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NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

IN THIS ISSUE

SCHULLER'S
CHURCH

★ ★ ★

WOMENS
WORLD
CONVENTION

★ ★ ★

MORMONS

TASMANIAN CHURCH LEADERS' CONFERENCE, 1980

Over the weekend beginning Friday, August 1, a large group of Tasmanians gathered at the Churches of Christ Conference Centre at Bicheno. They came - families, couples and husbands/wives from Ulverstone, Launceston, Hobart, Huon, Copping and Nubeena, representing the leadership in these churches to be encouraged, inspired and uplifted by Ron Elbourne and Don Smith.

With the children well occupied the adults were confronted by Ron with issues such as strategies for the next 10 years, closing the back door (a look at pastoral care, highlighting an extended role of Elders), the structure of the church board, encompassing a new vocation for deacons and last of all but most important, evangelism.

Don Smith encouraged the dreamers of dreams and a list of visions for the next five years in Tasmania was compiled.

After sleeping on this list, the group rewrote the list in order of priority.

A memorable part of the weekend was a communion service before lunch on Sunday, where adults and children sat in groups and shared their feelings about the weekend, then prayed for one another and finally served one another with bread and wine.

It was a tremendous experience to praise God in song at the beginning of each session and to dialogue with Ron and one another at the end of each session.

Although the accommodation at the Centre was stretched to bursting point and the local caravan park was used as well, it was great to see grandfathers right down to babies in arms enjoying the weekend — there was no generation gap! Tasmanian churches can expect to feel waves emanating from this weekend for some time to come, thanks to Ron Elbourne and Don Smith.

— Anne Foot

OLDEST FASTER FROM RINGWOOD



Mrs. Gertrude Kinrade

The oldest participant in the recent World Vision 40 Hour Refugee Famine was Mrs Gertrude Kinrade of Royal Avenue, Heathmont, who is 80.

Mrs Kinrade was one of about 20 members of the Ringwood Church of Christ who went without food for 40 hours at the end of June to raise money for the work of World Vision of Australia among refugees and people in the developing countries. Mrs Kinrade said she decided to take part in the Famine after the minister of the church, Keith Ludgater, announced he would be participating.

The fasters were sustained by fruit juice, tea and other drinks during their time without food. Mrs Kinrade said this was the first time she had fasted for a long time.

Members of the Ringwood church raised \$1211 through their participation with Mrs Kinrade contributed \$100 of this.

More than 140,000 Australians fasted during this year's 40 Hour Refugee Famine, raising a total of \$2 million for World Vision projects.



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ON MY MIND

PANICKED BY FEAR

Barbara Stephens

Barbara Stephens is the minister of St. Albans Church of Christ Christchurch, N.Z. She is also field worker with the Department of Christian Education and Home Missions. She has a degree in Sociology.

"In love there can be no fear, but fear is driven out by perfect love." (1 John 4:18A)

I am increasingly concerned that so many Christians seem to be caught up in the fear that many people in society feel in these days of escalating violence, unemployment, breaking marriages, changing sexual norms, and a host of other things lumped under the heading 'social problems.' I see evidence of this fear in a number of Christian voices that are being raised in demands for tighter and tougher laws, the increase or arming of police, cuts in the dole and other benefits, restoration of capital punishment or the birch, and the like.

I see it in the correspondence columns of the daily press and in church periodicals, and hear it on radio and television and at prayer meetings. The language may be refined or religious but the message is the same — the only way to deal with the people who are not conforming to the Christian standards of behaviour that are embodied in our laws is to make it possible for the offenders to be dealt with more harshly.

DOES THE END JUSTIFY THE MEANS?

Less than Gospel means to achieve Gospel ends is how I would describe such demands. Many Christians are being panicked into raising voices in this way because they share in the fear their non-Christian neighbours feel about what is happening around them, and touching their families and the lives of friends. They rush to support the groups that have emerged in the community with a vision of 'cleaning up society' or the like, especially when such groups wear a Christian label.

THE TESTIMONY OF SCRIPTURE

The one thing the Epistle writer, Jesus and the prophets had in common was their absolute confidence in God's loving concern for the oppressed, the unlovely and the unloved. This led them to point the finger not at the casualties of society, but at the authorities and systems that created them, and to speak with tenderness of the hurt, the suffering, and the confused.

Whether people fail, or whether they deliberately choose to challenge established norms, it is a demand of the Gospel that we look on them with compassion. The freedom of the Gospel then becomes possible for us — for we lose our fear as we become more able to love.

The Christians who have not heard the Gospel are as much on my mind as are the people who have not experienced the love of God in the lives of his people.

NOONKANBAH SACRED SITES AND MINING

The battle for human rights by a small group of Aboriginal people against one of the largest and most powerful corporations in the world has captured our imaginations and our sympathy. We have been encouraged that in a world of Goliaths there are still some Davids about.

Churches of Christ can feel close in to the situation as one of our own young men, Jim Biendurry, a member of the National Aborigines Council, is to be spokesman of the Aboriginal delegation to the United Nations on the Noonkanbah issue.

Recently over 200 Christians attended an open air prayer meeting in Forrest Place in the centre of Perth city. They prayed for a peaceful and just solution to the Noonkanbah problem. At the meeting the following statement was handed to concerned people.

Readers are invited to take the line of action suggested at the end of the statement. Mr Fraser has a good reputation on human rights issues, as evidenced in relation to Zimbabwe. However he does need to be able to feel that he has strong electoral support in this delicate State-Federal matter.

THE NOONKANBAH COMMUNITY

The community consists of 150-200 people of two principle language groups: Walmajarri and Nyikina. They have been associated with the Noonkanbah region prior to European settlement. In 1971 alleged maltreatment by Station management resulted in a "Walk Off" by the Aboriginal population. They moved to the fringes of Fitzroy Crossing approximately 100 kms. to the North East.

In 1977 the Commonwealth Government made it possible for the pastoral lease to be given to re-establish the Yungngara community on Noonkanbah Station.

Since then they have deliberately planned their own future and have worked the pastoral lease. They have established a Community School, barred alcohol and up until recently they tolerated the activity of Amax in its search for oil.

THE MINING COMPANY

The bulldozing of a burial ground and other significant sites by Amax, coupled with the bitter experiences of the past have given rise to the understandable concern about the destruction of their sacred sites and their fragile community.

The Noonkanbah community has proposed a three year moratorium as a way of asking for time to establish themselves.

THE STATE GOVERNMENT

The W.A. Government appreciates that the granting of concessions to the Aboriginal peoples would ultimately restrict the development of unlimited mining in the Kimberleys and elsewhere in the State.

In an attempt to justify its actions it has taken the following steps:

1. Has twice used Section II of the

Aboriginal Heritage Act in order to override the recommendations of the Museum Trustees.

2. Has used police protection to take drilling equipment on to Site.

3. Has declared that oil drilling will go ahead on Noonkanbah with or without Amax's involvement.

4. Has gazetted the entry road to the property as a public road facilitating its intention to go ahead with mining at all costs.

5. Has denied Aboriginal Communities throughout W.A. future pastoral leases.

6. Has attacked the integrity of the Noonkanbah Community and all who work for their welfare by saying they are irresponsible.

SIGNIFICANCE OF LAND

To understand the Aborigines' need to talk about land rights it is necessary to first understand the importance they place on land and sacred sites.

For tribal Aborigines there is a profound and complex relationship between land, culture, religion and personal meaning. To deprive the Aboriginal people of their land is to destroy the very basis of their community and personal identity. With the development of farming in many parts of Western Australia the effects of this taking of land can be seen: the destruction of a people.

This same process is about to be repeated in the North by mining companies in the name of progress.

GOING INTO INDONESIA?

The Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board has decided that it would be advisable to send two suitably qualified couples as missionaries to Indonesia. It is anticipated that they would work in conjunction with the American Churches of Christ (Independent) missionaries.

Before such a decision can be implemented, there are a number of issues to be resolved. One is the availability of visas. Ed. Furnas one of the American missionaries in Indonesia writes, "absolutely no visa approvals are getting through government offices."

Another issue is the establishment of a mutually satisfying working relationship. From correspondence received from our American brethren it is apparent that the methods of appointing missionaries, their responsibilities, and attitudes towards doctrinal issues need further attention.

Then there is the important matter passed by last Federal Conference. Adequate finance must be available for our existing fields before missionaries can be appointed to Indonesia.

Please remember this whole matter in your prayers so that Christ's church may grow and develop in Indonesia.

RIGHT TO TRADITIONAL LAND

The injustice of the taking of land by Europeans is: 1. The denial of the spiritual, social and cultural dependence of the Aboriginal people, open the land, and 2. The denial of a title of property ownership to those who first occupied it.

Christians affirm the principle of Land Rights for Aboriginal people, and believe that State Governments must negotiate with the Aboriginal communities, for a realistic solution which recognises them as a people within a total Australian Society.

The churches have spent every effort to communicate the good news that Jesus frees and liberates the Aboriginal people.

We have to go on from there and stand beside the Aboriginal people against injustice and give them the time, space and opportunity to let us know how they really feel and enable them to make their own decisions about their future.

WHAT CAN YOU DO:

Send a telegram or write a letter to the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator Chaney expressing your appreciation of the Federal Government's policies which make available pastoral leases for Aboriginal communities, and requesting support for Noonkanbah Aboriginal community.

OPERATION CHOP SUEY

The Geraldton, W.A. members are finding a mission field at their front wharf with the regular arrival of ships from Communist China. The seamen are lonely and unable to speak English and wander around the streets when the ships are in port. The Gideons International have agreed to help with supplies of Chinese New Testaments and this spiritual food is handed out personally to the seamen. The New Testaments are interlinear so that the church members can underline and mark important passages for the Chinese.

90th ANNIVERSARY OF W.A. SERVICES

On November 2, 1890 the first Church of Christ service in Western Australia was held in Perth.

To the date on November 2, 1980 the Perth church will celebrate its 90th anniversary. Past members are invited to share in the celebrations.

The celebrations include Nov. 1 Dinner and Program at 6.45 p.m.; Nov. 2 Special services 10 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

Greetings from past members living in other States would be appreciated. (Write to R. Taylor, 7 Nanhob St., Mt Lawley, 6014.)

WORLD WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CONVENTION. HONOLULU 1980

25th ANNIVERSARY

1,600 women were waiting for the World Christian Women's Fellowship — 25th Anniversary Breakfast to begin at 8.30 a.m. on Saturday, July 19th, 1980. The chosen theme was "Go — Share the Word", and there was a feeling of excitement and anticipation in the air. Women from fourteen different countries, several in national dress, took their places at round tables, in the beautiful Hawaiian Room of the Sheraton-Waikiki Hotel. The attractive colour scheme was in tonings of green and white, and the table decorations were shells and dried native flowers of Hawaii, in amber vases. These had all been prepared by the members of the small church at Wahiawa.

Marjorie Black, demonstrated her expertise as our World C.W.F. President, with warmth and ease as she led us through a crowded program in the three hours of time allotted to us.

Among the many highlights was the presence of Jessie Trout, the founder of the World C.W.F.

The W.C.W.F. new project, "Land and Food for the Carribean", to operate until next Convention, was introduced by Fran Craddock, Secretary. Land in the Carribean, especially that held by churches, is to be put to greater production in Jamaica. This project was received with enthusiasm, especially as Jamaica is the venue for the next Convention.

All C.W.F. groups, have been invited to increase their giving to World Funds to at least \$2 per Fellowship per year. We would be delighted if this received whole-hearted support and co-operation through our groups.

Three countries reported on what being a member of W.C.W.F. had meant to the women of their land.

Gladys Mackenzie, the Australian



Mrs Black
Past President
W.C.W.F.:

representative of World C.W.F. executive, used the letters of the 25th Anniversary symbol, "SILVER", to express her comments. Belonging to a world organisation had meant Australian's Sharing, Interest, Love, Vision and Enthusiasm had been increased, and we were looking to the future Rich in its possibilities and Responsibilities.

Boonmee Julkiri from Thailand, told of some of the difficulties Christians experienced in a land where they were so small in number, in comparison with the huge population. Because of this, they greatly valued the strength they gained, as they realised that prayers from C.W.F. members throughout the world were being offered continually on their behalf.

It was interesting to learn that Puerto Rico was the first country outside the U.S.A. to call their women Christian Women's Fellowship. Ernestine R. de Colon, from Puerto Rico, also reported that they couldn't now function without

the confidence and assurance they experience as being part of the W.C.W.F.

We were reminded by our President, that every day is a World day of prayer for C.W.F. members, as we are asked to pause at 9 a.m. every day, to pray for our sisters in Christ, throughout the world.

It was a tremendous joy to have our new World President introduced to the gathering — Freda Reid of Jamaica. Freda, is a vibrant woman, active in her home, as a wife and mother, she has three sons, aged 13, 22 and 24. Active in her profession as a Senior Executive Officer, working for the Jamaican Government, and active in her church, King's Gate Christian Church, where amongst other responsibilities, she is Superintendent of the Church School.

Marjorie Blampired of New Zealand was elected Vice-President, and Fran Craddock of the U.S.A. continues in the position of Secretary-Treasurer.

Our Guest speaker, Gloria Santos of the Phillipines, President of the Asian Church Women, and the Fellowship of the Least Coin, challenged us to "GO — SHARE THE WORD". Go always leads to action and involvement, and whilst our caring, sharing, and loving will of necessity take different forms in different countries, Christian women united together can make things happen, regardless of colour, language, age of circumstances.

We are proud to have Alice Saunders of South Australia, introduced as the new Australian member of the W.C.W.F. executive.

Somewhere in the midst of so much of interest, involvement and inspiration, we managed to eat a delicious breakfast, before we left refreshed, ready to Share the Word, rejoicing because we had been reminded we have Great News to Tell.

Gladys McKenzie

THINK ABOUT IT

Three Times a Denial! Three Times a Question!
John 21:15-17.

What was Jesus getting at?

Did Peter remember the "look" at Jesus' trial, and did Peter have a sense of guilt?

Was Jesus trying to tell Peter that he was forgiven so to forgive himself?

Do we "thrash" ourselves with guilt feelings?

We too are forgiven. We too must forgive ourselves.

PRAYER: Talk to God about our sin, thank Him for forgiveness, and say to ourselves, "I forgive myself, sin no more."

FEDERAL C.W.F. CONFERENCE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.

It's going to be a beauty. You won't want to miss it.
The Guest speaker will be Mrs Elke Benz. See you there.

Jessie Trout, first Secretary of World C.W.F., gave a brief account of the history of W.C.W.F., which had its beginnings 25 years ago.

In 1951, prior to the Melbourne World Convention, Australia sent a letter to the Executive in U.S.A. asking if there was any move toward a World Organisation for Women of Churches of Christ. This mooted the idea, Jessie Trout got thinking and travelling, and 1952 in Melbourne the procedure started. An Ad Hoc Committee was formed and 'machinery' set in motion to go ahead for the launching at Toronto in 1955. 3000 women attending the Toronto Convention saw W.C.W.F. become our Churches World Organisation for women. The first offering was taken up in a hat — due to an oversight to provide a plate.

Puerto Rico was the first country to adopt the name C.W.F. as a country, and sponsor the first Retreat for delegates. 1965 in Puerto Rico a Retreat was held prior to Convention for C.W.F. delegates, and this will continue to be the pattern. This Retreat has proved to be a very great blessing.

Projects have been practical expressions of W.C.W.F. to show love and concern for world needs. They are Literacy Program for Haiti, Relief and Rehabilitation in Vietnam, Relief of World Hunger. A daily prayer circle at 9 a.m. every morning of women round the world is encouraged.

MUSTARD SEEDS

BY ALAN AUSTIN

Your correspondent has just returned from visiting a number of Aboriginal communities in North Queensland at the invitation of the Victorian Baptist Social Justice Working Group and the North Queensland Land Council. We spent four days at Weipa and Mornington Island and shorter periods at Aurukun, Normanton and Cairns.

By and large, the six of us travelling together by light aircraft were profoundly disturbed by what we were able to learn about the real social and spiritual condition of the Aboriginal people we met.

Weipa, in particular, which many claim to be a model for Aboriginal advancement, was a shattered, hopeless shell of a community.

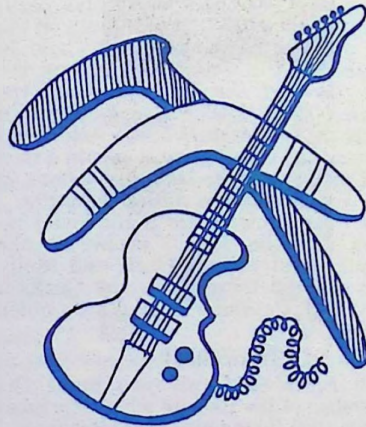


Two weeks is obviously far too short for anything other than superficial judgements to be formed from first-hand observation. We were able, however, by visiting these communities, to speak directly and often, at considerable length to those whose opinions and assessments are not superficial — those who have lived and worked in these communities for years, even decades.

Having done this as diligently as we could, we are now preparing a report for the Baptist Union. A precis will probably appear here later. But first, some good news.

One of the few experiences we thoroughly enjoyed and were immensely encouraged by was to share in the evening service at The Christian Centre in Normanton, in the Gulf country.

In stunning contrast to the tiny group of dispirited women which constituted the church at Weipa, the Normanton assembly was well attended indeed for a small community.



It was evident from the singing and the response from the congregation that the people were relaxed, at home, and wanting to praise God. Musical accompaniment was provided by four young men on drums, electric guitars and bass guitar. We learned later that the obvious talents of these young people are now in demand for secular events as well as church services, both in Normanton and elsewhere.

The meeting throughout was warm, affirming, God-centred and, in the best sense of the term, entertaining. Two young women presented a vocal duet.

The Normanton Christian Centre is a Churches of Christ Aboriginal mission in the pastoral care of Lyle and Hazel Morris.

Our group included, besides your correspondent and four actual card-carrying Baptists, an Aboriginal worker, Kevin Whyman, from the Victorian Aboriginal community. Although Kevin doesn't share our Christian commitment and is, in fact, critical of much that has been done in the name of Christianity, he was clear-

ly impressed with the Christian work at Normanton.

On return to Victoria Kevin referred to Normanton as one of the few positive experiences in a fairly depressing journey. He recalled, in particular, the mix of men, women, young people and children, the way we six strangers were made welcome at once, and the obvious enjoyment and enthusiasm of the people as they worshipped God. Here, for once, in Kevin's eyes, the hope and 'spirit' of his people had not been completely crushed and destroyed.



Following the evening service, we were able to speak briefly to a number of the local people, some of whom we were to meet and talk to further next day.

Then, after a bus ride to return the various families home, Hazel and Lyle invited us up for supper.

Several aspects of the Morris's work particularly impressed our group. Their commitment to remaining in the one place for a reasonable time period was one. Lyle told us of his decision to leave his previous ministry at Eidsvold, having worked amongst the Aboriginals there for, if I remember correctly, three years. When urged by a friend to reconsider on the grounds that his work was only just beginning, Lyle and Hazel made a last minute decision to remain. The advice subsequently proved sound. They stayed for ten years before moving to Normanton.

The Morris's availability to assist the people with practical matters — medical, financial, domestic and so forth — as well as spiritually was an evident strength of their ministry. From those we spoke to it seemed that, of all the service personnel to whom the people could go, many preferred Lyle or Hazel's assistance. It was obvious why. The courtesy and respect with which Hazel and Lyle regarded the Aboriginal people contrasted markedly with the attitudes of most Europeans we spent time with, including, regrettably, some Christians.

All this is not to suggest that Normanton is an idyllic, harmonious, multi-racial township. It has its tensions and problems to. But it was so good to see, amidst the problems, a vital, effective, caring Christian presence.



A full report on the findings of the group and the implications of these findings is available on request.

Your correspondent has also had published recently articles on the federal budget, tax avoidance, and one entitled "Why I will be voting informal at the next election." Copies of all these are available for the cost of postage.

JASON'S HOUSE

THESE BLACK ACTIVISTS WITH ALL THIS LAND RIGHTS GARBAGE! LOOK! WE'VE GOT AS MUCH RIGHT TO THIS LAND AS THEY HAVE!

WHAT IF WE'D LOST THE 2ND WORLD WAR? WOULD YOU FEEL THE SAME ABOUT THE JAPANESE OR GERRITANS?

THAT'S DIFFERENT!



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.

NEED TO THINK AGAIN!

To the Editor,

There are some things which a church needs to do. One is to rethink in rational and Christian manner a decision to relocate a work where there is ample room for expansion at a well equipped City Centre, where there has been vision and planning over a century with an effective ongoing work. Are we attracted by the large amount of money and thus obscuring our mission?

A new site and equipment with all modern comfort is not the solution to an effective witness. Christian leadership and planning with loyalty to Christ the head of the Church are. Unnecessary expenditure needs no encouragement and puts our stewardship on trial. It becomes a damaging indictment to our witness to Christ in the world.

— J.K. Martin (Bondigo, Vic.)

H-A-R-W-A-R-D- SPELLS HARWARD

The granddaughter of the late H. G. Harward has drawn our attention to the misspelling of his name in a recent "A.C." article on the rejuvenation of City Temple (N.S.W.)

H. G. Harward was the first Principal of the College of the Bible. He was one of our earlier tent missionaries, preaching right across Australia and using visuals or charts to illustrate his sermons. He was a great apologist for the Restoration Movement. He knew the New Testament by heart and would announce his reading and then recite it without reference to the text.

The old City Temple used to be considered one of Sydney's "preaching places" in the days when Harward and Hagger stocked them in.

H. G. Harward's daughter, **Doreen Morris**, is living in the eventide of her life in Canberra, after having been a member at City Temple for over 60 years, right up to when worship services ceased there. (Ed.)

ROSE GALE v. ALAN AUSTIN

To the Editor,

Re "Mustard Seeds" (July 26). I object to the article for two reasons. Firstly I think it is largely untrue, and secondly, it is the kind of thing that causes a feeling of resentment between sections of the community. I being an ex-member of the private sector (though in a very small way) have encountered this, and consider anyone who unjustly encourages it does wrong.

Alan Austin says the private sector is enjoying remarkable prosperity, and they ought not to receive the helps and concessions they do, and it would be better if they went to the disadvantaged. I don't agree. He seems to forget that a great part of the private sector is made up of small to medium businesses, many thousands of whom are not well off, and many are just managing to keep going. If he reads his newspaper he must know that many thousands go broke each year — unable to keep up with rising prices and inflation. I can only assume Alan Austin begrudges the help these people so badly need.

Does he realise that the private sector also includes the farmers, or does he assume, like so many others, that all farmers are rich and prosperous. That

is not the case. A small portion are, and these are the ones we hear most about. But the majority of farmers are not well off. Most can no longer afford to pay wages, and in order to keep going the man and often his wife work long hours, and the reward is not great. They also face at times periods of drought and low prices. Yet I have heard so many speak with resentment against them saying, "They are rich and prosperous, and can take time off whenever they like". This sort of thing shouldn't be encouraged.

I believe we will never beat unemployment without a strong private sector, for over all they are big employers of labour. When they prosper they employ very many people, but when they have to lay off staff unemployment is up. And remember that for every firm that fails it is so many more unemployed — people who have changed from contributing to receiving welfare.

I also believe if people are prepared to work hard, use their initiative and risk their money on an enterprise that will give work to many, they are entitled to a reasonable reward over and above wages.

I consider it fair and just that the eligibility for unemployment benefits should be carefully checked, and it doesn't seem to me that the new form is too difficult for anyone with a clear conscience. Surely someone would be willing to help. The genuine unemployed have my sympathy and I wish we could do a lot more for them, but I cannot fail to be aware that many rackets are worked by the not-genuine.

I am an aged pensioner. I am glad to receive my pension and glad I live in a land where pensions and payments are available to all in need, and that there is free hospital treatment for all who cannot afford to pay. Of course we would like to see payments and pensions bigger, but it seems to me high welfare and high taxes go together. I wonder how many of us would be prepared to pay more tax in order that someone could receive a bigger pension?

Finally I think we should all try to understand how other people live and give personal help where we can.

Mrs Rose Gale (Bridgetown, W.A.).

P.S. You said you would give equal space to anyone with a reverse view to Alan Austin. I think I have a case, so what about it?

(Sure! Be our guest Editor).

WHICH CHURCH?

To the Editor,

How right Tertius is. A lot of people don't care which church they go to — they seek God and believe He does not recognise denominational barriers.

There are some people who are vitally concerned with Christianity and the scriptures, not man and religion.

If we were to become a New Testament church, Pentecost and all, we would not need to convince ourselves, the Spirit would do it for us, including convicting those looking for a church.

— Wayne Lodge (Adelaide, S.A.)

MOVING?
Let the Australian Christian
Know your new address

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

THE OLD HOME CHURCH

To the Editor,

When we visit Auntie Lil it is usually on a Sunday so that we can go back to the wife's old home church. Things aren't what they used to be there. The young ones have married and moved out. The big event of the year is the "Back — to" — So they have at least one Sunday when all of the old seats and the brand new toilets are used to capacity.

The people who are still there are very closely knit, very warm, and very supportive of each other, and as loving and accepting a bunch as you'd get anywhere.

I was waiting on the old church steps for the wife to stop talking and come to lunch. I looked out on all the anonymous rows of houses. I couldn't help feeling that behind those brick veneers there are hundreds of people who would give their right arms for the same sort of loving support and warm acceptance, if they knew how to break the ice and get into it. (The obvious way of coming through the church doors and joining it doesn't seem to work!)

These beautiful people at my wife's home church share one great anxiety. What is going to happen to the church when they are gone? Most of them are over fifty. You can understand how they feel. No one wants to see what they have worked so hard to build up running down into a bowling alley. Yet they don't seem capable of doing the one thing necessary for survival that is to forget what is going to happen to the church when they are gone, and to find ways of sharing their warm, loving, accepting, supporting fellowship with people who still live round the old home church, Greeks, Italians, Australians and all.

Yours hopefully,
TERTIUS.

OVERSEAS MISSIONS NEWS

HOME FROM VANUATU

Russell and Jeanette Mutzelburg and their daughter Katika, flew home to Brisbane from Aoba Island, Vanuatu (formerly New Hebrides) on August 20.

They arrived in Vanuatu last February to gain cross cultural experience with the possibility of later being appointed to Indonesia. During their time of service, Russell has been involved in teaching at the **Londua Training School** and also in teaching and sharing with pastors and churches.

Representatives of the Overseas Mission Board will be meeting with Russell to discuss future plans.

HOSPITAL MATRON TO STUDY IN AUSTRALIA

Sister May Reuben, the matron of the **Ndui Ndui Hospital on Aoba Island, Vanuatu**, will be arriving in Australia in September for a three month study program. We are grateful that **Sister Margaret Aggar** will be extending her ministry at the Ndui Ndui Hospital until February 1981 enabling Sister May to have a holiday in Australia as well.

VOLUNTARY WORKERS FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Laurie Needham, a member of the **Warragul church**, gave three weeks service at **Bunapas** as a mechanic.

Colyn Pietzsch from the **Hurstbridge church**, plans to spend his vacation in October at **Chungribu** typing up Mark's gospel into the Rao (as in 'how') language.

We are grateful to these volunteers and to those who have supported them in their ministry.

HARMERS WAIT FOR VISA TO ENTER PAPUA NEW GUINEA

It is hoped that **David and Robyn Harmer** and family, at present at **War-racknabeal**, will be able to arrive in **Madang, Papua New Guinea** on September 8. At the time of writing visas had not as yet been issued.

APPRECIATION TO DR MRS NINAN

On behalf of the Australian Churches of Christ, the Overseas Mission Board expresses sincere appreciation to **Dr Mrs Ninan** for 10 years of faithful service at the **Ashwood Memorial Hospital, Daund, India**.

For the sake of her children's education. **Dr Ninan** found it necessary to resign and has accepted an appointment at the **Wadia Hospital, Pune**.

Dr Ninan was greatly loved for her spiritual and healing ministry at **Daund**. She had a particular ministry among Moslem women who will not consult a male doctor. In 1977 **Dr Ninan** went to **Andhra Pradesh** for several weeks to assist medical workers minister to those suffering from the devastating cyclone which eliminated 100 villages and killed 50,000 people.

Dr Ninan's husband is an itinerant evangelist and is often away from home for several weeks and even months on his preaching missions.

We wish the **Ninan** family the Lord's abundant blessings in their new ministry.

Prayer is requested by the Indian Conference that two more Indian doctors will be available, one as a replacement for **Dr Ninan** and the other for rural village work.

— R. McLean.

'I went to church but no-one saw me'

It was a big step. I hadn't been for years. I'd never been to this one.

At the last minute I nearly chickened out and drove past but I spotted a parking place and pulled in before I thought. So, now, in I go.

Look natural, calm! Not many people around. Hope there's a bit of a crowd. Bit obvious otherwise. Here's a couple handing out programs or something. Suits! I should have worn a tie.

"Thanks."

Didn't seem to notice I was new. Funny. Suppose they were pretty engrossed in their conversation. I might as well be invisible. Some welcome. Why did I come?

Where do I sit? Here's a spare row, behind this old couple on the end. Well I'm in and parked. Hello, that woman with the flower on her lapel has noticed me. She is going to come over and greet me — no, she's thought better of it. Wish the thing would start. I think I'm the only one who isn't talking to someone.

At last, a start — only four minutes late. Hope it's good. I'm so empty. Every day starts and I hope for something, but nothing. What's it all for, this living? Work is so boring. My friends are all married — not all happily, but all married none the less.

These headaches of late and chest twinge. Is it serious? Who knows. I don't want to be sick. I wonder what death is like? Comes someday, but I'm not ready, I know.

That fellow has finished reading from the book now. I don't think I heard a word of it. Come on, old son, concentrate. No point coming here just to daydream. Ah, the talk. Who is he looking at? There is no-one up there — just a cobweb. Still, he sounds confident. What has he discovered about life?

Now he is finished, not too long. Couple of interesting bits, like if you want to find your life you have to lose it. I didn't quite get that.

Ah, a song. Liked the last one. Oh, a collection. It's alright, here's a dollar note. Strike, there's a couple of tens in the bowl. Funny how that fellow in the suit can pass the bowl to me (the only person in the row) and get it back and still seem as though he didn't notice me; quite an art.

Now off we go. Queue up to get out. "Good evening" and shake his hand. He looks tired. Been at it all day, I guess. "Yes, I did enjoy it." I suppose I did, but that wasn't what I came for. Now he is talking to a person behind.

Well at least he knew I wasn't a regular. Everyone seems to know someone else or is scurrying off. Wonder if they know what life is all about. Could they tell me what the talk meant, losing your life if you want to find it.

I wonder if any of them want to help me? Perhaps no-one has even noticed me. Now, where are those keys?

Well, I heard about true living, sang about it — but why didn't they show me? Wonder if I'll ever try church again.

God, I need some help. **David Crlan**
(In "Bendigo Advertiser")

HURSTBRIDGE'S NEW HALL

On Sunday August 24 the new hall at the **Hurstbridge church** was opened. Seventy-five were present to see **Vic Quayle**, the immediate past minister, turn the key in the door and open the new hall.

Due to lack of space for the Sunday School and for youth clubs the church first considered the building of a new hall in 1972. **Ray Drayton** drew up these plans but costs at the time meant the postponement of the project. In 1979 the church decided to go ahead with the project. This time the plans were again drawn up by **Ray Drayton** but for a bigger hall.

There were hopes that much of the work could be done by voluntary work but this was not possible. Consultations with **Mobile Mission Maintenance** helped keep costs down and they also spent several days working voluntarily on the building.

The total cost of the project was in the order of \$37,000 of which \$15,000 has been borrowed from the **Properties Corpora-**

tion. The church of less than 25 has raised by its donations or by donations of others the rest of the total cost.

Those who brought greetings at the service of thanksgiving were **Lois Smith** — C.W.F., **Jeff Deuble** — Department of Mission, Education and Development, **A. Beale** — Baptist Preachers' Society and **Keith Horne** on behalf of the Conference Executive.

Keith Horne also handed over a cheque for \$162 raised by the **Doncaster youth group** towards the cost of the hall. They had heard of the debt when conducting services at **Hurstbridge** on a once a month basis.

CAMEROUN REFUGEES

World Vision is surveying a new refugee situation. The Christian agency has been alerted to **Cameroun**, in **Western Africa**. Thousands of refugees are being driven into this nation by the civil war in **Chad**. This is the least accessible and worst reported refugee situation in the world.

ANOTHER CHURCH

Norm Carter of Hobart on "Thought for the Day" T.V.T.6.

"Would you like to be part of the team bringing the Good News of Jesus in a two minute segment on TV?"

It was the Rev. Robert Legg speaking. Robert is the minister of St Clement's Anglican Church at Kingston and State Director of the Christian Television Association in Tasmania.

The idea of looking into a shiny black glass lens and trying to imagine I was talking to someone seemed well nigh impossible. But since that time I have completed some 80 "Thought for the Day" segments which are used prior to and at the close of channel transmission each day.

Some of the ideas used other than sitting in a lounge or dining chair have been:-

- leaning/sitting on a motorcycle which in turn is superimposed on a suitably selected country scene using a coloured slide.
- A family sitting around a dining table

AND MEDIA STORY

prepared for dinner discussing some points about Christmas.

— Standing using various slides taken around the city of Hobart as back scenes.

— The more casual approach of sportswear and a beach scene backdrop for holiday viewing.

The contacts made with people from all walks of life, both young and old, have meant many opportunities to share the love of God via TV.

T.V.T.6 staff are a delight to work with in preparing the programs — all you have to do is prepare well. By preparing well I mean a) writing your own script and timing its duration, b) directing camera for angle and picture size, c) scenery arrangement whether a lounge room, dining room or outdoor scene via props or slide, d) doing the thought again if you felt it went wrong.

These programs are viewed by the public over all the southern half of Tasmania. It has amazed me just how many people do see the opening and closing of TV transmission.

YOU TOO, CAN READ THE NEW TESTAMENT IN GREEK

A new book just published, "Learn To Read The Greek New Testament", by Rev. Dr Ward Powers, presents a revolutionary method of learning New Testament Greek. It is intended to open the way to a knowledge of the Greek New Testament for the ordinary Christian who wishes to read his New Testament in the language in which it was originally written.

Some of the distinctive features of the book are:

- The approach used is modelled on how we learned our own mother tongue.
 - Therefore, the emphasis is upon learning language in its natural context — in use. So, all the book's examples and sentences for translation are actual selections from the Greek N.T., graded according to difficulty.
 - Paradigms of noun and verb forms are introduced in groups, side by side, to enable the student to see a total view and to learn the differences in the paradigms through understanding them, by means of comparison.
 - Special attention is given to what are usually regarded as the four most troublesome areas in learning Greek: The Third Declension, liquid verbs, participles, and irregular verbs.
- A special feature of the book is that it is looseleaf, and comes with blank ruled pages supplied. The student can thus insert note pages at the place where he is working, and use them for his own work notes, rough translations, summaries, and so on.
- The book is published by The Institute for the Maintenance, Promotion & Advancement of Christian Teaching, Impact Study Centre, P.O. Box 177, Petersham NSW 2049. Phone (02) 560 7603. The price is \$16 plus postage from Sydney.

PENTECOSTALS' CHILD ABDUCTED

The eldest son of the Zherdev family, Sergei, aged 10, has been abducted by his maternal grandmother, on the eve of the family's departure from Moscow for Vienna. Stanislav and Nadezhda Zherdev, who have been active in the Pentecostal emigration movement, and their seven children received permission to emigrate in July.

Nadezhda's mother let herself into the Zherdev's Moscow flat some time during the night of August 4 while everybody was asleep and took Sergei away with her to a dacha in the country. The family did not know what had happened to Sergei, but was anxious to leave on schedule as Stanislav Zherdev feared prosecution if he did not leave. In order to avoid any problems at customs, because they did not have enough children with them, they took with them Pavel Ukhtomsky, the son of a friend who also wishes to emigrate. Pavel passed through customs successfully with the family. The family was vic-

timized by Soviet officials who confiscated all their possessions except the clothes they were wearing.

Galina Ukhtomskaya, Pavel's mother, remained at the flat in case Sergei turned up and received a phone call from Nadezhda's mother, who explained that she had taken Sergei away and said that Sergei was old enough to decide what he wanted to do and would write a statement that he wanted to remain in the US-SR.

It is not yet clear whether Sergei's grandmother took this action on her own initiative, or whether she was pressured by the authorities. In either case, the Soviet authorities are likely to support any claim on her part to have custody of Sergei. She is not a Christian and Soviet courts have frequently awarded custody of children in divorce cases, or of orphaned children, to non-Christian relatives against the wishes and the best interests of the children involved.

— Keston College

PRIEST MACHINE GUNNED

A terror campaign by extremists in Latin America continues. In a town near Guatemala City a priest was called out after two peasants were seriously wounded by right-wing guerillas. Before Father Walter Voordeckers reached the injured, he was machinegunned to death. A short time later the two peasants died.

Meanwhile, a priest from the same order as Father Voordeckers has disappeared. The Immaculate Heart of Mary Missionary Society believed that Father Conrado de la Cruz and a catechist from his parish have been kidnapped and killed.

A Guatemalan bishop, Mario Enrique Rios Mont has called on the authorities to fully investigate the murders and disappearances.

RIFLES FOR KORANS

Keston College has been informed that military personnel from the first Soviet divisions to invade Afghanistan eagerly exchanged their firearms and other military hardware for copies of the Koran. The information was supplied by Sayed Ahmad Gailani, the spiritual leader of 55 million Sufis (of whom 7½ million are in Afghanistan), and the leader of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan.

The first Soviet units to enter Afghanistan were drawn from the Central Asian republics of the USSR, and a significant number of soldiers defected to the ranks of the freedom fighters. This applies particularly to the Tadzhiks, who are to be replaced by units from the European republics, which have no ethnic, cultural or religious affinities with the Afghans.

BILL GLASS FOR TWIN CITY CRUSADE

Preparation is under way for the Albury-Wodonga Crusade for Christ with Bill Glass. This will be the evangelist's second visit to Australia and he comes at the invitation of the Albury Wodonga Inter-Church Council. The Crusade will be of eight days duration, March 1-8, 1981, and will be held at the Albury Civic Centre.

Under the enthusiastic and dedicated Chairmanship of Albury businessman Ian Glacken of the Anglican Church, the Administrative Committee is moving ahead in preparation for the first two public meetings which will be held on Saturday September 20.

The first two scheduled public meetings will be a Pastors' breakfast and Leaders' coffee morning to be held at St Matthew's Albury on September 20. All churches and fellowships within a radius of 50 miles of the Twin Border towns will be invited to send Pastors and leaders to these meetings. A special feature of the meetings will be the participation of a contingent of clergy and leading laity from Wagga Wagga.



A STEP CLOSER

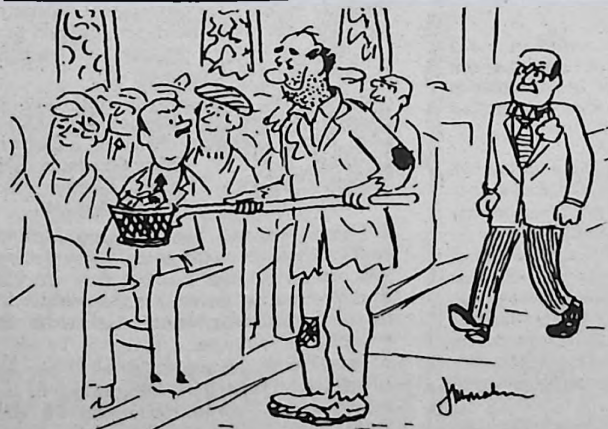
by Scott Wesley Brown (Sparrow SPR1029)

For those who have Scott Wesley's first album, it has been a long wait for number two. Some records you play for fun, some for background music — but here is one artist whose records I play to be ministered to. It is personal, we are confronted about our commitment as Scott Wesley shares the struggles he has with his. On the sleeve he says "My songs are confessions. The sorrows and the pain — the victory and the joy". All but two of the songs are written by the singer/guitarist/pianist. All have Bible verses listed with the title showing what stimulated the songs. As we have come to expect from Sparrow, it is a very good production, with more flair and depth than local products. As with his first album, there are a number of songs suitable for use in worship, particularly as a challenge or climax for a service. (For example — Mountains; "I don't need to move a mountain/I just need to move my heart" and Consider the Lilies: "You are God's personal concern/Oh when will you ever learn?") This is a Christian contemporary album I would recommend to anyone — whether young or old. — Paul Cameron

TAKEN BY SURPRISE

by Cascade (Rhema RH026)

Cascade are well known in Sydney for their live work (and also because they received radio airplay for this album). Actually the album takes you by surprise, it grows on you. There are good harmonies, and simple yet precise backing, it is even produced somewhat better than most Oz records. The songs are strong and clear — about life, love, songs to praise and to challenge. The best song for me is "Living in a fallen world" which has an interesting synthesizer sound running through it. Largely however the album is light folk/rock. The flute work is excellent. This is a different Christian album and worth a hearing. (P.S. Cascade are singing at the Monday rally of Federal conference in Sydney.)



The forgotten refugees!

The refugee crisis in Somalia has been described by the United Nations as "the worst refugee problem in the world". The tragedy is so bad because it has been neglected for years.

Thousands of people, mostly women and children, have been displaced as a result of years of warfare along the border of Somalia and Ethiopia. Today they live in primitive conditions in a harsh, dry area of Somalia, lacking food, clean water, proper shelter, adequate medical care.

World Vision is working in the midst of this crisis, providing medical care and compassion in the name of Jesus Christ.

More aid is needed desperately. There is something you can do. Send your gift today to the World Vision Refugee Fund.

\$25 helps one refugee family

YES, I want to show that I care for a refugee family.

Here is my gift of \$25 to help one family
 \$50 to help two families \$ _____

Mr/Mrs _____
 Miss/Ms _____
 Address _____

Postcode _____ Phone _____

I'd like to pay by Bankcard.
 4 9 6 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

Signed _____
WORLD VISION
REFUGEE FUND
 GPO, BOX 9944, IN YOUR CAPITAL CITY

P75.093

Registered office: 29 Coventry Street, South Melbourne, Vic. 3205

HAPPENINGS

Charles Colson the former "Hatchet man" for Richard Nixon is making a return visit to Australia. His Prison Fellowship ministry is being established in Australia with this work being launched in N.S.W. and Victoria.

The death has occurred in Melbourne on August 5 of W. R. McKeown well-known for his 19 years service with The Leprosy Mission. He was Secretary of The Leprosy Mission from 1963-1976.

The third series of the BBC documentary 'Everyman' will commence on ABC Television on September 4. This will be shown at a variety of times around Australia at approximately 10.00 p.m. every Thursday evening for 15 weeks.

Melbourne Christian Radio have a team travelling to Newcastle to dismantle and ship two television transmitters that they have purchased from Telecom. These will be modified for F.M. radio only and will help produce a better and stronger signal.

Approximately 1½ million Australians are affected personally or in their family situations by the abuses of alcohol.

10,000 Bibles are to be sent to the Hungarian Protestant minority in Romania by the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. 1,000 of these will be copies of a modern translation to be printed in Hungary.

International translation co-ordinator for Wycliffe Bible Translators, Dr John Beekman, died suddenly on August 10. A member of Wycliffe since 1947 Dr Beekman was first a translator to the Chol Indians in Mexico. He developed various techniques to improve and accelerate the translation process.

There were nearly one million Afghan refugees in Pakistan at the end of June. With a weekly arrival rate of 10,000 by the end of the year Pakistan may have 1.5 million refugees.

The pastor and choir leader of an unregistered Baptist church near Moscow have received

sentences of three years each. They were charged with slandering the Soviet state, apparently because they circulated copies of the Bulletin of the Council of Evangelical Christian-Baptist Prisoners' Relatives, which reports cases of persecution of the church. Alexander Nikitov, a full-time pastor supported by the Ryazan Church, also was charged with parasitism (living off of others without working). Nikolai Popov, the choir leader, served a three-year sentence from 1966 to 1969 for religious activities.

Two in every five divorces or judicial separations result from alcohol induced problems.

The patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church has died in jail. It is believed henchmen employed by the Ethiopian dictator, Mengistu Marian, murdered Abuna Tewofios. He and a large number of clergy were arrested in 1979.

In 1972-73, problems directly related to alcohol, including industrial accidents and absenteeism cost the national economy more than \$500 million.

Catholicos Illya II, Patriarch of All Georgia, visited the Vatican on July 6 and was received by Pope John Paul II. This is the first visit made by a primate of the Georgian Orthodox Church to the Vatican.

The V.C.C. is to invite Presbyterian and Baptist churches to become observers at future council meetings.

The world's population is increasing at the rate of one million people every five days. In 20 years there will be 50% more people on earth than today. Those figures are despite a substantial population slowdown over three-quarters of the globe.

There are more than 1 billion 500 million children in the world under 15 years of age.

Some 73% of the men who have committed a violent crime had been drinking prior to the commission of the crime.

Sydney Life line is offering a new service Credit Line. People in debt trouble can now ring this service for financial counselling.

diary

NATIONAL
October
 1-3 Federal Ministers Seminar
 3-8 Federal Conference
 5 Annual Offering — Colleges
 5 World Communion Sunday
VICTORIA
September
 12-14 H.S.C. Camp
 18 Tertiary Students Tea
 21 Engaged Couples Program
 26-28 C.M.F., C.W.F. Wildflower Camp
October
 4 Youth Rally
 12 Gippsland Gathering
 17 Explorer Leaders Annual Meeting
 17-19 C.W.F. Camp
NEW SOUTH WALES
September
 20 Boys' Home Fete
 28 College Function
QUEENSLAND
September
 12-14 Men's Camp
 19-21 Youth Group Exchange to City
October
 20-22 Ministers' Seminar
 24-26 State Conference
 31 Dedication of Conference Officers

25 Years Ago

The Editorial of "The Australian Christian" would have been written by the then editor C. G. Taylor.

How tremendously busy preachers can be about minor things! How often they are forced to attend to these, when they could be cared for by others, thus letting the preacher attend to the greater work to which he has given his life.

We as a people believe in the priesthood of all believers and if we carried this belief through actively we could not let either the opportunities of soul-winning pass, or, if need be, the attendance to those things which would release others to do that task, if they are more suited and willing to do so.

Among the reports was a note that Keith Horne has been reappointed for a further two year term as Director of Queensland's Young People's Department. Keith was also to serve a similar term with the Sunnybank church as its part-time minister. A new manse has been purchased at Fullerton, S.A. The North Auburn, N.S.W. church reported 12 young people making decisions at a service conducted by "Scotty" Gibb and the team of Gospel Harmony Instrumentalists. Mr (now Dr) and Mrs D. G. Hammer who had pioneered the work at Carnarvon had volunteered to return there. They replaced Mr Reeson as superintendent. There was a long news item on the opening of a new chapel at Gatton, Qld. This was performed by the State Conference President S. W. Vanham. The church was under the ministry of W. J. Davidson from Ma Ma Creek. Mr Vanham preached in the opening service with C. G. Flood (Ann St.) preaching at the evening service.

LEADING CHURCHMEN ON SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY

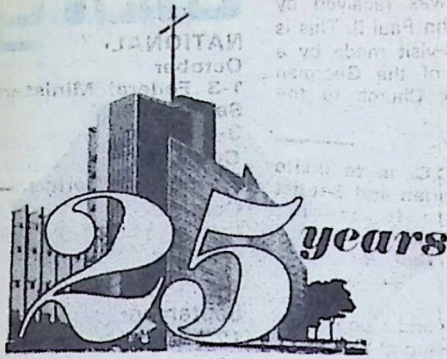
Fifteen leading churchmen and church growth strategists will lecture at the 1981 Summer School for Successful Ministry next January. It is the oldest, largest and best-known church leadership training conference in Australia.

Among the lecturers in 1981 will be Bishop Chandu Ray, Bishop Jack Dain, the Rev. Gordon Moyes, Robert Colman, the Rev. John Graham, Dr. Robert Hillman, David Longe, Mrs Pauline Hubner and Chris Veitch.

The School will be held from January 20-23 in holiday settings at Vision Valley. The cost for single delegates is \$60. Special family rates are available for motel-like family rooms. Caravans are welcome.

There will be separate activities for children and teenagers. Details can be obtained from Dulcie Robertson on (02) 61 8741.

CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL FOR A MISSION STATION



Twenty five years ago Robert Schuller was sent by the Reformed Church of the U.S.A. to set up a mission station in the Garden Grove area, one of the rapidly expanding developments on the outskirts of Los Angeles. Being a mission station he had the right to use any legitimate means to establish and continue the work of Christ in the community without the need to conform to the more normal patterns of Reformed Church worship and traditions. Hence he was free to set up worship in a drive-in theatre, and then in a drive-in church, and now in a crystal cathedral, for the Garden Grove Community Church is still a mission, and is likely to be as long as Robert Schuller is leading it.

Incidentally it is just 25 years since Walt Disney built Disneyland just down the road from Schuller's mission. One is celebrating its anniversary by opening the Crystal Cathedral and the other by nightly fireworks displays that burst through the smog precisely at 9.30.

COMMUNION IN THE SHERATON

Originally half of our party were to go to Garden Grove on the Sunday we were in Anaheim and the others were to attend a Disciple church in the next county. But it was discovered that our ever-thoughtful tour guide Keith, hearing of the desire of some to go to Garden Grove, had already booked us all into the 11.15 service there, an unusual privilege, because normally such bookings are not made. So we decided to have our own communion service at the Sheraton Anaheim where we were staying, and to go to Schuller's church later. Keith and Monica (the other tour guide) offered us the use of their staterooms which would accommodate a bus load of us in each. The air conditioning in Keith's room had broken down, so our "wonder-working" guide obtained for that bus party one of the hotel's beautiful meeting rooms for our free use.

We experienced there the communion of the saints that had already been growing as we lived and looked and wondered and supported each other in the Rockies, at the Grand Canyon and across the desert. We told each other what we thanked God for in them, and we told each other what we prayed for them. The communion of saints was also a communion with the living Christ, and three of

our people let us into their own experience of him. Then we broke bread for each other dipping the pieces into the common cup as we remembered the body and blood of the Lord. We prayed and read the scriptures and "passed the peace" to each other in love. Then we went to meet other Christians from across the world at Garden Grove.

QUEUE-ING UP FOR CHURCH

Although places were to be kept for us we still had to queue up. The previous service was just finishing as we lined up. Our party were given the first five rows. From where I sat I could look out through the glass wall to the moat and fountains, to the Good Shepherd sculpture, and beyond to the Crystal Cathedral, in the final stages of completion.

THE CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL

The Reformed Church was founded in the U.S.A. by Dutch settlers in 1628. Its most prominent congregation is that of the Marble Collegiate Church in New York, presided over for many years by Norman Vincent Peale. Robert Schuller, a minister of this church, was sent to pioneer its life in the west, 25 years ago. He and his wife were the only members. He door-knocked 3000 homes to find out what needs were not already being met in a community already saturated with churches and sects. He found many who were sympathetic but either could not or would not worship in conventional church buildings. So he set up the world's first church in a drive-in theatre. We saw this drive-in and the snack bar, the roof of which served for Schuller's pulpit and a platform for his choir. On the first Sunday there were 50 people in 30 cars and \$85 in the plate.

In 1955 he built his first drive-in church with seating for 900 and space for 400 cars. The present building seats 1700 and is filled four times a Sunday, together with those who worship in cars and in the garden. Cars in the drive-in area turn their car radios to 540 on the dial. Sheer pressure of numbers and the net growth rate of 1000 members a year have made it necessary to build again, this time a crystal cathedral, a building whose roof and walls are made entirely of glass.



Dr. R. H. Schuller

SUCH EXTRAVAGANCE?

Australians, many thousands of miles from Garden Grove, have been critical of the Crystal Cathedral concept in an age of poverty and deprivation. Frankly huge buildings and huge crowds and big-business in the church are not my scene. Perhaps I am not very good at possibility thinking. But before we criticise we should look at the facts.

Two or three hours of watching wealthy religion on American TV make Schuller's money raising and methods look very modest and restrained.

The Crystal Cathedral is 414 feet long and 10 storeys high, and star shaped. Its cost is \$16½ million. It will be opened free of debt. Several people gave a million dollars each (giving to churches is tax-deductible). Most of the money has been raised by people who have paid \$500 per pane for the 10,000 panes of glass that make up roof and walls. The money for the furnishings, TV equipment, the organ and other costs comes from the payment of \$500 each for 11,000 sparkling stars, in the shape of the cathedral itself, which will dangle from the roof.

Still comes the question, how can such extravagance be justified? The facts are that the Garden Grove people have a very extensive social service program. All offerings in the Crystal Cathedral will be given to care programs throughout the world, and that amounts to thousands a week. The church budget is met by the planned giving program with annual or quarterly cheques. On opening day in September the offering will be given to an emergency medical centre in Chiapas in the jungles of Central America to serve 300,000 medically deprived people. It is expected to amount to over a million dollars.

A LITTLE COMPARATIVE ARITHMETIC

\$16½ million for a build for 10,000 members works out at \$1650 per member. We know of churches in Australia with 100 members worshipping in plants valued at \$165,000. Some of these churches are declining. Schuller's is increasing by 1000 a year and there are hundreds of visitors each Sunday, and millions are reached by the TV services. The Crystal Cathedral, seating 3000 people will be filled four times a Sunday.

And the Garden Grove Community Church does not spend all its money on its own soul culture. It supports many world wide missionary and benevolent programs. It runs a retirement home for the disadvantaged elderly. It conducts a continuing marriage and family program. It has a full time director for a local social service program called Helping Hand, involving extensive lay-caring. It runs Families Anonymous for those with drug problems in their families and Suicides Anonymous for those who have attempted suicide or have the urge to do so. There is also a 24 hour "Life-Line" service. The church runs its own medical centre, including a "blood bank".

● Continued on Page 14

CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL FOR A MISSION STATION

• Continued from Page 13

WHAT ABOUT THE PRESENT BUILDINGS?

The present buildings will of course continue to be used for their present functions. On Sundays there are 28 Christian Education groups covering all ages and including one for the developmentally handicapped. There are summer and winter schools covering such areas as "Stress Without Distress", "The Roots of the Church" and "New Testament Backgrounds". There are women's Bible Fellowship groups.

One building is devoted to the Hour of Power Telecasts with its budget of \$18 million a year and its four truck loads of mail per day, most of it handled by volunteers. One minister is Director of Volunteers, guiding the work of over 2000 lay ministers. The officially recorded voluntary lay ministry of the church adds up to over a million hours a year.

The only building that will not be used for its present purpose is the sanctuary, which will become a convention and social centre. The present organ with its 4000 pipes will be added to the 11,000 pipe organ purchased from the Lincoln Centre, to become the Crystal Cathedral Organ.

Beneath the Crystal Cathedral is the basement, covering an acre, which is already the music centre for the 9 youth choirs, the 2 adult choirs and the four handbell choirs, together with a number of instrumental groups. On opening day these will combine to make a 1000 voice choir.

OPENING DAY

On September 14 each of the congregations for the day will commence worship in the former sanctuary and then be led by a person carrying the Bible, with a fanfare of trumpets, and in procession make its way into the Crystal Cathedral to continue worship.

ST EVERY-BODY-ELSE

I watched the wife of one of our students go to the letter box and turn away empty handed. She brushed away an unexpected tear. That week the folks at the church back home failed to write. Of course they did not need to write, because Every-body-else is writing regularly.

The other Sunday night at church the young people put on the program. In our church we all approve heartily of the involvement of our young people in the life of the church and they have many opportunities, such as Sunday night's program. But most of us did not turn up to encourage them. We did not really need to of course, because Every-body-else was going to make a point of being there.

We can let ourselves off the hook of personal evangelism, Christian hospitality, welcoming newcomers, calling on the

aged, encouraging the young, phoning the lonely, and waiting behind to "clean up" because Every-body-else is doing all of these things.

The greatest ministry of Every-body-else is in time of bereavement. We all visit the bereaved at the time, and we all turn up to the funeral, and a few of us may call a day or two after that. But in the harrowing days and weeks and months that follow, we amateurs bow out in favour of the expert, Every-body-else.

St Every-body-else has been the patron saint of ordinary church members for centuries.

But now after all this time some dusty egghead of a researcher into canonical history has discovered that St Every-body-else never existed . . . except in the minds of those who have found it convenient to create him/her. (Ed.)



Dr. Harold
Leestma

The worship service we attended was helpful. Dr. Schuller was on summer vacation. His place was taken by Harold Leestma, a former Minister of Evangelism with Schuller from 1962 to 1973, who left to repeat what had happened at Garden Grove in the new area of Laguna Hills. His message was warm and helpful and biblical. He left us with the feeling that God can be trusted and the assurance that Jesus Christ has power to liberate us. He was supported by a first rate choir and a mezzo-soprano who sang the gospel with a voice that filled the whole building with ease. A tenor later sang a moving negro spiritual. It was all done very well with scarcely any announcement and with no unnecessary words and comments. The Australian party was invited to stand and were welcomed with applause.

When it was over we were gathered together again by the lovely Monica and the ever-helpful Keith and returned for a very late lunch and a rare free afternoon to enable our bodies to catch up with our souls.

THE SECRET OF IT ALL

And what is the secret of Garden Grove Community Church? It could be Schuller's dynamic personality. It could be possibility thinking. It could be explained in terms of the Western American cultural and religious scene. But it is the belief of this writer that the Holy Spirit has had a lot to do with it too. (Editor.)

ZIMBABWE SUPPORT CRITICAL

The political stability of Zimbabwe is at risk if the Australian Government does not increase its aid commitment to the newly independent nation, according to Miss Jean Skuse, General Secretary of the Australian Council of Churches.

Miss Skuse has written to Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser saying: "Failure by the international community to respond to assist postwar reconstruction and resettlement will result in widespread famine and the danger of political instability".

The Australian Government has indicated that it will provide \$10 million over the next three years, an amount Miss Skuse believes is totally inadequate.

In response to the urgent situation the A.C.C. has increased its support to Zimbabwe through Force Ten, its joint program with Australian Catholic Relief. Funds raised through Force Ten will be used for the repair and re-opening of rural hospitals and clinics.

Donations supporting the re-opening of Health Services in Zimbabwe can be sent to Force Ten at 199 Clarence Street, Sydney, 2000.

PRISON FELLOWSHIP FOUNDER TO VISIT

Charles W. (Chuck) Colson, President and Founder of Prison Fellowship, once Special Counsel to former President Richard Nixon and, at one time, an inmate for seven months in two Federal prisons, will be returning to Australia in September.

Chuck Colson will be counselling with local Prison Fellowship Committees recently formed in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Hobart. Of prime importance will be the training of local volunteers to visit prisons, to befriend prisoners and their families, to conduct Bible studies and seminars in prisons and to aid ex-convicts on their release.

Mr Colson said, "experts agree that prisons do not and cannot rehabilitate. That is why four out of five crimes are committed by ex-convicts. Prisons merely recycled the criminals often turning them out even more violent and dangerous to society."

"We believe by faith, and we know by experience," he added, "that the life-changing power of Jesus Christ is the one hope inside the prisons. Instead of coming out of prison bitter and defiant to plague society, those who have truly accepted Christ and become part of a loving, caring Christian community return as law-abiding citizens. This is the way to attack the crime problem at its root."

CHURCH PROTEST

Churches and relief and development aid agencies have protested strongly to the Danish government over its attempts to cut back on Third World aid. The Copenhagen government plans to trim its overseas assistance bill by about \$18 million. The government has blamed bad times at home for the cuts.



BACK ROW S. Mott, P. Anderson, P. Clayton, H. Corrie, T. Hanna, K. Whitcombe, J. Schaefer, C. Jones, D. Prestidge, C. Murdoch, S. Ashley, K. Ridge, T. Mackaay, G. Shaw, D. Brooker, J. Elliott, I. Smith, P. Wing Tang.
FOURTH ROW T. Hayward, K. Wray, D. Walladge, R. Harrison, J. Weston, D. Colless, L. Mellberg, S. Curkpatrick, S. Ogden, W. Clinton, W. Talbot, P. Broadbent, J. Keatch, R. Frazer, S. Dean, G. Payne.
THIRD ROW T. Frazer, L. Kenworthy, A. Tanner, L. Mayes, G. Finger, D. Fowler, J. Gilmore, P. Webber, M. Webber, R. Gibson, S. Waldron, B. Williams, R. Wilson, S. Wilson, R. Bourdon, S. Wilson, W. Ridge, M. Rees.
SECOND ROW P. Wells, C. Hollow, P. Bradley, K. Pawsey, K. Barrett, A. Mackaay, D. Wright, E. Clapp, J. Clapp, B. Prestidge, I. Lawson, E. Peterson, A. Clark, M. Foote, C. Page.
FRONT ROW G. Simpson, I. Spencer, C. Verco, L. Smith, R. Haskell, K. Clinton, G. Stirling, W. Tabbernee, K. Farmer, E. Hawkins, L. Hawkins, F. Smith, R. Wahgmode.



Faculty in absence of Principal on study leave.



Principal, K. H. Bowes.



Guest lecturers Elza and Lois Hawkins (U.S.A.) with David Prestidge (N.Z.)

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OCTOBER 5th

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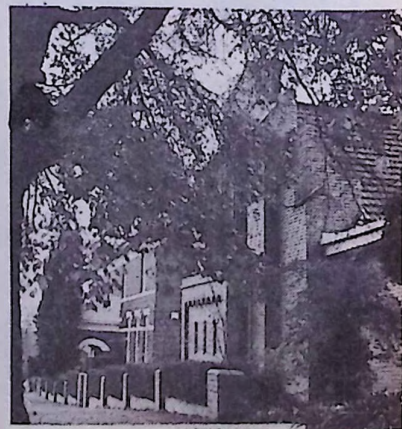
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The annual "Scripture Language Count" of the United Bible Societies states that complete books of the Bible have been published in 1685 languages.

The whole Bible is now printed in 273 different languages with the complete New Testament available in 745 languages.

In the past year, Bibles were reported published for the first time in five new languages. They are the Bari language of the Sudan, Gouro in Ivory Coast, Ndebele in Zimbabwe, Lango in Uganda and Zande in Zaire.

New Testaments published in the Boky language of Nigeria and Moldavian spoken in part of the USSR were the first pieces of Scripture ever to appear in those languages.

The Bible Society New Reader Selections designed for people learning to read has been translated into a total of 399 languages. In the Asia Pacific region where two-thirds of the world's population live, New Reader Scriptures have been translated into 187 languages.

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FORMER ACTING EDITOR OF "A.C." DIES

On August 17, Wilkie Thomson collapsed at his home and died instantly, after 70 years of membership with Churches of Christ, 80 years of ministry and 52 years of marriage. It was at the age of 11 that he joined the Fremantle church.

MINISTRIES

After graduating from the College of the Bible his first ministries were at Ormond and Chelsea in their pioneering days. At Cottesloe (W.A.) he led the church from being a small group meeting in a home to become a flourishing congregation in a fine building. He had ministries of five years each at Bunbury and Maylands. During the second world war he served at Murray Bridge and as a military chaplain. Glenelg, Long Plains-Owen, Wagga Wagga, Malvern and Croydon and interim ministries at Wangeratta, Ballarat and Balwyn followed. Anne Thomson can remember the difficult conditions of earlier ministries: of inspecting manse and finding birds in the bath and no tap in the kitchen. She can remember making furniture from kerosene cases and curtains out of calico at 4½d a yard. She can remember her husband going to listen to the news of the second world war on the greengrocer's radio because they could not afford a radio of their own.

"I BELIEVE THAT GOD HAS USED ME"

Wilkie sustained ministries, built churches and raised a family in conditions and with a salary that ministers today would find it difficult to tolerate, yet he could confidently assert, "I believe that God has used me." He did not feel deprived and looked back over those years thanking God for the varied and rich experience that ministry brought to him and Anne. He served the Brotherhood long and faithfully with the Historical Society and for a while was Acting Editor of "The Australian Christian".

His ministry was characterized by a strong loyalty to the Restoration Movement, a deep commitment to the Scriptures, diligent evangelism and pastoral care and the gifted use of his pen.

LITTLE CHILDREN

Wilkie Thomson loved children. He would play his little tricks and tell his stories, not only to his children and grandchildren, but to all the children in his various congregations. His daughters will remember the strap on the table that was never used and the made-up stories last thing at night.

His grandchildren remember his deep interest in their lives and all remember that when Caitlyn, one of his grand-daughters died, the grief that burdened him for many months.

RETIREMENT

Retirement came in 1986. The Thomsons moved to Blackburn and after a series of interim ministries, were called to lead the Senior Citizens, a newly formed group that they built from a handful to a flourishing organisation. Wilkie was always the pastor and this congregation within a congregation will never forget his contribution.

Almost a year ago Anne was struck by a car. For weeks she lingered between life and death. During this time it seemed that Wilkie Thomson was given a new lease of life. Forgetting his own ailments he supported her with a vitality far beyond his years, and lived for the day when he could bring her home. And that he did. Death only came to him when Anne had regained some degree of mobility and strength.

"WHEN I SHOULD DIE"

Recently Wilkie wrote the following lines to his family: "When I should die, don't grieve, for death is but the opening of a door that leads to higher realms of richer life. Here Anne and I have been richly blessed with lovely daughters and seven grandchildren, one of whom has preceded us. And after all I have lived four score years, ten years beyond the allotted years of man. I think that God has used me, a channel of blessing in other lives. In this I rest content. Partings must come sooner or later for all, but in God we are once again united in his home of rest and joy and peace for evermore."

PRAYERS

The prayers of their friends surround Anne and her daughters Lola and Chloris and their families.

— Ted Keating.

SPECIAL CAR FOR CHRISTIAN AUTOSPORTS CLUB

Australia's premier rally, The Southern Cross International Rally, has this year attracted a field of drivers that reads like a "Who's Who" of motor sport.

One of the world's foremost prestige sports coupes has been entered by the Christian Autosports Club. This car is the only L.P.G. powered Mazda RX7 rally car in the world. It will be unusual to see a Speed-e-gas tanker fueling the car, while the others fill with petrol. The RX7 proved that it is competitive with its impressive finish in the Queensland Round of the Australian Rally Championships. The Christian Autosports Club Rally Team has won its class twice in previous Southern Cross Rallies.

The car is being prepared by members of the club, with help from Ian Bottcher

Mazda of Ipswich. The gas conversion has been done by Memmotts Automotive Services of Newstead, who have been 13 years in the business. Some ideas to the extent of preparation can be gauged by the fact that the car has to be driven over 2200 kms in four nights, over some of the roughest roads in N.S.W.

The Club now has branches in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane and members will be coming from each branch to service and back-up the car. Emblazoned down the side of the car is the Club's motto, "Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life".

For further details of the club phone Sydney: Russell Warner (02) 759 7791 or Brisbane: Richard McColm (07) 36 0480.

— Worldwide Photos

OBITUARY

BULMER, (Mrs) Dorothy Emily.

18.8.1980. Known to most simply as Dot. Born at Inverell in 1908. She was one of the 10 children of the late John and Emily Hamilton. Coming to the Delungra District, near Inverell in 1907 from South Australia, her parents were among the early members of the Church of Christ in Inverell. Four brothers and two sisters predeceased Dot. One brother, Claude (Delungra) and two sisters Mrs Vi Bartlett (Inverell) and Mrs Gwen Waddell (Southport) survive her. Her husband, George who predeceased her 16 months ago had been a member of the Board of Deacons, and also Secretary of the Inverell Church of Christ for a number of years. Three step-children — Kaye (Mrs Ian Weiden of Brisbane), Eileen (Mrs Jo Bruklis of Toowoomba) and Paul, as well as six grandchildren survive. A regular member of the church, Christian Women's Fellowship and Afternoon Bible Study Group, Dot had a real love for Christ, and strong faith in spite of her prolonged illness of nearly 9 years which saw her constantly in and out of hospital. The present church organ was donated by Dot in memory of her parents and brother Keith.

— R.A.P.

GOODIER, Roy Admiral.

(2.8.1980) Roy Goodier died suddenly and unexpectedly on the morning of August 2. He was born at Midland (W.A.) in 1908, and for most of his life, he graced the areas of Bassendean and Bayswater. At the age of 13, he was baptized at the Bassendean church, and like so many of his age group, gave dedicated and loyal service in the local church, and the Brotherhood. 49 years ago, he took Rosa Smyth as his marriage partner. We assure Mrs Goodier, and son Eric, and daughters Lois and Shirley, along with their partners and children, of our sympathy and Christian love. Mr and Mrs Goodier developed wider friendships, within Churches of Christ circles, during attendance at the 9th. World Convention, at Mexico City. Roy followed the profession of another skillful craftsman, whose mission it was to inspire and help people, to live the kind of faith-life, we all appreciate. He was a man of conviction and integrity, and a lover of Christian graces and virtues, and practical helper. A crowded chapel service (conducted by E.J. Sewell, with the assistance of D. Murray of Dianella — the Goodiers' home church of latter years), was a fully deserved tribute, to a life well-lived.

— E.J.S.

SCOTT, Robert Stephen Alexander (19.8.1980). Robert Scott who died at the age of 84 had spent 70 years in Churches of Christ in Victoria. He was baptised in the Collingwood church at the age of 14. He served there as a Bible School teacher and as Superintendent. He also served as a deacon, Elder and church secretary a position which he held for more than 30 years. At the age of 20 he married Miss Wilmot Neale. There was one daughter of the marriage Wilma Alice Scott. Both wife and daughter predeceased Mr. Scott. In 1981 Mr Scott married Mrs Jessamine Hilda Williams who has been attentive and helpful life partner. Shortly after his marriage Mr Scott suffered ill health and was in and out of hospital. For the past 20 years Mr Scott

was in membership at Northcote. The funeral services at the chapel and the crematorium were conducted by T.V. Welr assisted by W. T. Atkins and J. Weston. A large congregation paid tribute to Mr Scott's life and work in the churches. Sympathy is extended to Mrs Scott, two surviving sisters and one brother.

— Thomas V. Welr



SWANSTON STREET (A. Webb, B. Morton, P. Mason). July average weekly communicant attendance 348 . . . New families attending 9.15 a.m. family service . . . Family tea held. Family bus outing to the snow . . . Seven recent additions by baptism . . . Day of prayer held for members of missionary family . . . Missionary giving of \$43,000 so far this year . . . Church seeking services of a Christian Education Director . . . Repainting of church planned.

MELTON (J. Midgley). Fifth anniversary services saw 42 attend worship service and 70 at P.S.A. . . . Special B.S. program to honour 200 years of S.S. . . . Several new families attending services and B.S. . . . C.W.F. conducted morning service.

BENDIGO (M. D. Keatch). Additions continue as result of Amazing Grace Crusade. Each Sunday someone is baptised . . . C.W.A.F. distributed food to shut ins . . . C. & N.D. rally held at Pyramid Hill. 160 attended. Guest speakers were G. Deuble and Mrs Mavis Elbourne . . . K. Christensen speaker at special meetings . . . C.W.A.F. and C.W.E.F. held coffee morning and presentation to Mrs Keatch . . . Adult fellowship attended dinner to honour Mr and Mrs Keatch.

WARRAGUL (B. Crowden). Laurie Needham sponsored to N.G. for three weeks mechanical work. Church fully supported the project . . . Church saddened by the death of Norm Harris and Arthur Winterton . . . Officers, wives and leaders to meet with Mr and Mrs Peter Broadbent as preliminary to their commencing ministry at Warragul next year.

NOBLE PARK (Ken Clinton). \$200 raised or Overseas Mission . . . 26th Anniversary celebrated with guest speaker Arthur Pigdon and Tim Hanna . . . C.W.F. guest speaker Mrs Jean Witt . . . Ken Clinton travelled to Canberra on C.O.B. deputation.

MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (P.A. Pitts, R. Frazer). John and Adeline Liu of Banmatmat told of their work in N.H. . . . Six attended World Conv. . . Y.A.F. conducted evening service. Three gave sermons in miniature . . . Y.A.F. held car wash as fund raising venture also craft night and bonfire and spent weekend at snow . . . Tweens club held church parade . . . Combined C. of C. in Geelong held fellowship tea at La Trobe Tce., followed by evening service with Ron Elbourne Conf. Pres. Torrens Family singers also featured . . . Three tennis teams won premierships . . . New church building well under way.

"FUSION" PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

30 delegates from four states attended Fusion Australia's annual national conference held recently in Burnie, Tasmania. Reports were given of extensive outreach activities in Victoria, N.S.W., Tasmania and W.A.

Mal Garvin was formally invited to serve as Fusion Australia's National Director for 1980-1981. Mr Garvin is host of the nationally — syndicated radio program "Breakthrough Generation", now broadcast on 65 commercial stations. He is also editor of "Tell" magazine, a Fusion publication available from most Australian newsagents.

At the conference, Mr Garvin outlined a strategy aimed at upgrading Fusion's present training systems. Intensive courses of study are currently being undertaken by groups of young people in Sydney and Melbourne. The training programs are aimed at equipping participants with the Biblical and social skills necessary for future leadership positions in pioneer situations of evangelism.

SPANISH CRUSADE IN U.S.A.

Latin American evangelist Luis Palau concluded a precedent-setting nine-day Festival of the Family Spanish Crusade in Los Angeles. Total attendance during the nine days was over 51,000, and 1,945 people responded to the evangelistic invitation.

Southern California, home to some of the world's largest and fastest-growing English-speaking churches, is also home to the world's second largest Mexican population.

In spite of that large Hispanic population, the Palau crusade is thought to be the first community-wide Spanish evangelistic crusade ever conducted in southwestern United States. The crusade signalled a major breakthrough in promoting needed unity among Spanish-speaking evangelical churches.

The family emphasis prevailed at crusade meetings. When Palau fielded questions during five nights on a late phone-in program, he had to cope with a flood of family-related issues — marital problems, parent-child relationships, and infidelity. Inquirers were given further appointments at one of the Palau team's three counselling centres set up in the Los Angeles area.

Media coverage on radio and television and through both the English and Spanish press extended the crusade's outreach.

Palau came to Los Angeles from a six-week crusade which had taken him to cities in Wales and Scotland. His next major crusade will be held in Guayaquil, Ecuador in September.

TURKEY TORTURE

Amnesty International reports widespread torture throughout Turkey. In interviews with victims, doctors and lawyers, Amnesty has been told that police are using electric shocks, beating the soles of victim's feet and assaulting parts of the body, including the sexual organs.

"THIS IS THE PLACE"

Our World Convention party flew into Salt Lake City from Calgary and saw the gap in the 10,000 foot Wasatch Range where Brigham Young and his Mormons looked first on the great Utah Valley in 1847. Young stood up in his stirrups and said of this promised land, "This is the place."

CIRCULATE WITH PRUDENCE

Our tour of the Canadian Rockies was completed at Banff where spent a Sunday. On that day all of the various continental post-convention tours were in the Banff National Park. Tour three were at church in Jasper and the rest of us filled to overflowing the United, the Presbyterian and the Baptist churches at Banff, all of us being entertained to coffee and cookies afterwards. This was the last time that the various tours would overlap.

All through Canada we were intrigued by the fact that everything was in two languages; jam tin labels, park notices, tourist handouts, hotel room rules, everything. This is no doubt a concession to the large French-Canadian minority. One in the Rockies took our fancy. It said, "Ours Grizzly Dans Le Secteur. Circuler Avec Prudence", together with the English, "Grizzly bears in this area. Walk about with care." We liked the "circulate with prudence" bit. It could almost have come straight from one of Paul's letters. He talking of walking about in a worthy manner that befits our calling.

FANTASY SQUARE

Our tour of Salt Lake City was an evening one. It has all the signs of a big prosperous city with its Corinthian columned and domed Capitol on the hill looking down on the skyscrapers of the commercial and tourist centres. It was reminiscent of Calgary, the fastest growing city in North America. But to move from our bus into the 10 acre Temple Square, the heart of world Mormonism, was like entering a strange fantasy world, so different from the rest of the city. Here fervent "Latter Day Saints" told us of the angel Moroni, clothed in gold on the highest spire of the Temple and glinting in the late afternoon sun, and of visions of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young, and of Mormon miracles and legends.

The temple is indeed a notable building with its multiple spires dominating the whole square. Gentiles are excluded from it, so we did not get in. It is only used for marriages and baptisms, hundreds of thousands of them in any one year, for Mormons practise baptism for the dead. If you are a Latter Day Saint you can get your ancestors into heaven by being baptised for each one of them, but only in a Mormon Temple, and there are only a few of them round the world. So Mormons make the most of it while they have access to a temple. To aid them the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) keeps the largest and most extensive genealogical records in the world. They are housed in the 28 floor administrative building on Temple Square.

A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

Our bus driver-guide for the evening told us that normally they did not give a religious commentary, but as we were Convention people it would be different. We were interested. Nearly every city and suburban site he took us to was a Mormon one — statues of the saints, Brigham Young's governor's mansion and the mansion next door for his 26 wives and 65 children. At each place he regaled us with Mormon history. Even at the Capitol, with sight seeing time running out, he was making long speeches of Mormon dates and events. He wondered at our protest to get on with the tour and off with the dates and events. Then it all came out. We were listed as a Churches of Christ party, and he confused our name with that of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. He thought that we were Mormons. He himself was a Jack Morman (nominal) trained as a guide to deliver what was appropriate to Mormon and Gentile alike.

BRILLIANT PROPAGANDISTS

It is no wonder that Mormons are one of the fastest growing sects. We could take a leaf from their book in some ways. All that they do, they do well. They have in the Square two large Visitors' Centres with dramas, films, lectures, museums and tons of attractively produced literature. And two million people a year go through these centres. Guided tours leave every half hour and consist of very well put-together propaganda by very gracious guides. The Tabernacle organist gives daily recitals and the 375 voice choir rehearses to the public several times a week as well as regularly broadcasting on national hookups. They make sure that it is one of the best choirs in the world. Nothing is done in an amateurish way.

BRIGHAM YOUNG

There is no doubt that a martyr gets a following. Joseph and Hiram Smith found it hard going with their handful of followers and Mormonism was a eight day wonder, doomed to fade an die, until a lynch crowd shot the two brothers. There was deep prejudice against polygamy in America in those days. But with the martyrdom, followers flocked to the cause and Brigham Young became the new leader. It is doubtful if Mormonism would be what it is today if it were not for Brigham Young. Only 5'3" in height, this human dynamo led his people into carving a Garden of Eden out of the desert and towards the statehood of Utah as part of the American nation. Today 75% of Salt Lake City and most of the population of Utah are Mormons.

JOSEPH SMITH AND JESUS CHRIST

The focal point of Temple Square of course is the statue of Joseph Smith, a dapper little man with a prominent nose. So this was the author of "The Book of Mormon", a document dictated by Joseph Smith from allegedly Egyptian script upon gold plates, given to him by

the angel Moroni, and translated by use of special spectacles also thoughtfully provided by Moroni. Smith dictated from behind a curtain to Oliver Cowdrey and others each night for two years, for no other human eye could see the plates. However, this was revised later when Smith needed witnesses to confirm their existence and arranged for the purpose a moonlight tableau in the fields.

The guide told us of Joseph Smith's death. The difference between the death of this latter day Messiah and Jesus the Messiah is that Joseph did not rise from the dead, and his death did not save to the uttermost those who came to God by him.

As we looked up at the little man in the square we could not help thinking that "there is no other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we may be saved," and that in Jesus, not Joseph, "dwelt all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." The words came into our minds, "Jesus Christ — the same yesterday, today and forever." He is sufficient — we need no other latter day Memorial.

— Editor

TWO MESSAGES AT ONCE

Your church notice board gives two messages at once.

First of all it tells about services. the minister, and the name of the church.

Secondly, it tells us a lot about the church.

If the minister's name is in different style from the rest because of a recent addition to the board, it says that the church does not keep its ministers very long.

If the notice board is scruffy, the paint peeling off and leaning drunkenly askew we get the message that here are people who do not care about God and church and the gospel.

Sometimes there is an old world notice board of gothic shape and golden antique letters. The message is that here are good solid Christians, not very anxious to be disturbed.

A contemporary style and "with it" scripting make us curious to know what goes on in that church. Are they really as "with it" as their notice board, or did some architect argue them into it?

We saw a notice board equipped with a space for a weekly message. The message was never there. What does that tell us?

A notice board once told us that the morning service was at 11. When we arrived at 10 to 11 the service was well on the way. They were now starting at 10.30. They did not tell their notice board. But they did tell something about themselves and the depth of their desire to have others invading their privacy.

If a notice board says, "Visitors Welcome" and they get inside and find that they are not, that also says something about the church and its integrity.

We have seen some notice boards that need a place on the next agenda of the church board. Does yours?

JOHN LIU

Recently when John and Adeline Liu were in Australia on a deputation tour we managed to interview them for "The Australian Christian". The interview took place just prior to the independence of Vanuatu and while Santo was still controlled by the rebels. John is the Principal of the Banmatmat Bible College and is one of the leading personalities in the Vanuatu (New Hebridean) church.

"A.C." — What do you see your role as?

John — I see myself as a servant of the church in Vanuatu.

"A.C." — What are your impressions of Australia?

John — I am impressed with the faith of the church as it appears to be going through difficult times. The church appears to have lost its witness. We have to come back to that. There is a need to go back to look at the mission of the church in the community today. (The same applies in the New Hebrides).

"A.C." — What have the N.H. churches to teach us?

John — We need to expect changes. Changes in attitudes and also in the structures of the church. The Australian church could well learn from these. There needs to be changes on both sides in our mentality from a father/son relationship to a brother/brother relationship.

"A.C." — What is your opinion of Father Walter Lini the new Prime Minister?

John — He is a very good friend of mine. He is a real man of God who is trying to do all things that would please God according to his righteousness and justice. It is of interest that the new motto of Vanuatu is "In God We Stand". The government depends highly on the church for leadership and guidance.

"A.C." — What problems face the church in Vanuatu?



Principal John Liu of the Banmatmat Bible College.

John — The great problem is of syncretism (this problem is also present in Australia). We also have to be involved in the search for identity. The church also has to be involved in the difficult political situation which could well breed strife. In this situation the church must preach love, reconciliation and forgiveness.

"A.C." — What is the situation with regard to training for the ministry?

John — There are currently 23 students at Banmatmat. We also have a waiting list until 1982 that is full up. We only have limited accommodation for 26 and yet there is a shortage of pastors in the churches. We are also developing a Theological Education by Extension which trains people in their home situation. There are currently 130 involved including pastors, church leaders, elders and deacons, youth leaders and interested Christians. We are using African material which we are adapting to our situation.

(It is hoped to get John to write articles for "The Australian Christian" on his impressions on Australia after his tour and also on the church in the new country of Vanuatu).

FACTS AND FIGURES FROM THE COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

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Churches of Christ representatives on the Council are Alan R. Mudge and Ron W. Brooker.

169 members of the Churches of Christ are accredited voluntary instructors.

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Estimated costs of operation for 1980 are \$650,000 of which the member churches — Church of England, Uniting Church, Presbyterian Church, Baptist Churches, Salvation Army and Churches of Christ — are asked to contribute \$45,000 — \$1,406 — 25 per chaplain per year.

1980 contributions from Churches of Christ so far total only \$524.

— Clive L. Ward (Vic. Tas Conference Secretary)

REFUGEES WANT BIBLES

Relief workers along the Thai border are experiencing a growing demand for Bibles from the Cambodian refugees. An estimated 600,000 Cambodians have fled their country to escape the fighting and killing between the Pol Pot and the Vietnamese forces.

The Bible Society in Thailand has made available its entire stock of 3000 Bibles in Khmer for the refugees. Christian workers are also distributing 400,000 Khmer Scripture Selections among the refugees, and another 400,000 are currently being printed.

There are also a number of Laotian refugee camps in Thailand, and the supply of Bibles to these camps has been a regular part of Bible Society work for a number of years.

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ALARMING REPORT ABOUT FR DIMITRI DUDKO

A reliable source in the Soviet Union has advised Keston College that Russian Orthodox priest Fr Dimitri Dudko is resting not far from Moscow following his widely televised and publicised "confession".

The source reports that Fr Dimitri is in very bad physical condition, and has lost more than 40 pounds in weight. He is also in a state of deep depression. Friends of Fr Dimitri's who saw the program were all surprised by his obvious good health, total calm and by the fact that he appeared to have gained weight. Another unusual cir-

cumstance is the publication of the full text of the confession in at least eight newspapers.

SO

MAYLANDS (C. Dow). Interim ministry of Mr and Mrs Claude Cunningham appreciated . . . Jack and Fluff Matthews home after three months in W.A. helping Aboriginal Missions . . . Deaf Christian Fellowship in district using church for services . . . Annual meeting held. Agreed to proceed with building extensions. Ron Pitkin elected Elder and Miss Glenda Milne and Peter Moore to church board.

BOARD AVAILABLE

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cc.7

THE MORMONS

● From page 32

the words have different meanings. This is what they really believe about God, Jesus and the Holy Ghost:

- God the Father (Elohim) is one of many gods and the head of the council of gods.
- He is one of the three gods of the Trinity.
- He is a glorified man who had to work hard to become a god.
- He has a physical body of flesh and bones.
- He lives near the planet 'Kolob' — the greatest of the planets.
- He had a father (and a grandfather).
- He has wives — the chief wife is our 'Heavenly Mother'.
- He begat us as actual offspring (spirit children) in pre-existence.
- He begat Jesus through actual sexual intercourse with Mary.

- He can cease to be God — He is such only because other intelligences approve of, and support Him as such.
- Jesus (Jehovah) is also one of the three Gods of the Trinity.
- He is the Firstborn because he was God's first spirit child.
- He is the unique Son of God because he was twice begotten of God — first begotten in the spirit world and then born on this earth, the offspring of Mary — "a mortal mother" — and of God — "an immortal or resurrected and glorified Father" — through their sexual union "for there is no other process of creation in heaven or on earth."
- He is otherwise no different to the rest of us and is considered our actual Elder Brother and the brother of Satan.
- He was the bridegroom at the wedding at Cana of Galilee.
- He was a polygamist married to Mary, Martha and Mary Magdalene.

- The Holy Ghost is the third God of the Trinity.
- He is a "personage of Spirit" and has not yet received his mortal body, as had Jesus.
- He is different and distinct from the Holy Spirit ("a universe filling medium or influence") through whom the Holy Ghost accomplishes his work (he needs the Holy Spirit to work for him because he is limited in form, time and space).

JOSEPH SMITH OR JESUS CHRIST

These few statements reveal at least two things: 1. That one must ask what is meant when apparently familiar words are used, 2. That in spite of all appearances the Mormons are not Christians. Their system of works, temple activities and secrets, universalism, racism, baptism for the dead, marriage for eternity, proxy marriages, sacred underwear, closed-mindedness is not to be found in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The way to salvation is not found in Jesus Christ, but in Joseph Smith, as far as the Mormons are concerned. They believe that Jesus only provides a future general resurrection for everyone (except murderers and a few others). After this resurrection there is a choice of three heavens, depending on your works on earth and on whether or not you were a good Mormon. Brigham Young summed it up when he claimed that no one, himself included, could enter heaven without the consent and approval of Joseph Smith. Jesus Christ said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."

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SEPTEMBER 21st

9.15 a.m., 11.00 a.m. & 7.00 p.m. Preacher: Allan Webb

Ministry Team: Allan Webb, Bruce Morton, Pam Mason.

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VIC

SHEPPARTON (G. S. Deuble). Fellowship Sunday held with families sharing lunch together . . . Ladies on three sewing days made 10 quilts for Op shop and 592 articles for hospital visitation in Melbourne . . . Greg Deuble spoke at Central & Northern Conference at Pyramid Hill and C.B.M.C. Convention at Halls Gap. "Country Gospel Singers" also took part at Pyramid Hill . . . C.O.B. students meet with youth over tea and took evening service . . . Pat Kavanagh, past minister, recent speaker . . . Eight baptisms . . . Ladies attended C.W.C.I. day convention . . . C.W.E.F. held open night for Missions with K. Ludgater as speaker . . . Two food parcels sent to Hazel Skuse in India . . . Day together spent in snow.

BALWYN (G. Shaw, M. Foote). Church saddened by the death of Len Warmbrunn a foundation member . . . Two attended World Convention . . . C.W.F. contributed to Aboriginal clothing appeal . . . Girls Calisthenics class second in section in Eastern comps . . . Mrs Grace Hercules now co-ordinator of Balwyn Care Group. Five others involved as volunteers . . . Greg Shaw raised \$240 in 40 hour famine . . . Men's breakfast held in home of Edwin and Veronica Stear.

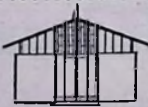
HELP

The NORTH ESSENDON church would like to contact people in the GLADSTONE PARK-TULLAMARINE area of Melbourne.

If you or your church secretary know of people living in this area we would appreciate their name and address so that we could visit them.

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NOV. 2-9

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"Reflections"**

9.15 a.m., 11 a.m., 5 p.m. (Tea), 7 p.m.

**Sunday, Nov. 9. Theme —
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10.30 a.m., 7 p.m.

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- 2. BEST OF TASMANIA TOUR** — departing 5th October this ever popular 11 Day tour takes us to most of the interesting places. All meals (except 2 lunches) are included, and the price from Melbourne is \$679.00. This tour will be repeated on 8th February and 29th March but increased price is \$779.00.
- 3. SOUTH EAST ASIA TOUR** — This tour is a little unusual. Leaving on 6th October we spend 2 nights in Singapore, 5 in Burma, 10 in Thailand, 4 in Nepal and 4 in Hong Kong. There is liberal sightseeing and adequate free time, with an optional Flight over Mount Everest. Our Leader is George Glazier, President of the New South Wales Branch of the Pocket Testament League. The price is: Sydney \$2199.00; Brisbane \$2271.00; Melbourne \$2278.00; Adelaide \$2324.00.
- 4. SEE BEAUTIFUL NEW ZEALAND IN THE SPRING** — Leaving on October 11th we visit Christchurch, Tekapo, Oamaru, Invercargill, Te Anau, Queenstown, Alexandra, Fox Glacier, Greymouth, Picton, Wellington, Napier, Rotorua, Auckland and Waitomo. This 18 day tour can be extended by a 4 day tour to the Bay of Islands. Prices are: from Melbourne \$980.00; Sydney \$948.00; Brisbane \$969.00. Bay of Islands extension \$205.00. This popular tour will be repeated during March/April 1981.
- 5. WESTERN AUSTRALIA AT WILD FLOWER TIME** — Our 18 days tour leaves on 20th October and all travel is by coach except for 2 nights across the Nullarbor by train one way. This is one of our most popular tours and prices are: from Melbourne 1st Rail \$111(2nd rail \$1070); Adelaide \$984 (943); Sydney \$1143 (1077); Brisbane \$1253 (1187). Pensioners concession is available.
- 6. MIDDLE EAST ADVENTURE TOUR** — Departing on January 1st, this 30 day tour takes us to Bangkok for 4 nights, Jordan 3 nights, Israel 10 nights, Egypt 9 nights, and Singapore 2 nights. Our Group Leader is Tom Paterson, former Director of Road Transport in the Commonwealth Department of Transport. The price is \$2965.00 from Sydney or Melbourne.
- 7. SEE INDONESIA IN DEPTH** — departing March 29th. This tour is really something. We stay in Bali, Salawesi (Makale, Ujung Pandang) Java (Surabaya, Jogjakarta, Bandung and Jakarta) and Singapore. An optional 7 day extension to Malaysia is available. Our leader is Mrs Lois Walker, formerly Lois Hulse who worked with the A.I.M. for many years. The Tour Price is \$1721 from Melbourne or Sydney, and the supplement for the Malaysian extension \$345.00.
- 8. SOUTH EAST ASIA SPECIAL TOUR** — This 14 days tour is designed for the busy person who wants to get away for a short time as well as for the regular tourist. Leaving on April 15th, we visit Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Bangkok with a visit to the Kwai River Bridge and the Prisoner - of - War Cemetery, and Singapore. We will attend the Anzac Day Observance at the Kranji War Memorial, and visit the Changi Chapel. Our leader for this tour is the Rev. Vic. Maddick ED Senior Chaplain (retired), Royal Australian Army. The tour price is \$1188.00 from Melbourne.
- 9. LANDS OF THE BIBLE TOUR** — Our next Lands of the Bible Tour will leave during March, and details will be available shortly. Registrations are now being taken.
- 10. VISIT U.S.A. / CANADA** — Leaving during May this 37 day tour will take us to San Francisco, Seattle, Vancouver, Kamloops, Banff, Yellowstone National Park, Salt Lake City, Toronto, Montreal, New York, Washington, New Orleans, Phoenix, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Honolulu etc. Details available shortly, but register now.
- 11. A.C.T.S. / SITMAR CRUISES in beautiful TV FAIRSTAR** — We will have groups on Cruises 62 (Pacific Islands) in March; 64 (Japan and the Orient) in April; 67 (S.E. Asia and the Barrier Reef) in July; 72 (Pacific Island Hopper) in October, and 78 (New Zealand Cruise) in January 1982. Send for details.

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

WOLLONGONG: Wollongong Singles Society (042) 28 4342.

PORT PIRIE: The Singles Club (086) 32 2435

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WOD

NORTHAM (M. Randell). 75th anniversary planned with Frank Ewers and Bill Gaunson ... Young girl baptised at morning service ... Four cottage meetings commenced studying "In the Spirit of Love" ... 100 women met for auxiliary meetings with two bus loads from Perth ... Merve Bowring from Cunderdin speaker at evening service ... Matthew Glass and Jeffrey Lane escaped serious injury in farm accident ... George Wedlock admitted to hospital ... C.W.F. conducted devotional session at Salvation Army Home League.

COLLIE (D.L. Krause). Elders conducting survey of attitudes towards attendance and format of evening services ... Church host to annual Bible Society meeting with Rev. Mr Morell guest speaker. Meeting also elected officers and film was shown on the church in Poland ... Collie joined in annual Southwest Conf. in Bussleton ... Quarterly outreach efforts being planned with top speakers ... Junior Youth Club held games night. Also conducts monthly youth service with B.S. ... Plans underway for 75th anniversary.

NAREMBEEN. Church saddened to receive resignation of R. Chewter because of ill health ... Brian Sprigg new treasurer. Stan Cosh thanked for 10 years service as treasurer ... 60 attended C.W.C.I. Convention in our building ... Ian Allsopp (Fed. Board C.E.) and Kevin Caulton conducted seminar on youth work, S.S., R.I. and family worship. Ian Allsopp spoke at Sunday morning service and after basket lunch spoke on Sharing in India venture ... Church looking forward to ministry of Leo Cox (South Perth) to commence in Feb. 1981.

nsw

GILGANDRA Bob Whan, Epping, spoke at both services recently ... Mrs Jack Towney in hospital in Sydney having eye treatment ... Combined district C.E. rally held ... Family camp planned for October with Barry Benz.

THORNLEIGH (D.W. Mansell). N. Pell, Co-ordinator of Northside Reachout, guest speaker at morning service ... Evening service conducted by Avalon Baptist musical group who presented musical "The Witness" ... Annual Harvest Festival by B.S. held with guest from Dunmore, Pendle. Guest speaker Jim Henderson, Conf. Pres. Evening speaker Tal Smith, manager of Dunmore. **WAGGA WAGGA** (E. W. Taylor, T. Grant). Discipling seminar conducted by Jim Demoller and team from Christ Church St. Ives. 60 attended per session ... Two married couples received into membership ... Stacey Kruck returned from Overseas Christian Army Officers Conf. ... Members participated in F.E.B.C. dinner with Fred Magbanua of Manila the speaker.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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BIRTHS

WOOD (MARCHANT) Jennie and Kim praise God for Timothy John's safe arrival 11.8.80. 6 lbs. 10½ oz (18 Maggs St., E. Doncaster).

ENGAGEMENTS

BANNON — MURPHY Mr. and Mrs. Stan Bannon of East Keilor are happy to announce the engagement of Gordon to Colleen of Red Cliffs.

STRACK — DeMACK Heather, last daughter of George and the late Jessie of Essendon, together with Wayne, only son of Bill and Daisy of Hasket via Woodend, are happy to announce their engagement on August 23rd, 1980.

APPROACHING MARRIAGE

COIN — HENLEY. Jennifer and Mark will be married at Blackwood Church of Christ, South Australia on Saturday 13th September at 1 p.m.

SILVER WEDDING

PEARCE-CROXFORD. Congratulations Mum and Dad on your 25th wedding anniversary celebrated at the Church of Christ, Warrnambool, 17th September, 1955 by W. R. Hibbert. Love and best wishes from Garry, Sharon, Russell and David.

DEATHS

MARKS. On Aug. 20 at Mt. Martha Nursing Home, Bernard Cyril (Bob) of 18 Foam St., Rosebud. Loved husband of Melville, Father of Les and Joan (Mrs Hill). Aged 77 years. "At home with the Lord".

MARKS. On Aug. 20, B.C. (Bob) father of Les, father-in-law of Yvonne, grandpa of Robert and Evelyn, Christine and Len (England), Heather and Paul, Lynette and Guntis, Peter, Shelley and Leo, great-grandpa of Bree and Kristian, Mark, Grant and Annette. "With Christ which is far better".

SCOTT Robert Stephen Alexander — Passed away August 18 after a long illness. Loved and loving brother of Isabel and Rupert, and uncle of Max and Judy, Lorraine and Barry Wollmer, and Annette Rofey. Rest after pain. Safe in the arms of Jesus.

THOMSON Wilkie James on the 17th August (suddenly) in his home. Loving and caring husband of Annie. Loved father of Lola and Chloris, Father-in-law of Doug and Maurice. Loved grandfather of Tim, Jenny, Jill, Mandy, Rod and Chris. 'With his heavenly Father whom he loved very much and whom he loved to tell others about.'

WARMBRUNN Leonard P. On August 12th., Len dearly loved husband of Dorothy and loved and loving father of Doug and Frances, Cliff and Helen and loved Pa of Greg, Jenny, Shelley, Louise and John, Anne and Andrew. Aged 83 years. "Safe in the arms of Jesus".

WHEELER On Saturday, July 28th, 1980, Charles Wheeler, beloved husband of Peggy. Father of Denis and June, William and Ruby. Loving Grandpa of 9 grandchildren. Lovingly missed.

WRAY Thomas Murray: Late of Owen, S.A., passed away in the Balaklava Hospital August 6, 1980 aged 82 years. Loved and loving husband of Olive, Father and Father-in-law of Ken and Joan, Daphne and Brian, Phyllis and Keith, Reg and Kaye, Marj and Murray, Kath and Bryan. Loved Grandpa of twenty grandchildren.

ACCOMMODATION

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GISBORNE REGIONAL

Church of Christ

Service time alteration

As from Sunday, September 7, our worship service will be at 10 a.m. instead of 10.30 a.m.

The service will conclude at 11.30 a.m.

All are welcome to join us and share in worship followed by Christian Education each Sunday morning

Oakleigh Church of Christ

64th Anniversary,
Sunday Sept. 28th

11 a.m. Worship. Speaker Mr A. B. Withers.

1 p.m. Fellowship Luncheon.

2.45 p.m. P.S.A. featuring the Yukana Singers.

5 p.m. Fellowship Tea. Speaker Mr I. Corlett.

For further information please contact

A. Walpole Secretary
(03) 543 1226.

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	Syd.	Melb.	Bris
October 25-November 15, 1980	\$842	\$874	\$869
November 15-December 6, 1980	871	907	901

22-DAY TOURS: (Camping)

January 3-January 24, 1981	940	978	978
January 24-February 14, 1981	911	947	941

25-DAY TOUR: (Camping)

December 27-January 20, 1980	980	1018	1018
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For a detailed itinerary please contact:

CHRISTIAN YOUTH TRAVEL ASSOCIATION

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PERSONAL

DISCIPLESHIP.

● Cheryl Schlein, Berri, S.A. ● Jacqueline Glass, Northam, W.A. ● Jim Gleason, Jenny Styles, Daryl Elvey, Craig Graham, Janine Graham, Merryn Graham, Bendigo, Vic. ● Des Love, The Patch, Vic. ● Stephen Richmond, Stuart Mollison, Robert Mollison, Yarrawongs, Vic. ● Mardi Brisbane, Ian Watkinson, Rhonda McDougall, Kerry Pell, Nicole Pell, Lionel Miles, Noreen Miles, Kerry Miles, Shepparton, Vic. ● Michael Essery, David Humphries, Neil Humphries, Preston, East Preston, Vic. ● Ken Holden, Christine Dale, Janine Kuhne, Ann O'Halloran, Alan Weatherall, Steven Weatherall, Castlemaine, Vic. ● Elma O'Malley, Les Craine, John Craine, Geraldton, W.A. ● Mrs E. Linley, G. Hay, Mrs C. Hay, Ivanhoe, Vic.

MARRIAGES

● Sharyn Sweet to Rod Hall, Barri, S.A. ● Glenda Mudford to Warren Ferguson, Gilgandra, N.S.W. ● Shirley Ross to Fred Bridgewater, Echuca, Vic.

DEATHS

● Miss Edna Livett, Footscray, Vic. ● Len Wambrunn, Balwyn, Vic. ● Norm Harris, Arthur Winterton, Warragul, Vic. ● Alex Handasyde, The Patch, Vic. ● Mrs Myrtle Cambridge, Manifold Heights, Vic. ● Mrs Daisy Hemley, Mark Tregurtha, Preston, East Preston, Vic. ● W. Davis, Mrs E. Mauisbury, Wagga Wagga, N.S.W.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

FOOTSCRAY: Secretary — H. Anderson, Church Office, 252 Gordon St., Footscray, 3011. Phone (03) 398 1203 (Home.)

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SURREY HILLS

Church of Christ

90th Anniversary

Sunday 14th September

All are welcome to share with us

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

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

LUNCHEON ACCEPTANCES

K. Wray (03) 830 5517
L. Ramsbottom (03) 89 5436

SO

BERRI (B. Hill). Men attended Riverland men's camp at Barmera. Geoff Bingham camp study leader ... Riverland women held camp with Marlen Hammersmith as leader ... Girls' Brigade officers went to Officers Training camp in Adelaide ... Bible study groups meet for women on Monday afternoons and a mixed group on Wednesday night ... Ladies manned creche for Christian Womens Convention rally ... C.W.F. attended Bible Society luncheon ... Covenant Players presented plays ... Ron McLean, Overseas Missions, recent speaker ... Fellowship tea held every other month ... Sunshine Club held social afternoon at St. Catherine's Home for the Aged ... Working bees held at manse and church ... Church joined Loxton Lutherans to see musical "If my People" ... C.W.F. held party for Mrs Clark's 90th birthday ... Ladies help

with Combined Churches Welfare Shop ... Church helping support Pastor Gebriel in N.G. and Pastor Vsiel of Vanuatu with prayer and donations ... 200th year of S.S. celebrated with old scholars, former teachers attending service led by S.S. and luncheon that followed.

OLD

GATTON (D. Birrell). 25th anniversary celebrated with Saturday evening musical program and inspirational rally. Guest singers were Retrospect from Toowoomba led by Ken Stewart. Bruce Armstrong guest speaker; Frank Ewers bought messages at Sunday services. Mr and Mrs Col Bell-Booth who some years ago left Gatton to serve at Norseman Aborigines Mission were special guests along with Conf. Pres. Norm Watson ... S.S. seminar conducted with Frank Beale and Miss Helen Trudgian.

TOAS

LAUNCESTON (M.D. Hamilton, R.J. Allison). Officers attended Conf. at Bicheno with R. Elbourne and D. Smith. Outreach Committee attended Project Philip seminar. Special church life seminar is planned for Launceston as follow-up ... Old Bibles being collected for use in the Philippines ... C.O.B. team visited ... 16 C.W.F. members visited C.W.F. at Ulverstone. They also held silver jubilee service for formation of W.C.W.F.

VIC

FOOTSCRAY (A. Withers). Annual meeting held. Hayden Anderson now church secretary ... \$374 raised for 40 hour famine ... Mr and Mrs John Liu, Vanuatu spoke at W.R.O.C. meeting ... Association for the Blind uses building twice weekly ... Several members in hospital ... Church saddened by the death of Edna Livett.

MT EVELYN (B.J. O'Grady). Church using Melba Centre Hall for services as existing buildings are too small ... Three new Elders and four new Deacons appointed to board ... Six home fellowships meeting each Thursday evening under leadership of Elders and Deacons ... Snow trip held.

THE PATCH (Tom Frazer) Ladies spinning wheel afternoon held with Russ Corren demonstrating ... \$198 raised for Overseas Mission living links Aileen Draney in P.N.G. and Sharlini Waghmodi in India ... Young married man accepted Christ.

NORTH DANDENONG (Alan Baker). Local governing committee formed ... Ray Drayton and photographer from Dept. M.E.D. present at special family day service ... Girls club participated in swimming sports ... Men's breakfast held at Dandenong church ... Pulpit swap with Dandenong.



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VIC

PRESTON, EAST PRESTON (J. Manallack, P. Wells). Three Y.P. baptised at morning worship service . . . 1000 ladies and some men attended missionary rally . . . Memoriam service for Mrs Daisy Hemley held in morning worship service . . . Y.P. held a wake-athon to raise money for training school in Vinuatu . . . Five Y.P. attended camps at Halls Gap . . . Open Door went on harbor cruise.

CASTLEMAINE (Peter Haylock). Six young adults baptised recently . . . B.S. held second family service . . . Leprosy Mission rep. Keith Skillicorn guest speaker at Discovery Group . . . Deaconesses entertained ladies to afternoon tea. Miss Bess Symes farewelled to live in Bendigo Friendship Village . . . C.W.F. held open day. 50 ladies from other churches attended . . . Peter Haylock involved in High School seminar.

IVANHOE (G. Hall). Three people baptised . . . Two family fellowship teas held . . . Film "Forever Free" screened at evening service . . . Three attended World Convention . . . Grade four tennis team reached finals, grade five team won premiership.

ECHUCA (Arthur Symes). C.O.B. deputation visit . . . "Sonshine" Singers visited . . . Ron Westmore resigned as treasurer and Arthur Rosendale elected . . . Youth club and S.S. increasing . . . C.W.F. increasing since meetings held in members' homes.

ORMOND (G. O. Stibbe). India Sharing Venture team shared in gospel service . . . Mrs Baker representing Red Cross spoke at E.W.F. . . . Y.P. held wakeathon and raised \$300 for Kampuchea . . . Five from C.M.F. attended men's breakfast . . . Drop In Centre conducted tea table service . . . George Mathieson presented audio visual on N.H. . . . Bob Alabaster chosen as permanent chairman of board for the year . . . John Whittaker presented with digital clock radio for 50 years service as musician . . . Betty Cann elected assistant sec. . . 5 p.m. gospel services to continue through Sept.

SO

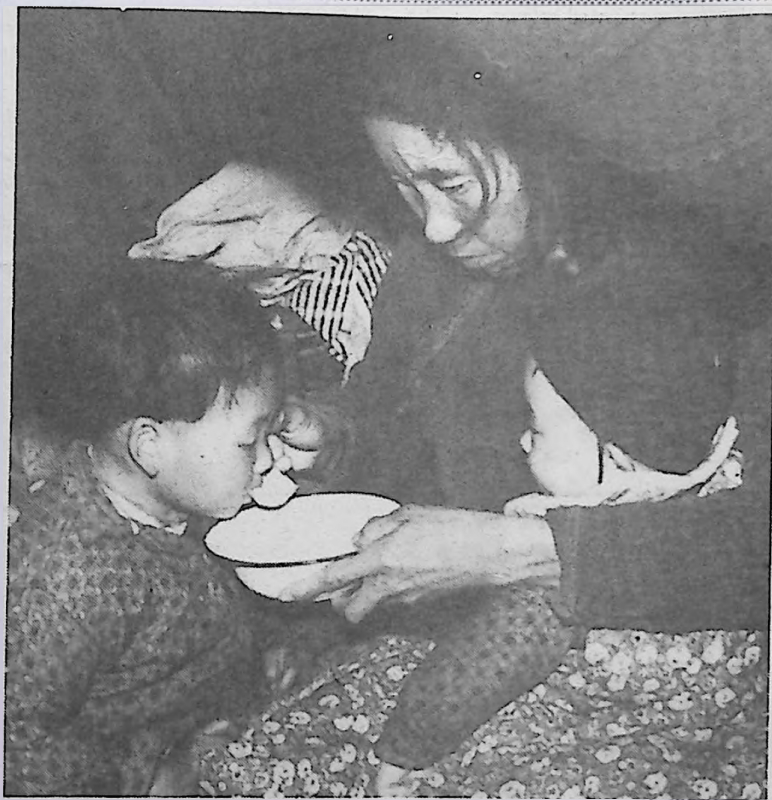
NARACOORTE (R. V. Holmes). B.S. anniversary featured audio-visual on Robert Raikes produced by scholars and staff . . . "Finger-food" tea and display of old-time photographs took place between sessions . . . J.C.E. has 30 children on Tues. afternoons . . . Church to continue \$50 week contribution to Overseas Missions for further 6 months . . . Philip Wardle and family spent seven weeks in P.N.G. assisting with odd jobs on mission stations . . . One attended World Convention . . . Four Y.P. made decisions and are involved in discipleship studies with minister.

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Ambrosia

by Chris Ambrose

THE MORMONS

— W. A. van Loen

"Good morning! This is Elder Jones, and I'm Elder Smith. We're from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and we'd like to come in and leave a blessing on your home."

Many Christians are uncertain about handling this approach when the Mormons come knocking on the door. Surely there's nothing wrong in letting them come inside to pray and ask God's blessing on one's home?

Today the Mormons have become respectable and generally acceptable. Their clean-cut young missionaries are found around the world leaving 'blessings' and Books of Mormon. Many Mormons put us to shame with their zeal and enthusiasm, their high moral principles and practices, their well planned programs for youth, their involvement in their Church activities, their fasting and giving, their missionary enterprises. There is much we can learn from them.

ARE THEY CHRISTIANS?

As nice and good as most of them are, there still remains the question: "Is there anything wrong with letting them in to give a blessing or say a prayer?" Perhaps we should be more specific and ask: "Are they Christians as they claim?"

The Mormon organisation was commenced in 1830 when Joseph Smith, self-proclaimed prophet of God, published his 'Book of Mormon' and formally established his Church of Christ (as it was then known). After his death in 1844 Brigham Young took control of the leadership and moved most of the group west to establish Salt Lake City in Utah.

Since those days this cult has grown rapidly. In 1979, it is estimated, the

Mormons had about 611 convert baptisms per day (worldwide). 1980 is their 150th anniversary year with more missionaries than ever before in Australia and elsewhere and they will be trying to gain even more members. 90% of these 'converts' are people with some Christian background.

MORMON BELIEFS

The Mormons believe that the Christian Church fell into total apostasy and that the true Gospel was lost until God gave the 'Restored Gospel' to Joseph Smith. He became God's 'spokesman', Prophet, Seer and Revelator. After the Book of Mormon Joseph Smith claimed to have had direct 'revelations' from God which are recorded in 'The Doctrine and Covenants'. He also claimed to have 'translated' several other documents and these, with his own story, are printed in 'The Pearl of Great Price'. These three books, along with the Bible (King James Version only) "as far as it is translated correctly", form the Mormon Scriptures. They also believe that the statements made by their General Authorities (Prophets and Apostles) at their semi-annual conferences are the "mind of the Lord, the will of the Lord, the voice of the Lord and the power of God unto salvation."

Joseph Smith put forward an apparently simple statement of beliefs which is known as 'The Articles of Faith' (13 brief statements). The first states: "THE GODHEAD: We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost." This statement sounds very orthodox and acceptable, but is it?

DIVERGENT BELIEFS

When Mormons are questioned and their writings examined we find that though they use 'Christian' terminology

● Continued on Page 24

THE LAST WORD

Stewardship is the acceptance from God of personal responsibility for all of life and life's affairs.

Roswell C. Long

Alligator

He takes a view
That's very dim
Of shoes and billfolds
Made of him.

Lakenan Barnes

★ ★ ★

As the train pulled into the depot a travelling man stuck his head out of the window and called to a boy standing near, "Here, sonny, bring me a sandwich. And here's another quarter. Get one for yourself."

Just as the train started to move out of the station the boy returned, munching a sandwich. He held a quarter up to the window and shouted: "Here, mister. They only had one."

★ ★ ★

Another advantage of leaving the grapefruit in the fridge overnight — you can start off the day with an invigorating cold shower.

★ ★ ★

No man is an island but some are all at sea.

★ ★ ★



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