(Minister with Yarraville Baptist, previously Youth Director Blackburn Baptist)

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7.30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Contact: BERNARD PIGDON 25 3855

Register by 1st September and 22nd September respectively

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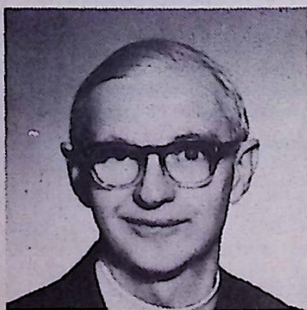
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### DISCIPLESHIP

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- Mrs M. Rawlings, A. Rawlings, Reservoir, Vic.
- Enid Jenkins, Lydia Jenkins, Owen Jenkins, Peel St., Ballarat, Vic.
- Margaret Taylor, Harold Taylor, Gary Payne, Barolin St., Bundaberg, Qld.
- Mrs Lorraine Meade, Rodney Hocking, Mount Clear, Vic.
- Stephen Botting, Kathy Stock, Mark Whitely, Dean Winnell, Blackwood, S.A.
- Mark Marshall, Hampton, Vic.
- Derrilee Drilling, Marion, S.A.
- Wendy Webster, Angie Isakovich, Kalgoorlie, W.A.

### MARRIAGES

- Gayle Anstis to Glenn Bird, Peel St., Ballarat, Vic.
- Christine Tanner to James Loveday, Elizabeth, S.A.

### DEATHS

- Mrs G. Harwood, N. Floate, Mrs Elliott, Belmont, Vic.
- Mrs L. Pentelow, Chatswood, N.S.W.
- Clara Vaughan, Barolin St., Bundaberg, Qld.

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E. L. WILLIAMS: Postcode incorrect. Should be 3802 not 3082.

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### THE CHANGING MOODS

Sunday, September 21, 5 p.m.  
Ballarat Dawson St. Church of  
Christ

Sunday, October 5, 7 p.m.  
Werrilbee Church of Christ

### ATTENTION N.S.W. BURTT'S

WOULD Descendants of JAMES BURTT born ADELAIDE 3/12/1860, believed noted runner, N.S.W. Railway employee, possibly five sons, one named Alex please contact: Tom Burt, Sheffield, 7306, Tasmania. Information needed to complete Family Tree.

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## "COME BACK TO NORTHAM — GO FORWARD WITH CHRIST"

Northam Church of Christ warmly invites all former members and interested persons to join her in celebration of her 75th ANNIVERSARY with the above theme OCTOBER 10-12, 1980. GUEST SPEAKERS will be former Northam ministers FRANK EWERS and BILL GAUNSON. For accommodation contact Morris Randall as soon as possible: P.O. Box 126, Northam, W.A. 6041.

*WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT OUR 75th!!*

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*Special Guest Speaker* — Pastor Ben Mason M.B.E. Gifted National Evangelist  
Featuring his talented wife Bernice and family.

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### PROGRAMME

Saturday Aug. 30: 5 p.m. B.B.Q. 7 p.m. Rally  
Doug Nicholls Centre, 58 Cunningham Street,  
Northcote.

Sunday Aug. 31: 11 a.m. Service. 7 p.m. Rally  
Doug Nicholls Centre

Monday Sept. 1: 7 p.m. Doveton Baptist Church  
Hall. 127 Kidd Road, Doveton.

Tuesday Sept. 2: 7 p.m. Youth Rally Doug  
Nicholls Centre.

Thursday Sept. 4: 7 p.m. Uniting Church Hall,  
Cnr. Sylvester Grove and Highview Road, East  
Preston.

Friday Sept. 5: 7 p.m. Rally Fitzroy Town Hall,  
201 Napier Street, Fitzroy.

Saturday Sept. 6: 7 p.m. Rally Fitzroy Town Hall.

Sunday Sept. 7: 11 a.m. Service. 7 p.m. Final  
Rally Fitzroy Town Hall.

### ALL WELCOME

Further information contact: — Pastor A. Knapp 428 5483 or 89 2615

# VIC

**BELMONT** (B. K. Ryall). Community needs evening services had High School Principal, Mayor, local M.P., funeral director, Council Social Worker and Social Worker from a Mental Health facility ... Recent rededications and new families meeting ... Five prayer/study groups operating ... 11 at World Convention ... Marshmans working in W.A. at "Roelands Village" on new sheds ... New buildings well used by clubs, auxiliaries, and community groups, e.g. Parents without Partners, Play Groups, Bike Club, China Painting, Ballet. "Koala Club" formed to provide an informal meeting place and friendship ... Recent speakers K. Skillicorn (Leprosy Mission) and from Mission and Evangelism Conf., Rev. Tun Me (Burma Baptist), Rev. Victor Kwenda (Methodist, Zimbabwe, speech writer for Pres. Banana) ... 40th Anniversary meetings in November with Dean Hamilton.

**RESERVOIR** (P. Stevens). 46th Church Anniversary celebrated followed by luncheon. Ron Elbourne speaker ... Mother and son baptized ... Missionary support program proceeding. Evening services at 6 p.m. ... C.W.F. luncheon held in home of Pres. Mrs Jean Grayden. Speaker Mrs Helen Banks ... Ladies hold regular a.m. prayer meetings ... Repairs made to church building.

**HORSHAM** (W. Gibney). Conf. Pres. Ron Elbourne returned to his "home" town when representatives from churches in the N.W. Dist. Conf. met at a family night when Lindsay Croxford led a sing-along, Mavis Elbourne showed an audio-visual, the Glenairs sang and Ron spoke. They also shared in two Sunday services ... Bethel Bible course to commence ... Three students from C.O.B. took service ... C.W.E.F. collected gifts for hospital visitation in Melbourne.

**MOUNT CLEAR** (Mark Dunn). Married woman and teenage boy baptised. Five welcomed as Christians in Fellowship ... 110 present at family service. S.S. participated. Don Smith (Dept. M.E.D.) speaker. Service followed by luncheon arranged by Y.P. ... Annual meeting held in afternoon and first board elected. Colin Hocking - Chairman and David Jones - Secretary. Future projections of church presented by Colin Hocking. Don Smith conducted workshop on Church Growth ... Tweenager Club arranged a family film night for Overseas Missions ... Church heard John and Adeline Liu over tea and later at combined meeting at York Street.

**HAMILTON** (Russell Wesley). Young Adults held country and western night with local band. 85 attended ... New S.S. co-inciding with 10.30 p.m. worship service. 10 children attending ... 50 guides and parents attended Guide Company annual parade ... C.W.A.F. held morning coffee with Mrs Hense from the Salvation Army as guest speaker ... Films shown to mothers of play group children ... C.O.B. team visited ... Hamilton played Warrnambool in football and netball. Barbecue and social

evening held ... Two church board members attended School of Prayer at Mt. Gambia ... Minister taking Religious Education at primary school. **SPRINGVALE** (Reg Combridge). Monthly family service attracting more S.S. parents ... Mrs Sheehan and Mrs Hindman both home from hospital ... Audio visual "Why Broadcast to Russia" shown ... Mrs Adeline Liu guest speaker at C.W.A.F. ... \$600 given to Overseas Missions appeal ... Film "A Distant Thunder" screened ... Older Y.P. attended camp at Marysville led by Geof Peers.

**BOX HILL** (S. Downie). Film "Crossroads of History" screened at Young Marrieds ... C.W.E.F. held concert ... Bob Stokes, Trans World Radio, speaker at C.W.A.F. ... Voice of the Gospel team at Y.P.C.E. ... Recent guest speakers at gospel services were John Liu and Dr. Edwin Berg ... C.W.F. attended missionary rally.

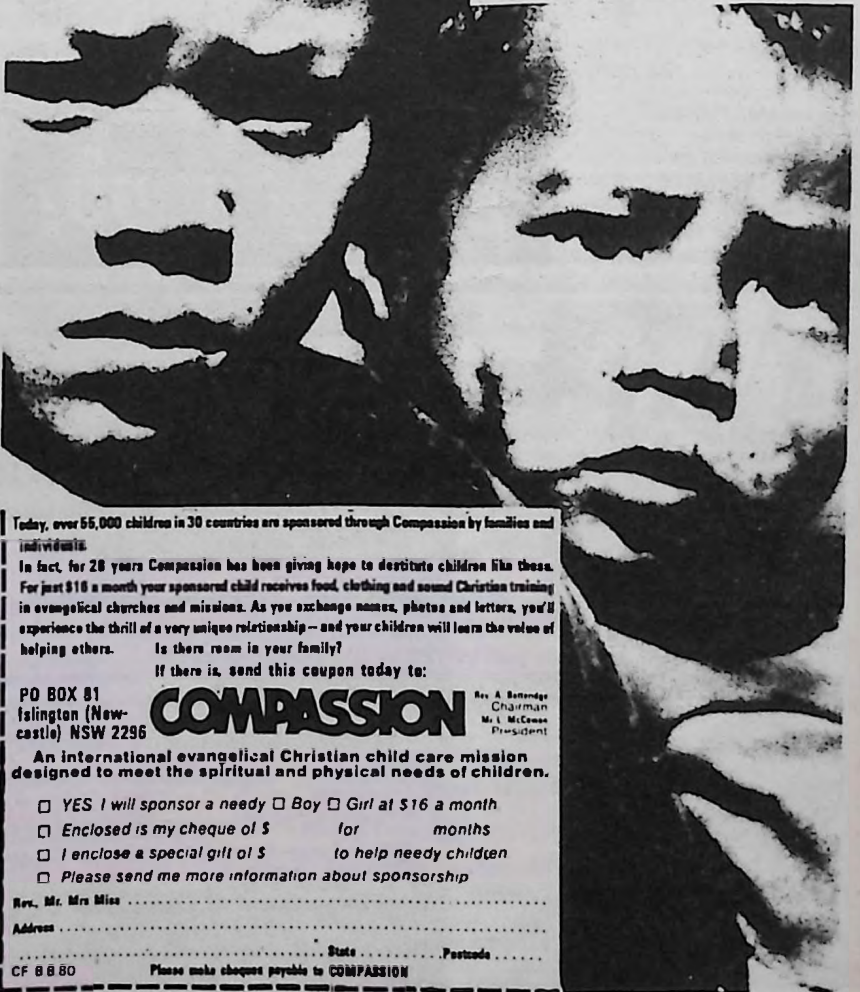
**CAMBERWELL** (V. Longthorp, A. Tanner). Five former Hawthorn members welcomed into membership. E. L. Williams former Hawthorn minister was

speaker ... Table Tennis hit-a-thon raised \$147 towards Overseas Mission ... Church approved proposed plan for formation of a regional church in the Camberwell district ... Church Growth study groups meeting weekly ... Viney Longthorp presented illustrated talk on Norfolk Is.

# QLD

**CHARTERS TOWERS** (R. Wissmann). Church and S.S. attendances have doubled over past 12 months. Membership and offerings have also significantly increased ... Visualised Bible study filmstrips shown ... S.S. class for high school students commenced ... Y.P. shared in camps at Magnetic Island ... Church T shirts printed and selling well ... Historic church building being restored and bells and bell tower (the only carillon in North Queensland) is to be restored ... Church planning for "Christmas Crusade" with John Timms.

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**AUGUST 31st** GUEST SPEAKER:—  
**9.15 a.m. &** Fred Magbunna.  
**11.00 a.m.** F.E.B.C. Director for the Philippines  
**7. p.m.** Gleanings from Genesis  
**SEPTEMBER 7th, 9.15 a.m., 11.00 a.m.,**  
**7.00 p.m.** Preacher Allan Webb

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



# SO

**EDWARDSTOWN** (R. Combridge, C. Cunningham). Church celebrated 40th anniversary. Highlight was items by church singing group in both services. Overflow attendances at both services. Anniversary luncheon organised by Christian Lifestyle Activities Dept. involving half members inviting other half home for lunch . . . Sunshine Circle welcomed 13 foundation members and over 100 ladies to 40th anniversary celebrations of women's day group.

**WHYALLA** (C. Perkins). Seven members travelled to Port Lincoln for Eyre Peninsula Conf. . . S.S. Anniversary held . . . Two baptised recently . . . Mission in October with Trevor Meares . . . S.S. raised \$59 to support N.G. student.

**GOOLWA** Pulpit exchange with the Uniting church. Uniting church ladies' took C.W.F. Meeting . . . Merv Lawrie and Lance Marshman retired ministers assisting while church without a minister . . . Combined meeting with Victor Harbor church held to discuss Commission of Inquiry report.

**BROOKLYN PARK** (G. D. Agnew). 200 including players and parents from netball teams attended p.m. special which featured T.V. personality Dean Davis . . . Rev. Ivor Bailey, Superintendent Adelaide Central Mission, conducted one night seminar . . . Reg and Dawn Brand, marriage counsellors, led night for Young Marrieds . . . Four adults and two children attended World Convention . . . Graham Agnew guest speaker at Edwardstown church board retreat . . . Church hosted recent ecumenical study series on Vatican II documents. Series conducted by Tony Moester of local R.C. church. . . 40 attended Young Marrieds annual dinner . . . Plans for new Community Care and Friendship Centre awaiting approval.

**BLACKWOOD** (L. Cooke, T. Giles). 5 p.m. services during July and August . . . Church parade by B.B. and program by bell ringers . . . G.B. camp at Mylar with 26 girls and officers . . . Five attended World Convention . . . 17 attended Barrie McMurtrie seminar on church promotion . . . B.B. held bike-a-thon from Blackwood to Victor Harbour.

**ELIZABETH** (Mr Burt, D. Tandy). Through hard work Ron Deguet and helpers have brought Boys' Brigade from small numbers to one of the biggest companies in the State. Boys have adopted a boy in Ethiopia through World Vision . . . Dr Trevor Taylor now working among refugees in Somalia for three months with World Vision . . . Many ill including Secretary L. Ingham . . . Women's Fellowship celebrated birthday by visiting "Melrose House", home for elderly blind. They supplied program and birthday supper . . . Grocery box (Norman Needy) kept at church to help increased demand from needy families in district.



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# VIC

**SWAN HILL** (J. A. Caporn). Baptismal service held . . . Youth group "sit-upon" raised over \$200 for New Guinea mission project . . . C.O.B. students visited and shared in family social and morning service . . . Mrs Ivy Graham attended World Convention . . . Mid-week groups studying book of Revelation.

**CAULFIELD** (K. Christensen). All youth clubs being replaced with Christian Endeavour program to meet all needs . . . For 60th anniversary celebrations Ken Clinton was guest speaker. P.S.A. led by Moonee Ponds Salvation Army Songsters, and the Dwight and Greenwood family singers, from the Faithland Community Church, Mitcham . . . Mrs Crabtree and Mrs Anna Carnie have returned from hospital; Mrs Marion Gray still in hospital . . . Monthly home prayer and Bible study meetings held . . . Church holding 5 p.m. meetings until August . . . Kevin Christensen conducted mission with Bendigo church . . . Recent speakers D. Hutchins, T. Norton and P. Maxwell. Visit by team of students from C.O.B. with Tom Fraser giving evening message.

**BENTLEIGH** (Chris MacKenzie). Church extends sympathy to wife Shirley and sons of Russell Robotham who died after a long illness. Russel and Shirley were missionaries in India until illness necessitated their return . . . Neville Lilley, Australian Evangelical Fellowship, recent speaker . . . In addition to Tuesday and Wednesday Prayer and Bible Study groups, weekly prayer and praise time is held 8 a.m. Saturdays . . . Minister has Fellowship group at Bentleigh H.S. each week.

**PEEL ST. BALLARAT** (Jim Cunningham). Several years ago Eddie Jenkins, a former Moderator of the Welsh Presbyterian Church, was welcomed into membership following immersion. His witness has led to the recent baptism of

two adult sisters and a brother . . . Chapel interior painted, ceiling insulated, curtains hung and platform floodlit . . . Ken and Bev Milne making musical contribution . . . Weekly, C.W.C.I. "Know Your Bible" course begun in the home of Jani White.

## JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

● Continued from Page 24

### CLASS DISTINCTION

Jehovah's Witnesses practice a form of class distinction. There are the 144,000 of the Chosen Class who alone will go to heaven and reign with Christ and who will in fact be both human and divine. The rest of the Jehovah's Witnesses, the 'other sheep', the 'great crowd', the 'domestics' who in fact form the bulk of today's Witnesses, will be resurrected to a physical life on this physical earth after it has been cleaned up following the slaughter of Armageddon.

The Watch Tower Society still teaches that Armageddon is just around the corner and that only Jehovah's Witnesses will be spared. In fact it will be their 'chief delight' to watch Jesus Christ, as God's Commander-in-Chief 'killing off' all those who have opposed the New World Society (J. W.'s) in this terrible battle.

### BABYLON THE GREAT

The Christian church is referred to as part of Babylon the Great and clergy are all regarded as Satan-led. Christendom will be destroyed and only Jehovah's Witnesses will live. (That frightens quite a few into the Watch Tower Society!)

Each year, at the time of the Jewish Passover, Jehovah's Witnesses celebrate the Lord's Supper, the Memorial. In Kingdom Halls around the world all the faithful gather to observe the Memorial — but only those of the 144,000 class, still alive today, are permitted to partake of the emblems — the rest sit back and watch (which means in some Kingdom Halls no one takes the emblems at all). Only those who belong to the 144,000 know that they belong to that select group — there is no

criteria or standard for being one of the elect — you either know you are one of them or you are not one of them.

### THE TRINITY

The Jehovah's Witnesses deny the doctrine of the Trinity and ridicule the churches as teaching that God is a three headed monstrosity. In spite of their denial of the Trinity and claims that there is only one God — Jehovah — they state that Jesus is a god, but not God Almighty (which suggests two gods not one).

The Watch Tower Society further teaches that Jesus, in his pre-human state 'was the first created creature through whom God then created all others, and that he was in fact the archangel Michael. They teach that in his human state he was only a man, a perfect man, human but not divine. They state that he became the Christ at his baptism and when he died he was raised only in the spirit. They believe that God removed the body of Jesus and that as the resurrected Spirit Son of God he materialised various bodies for the post resurrection appearances. As the Spirit Son of God he has returned to God's heavenly presence with more power and a higher position than he had before and has again assumed the name of the Archangel Michael. The Watch Tower Society teaches that Jesus invisibly came again and was given the authority to reign with God in 1914 and that God's Kingdom was then established.

### LOVE ONE, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE!

Serious students of the Scriptures can soon spot the errors of the Watch Tower cult. That system has lowered Christ and made him into no more than an angel. The writer to the Hebrews made it clear that Christ was far more than an angel. Jehovah's Witnesses need to be confronted by the real living Christ, alive in his followers today. They know little of the love of God revealed through Jesus Christ. Do a Jehovah's Witness a favour today — love one for Christ's sake.

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# Ambrosia by Chris Ambrose

I have arranged for several of the articles on the cults to be written by others with more expertise on the individual cult concerned. These will appear in this column occasionally. The first of these has been contributed by **Adrian van Leen**, minister of the North Perth church, who is involved in **Concerned Christian Growth Ministries** to educate the churches about the cults particularly the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses.

## JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

— W. A. van Leen

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Another one of those weak jokes? Not for the Jehovah's Witnesses! Their door-knocking is seen as an essential part of their obedience to God. They believe that they are the only ones who are fulfilling this New Testament approach of outreach. (The tragedy is that, apart from the Mormons, they often are the only ones on regular home visitation!) These sincere people are concerned about others and sharing with others what they believe to be the true faith. They are zealous in their visitation, study, and efforts to serve God.

### POINT OF CONTACT

Much of their concern for world events, trends and conditions is shared by most Christians. Their 'Awake' and 'Watchtower' magazines contain many articles with which we could all find agreement. Many people find themselves agreeing with the door-step discussions on world conditions and become involved. Following the initial contact, at which something is left to be read and thought about there comes the follow-up visit. This is followed by study in one's own home. Then comes the study sessions at the Kingdom Hall. The interested contact is then encouraged to go door-knocking with one of the 'publishers'. After this comes baptism, by immersion, usually at one of the annual rallies.

### THE PROGRAM WORKS

The program is thorough and it works. In 1979 Jehovah's Witnesses baptised an average of 311 new converts per day

(worldwide). Door-to-door visitation works! In spite of the knock-backs there is always someone with a need, someone lonely or wanting to talk to anybody who would call. And who arrives first on the doorstep at this time of need? You've guessed it — the Jehovah's Witnesses!

To cater for the need and desire to study the Jehovah's Witnesses have a vast publishing program. Apart from the 'Awake' and 'Watchtower' there is usually at least one book per year, apart from re-issues of selected previous publications and their own Bible version, 'The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures'. This version in modern English is a very biased and undependable translation full of additions and alterations. A classic example is the translation of John 1:1 which reads: "... and the Word was with God, and the Word was a God." They try to justify this mis-translation with references to Greek grammatical rules — however, these rules seem to be more an invention of a preconceived viewpoint than of N.T. Greek grammar. Greek scholars do not agree with the Jehovah's Witnesses interpretation at this point.

### BIBLE PASSAGES OUT OF CONTEXT

The published materials of the Watchtower Society enable members to learn Bible texts and passages and study parts of the Bible without actually studying the Bible in full context and depth. The way most Jehovah's Witnesses can quote verses from the Bible sounds most impressive but in actual fact most of the quotes are out of context and often misinterpreted or misapplied. Most of the doctrines that make this group a counterfeit cult in fact relate to their misapplication and mis-interpretation of Scripture. They have, on many occasions, prophesied the end of the world. The last prediction was for the autumn of 1975. The failure of that prophecy to eventuate meant the loss and disillusionment of many Jehovah's Witnesses. The sad thing is that many of them rejected God and the church along with the Watch Tower Society.

Continued on Page 23

# THE LAST WORD

Even if you are too deaf to hear the preacher, the church is still a good place to listen to God.

— J. A. Holmes

### Twilight Symphony

Come early. Sit in cool, roofless spaces And watch the stars, like prayers, take their places.

Be silent. Against the bandshell of the sky They'll give their instruments a muted try. Beyond the quiet, catch, with careful ears, The immemorial music of the spheres.

— Eleanor Brooks

★ ★ ★

"Where's Henry?" asked a neighbor boy.

"I'm not sure," replied Henry's mother. "If the ice is as thick as he thinks it is, he's skating. If it's as thin as I think it is, he's swimming."

★ ★ ★

A meek little man in a restaurant timidly touched the arm of a man putting on an overcoat. "Excuse me," he said, "but do you happen to be Mr. Smith of Newport?"

No, I'm not!" the man answered impatiently.

"Oh ... er ... well," stammered the first man, "you see, I am and that's his overcoat you're putting on."

★ ★ ★

A telephone operator answered a call from an outdoor booth. A voice requested a long distance number.

"What number are you calling from?" asked the operator. There was no reply so she added helpfully, "It's there on the dial."

After a long pause the voice replied, "1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-0."

★ ★ ★



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