



THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

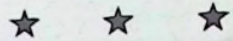
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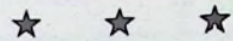
NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

IN THIS ISSUE

DIVORCE AND RE MARRIAGE



FEDERAL CONFERENCE



WOMEN IN CONFERENCE

GROWING IN THE EIGHTIES

The 38th Federal Conference was held at the N.S.W. camp site "Stanwell Tops" October 3-9. Over 450 were involved in the live in situation in what would be our only campsite for this number in Australia. The bushland setting lends atmosphere to the campsite.

During Conference the new Boronia Place centre costing around \$230,000 was opened. This new centre is designed to accommodate 40 in motel type accommodation which is self contained in both cooking facilities in a new kitchen and eating areas. As one having the privilege of rooming there it is tremendous.

discussions was released by the Literature Department and is now available. Barry McMurtrie, Don Smith and others in the evening rallies stimulated and stretched our thinking to look to the future. A fuller report of the Evangelistic thrust will be given in the Home Missions issue of the "Australian Christian" Nov. 8.

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Opening of Boronia Place



Kevin Crawford

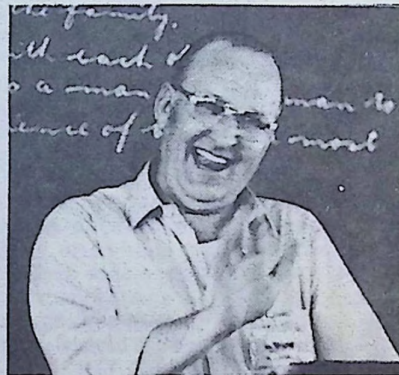
ENTHUSIASM

There was a definite feeling that Conference was a time of great fellowship. There was also the feeling that we as a Brotherhood are in a position to move forward into the 1980's. This is tempered with the reality that we will have to work and it will not all just happen.

STRATEGY FOR THE EIGHTIES.

The main thrust of the optimism was generated from the renewed evangelistic emphasis of our movement through such methods as Church Growth. The planning in March this year of a "Strategy for the '80's" was fully launched at Federal Conference.

Home Mission Directors conducted discussion and launched a program at Conference. The book from the March



Ron Hewitt at men's session



Deliberative group in action



Evening Rally congregation

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ON MY MIND

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR MINISTRY?

I. J. Chivell

John Chivell is one of our veteran ministers. After a number of church-building ministries in various states he was for many years the Conference Secretary in South Australia, during a period of unprecedented growth of the Brotherhood there. He has now "retired" to serve as an elder of the Unley church and as an unofficial pastor to individuals and churches who seek his caring love.

The church is the fellowship of forgiven people. We constantly need the forgiveness of God and of each other. Forgiveness which flows from God's stooping love in Christ is not simply a Christian doctrine but a vital experience. This is what the cross is about. I listened to a husband and wife tell me of sin which had come into their marriage and that the marriage must end. After a good deal of discussion I joined their hands together and said to them that their sin was very real to them and so must their forgiveness be. I left them in each other's arms. It is evident that forgiveness is not practised in many cases of marital disturbance today, and thus divorce follows. It has become so commonplace that we are inclined to accept it without much ado.

We have people in our churches who have been through this traumatic experience and in re-marriage have found a new happiness. I have married divorced people and I have refused to marry some when I have felt that repentance has not been present. What is exercising my mind is that divorce has found its way into the ministry of our churches.

A person may be divorced and later enter the ministry just as an alcoholic or burglar may be converted and become a minister. As God forgives, so must we. But what of a minister who is divorced and marries again and through the whole of this unfortunate experience remains in the ministry? Even if the church is big enough to forgive, should public ministry continue? What does this do to the image of the ministry and the church? Have our Advisory Committees a policy on this matter? I don't want to be judgemental but there are passages in the New Testament which disturb me, such as, 1 Tim. 3:5, Matt. 19:9, Luke 16:18, 1 Cor. 7:10-11.

RELIGIOUS UPSURGE AT U.S. PRISON

Prison officials from across the nation and from several foreign countries have visited the District of Columbia's Lorton Reformatory. The reason? A religious revival that has swept through one of the nation's toughest prisons.

Fully three-quarters of Lorton's 1200 inmates, including some of the most hardened criminals anywhere, profess to have embraced Christianity or one of the Muslim sects in the last three years.

At the same time, escapes from the Lorton prison have dropped to zero and assaults on fellow prisoners and guards have declined.

One official said that many prisoners join religious groups because they offer a kind of mutual protection brotherhood.

The philosophy of mutual protection is strongest among Muslim inmates.

The prison's three Muslim sects and 13 Christian groups conduct some 85 religion-related activities, ranging from prayer meetings and Bible classes to classes in spiritual awareness and lectures on divine healing. Several prison gospel singing groups perform for inmates.

One major problem associated with the religious revival is an increase in recidivism on the part of those converted to Christianity or Islam in prison. Released prisoners, often rejected and abandoned by their families and communities, apparently feel that a return to prison — and to the religious brotherhood — might not be so bad.

— Sojourners

CHURCH ON THE MOVE

SANTO NEWS



Building being demolished for Armadale-Kelmscott church.

The old house in Parker Avenue, Kelmscott, is finally being demolished. It has been the centre of worship for members of the Armadale/Kelmscott church for the past 10 years.

The new building which will be commenced in the first week of October will comprise a chapel seating 240, with kitchen, rooms and toilet facilities. The sealed parking areas will also be utilized for tennis and basketball courts. This, as the first stage, will cost approx. \$82,000.

The second stage will be a hall to be

used mainly for youth activities. Presently, all youth work is conducted in homes of members.

The church is meeting in the Lesser Hall, Armadale, until the official opening of the new premises in March 1981.

The minister, Des Nelson is keen to provide trained counselling and legal services to the community as the church develops.

Since the commencement of his ministry in February this year, the church has grown from 35 to 105 members.

"EXPLO 1982" MELBOURNE

The Conference Executive, on behalf of the Victorian churches, agreed to support a proposal to conduct "Explo 1982" in Melbourne, and has appointed representatives to an Executive Committee. A number of Victorian young people attended Explo 1980 which was held in Brisbane earlier this year. One young man, Michael Buckmaster from the Gardiner church, has submitted the following report of his exciting experience in Brisbane.

"I found Explo 80 a real inspiration and challenge. The training provided was adaptable and suitable for all ages, high school, university or college, Christian, worker or regular church members. It was dynamic and very practical, sound and easy to put into practice to enable consistent Christian living to go on after the motivation of the conference itself, e.g. emphasis on the daily quiet time.

Another aspect of the training was that it was transferable, i.e. it is easily transmitted from a conference delegate to someone who may not have attended the conference. This facilitates the process of discipleship which is so vital in this present generation.

The conference also gave tremendous

opportunity for the development of leaders. Before the conference, there were a few courses offered for seminar leadership at Explo. I had the privilege and opportunity to be a seminar leader at Explo and I was encouraged to gain from the experience in leadership but more importantly to be able to impart that training to a group of 15 - 20 others. You may be aware of the structure — lecture groups of 200 or more; seminar groups of 15 - 25 each according to field of interest, whether it be lay, school or college.

The rallies in the evening exposed us to some terrific teaching and stretched our vision of the impact we could have on Australia in our sphere of influence, whether it be local church, etc.

The fellowship experienced was dynamic and very warm. The hospitality of the billet hosts was an important element of making the conference the success it was. My billet hosts were wonderful and so lovingly and sacrificially gave of themselves to help make my stay comfortable.

Involvement and support by the Churches of Christ for Explo 82 would be a profitable investment of time and resources in equipping, and mobilising the church in the 1980's."

Jack and Cathy Murphy and Nathan have now returned to Santo after spending 3½ months in Vila. Cathy writes of the house in Santo, "Everything back here was much as we had left it thanks to Pastor Samuel and another young fellow who stayed here . . . Esther Samuel had cleaned inside and the fellows had cleaned up the yard and done the lawns so it looked as if we'd only been away for a few days."

LOOTING

Some people, on the other hand, returned to find their houses in a terrible mess with crockery and mattresses taken. Some drivers found their cars damaged. Other people found that their homes had been completely stripped. It is going to be very difficult for people in this situation to start again.

GOODS RECOVERED

The new diesel generator for Banmatmat Bible College and the refrigerators are safe. The radio transceiver which was taken during the coup has been located and the new radio which Jack Murphy used during his stay in Vila, will be on its way to the Banmatmat Bible College.

CHURCH LIFE

During the coup the Church of Christ at Santo continued to hold worship services each Sunday. We are also glad that both pastors have returned to their ministry. One of them spent some time in prison because of his involvement with the Nagriamel movement. Please continue to remember Vanuatu in your prayers of thanksgiving and intercession.

SHAJI, THE INDIAN GIRL

The distribution of 1250 New Reader Portions to students at the Hindu High School at Vazhoor is a remarkable achievement for one 15 year old student.

Shaji started attending Sunday school when she was very young and although her mother is a Hindu, she encouraged Shaji. At the age of nine, she entered a competition for the Sunday school anniversary. Shaji talked on "the joy of salvation" and to her surprise she won the first prize of a new Bible.

Since then Shaji has started a prayer meeting after school and this group study New Reader activity sheets produced by the Bible Society. Thanks to Shaji, Good News Clubs have also become a reality at her school. A Pastors' Conference in South Kerala earlier this year determined these clubs could meet each week and bring over 2000 non-Christian children into a situation where they receive the Word of God. The Conference took the decision to organise 100 Good News Clubs throughout South Kerala.

PRESTON, EAST PRESTON (J. Mannallack, P. Wells). Third birthday since uniting celebrated . . . Church responsible for services at Fred Combridge Home during October . . . Recent speaker from World Vision Mr Wang from Korea . . . Couple attended wild flower camp at Halls Gap . . . Jean and Jack Mannallack, Jean and David Hillier attended 25th anniversary of Barmera, S.A., church.



WOMEN'S FEDERAL CONFERENCE

C.W.F. Conference highlights included messages on the theme "Growing in the Lord Jesus Christ".

★ Marilyn McDougall's message was interspersed with songs by the excellent choir. She illustrated her message with references to the packets of seeds attached to our programs. "The quality of life depends on the kind of seeds we sow".

★ Glad Bent's meditation was "Grow in grace and in the Lord Jesus Christ".

★ Elka Benz's closing message was based on 1 Peter 2:9.

★ Interview of Edna Lincoln who has completed 25 years of nursing and "mothering" boys and is now Superintending the office at Carnarvon Mission.

★ Joan Fewster reported on the "Commission on World Mission & Development" set up by the World Council of Churches.

★ A missionary focus was sponsored by Epping C.W.F. and featured May Reuben of Vanuatu and Ranj Rabera of India.

About 550 women attended representing all States including Darwin.

Alice Saunders was introduced as newly appointed W.C.W.F. Representative.

Notices of motion resulted in "At least \$2 Affiliation fee to W.C.W.F." and the establishment of a travel fund to send W.C.W.F. representatives to World Convention.

New S.A., A.C.W.D. executive — President - Margaret Pollard; Vice-Pres. - Jean Middleton; Sec. - Mavis Searle; Assist. Sec. - Marie Wehr; Treasurer - Verna Glastonbury; Editress - Joyce Wenham; Members - Dorothy Heard & Jean Roberts.

HIGHLIGHTS OF W.C.W.F. CONVENTION from AUSTRALIAN STATES.

N.S.W. ... Mrs Bonnie Holt ...

"I was impressed by the small table groups which made sharing possible."

Queensland, Mrs Taylor.

"The Fellowship of all Nations sharing together, impressed me".

S.A. Mrs Woodroffe.

"All the women showing appreciation of one another."

W.A. Mrs Nancye Looyen.

"The wide age range of large number of women in fellowship".

TAS. Mrs Nell Holland.

"I was impressed with Mrs Gladys McKenzie's talk" (see Report, Ed).

Vic. Miss Ivy Rowe.

"The togetherness of so many women of like mind".



"C.W.F. — Where to from here."

"AN ALTERNATIVE TO C.W.F."

This is the first of 3 talks given at the federal conference elective "C.W.F. —

Stating the case that a church may want an alternative to C.W.F. Auxiliary, I offer my reasons.

REASONS FOR AN ALTERNATIVE TO C.W.F.

1. The whole concept of men's groups, women's groups, and youth groups, emphasises the splitting of the family unit. When members of the family are involved at the church every night of the week they have little opportunity to spend time together.
2. So many groups tax the leadership of the church. Often leaders are burdened with jobs in many areas. This tends to promote leadership that is short of time and therefore adequate preparation is not given to each of the jobs.
3. So many C.W.F.'s have programs that are poorly structured with no real idea of the Aims of C.W.F. They have some unwritten rules and regulations in mind, and stick to a set meeting procedure.
4. Today 50% of women are in the workforce, and so the church has to cater differently for women. In days gone by the idea of women's auxiliaries were highly valued because of the input they gave to women who were in the home full-time and caring for a demanding family.
5. Younger women often see C.W.F. as something of the past without any real value to their situation.
6. The image of C.W.F. is generally not good. It is so often seen as a social "party" of the church, with no real Aims in the area of building women up in the Faith, and helping others to come into the community of the church.

SOLUTIONS:

1. One central solution is to meet the needs of today's women — not women of twenty or thirty years ago! C.W.F. today so often misses out on women in the early years of marriage and parenting. These are women C.W.F. should be catering for.

2. HOW???

- Small groups** provide a valuable alternative.
- They enable us to get to know each other better in order to "be" the church.
 - We are better able to grow spiritually by being with others, and being part of a viable, sup-



Jan Dunn

portive and accepting group.

— God calls us to live our lives "in community", not merely as independent individuals.

— Leadership is minimised, taking pressure off the same people all the time.

3. Well then, why not call C.W.F. a "small group"? Because it would be so easy for it to fall into the traps of the past ... (adopting a meeting procedure, certain ways of doing things, etc.)

4. Let us look at the idea of **Family Clusters**. This I believe is one answer.

"A cluster is a group of families and individuals who meet together regularly to provide a small caring community where all its members — adults and children — can EXPERIENCE the Christian concepts of love, acceptance, freedom, concern, reconciliation." (Stan Stewart, Ideas Catalogue, p.82.) — To me, this concept answers the needs of younger women today. It does not break up the family; leadership pressure is lessened when it is shared within a group such as this; it starts off with little "past agenda" and can set its own goals and ideals; it caters for today's generation; it shows results in encouraging people in their faith and aims at encouraging people to become a vital part of the community of faith (the church).

— Clusters cater for all people — not just families. Any person can be part of them — grandparent figures, and teenagers.

● Continued on Page 17

MUSTARD SEEDS

BY ALAN AUSTIN

Friday afternoon, warm and still. Bird calls from the swamp occasionally break the tranquility. A large boat appears around the headland. It drops anchor outside the harbour.

The Aboriginal people of the mission take little notice. It will soon be dark. There are things to do.

Darkness falls and the people return to their homes. The boat — the Gelam — moves into the harbour. Armed police from Thursday Island and Red Island disembark. The people are routed from their beds, told to gather their possessions and ordered onto the boat.

Children crying. Parents distraught and bewildered. Birds rise from the swamp in their thousands above the harbour.

The houses, the stores and the church are set ablaze. Homes, possessions, and a peoples' hopes and security are razed to the ground.

This is not fiction. Nor is it early colonial history. It happened on the 16th November, 1963, at Old Mapoon in North Queensland. It was officially reported in 1974 by the then Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator Cavanagh.

It happened because bauxite had been discovered near the Aboriginal mission at Mapoon. It happened because the Queensland Government has the power and the will to order such action. It happened because most Australians are apathetic to the oppression of others — especially when the others are Aborigines.

Annie Mamoose, a gracious dignified elder at Weipa South, was one who was there:

"We had been told big industry was coming and that we might have to move, but I didn't think it would really happen . . . Then we were told, 'You have two hours to pack and leave.' I just couldn't believe it. I had to leave a lot of things behind, even some of my wedding presents. Some people didn't

leave with us. The police went and got them."

"It was heart-breaking to hear the children crying," wrote Jean Jimmy some time later. "The birds followed Gelam as she was sailing. They felt sad just like our relatives crying."

★ ★ ★

The decision to close the mission was made by the State Government after consulting the Presbyterian church and mining companies Alcan and Comalco.

The official reason was that food and water were inadequate. Many are sceptical of this, however.

"They said the ground was too soft and the water no good," Rita Koitap told me, "but we were surviving alright. It was hard in summer with rain and winds. It was too difficult for the boats to come in with the supplies, so we lived on tribal food. Just as well there was plenty of that so we could eat during those months."

Of those interviewed at Weipa, only the Government-appointed reserve manager said Old Mapoon was not viable. Yet even he admitted that Mapoon had supplied plenty of food for soldiers during World War II.

What, then, is the real reason for the forced closure of Old Mapoon? Was it that mining might be hampered by the existence of isolated groups of Aborigines? Not likely. After 17 years, bauxite mining is still over 50 km away.

The most plausible reason appears to be the Queensland Government's desire to see Aboriginal communities which still adhere strongly to traditional social and spiritual values come under European control so they can be gradually educated out of those values.

A government report justifying the Mapoon closure stated: "Mapoon was a hopeless proposition if their children



were to succeed as assimilated members of the community."

Writing in *A Matter of Justice*, Professor C. D. Rowley states: "The discussions in the Presbyterian church appear to have been dominated by the question of what was good for assimilation. Here was a definite failure to stand for the values of Christianity and justice, and a concession to a government policy of doubtful meaning."

The Queensland Government's policy seems clear: to absorb Aborigines into white society so that distinctive Aboriginal culture will cease to exist.

★ ★ ★

There has been a strong movement recently amongst some Mapoon people to return. In 1974 a small group went back to assert their right to the land. Despite continual non-cooperation and harassment from the Government, a few families are still there. Others visit from time to time. There is no question that many want to return.

To the wider Aboriginal community, the Mapoon story is a symbol. It is symbolic of white disruption of a harmonious and intensely spiritual society in the pursuit of material gain.

Hence the Mapoon struggle is a strategic one. The successful resettlement of Mapoon will have a symbolic significance throughout Queensland.

But Mapoon is not just a symbol. It is also very much a reality for those presently in exile at Weipa South.

"People don't know how we're treated," said Rachel Peter. "They destroyed the homes, burnt them down. I saw the burning down of the homes, the church . . . It is destroying our culture, our lives. You know the land is part of our lives . . . We want to return."

For Mapoon to become viable once again, State Government co-operation is required so essential services can be resumed. If the State refuses to cooperate, the Federal Government has the constitutional power to intervene. This is not just a Queensland issue.

The Mapoon people remain optimistic that their rights will soon be recognized and the community re-established. In working towards this, they will gratefully accept whatever assistance is offered. They have asked for our help.



CAMP COOK CALLS IT A DAY

Two decades of camp cooking were recalled by a presentation made to Mrs Olwyn McNiece recently on behalf of campers and the sponsoring Ballarat churches.

At a married couples camp conducted by Frank Hunting at Hall's Gap 25 years ago, Mrs McNiece felt challenged to a ministry of the Ballarat churches camping program among young people. So when the opportunity presented she volunteered to help out in the kitchen, continuing to do so for the next 20 years.

Ill health has now terminated this ministry she loved, but her endeavours over the years had not gone unnoticed or unappreciated.

The presentation was made by M. R. White, Chairman of the Ballarat Churches of Christ Regional Board — and a former director of the camp — on behalf of sponsoring churches and campers.

Mrs McNiece would be remembered not only for her capable administration and fine cooking, but also as a gracious counsellor and friend of all who had come in contact with her. Mrs McNiece said that from her first camp, she, and later her husband, were "raring to go at anything" to help. The enthusiasm was needed since the camp cooks provided more than 500 meals a day, together with morning and afternoon teas and supper. "It was hard work because it meant getting up at 6.30 a.m. before working — though not continuously — through a 14 or 15-hour day!"

Meals could involve the cooking of hundreds of sausages or steaks and the peeling of huge amounts of vegetables.



Mrs Olwyn McNiece

Photo courtesy of The Ballarat Courier

Even a simple thing like custard involved the use of a four-gallon copper filled with boiling water. Mrs McNiece said she was never worried about the size of the task and never had any "disaster". The secret to getting things done was teamwork.

What kept Mrs McNiece going back each year, she was asked by a newspaper reporter. "It was a humble experience because it was a step toward being a truer Christian," "And it was a joy to see so many fine young people and experience the fellowship of the camp."

— M. R. White

FAITH IN THE WORK PLACE

The Ringwood Church of Christ was invited to join local member churches of Inter-church Trade and Industry Mission (I.T.I.M.) in planning a program "to enable people from the local church to define their own needs and, in so doing, to discover ways in which to relate their faith to their working lives and their relationships with those around them."

SEARCH WORKSHOP

After two meetings to plan such a program, a group travelled to Pallotti College, Millgrove for a weekend to join in a "Search Workshop". This was conducted along the lines used by I.T.I.M. with industry groups which does not involve experts giving formal presentations. Instead, the group works through a consensus model. They share their "collective expertise" to determine a set of desirable and achievable actions which they can "own" as a group and which will bring the insights gained to bear on relating their own faith to everyday working life.

VARIETY OF PEOPLE

The group consisted of 5 Uniting Church members, 6 members of Churches of Christ, 7 Anglicans, 4 Roman Catholics, all from local churches, one theological student and 5 I.T.I.M. personnel. The group covered a cross-section of occupation, age, sex and cultural background, so a variety of experience and insight was assured.

Although free time was limited, meal times and tea/coffee breaks provided opportunities for individuals to share experiences and to get to know each other apart from both larger and small group discussion.

CATALYST GROUP

It is intended to maintain the group from the Ringwood church as a catalyst for greater understanding of faith and work at the local church level and at the end of September, the group who shared the "search" experience meet together again with I.T.I.M. to discuss their progress.

I.T.I.M. in Victoria conducted the workshop as a "pilot" program and their evaluation of the success of the Ringwood experience will determine whether such programs become part of their overall mission.

— Rosslyn Reed



Les Dewberry (Minister) at the service marking the commencement of building of the Croydon (Vic.) church's "Tarralla" Christian Retirement Village on September 21.

WARRAWONG N.S.W.

Warrawong is in the heart of Port Kembla community. Growing with this Industrial community for 30 years has been the Warrawong church. There have been two full-time ministries. From 1952-57 and the present since 1977 and part-time and student ministries.

Present membership is 45 with almost as many again considered contacts. A major part of the ministry is of necessity involved in social and family problem areas.

A new wave of optimism is at present abroad. The love and prayer and support of the brotherhood is always appreciated.

— Ian Richer

C.W.F./C.M.F.

WILDFLOWER CAMP



Planting of memorial tree.

55 men, women and children, age range from 8-80, enjoyed a delightful weekend amidst the wildflowers and the scenic beauty of the Grampians from September 26-28. Neal Hodgekiss, C.M.F. Chaplain, led our worship including a memorable communion service out of doors on the Department of Mission, Education and Development camp property at Hall's Gap.

The talents of our campers were enjoyed to the full in the Saturday evening program and the scenic walks and drives were greatly appreciated during the free and easy daytime program.

A special feature of the camp was the planting of a tree in memory of Roland E. Pritchard, C.M.F. Chaplain who died in 1979. His was the inspiration that caused this combined weekend to be held and the Sunday morning offering enabled this to be done. The very helpful and efficient camp superintendents Bruce and Carol Hemer have promised to care for "our tree."

After such a marvellous weekend it was unanimously decided that another Wildflower Camp should be held in 1981.

—Lois Smith, C.W.F. Secretary.

AMNESTY

The Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs asks that if you know anyone who may be living in Australia illegally to advise them to apply under the Regularisation of Status Program — which many people call the amnesty.

R.O.S.P. applies to people who came to Australia legally or illegally before January 1, 1980 and who were still here on June 19, 1980 when R.O.S.P. was announced. If they and members of their families are of good health and character and apply to the Department before December 31, 1980, they will be accepted for permanent residence.

R.O.S.P. does not apply to overseas students, people being deported for criminal offences and diplomatic and other staff of overseas missions in Australia.

For further details, or to make application, write to or call in or telephone the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs in your capital city.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TELOPEA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

They came in their long dresses, ribbons, bonnets and shawls; striped waistcoats, bow-ties, sideburns and boaters. She was given a 'beauty spot' and he was given a magnificent 'handlebar'. The M.C. came out among the palms and aspidistras to welcome 'My Lords and Ladies' to the Music Hall. There was a barbershop quartet, a magician, old-time sing-a-long and a tale of true love rewarded, plus a fruity melodrama, complete with boos and hisses. Just before supper they cut the cake and sang 'happy birthday to us' and viewed some magic lantern slides of events at Telopea going back to the beginnings in 1959.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

It was modern clothes and old faces as about 200 people came to help Telopea church celebrate its 21st Birthday. Brian White came back to speak at the morning worship and family worship services on the dangers of middle-aged mediocrity and the need for commitment. There were delighted cries of welcome, hugs, kisses and handshakes before, between and after the meetings.

Another large group enjoyed a fellowship tea and met Brian Booth, former Test Cricketer, who also spoke at the gospel celebration. Members of both our church cricket teams were present, together with the 'Good News Band' from Manly. The young people finished off the birthday cake while the rest of us slipped off our shoes and relaxed.

FEDERAL CONFERENCE MOTIONS ON DIVORCE

1. That the Federal Conference Executive be requested to establish a study commission on divorce, and its implications for marriage and re-marriage, particularly examining:
 - the Biblical teaching on divorce;
 - the social implications of divorce as they relate to the church's caring ministry for people;
 - the implications for the church's organisation, leadership and its ministry.
2. That we recommend that the commission be comprised of qualified representatives of each State.

SKILLS SEMINARS

The Victorian Christian Theatre Group is sponsoring a Skills Development Seminar over four Tuesday nights in November/December this year. Participants will choose an area: Acting, Puppets, Writing or Video, and work with people highly experienced in that area.

The seminars will be held on Tuesday evenings November 11, 18, 25, December 2, 7.30 p.m. at the Malvern-Caulfield Church of Christ, corner of Alma and Dandenong Roads.

Cost will be \$4.00 (to cover hall rental etc.).

Contact Glenda Addicott (03) 818 2538 or Mark Fletcher (03) 786 5195.

THE BIBLE BRINGS UNITY TO VILLUPURAM

The town of Villupuram in the Tamil Nadu region of India is famous for its railway engineering works. Last year the town was the scene of the killing of a number of lower caste Harimans by members of another group. These killings led local Christians to turn again to their Bibles for guidance and advice.

The secretary of the Bible Society's Tamil Nadu auxiliary visited Villupuram earlier this year and found a striking example of Christian unity. Christians from all denominations met regularly for Bible study, prayer, evangelistic outreach and Scripture distribution.

WORK "HOLIDAY" IN P.N.G.

THE INGREDIENTS:-

(a) A dedicated Christian, a diesel mechanic (same man) with three weeks holiday to give to Christ.

(b) lawn mowers feeling sick at the prospect of keeping grass in check when it has a potential of 18 feet growth per year, idle generators needed for light and power, boats to be overhauled.

THE METHOD:-

A church back home with a will to put them together.

THE RESULT:-

Laurie Needham came back from Bunapas, P.N.G. to Warragul, Vic. with a story of the fantastic things that are being done. He told of a very dedicated staff on whom endless demands are made because there are so many things to do by so few. He told how the light of the gospel shines in the faces of P.N.G. Christians. He also told how numberless motors die through lack of proper maintenance and spare parts that are not available. He brought back a list including alternators for tractors and parts for a chain saw and generators. These are already being assembled to be sent to Bunapas, with the Warragul church undertaking their cost.

Laurie experienced a new vision of mission work in action, and he came back with a firm conviction that there is a real place for laymen in mission, both on the field and in the back-up to those who give themselves unsparingly to Christ.

— Ben Crowden

TRIPLE LANGUAGE SELECTION FOR VANUATU

The Bible Society in the South Pacific has published a Scripture Selection in three languages to mark the independence of the Republic of Vanuatu. The Selection, titled "Let us pray for Vanuatu", is printed in Bislama, English and French and contains a Psalm and part of the text of Romans. Bislama is the national language of Vanuatu.

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.

NORMANTON AGAIN

To the Editor,

I wish to express thanks to A. Austin for the article he wrote of his trip to North Queensland (A.C. Sept. 6).

He discreetly passes over some of the unpleasant areas to give full page report of the work being done at Normanton by our centre workers Lyle and Hazel Morris. As I (a member of the S.A. Committee) was in Normanton prior to A.A.'s visit I am aware of the tireless and effective work being done and of the way they are being accepted by the Aboriginal people.

It is good to read such praise from other sources than from Committee members. I also visited Eidsvold the other place mentioned which the Morris' commenced in a tent. It is a centre that we can be proud of. The work being carried on at Eidsvold does credit to present leaders Ern and Pam Paddick. Souls are being saved and lives changed.

— C.A. Jones (S.A.)

MINISTERS MOTIVATED

To the Editor,

Before my good intention wears off, I write to publicly express my gratitude to the organisers of the National Ministers' Seminar held immediately prior to Federal Conference in Sydney.

The positive enthusiasm of the speakers, with their expertise in evangelism and ministry were greatly encouraging to the over 100 who attended. I'm sure most ministers returned to their churches highly motivated to give their best to their ministries.

This leads me to "Praise God" for the far-sighted church boards who had the vision to sponsor their ministers to the seminar. I'm sure time will prove it to have been a wise investment.

— Brian White (Caringbah, N.S.W.)

(However, we are given to understand that in this enlightened age, most of the ministers present paid their own way! Ed.)

SOME ONE LOVES US!

The following extract come in a letter from Queensland.

I would like to include my appreciation for Mustard Seeds. One of the main reasons I subscribe, and one of the first articles I turn to, is Mustard Seeds. I think some readers are getting a little too close to the page and are getting some of the mustard up their noses! I don't agree with everything I read in "A.C.", but that doesn't stop me wanting to read it. In fact, as I said in a letter to Alan Austin, one of the reasons that I cancelled my subscription to . . . was that the articles are so much the same (even though I usually agree with them). Some readers object to "A.C." because they say the articles are political and that they give information about W.C.C. activities. Well, I don't go along with the W.C.C., but I'm interested to hear what it is doing.

NDONKANBAH ISSUE

To the Editor,

This is a shameful experience in Australia's history. But I do strongly feel the article in the "A.C." Sept. 16 does not do justice to the facts. (1)

The drilling site concerned was not on a sacred site (proven by Museum Trustees). (2) In the first place the Aborigines at Noonkanbah officially approved the contract for the drilling for oil. (3) politically the Trade Unions and the A.L.P. provoked the Aborigines to reverse their original commitment to score political points.

The Aboriginal people are being shoved aside for progress and we are all to blame for this, but in this drilling site issue the original contact was made by the mining company and the Noonkanbah Community and should be honoured. Let us all be prayerfully and financially encouraging to the tremendous work of sharing Jesus' love with our Aboriginal brothers.

I find Alan Austin's articles very challenging. More! More!

— Malcolm Boyd (Warwick, W.A.)

JASON OVER-REACHES

To the Editor,

I write in response to the "Jason" cartoon in the Oct. 4 issue. I appreciate the searching comment and humour of those cartoons, but this latest strip grossly misconstrues the real situation.

Jason suggests that Bible College enrolments rise during periods of high unemployment. This is probably true, but that statistic does not tell the whole truth.

Over recent years of sharply rising unemployment nearly every Bible College student that I have known has left secure and lucrative employment to respond to the call of God. Any visit to one of our Colleges would confirm that fact.

The "negative" humour of this particular cartoon also suggests that some decisions to enter full-time training for service result from purely circumstantial pressures. This may be true, but is very misleading to "babes in Christ".

Keep up the good work Jason, even if you sometimes overreach!

— Dick Hayman (N.S.W.)

"THE CHRISTIAN" AND POLITICS

To the Editor,

It is disturbing that there are Christians' issues. Such a position seems to me to be most un-Christian. It is perhaps unfortunate that a firm stand for, or against, an important issue often involves a position being taken for or against a position taken by our favourite political party, but that is the way our system works.

There were people in Germany during the 1930s who firmly believed in the separation of church and State; but at this point in history we are proud and grateful for those Christians who openly defied the political policies of Hitler and the Nazi Party. We are sorry that some church leaders were silent at that time. Christians always have a duty to bear witness to the demands of their conscience. Only in this way can the Holy Spirit have a voice in the affairs of men.

— Allan B. Clark (Vic.)

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

YOURS ECUMENICALLY

To the Editor,

In our suburb we have a monthly ecumenical service on Sunday nights. Between us all we fill one church as we each should be able to do every Sunday night if we really tried.

While each church runs the service in its own way, each in true ecumenical spirit, makes little adjustments for the others. The Anglicans are a little less liturgical, the Baptists a little less exclusive; and the Uniting Church a little more relaxed and informal. The Salvation Army tones down its exuberance a little for more sensitive ears and spirits. The Catholics put on what looks and feels like an old time protestant gospel service. And our church in the true spirit of ecumenism offers them a little bit of each of their traditions.

Each minister in welcoming the other churches makes the sort of "blues" that underline the fact that he doesn't know all that much about the others after all. And the sermons are inevitably about God's will for the unity of his church. It is a great thrill to sing and share and study the Word with Christians of other traditions. We really practise ecumenicity in our suburb!

That is until we go from one of these ecumenical services into the hall for a cup of coffee. Then we all make a bee-line for our own people and create a series of impenetrable circles which successfully keep out any venturesome ecumaniac from another church who might want to make friends with us.

At the last one, in a rare burst of recklessness, I decided to be that venturesome spirit and to talk with some of the others. I didn't succeed. All the conversation I had was, "Tea or coffee?" "Coffee please." "Black or white?" "White thank you." "The biscuits and sugar are on the table." I was thus dismissed. I couldn't even get an ecumenical conversation with the tea lady. Yet in church we had sung so beautifully, "We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord."

Yours ecumenically,
TERTIUS

STORY OF AN "OPEN DOOR"

Peter Wells

Early in 1979 when the Good Neighbor Council collapsed a number of migrant groups were left without assistance. Concerned people from the Open Door Centre operated by the Preston/East Preston Church of Christ invited representatives of the Citizens Advice Bureau, The Lebanese Association, The Islamic Foundation and The Greek Elderly Citizens to join, forming the Northern Resources Committee. An approach to the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs secured a Government Grant which made possible the establishment of office space and meeting facilities in the former manse for each of the member parties.

The building is now known as the Northern Resources Centre and is located next to the church. An elder of the church Colin Johnson serves as secretary and the minister, Jack Manallack, serves as President of the N.R.C. Jack is sought out by all of the groups for various counsel and is known to the Greek Elderly Citizens as "Father". The church considers it a valuable opportunity for ministry.

50 people representative of social workers, social security services, Careforce, Physiotherapists and other community aid groups in Preston attended a recent meeting at the Northern Resources Centre. The Commissioner for Community Relations, Mr Al Grassby was the guest speaker. The City of Preston "Post-Times" reported: "Racism was so widespread in Australia that many children had racist attitudes before they left primary school," the Commissioner for Community Relations, Mr Al Grassby said last week.



Al Grassby with Jack Manallack (President of N.R.C. and Minister of Preston/East Preston, (left) and Colin Johnson — Secretary of N.R.C. and Elder of Preston/East Preston.

Photo — Preston Post-Times

"The fight against racially discriminating attitudes must begin in the schools," he said.

"School is the only place a child can meet children from many different backgrounds.

"It offers us a great opportunity to learn about different cultures and the injustice of racial attitudes."

Mr Grassby said much deep rooted intolerance in the community was a result of uninformed teaching.

He called for teachers to be aware of the racist content in many school text-books now in use.

Monthly meetings of similar nature are planned and it is hoped that the Director of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs will be the next guest speaker. The aim is to bring together community service groups to provide stimulating, informed, helpful input relative to the problems they are seeking to deal with and to improve community relationships.

MACKAY SCHOOL OF PRAYER

The Mackay, Qld., church recently conducted a School of Prayer, organized by the State Home Missions Department. The elders and deacons of the church decided that a Prayer Seminar was needed to teach the total church the "how, when, where and why" of effective prayer. The seminar took the place of the church's yearly Crusade, but it was aimed at helping the church be better equipped for its next Crusade in 1981. To keep the evangelistic fervour high, three evangelistic meetings were held in conjunction with the seminar. John Timms, State Evangelist conducted the seminar.

Prayer began at 6 a.m. each morning, this session lasting till 8.30 a.m. A Prayer Clock, divided into half-hour segments, operated for one day. The elders met and examined their prayer lives; they were challenged to pray regularly for every member and contact by name.

On Monday night, the men of the church met together; Thursday morning was for the ladies; while combined

meetings were held Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Through it all, the church was learning the important lesson that prayer changes the one who prays.

Thursday evening the church met in homes for prayer cell groups, putting into practice principles learned. Concentrated prayer was made for the Friday night evangelistic rally. Previously, invitation cards had been given to the members to personally invite friends. One third of the people in attendance were non-Christians — in itself an answer to prayer.

On Saturday, the church went to Finch Hatton Gorge, a beautiful quiet spot, for a prayer retreat. Opportunity was given for individuals to spend time alone with God for renewal and commitment. Prayer goals of the church were discussed, and a picnic lunch and barbecue tea added to the fellowship of the day.

Sunday was a day of evangelistic preaching. Including Friday night's evangelistic meeting, 17 people made commitments. — Norm. Flett

REX ELLIS

During the Federal Conference several prayer sessions were held for Rex Ellis and his family during his current illness. The following are extracts from his letter to the Conference members. Rex is now out of hospital.

"My life, Verlie and myself, would like to express our extreme gratitude to all for the continual expressions of love and prayer during my sickness.

The feeling of belonging to the family of God has been overwhelming as we heard of special prayer meetings and of hundreds of individuals praying.

While the operation seems to have solved the immediate problem of cancer — and I am grateful for a fairly rapid recovery — the future outlook is statistically not good. However, spiritually the outlook is superb. Our faith and confidence is in a great God, and your continued prayers would be appreciated.

— Rex Ellis

BOOKS TO READ

WE CALL OURSELVES DISCIPLES

by Kenneth L. Teegarden (Bethany Press)

When we picked up this little paperback by the General Minister and President of the American Disciples we expected to read yet another history of our Movement in the U.S.A. While it does refer to our historic heritage it only does so to throw light on where Disciples are now. Australian Churches of Christ feel themselves to be warmly related to two of the three movements that came from the Restoration Movement in the U.S.A., the Disciples and those who are called Independents. This little book gives a very clear and up to date picture of Disciples, with their 4500 churches. We felt very much at home in reading of their life and work and worship and ethos, as well as their problems and heartaches and difficulties. The family likeness is pronounced.

Dr Teegarden tells the story of Restructure whereby a conglomeration of heterogeneous churches came together into a federal and state conference set-up similar to what we have had in Australia for 80 years. Unfortunately the deep-rooted American suspicion of what might be the thin edge of the wedge of centralization kept over 1000 churches out of the restructure, in spite of well documented safeguards that guaranteed the freedom of local congregations. Dr Teegarden deals with our traditional "doctrine of liberty", relevant both to present Disciples and to Australian Churches of Christ. It means that as a creedless church we are committed to loving acceptance of those whose interpretation of Scripture differs from our own as we witness together to those great biblical truths that have stood the test of the centuries.

Referring to the use of both Disciples and Christian Church to describe our American people Teegarden writes, "Christian Church points to our objective of unity, and Disciples reminds us that we have not yet arrived."

Bethany Press representatives in Australia are W. A. Buchanan & Co., 21 Kyabra St., Fortitude Valley, Qld. 4006.

Everyone interested in our World Brotherhood should buy and read this book. (G.R.S.)

IF I'M IN CHARGE HERE WHY IS EVERYBODY LAUGHING

by David Campbell, (Argus Communications)

The author asks, "How can leaders bring out the best in the people they work with? Why do people go wrong? The answer has always been probably at the beginning. He says leaders need to listen to every dumb idea with the same eagerness he would his own and not to throw tantrums due to stress and slam doors etc, striving to be a strong leader and not a dictator. This book is strongly recommended to ministers, elders, deacons and all leaders. I am sure it would make helpful reading.

— John K. Martin

MY SERVANT JOB

by Morris A. Inch (Baker Book House) \$2.95

A really enjoyable Bible study with a difference. The author looks at what God is trying to teach us through the experiences and reactions of Job and his "friends". Morris then says what he believes this should mean to us in this modern day and age. Definitely recommended.

— J. Urquhart.

THE EPISTLES OF JOHN

by I. Howard Marshall (Eerdmans) \$12.95

A recent addition to the New International Commentary on the New Testament which replaces a volume on the Epistles of James and John. This is a very scholarly commentary which has been written so that the ordinary reader with very little knowledge of Greek is able to use the volume. There is a good 50 page introduction to these three letters which looks at such issues as to the authorship and dating, structures and situations of writing. There follow commentaries on 2 John and 3 John

(45 pages). The bulk of the commentary looks at 1 John (about 150 pages). Well written with a large amount of insight into the meaning that John has given in his letters.

PILGRIM PAPERS

by Chester Schultz \$3.00

A collection of papers on various areas that look at the implications of the radical Christian lifestyle. Each paper concentrates on an area and outlines some preliminary thinking, some good books to read and a series of questions to use either in groups or for personal meditation and action. The areas covered by papers are (a) Permanent reference point, (b) The world we live in today, (c) The Sciences, (d) The Social Sciences, (e) History, (f) Philosophy, (g) Law and Welfare, (h) The Arts and (i) Teaching. These papers are available through the A.F.E.S. Graduates Fellowship, 129 York St., Sydney, N.S.W. 2000.

KATHLEEN — A Record of Sorrow.

by E.M. Blaiklock (Hodder & Stoughton) \$2.95

This is the saddest, most painful book that I have ever read and I believe that those who encouraged the author to write it and the publishers have much to answer for. It is the record of a man's grief at the loss of his wife of 49 years and his inability to overcome the sorrow.

—J. Urquhart

THE FAMILY AND THE FELLOWSHIP

by Ralph P. Martin (Paternoster Press) \$7.50

A examination of some of the wide range of the New Testament images of the church and their understanding in today's world. This is not a technical study and the best book in this area would still be "Images of the Church in the New Testament" by Paul S. Minear.

Ralph Martin looks at the way the New Testament describes the church and how these concepts relate to the problems of the church today. Areas such as fellowship, the charismatic gifts, patterns of ministry, the sacraments and church unity are all dealt with. This is not up to the standard of other books I have read by this author but it is still informative and thought provoking.

Unless otherwise stated books reviewed on this page may be obtained from: Keswick-Scripture Union Bookshop, 1st floor, Port Phillip Arcade, 232 Flinders St., Melbourne 3000; N.S.W. Churches of Christ Book Shop, 9 Endeavour Arcade, The Kingsway, Carlingbah, 2229; Scripture Union Bookshop, 121 Bathurst St., Hobart, 7000.

R14-24



"I JUST WANTED TO KNOW IF THERE WAS ANY CHANCE FIRST NATIONAL MIGHT BE WILLING TO FORGIVE MY DEBTS AS I FORGIVE MY DEBTORS."

HAPPENINGS

"One World" the magazine of the World Council of Churches now has a new Editor. He is Bruce Best, an Australian. Before the church union, Bruce was Editor of "Australian Presbyterian Life."

Research by Radio Rhema in Christchurch and Wellington, N.Z. with a random sample has shown that between 35% and 41% of people attend church in a four week period.

After heated words with his vicar a curate asked him: 'Are you suggesting I put more fire into my sermons?' 'No,' was the reply, 'more sermons into the fire.'

There are 34 Australian languages in which some Bible translation is taking place, or in which it is expected that there will be translation soon.

Mr David Millikan, of Zadok, has been asked by the ABC to present four half hour shows on national TV. They will attempt to sympathetically describe the place that Christianity has in Australian culture, with some emphasis being given to the place of the churches.

The Roman Catholic Church in Brazil is to break-up many of its

largest landholdings, to allow the fairer use of land by poorer people.

The new Scripture Union State Director for Victoria is John U'ren. He has served on the Victorian S.U. staff from 1975-1979.

The Victorian Combined Charities Christmas Shop will be opened from now until December 17. This shop will be found on the 7th floor, 177 Collins St., Melbourne, Vic.

The situation in the famine district of Uganda is still serious. World Vision's director of relief in that area, Titus Mubiru, says the Karamoja district is still experiencing unbelievable horror. Some people are so desperate that they are crossing the border into Kenya and attacking villages hoping to find food.

The population of Jerusalem has grown by about 137,000 since the Israeli capture of East Jerusalem in 1967. The increase includes 95,000 Jews and 42,000 non-Jews. The total population of Jerusalem is 402,000 of which 290,000 are Jews and 12,000 Christians with the rest Muslims.

One in five theological students in America is now a woman.

The U.S. estimates that 42,000 refugees will be resettled in its country next year. The refugees are from Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. About half that number are Soviet Jews. Another 8,000 will be Armenian refugees from the Soviet Union. Meantime, the steady flow of Haitian refugees continues into Florida. About 500 are landing each week.

A strategic task force has been set up by the World Evangelical fellowship to assess future technological and satellite development. This follows the suggestion that an international satellite broadcasting system for use by evangelical Christians world-wide could be established within the next five years.

Under the banner "Washington for Jesus," an estimated 200,000 people gathered in Washington D.C. recently to express their concern about America's deteriorating morality, and to pray for the nation and its government.

Pop gospel singer Andrae Crouch and his 11-member band, The Disciples, are disbanding after 14 years together. Crouch and the band who have won three Grammy awards. A Word Records representative said Crouch is going solo because of the expenses of transporting such a large group.

World Vision has responded to a request from the Bangladesh government for help for victims of recent floods in the Faridpur district near Dacca. Clothing and plastic sheeting was sent to the district immediately the funds were provided for the purchase of food, clothing, medical supplies and water purification tablets.

In West Germany a \$10 million advertising campaign has been launched to fill the empty pews in churches. The campaign is being conducted for both Protestant and Catholic churches.

Vietnamese churches in and near Saigon are experiencing revival, according to sources reported in the Alliance Witness. Services reportedly are so full that Christians stand outside to make room inside for non-believers. At least two congregations have enlarged their church buildings to accommodate more people. Members arrive as early as 5.00 a.m. to pray.

Religion is alive and well in Hungary, according to a study recently featured in the government newspaper Magyar Hirlep. A social scientist author reported that from 50-80% of Hungary's 10 million hold religious beliefs. About one-third of adults, he found, attend church regularly.

diary

NATIONAL
November
30 Annual Offering — Home Missions
NEW SOUTH WALES
November
9 C.F.A. Cruise
14-16 Prayer and Planning Conf.
21 College Graduation

VICTORIA
November
14 College of the Bible Graduation
15 Homes for the Aged Garden Party
18 C.M.F. Dinner and Rally
25 C.F.A. Annual Meeting
December
6 Youth Ministry Square Dance
7 Explorer Final Rally
26 Summer Camping Program starts

QUEENSLAND
October
31 Dedication of Conference Officers
November
1 Gold Coast Youth Rally
21 Kenmore College Graduation
22 Camp Leaders Get-together
December
14-19 Midgets Camp
25 Senior Camp commences

WARWICK ON RADIO

Unfortunately too late for many we have received notice that the Warwick (W.A.) Church of Christ will be broadcast on the Sunday Service of the A.B.C. Radio 2 network. This will be broadcast at the new time of 5.30 p.m. on Sunday, October 26. Rick Mitchell led the service and Graham Carslake was the preacher.

DANDENONG (W. J. Edwards). Minister still in hospital but out of traction. V. Harrop and B. Berthelson have been in hospital. Elders called church to special prayer . . . 88th anniversary held with R. Hillbrick speaker. Basket lunch held . . . C.W.E.F. birthday held . . . At annual meeting Rina McGrath — deaconess, Alan Payne — deacon and Peter Jenkins — secretary elected. Missionary target \$1,350. Max Edward retired from board after 24 years. Presentation made . . . C.W.F. received letter from Paul and Judy Williams, P.N.G., thanking them for tank . . .

OUR COMPETITION

One publication that is well read around the Brotherhood is the "Missionary News". This is published bi-monthly and comprises news of the mission work of our churches both overseas and amongst the Aborigines. There is a great effort made to ensure that there is no duplication of material between the "Missionary News" and the "Australian Christian". The "Missionary News" is available from the Overseas Mission Board, P.O. Box 320, Unley, S.A., 5061 at a cost of \$2 per annum.

The Historical Society also produces its own "Digest" which comes out about 5 times a year. The cost is \$2 per annum. The format of the "Digest" will be changing with the new editor Graeme Chapman following the death earlier this year of Wilkie Thomson. The address for obtaining the "Digest" is Mrs F. Morris, 27 Albert St., East Malvern, Vic. 3145.

Over the next few issues we will look at other publications available both in Australia and overseas. The first of these is the "Zadok Centre News". This is published 5 times a year aiming to provide a forum for discussions on issues in Australian society from a Christian viewpoint. They are making a great effort to encourage an Australian theology and to make us aware of trends in Australian society particularly with the occasional papers that they also publish. These are available from the Zadok Centre, 13 Edgar St., Ainslie, A.C.T. 2602 at a cost of \$12 per year.

JESUS AND DIVORCE

Page 13

John Chivell has written with frankness and anguish in "On My Mind" in this issue of "A.C.". He is concerned at the increase of divorce in the community and now in the church and even in the ministry. He refers to relevant scripture passages that cannot be ignored: Mark 10:1-12; Matthew 19:1-12; Luke 16:18; 1 Corinthians 7: 10-11 and the Old Testament reference made by Jesus, in Deuteronomy 24:1-4.

TRYING TO TRAP JESUS

As usual the Pharisees were trying to trap Jesus, asking him, "Can a man divorce his wife for every cause?" There were two schools of thought concerning Deuteronomy 4:1-4 where divorce was permitted if a husband lost interest in his wife because of her indecency". One school of thought said that indecency meant adultery. The other said that it could not mean adultery because adultery was punishable by death and not by divorce. So this school gave to the word indecency a very wide interpretation as hinted at in the words of the Pharisees' question, "for every cause". This latter was of course the most popular view and there was general agreement in Jewry that a man could divorce his wife for anything that was offensive to him.

TOUGH ON THE WOMEN

Divorce procedures discriminated against women. All a man had to do was to write his wife a "bill of divorcement", a traditional note that in effect drove her out by telling her that she was free to remarry. She might be permitted to keep the children until they were twelve when they would be handed back to their father. In some cases the husband had to return the dowry, not to the wife but to her father. This was the only impediment to hasty divorce. A wife could only divorce her husband on the limited grounds of his having a loathsome disease. Also she might ask her husband for a divorce, but whether she received it depended on his whim. In Jesus' day divorce was a serious social problem with men discarding their wives as their beauty faded, for new wives. Luke 16:18 seems to hint a wife-swapping that was prevalent.

JESUS' ANSWER TO THE PHARISEES

As usual Jesus refused to fall into the trap set for him. Rather than supporting either of the schools of thought, both of which provided negative answers to the problem of disturbed marriages, he pointed to God's positive ideal for marriage. This is the God-made marriage which man cannot destroy.

His answer is actually threefold.

1. God's ideal is the God-made marriage that is permanent. Those really joined by God will not be sundered by man.

2. Because of your human-ness ("hardness of heart") and inability to reach God's ideal, your law

makes a bill of divorcement possible. (Note: Deuteronomy records that Moses believed that he had received this instruction from God).

3. You are using this provision, not as it was meant, to dissolve problem marriages, but for your own adulterous and lustful purposes.

WHAT CAN WE INFER FROM THIS?

We can infer from Jesus' words that the ideal marriage is made by God and sustained by God and is thus for life. But what does being "joined together by God" mean?

The fact that a wedding is held in church and prayed over, with the vows made before God, does not necessarily mean that the couple are joined by God. To be joined by God requires two people whose lives are so open to his indwelling Spirit that God in fact is the creator and sustainer of their relationship. Such a marriage is indestructible as long as God remains within it.

Such God-built and God-sustained marriages are ideal for the growth and well-being of man and wife and children. A society full of such marriages would be an ideal society because they would produce that sort of people who make ideal citizens.

SUCH MARRIAGES ARE RARE

Unfortunately such marriages are rare. However large numbers of Christian couples work towards this ideal and keep together marriages and families that are fairly good a good bit of the time. These marriages are not greatly threatened by the new climate that is making divorce more generally acceptable.

In the past there have been many marriages of Christians that even if made by God in the first place have not been kept together by God, but rather by the pressures of custom and tradition. In such marriages the virtual breakdown of warm and intimate relationships and the thin veneer of respectability that has covered the breakdown are evidences that God is not joining the couples together any more, however much they may continue to believe in him and worship him. For many centuries such couples stayed together because of economic, religious, social and family pressures. It was easier to endure such marriages than to face the economic hardship and social and religious ostracism involved in leaving them.

These are the marriages of church people, including ministers, that are under threat in the new climate concerning divorce. Changed economic conditions make it easier for women to go their own way. Changed public opinion is removing the stigma from divorce. Religious ties bound only by tradition and not really by God are easily severed when a marriage has really failed.

(In the next issue we will look further into Jesus' teaching concerning divorce and at some of the questions that Christians should be asking and answering. Editor.)

NUBEENA CELEBRATED



New church centre

It happened 12 months ago. For those who attended, it could be described as an unforgettable experience. Almost 500 people from throughout Tasmania together with some from the mainland gathered to celebrate. There was reason to celebrate for it was the centenary of the witness of Churches of Christ at Nubeena. The whole community of Nubeena were involved — participating in a procession and other activities on the Saturday, assisting in the provision of food for the meals which were provided for all who came. Former ministers who returned 'home' for the celebration were Harold Street, Colin Heier, Bill Flett and David Bailey. Cec. Neville is the present minister.

Russell Allison from the church at Launceston spoke to a crowded youth gathering on the Saturday evening. The Communion service on the Sunday morn-

ing saw over 400 in attendance who reflected on the vision of the pioneers, the excitement of the days when Stephen Cheek challenged the community not only with the gospel of Christ but also with the plea of the restoration movement, and the faithfulness of those who had witnessed in the area over the years. G.J. Foot, then Conference President of the Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania challenged the congregation as he called for continuing commitment to the cause of Christ.

The celebration concluded with a gospel service at which the guest preacher was the conference Secretary C.L. Ward. Grateful visitors returned home with the thought in mind — "thanks to Nubeena for the opportunity of sharing the memories of the past, the excitement of the present and the expectation of the future.

PAT BOONE AND ROBERT COLMAN IN CHILDREN'S TELEVISION SPECIAL

An important children's TV special to aid underprivileged children will be shown across Australia from September to December.

The special, "Children of the Third World" is hosted by actor Dean Jones and features appearances by Pat Boone and Robert Colman.

The special will coincide with Robert's national concert tour which commences in September. During the TV special he and his wife share how they have been blessed through sponsoring a young Indian girl.

"The Children of Promise" — a delightful singing group of Korean girls who have been sponsored by Compassion child-care, add to this touching special.

The half-hour special has been produced by Compassion — an international evangelical Christian child-care organisation who help more than 55,000 children in over 30 countries.

It highlights that five out of six children in the world live in poor, underdeveloped countries. Three hundred million are so severely undernourished they have become physically and mentally stunted.

Compassion operates a child sponsorship program which gives children food, medical care and Bible training.

W.R.O.C. ACTIVE

Highlights of the Western Region Outreach Committee program in Melbourne have been a barbecue fellowship Sunday evening service at D. Langley's property at Bullengarook, a celebration dinner at Strathmore on September 12, attended by 94 adults and 16 children, catered for by the Strathmore church with musical items being supplied by members of W.R.O.C. churches, and an afternoon held at Footscray on October 11 for residents of the Christian Guest Home at Oakleigh.

Combined prayer meetings are held bi-monthly amongst the 11 churches, alternating with committee meetings attended by two representatives from each church. The most recent prayer meeting was held at Werribee and conducted by A. Niven. The Conference President's visit to the region is planned for November 2.

— F. B. Alcorn

SHEPPARTON (G. S. Deuble). Weekend mission of prophecy held with Clem Clack . . . Greg Deuble has recovered from an operation. Speakers during his absence — I. Tippett, D. Smith and W. Mills . . . Nine baptisms recently . . . 27 Y.P. shared with Boronia and Croydon youth at Mill Valley Ranch . . . Youth held a work day to raise money for bus to Mill Valley and to Youth Quake . . . Brick fund reached its target after only 22 months.

RUSHING MIGHTY WIND AT DULWICH

People in the eastern suburbs of Adelaide know what is meant by the expression "gully winds" which come at night in some seasons with the sound of "a rushing mighty wind" (Acts 2:2). Origin: the wind tunnel effect of a deep declivity in the neighboring part of Mt. Lofty Ranges. For the uninitiated this will explain what Harold Norris was speaking of when in his sermon at the Diamond Jubilee service of Dulwich (S.A.) on September 21 he recalled a remark his late father made after first seeing the Dulwich chapel early in Harold's ministry there (1936-38). "Dear old Dad drily asked whether the gully winds had been extra bad when the chapel was opened (in 1920)," Harold said, "because the building seemed to have been blown inside out. You see, we had bare red bricks on the interior and white rough-cast stucco outside."

The design was daringly unusual for those days, Mr Norris said, with seating arranged in a quarter-circle and the platform in one corner, so that everyone could see everyone else and "the children could see what all the other little terrors were doing — and imitate them." (The church was remodelled in 1960, but with a record turnout of early-days members forming a majority of the 200 people present at the Diamond Jubilee, many were seeing the new format for the first time.)

Mr Norris also recalled that one good brother — long since departed — had told him that the children's talk which he introduced as an innovation detracted from the dignity of the service! But he stuck to the practice and always gave a children's talk even if only one child was present.

W. Bartlett (interim minister 1976) gave the pastoral prayer and Trevor Lawrie (present minister) presided at the Lord's Table. The choir of neighboring Gartrell church and their organist, Mrs Gale, assisted.

Roland Pittman (90), son of first minister Ernest W. Pittman, and J. Ludbrook, son of the first church secretary after the chapel opening, A. M. Ludbrook, were the only survivors present from the 1920 opening. Mr Pittman responded for the visitors at luncheon which followed the Jubilee Service.

— J.L.

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

The Australian Religious Press Association is conducting a short story competition. This will be open until December 30, 1980.

One condition of entry is that writer of the story or article not exceeding 1,500 words be a paid up associate member of the A.R.P.A.

This year's theme is "The Story of an Apostle". The story should centre upon apostleship in today's world (not upon the historical 12). There should be a central character either fictional or living. Writers are expected to explore the theme of being a modern apostle.

Further details can be obtained from "The Australian Christian" office.

PARKDALE PLAY GROUP

How can a young mother with a 3 year old daughter serve God? Surely raising a child is a full-time occupation! Well, not if you are as keen as Pam Taylor is. She recognised a need for playgroups in the community and decided she could serve God and others just because she is a young mum.

Taking advantage of Parkdale's great facilities (small playground, large grass area, small and large rooms joined to the kitchen) she put the idea to the Board. The Board backed her ideas, the Elder made the grass area child proof, the Secretary put in a gate to fence off the play area.

Now its under way. Pam has just undergone serious surgery but she has a calling. She's just as determined as ever to run it. The playgroup started on schedule under the leadership of Sharon Waldron (minister's wife and student minister) while Pam lay in hospital convalescing. Through one persons inspiration and dedication and through the backup of a close and loving congregation a new ministry has taken off.

We're expecting Pam to be on deck for the first time this week.

DR LLOYD JONES AT QLD. CONFERENCE



Dr Lloyd Jones will be guest preacher for the forthcoming Queensland Conference, October 22-26. This will be the fourth occasion he has filled this role. In addition he will again lecture to the preachers on the requested theme of 'Outreach and Evangelism'. Dr Jones will lecture from October 20-22 and will preach at Brotherhood Rallies on the Wednesday and Thursday nights, at the Women's Conference, the Men's Breakfast, the business sessions on Friday and Saturday and finally preach the Conference Sermon on Sunday at the Combined Communion Service at the Queensland University.

It will be of interest to the Brotherhood that Dr Jones has been invited to be Visiting Professor of Preaching to a group of American Theological Colleges in 1981. His acceptance of this assignment will depend upon his Australian commitments for next year.



Sharn Waldron and Pam Taylor with their children.

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BUSINESS.

13 Reports and 29 Notices of Motion were to be dealt with by Conference. These were dealt with by the method of small deliberative groups meeting first and raising questions and comments which were answered in written form prior to the whole of Conference meeting in Plenary sessions to accept the reports and vote on the motions.

Most groups were involved in thinking through the issues and in raising questions which will be published in the next few issues of the "Australian Christian."

The smooth running of the business sessions was due to the able chairmanship of the Conference President Kevin Crawford and the behind the scenes organisation of Lyndsay and Ruth Smith who collated all the questions and had the written answers available well before each plenary session.

Important notices of motion (apart from Constitutional motions) will be published in the next few "Australian Christians".

ELECTIVES

Electives were a good opportunity to learn new skills to be used in the church and in other situations. Aboriginal issues were raised in one session. The Strategy for the Eighties was further explored. Challenging sessions included Magic in Marriage, Meeting Community Needs, Prayer, and Bible Study. Skills in photography and painting were developed. Ministry in the areas of single adults, senior citizens and team ministries were explored.

BIBLE STUDIES

Four morning Bible studies were held on the book of Philippians. These were led by (David Beavis Principal of Perth Bible Institute), Dr Keith Bowes (C.O.B.), Dr David Hammer (Kenmore) and Dr W. Tabbernee (C.O.B.).

These helped to set the tone of each day and the material presented often opened our eyes with new insights to the meaning of the text.



Deliberative group hard at work



Edna Lincoln honoured for 25 years of service with Aborigines mission.

RALLYS

The evening rallies were a time of stimulation and reflection. Many guests artists were featured at these times and inspired many. These were the Carlingford College Choir, Mrs Pay Aylett, Harvest E. Brooke, Wollongong church group, Cascade, and several members of the Epping church including the Conference President's three daughters. The speakers were Gordon Moyes, Barry McMurtire (Wollongong), Noel Newton, (Southport), Paul Cameron, (Epping) Jeff Dueble, (Dept. Mission, Education Development) and Graham Agnew (Brooklyn Park). On the Sunday morning a communion service was held with Kevin Crawford presiding.

Many N.S.W. people attended the Sunday and Monday over their long weekend.

DARWIN FOCUS

A special focus on the development at Darwin was held. At this the proposed design of their complex was exhibited and appeal for the funds in future. Times of this appeal will vary from State to State. A more detailed report on Darwin has been type set and is waiting for space in the 'A.C.'

GROWING IN THE 80's



Morning tea



Fellowship times



Office at work



Presentation to Kevin Crawford on the completion of his term as Federal President

THANKS

Special thanks to the Conference President Kevin Crawford and his team for their organisation and the time enjoyed by all. Lyndsay Smith (Fed. Conf. Secretary) and his wife Ruth deserve praise for their share in the smooth running of the Conference.

NOTE FOR DIARIES

Barry Gear was inducted as the new Conference President. The 39th Federal Conference will be ably led by him and Mrs Margaret Pollard, C.W.F. President, under the theme "Count it all Joy" probably in October, 1982 in Adelaide. I hope to see ALL our readers there.



Sonny Graham



Aboriginal issues elective

C.W.F. ALTERNATIVE

• Continued from Page 4

SUMMARY:

1. The situation in 1980 is a unique one — each year is unique and calls for a unique answer.
2. We need to rethink our ideas on C.W.F. and the church generally, in order to minister to today's people.
3. I have given some ideas — they are not STRAIGHT ANSWERS — they are something to think about.
4. I believe that I am representative of many younger women today who are not willing to be urged into the local C.W.F. group without reservation.
5. And yet I am wanting to offer alternatives to the straight-down-the-line C.W.F. auxiliary. This is a copy of the talk given by Jan Dunn at the Federal Conference at the Elective on "C.W.F. — Where to from here?"



Graham Agnew — speaker at final rally

OBITUARY

CAVE, Horace

(27.8.80). A faithful minister of Churches of Christ for over 60 years who died at the age of 78. He was one of the few remaining N.Z. students to the C.O.B. Melbourne prior to the opening of the New Zealand College in 1927. Nurtured in his Christian faith in the Wanganui church, he made his commitment to Christ at 17 years of age, where his parents and their seven children made a worthy contribution. Horrie graduated from Glen Iris in 1926 and in 1927 married Ada Chiswell of the Bet Bet (Vic.) church. In the succeeding 53 years God used them both in Victoria, New Zealand and South Australia. Horrie truly loved the brotherhood and served as S.A. Conference President during 1949/50. He was actively involved with the S.A. Temperance Alliance and Y.M.C.A. serving with the latter for four years during World War II. On his retirement 10 years ago he became involved in the life and work of the Queenstown (S.A.) church as elder and choir leader. The number of representatives from Brotherhood departments and churches who gathered at Queenstown for the funeral service bore testimony to the high regard in which he was held. Harold Greenwood, a fellow New Zealander, and Robert Clymer, Conference President, conducted the services at the church and graveside paying tribute to his life in Christian ministry. Horrie had a particular love for music, was of a quiet, kindly disposition, was intensely loyal and a valued friend to many people. To his wife Ada and their sons Murray and Brian, their families and families in N.Z. who feel the loss of a loved one we extend loving heartfelt sympathy, committing them all to the God of all comfort.

— G.M.M.

HARRIS, Norman

Norman Harris of the Warragul (Vic.) church died at 77 years of age. Baptised in Wales in 1927 he joined the Pyramid Hill church soon after coming to Australia. Moving to Warragul for work he met and married Dora Waters and commenced 47 years of happy married life and his long association with the Warragul church. He served as a deacon, a Sunday School teacher, a president and reader at morning services and as agent for "The Australian Christian" for 30 years. More recently he was active on the committee of the Elderly Citizens. Norm was known for his faithfulness, especially in practical service with the church property. He and Dora loyally attended both Sunday services in all weathers and frequently represented the church at regional gatherings. Norm's ability to live for others was his real expression of the Christian gospel which he held dearly and lived clearly. He never had a critical word, but always positive encouragement. He never complained, only having the ability to see the good. He had the spirit of Christ. The way in which he handled his approach to death was an inspiration and witness to others. He knew where he was going and the one in whom he believed, so there was neither fear nor anxiety. The Warragul church surrounds with love and prayer his wife Dora, his children Val, Glenda and Bruce, and the nine grandchildren.

— R.A.C.H.

JACKEL, Mrs Olive Isabella.

(8.9.80). Olive Jackel died at the age of 85 and with her passing the Wangaratta church recognizes a great debt of gratitude to her. She was born in 1895 at Tarradale in the Castlemaine district and was the eldest in the Cordy family of four girls and one boy. She lived all her early years in the Tarradale district and attended the Tarradale Church of Christ where she met and married George Oliver Jackel. They were married by Mr Clipstone in 1915 there. They moved to Wangaratta to live. They built a home and it was in this home that they raised their five sons, Lloyd, Ivan (dec.) Kevin, Aubrey (dec.), and Athol. Olive's brother and sister and father also lived with them as their mother had died some time before. Mrs Agnes Moore is now the only surviving member of that family. It was in this home that the Wangaratta Church of Christ was established through the dedicated commitment of George and Olive. The first services were conducted in their home, which had been specially designed for that purpose, and worship and communion was celebrated every Sunday for about two years until the original hall was built in 1927. Their home was an open home and it was nothing for about 20 people to sit down for lunch and tea on Sundays and then to return for a sing song after the Gospel service. Any guests or visiting speakers always found a bed and a meal at the Jackel home, and the late Will Gale a past Home Missions Secretary, was one who expressed to others his great appreciation of the warmth and hospitality of Olive Jackel's home. Others too have known that Christian hospitality, the Whagmode family, soldiers stationed in Wangaratta during the war years, and a couple were given the home to spend their honeymoon in while the Jackels were at conference. Olive Jackel had a great love for people and for the church. Her consuming ambition was to serve Christ through his church and to do it to her utmost. She was a woman of faith and dedication. A leader,

organizer, and Sunday School teacher, and the motivating force behind much of the women's work in the early days of the church. We know her as one who had a definite will and mind of her own, one who always tried to widen and increase her capabilities and one with a sense of humour. But above all we remember her for her faith, her dedication to her Lord, her love and practical hospitality, her hard work and leadership, and in more recent times we remember her for her courage and example in the face of illness and pain.

— C.P.C.

JENSEN, Violet May

(29.7.80) Mrs Violet May Jensen died at the age of 77 years at Ipswich St. Andrew's Hospital, after a prolonged period ill health culmination in a six week stay in hospital. She was the fourth child of the late Albert and Bessie Hinrichsen of Mt. Walker, Qld. She accepted Jesus as her saviour at the age of 13 and was baptized by the late Charles Pratt in December 1916. She was a diligent worker for the local church as organist and helped in many activities. She married James Jensen of Rosevale in August 1926 at the Mt. Walker chapel and went to live in Rosevale, where they both continued in the local church. No family resulted from the marriage. Her husband and two sisters pre-deceased her, and for 15 years she continued to work their farm till ill health prevented her. Her sisters cared for her, but the major time was spent with her sister Mrs Ivy Jensen. The funeral took place at the Rosevale church and was conducted by the minister Martin Tepper assisted by family friend Victor Boettcher, and her remains put to rest at the local cemetery.

— M. Tepper

McFARLANE, Robert Bruce.

(18.9.80) The death of Bruce (Mick) came after a trying illness which had deprived him of his speech and mobility. Bruce was an able, articulate debater who occupied the work place and church appointments with

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respect and efficiency. Both Bruce and Norma grew up in Box Hill. He was a cabinet maker who enlisted in the R.A.A.F. and worked in partnership in business for a short time before joining the Education Department as a Technical Teacher. He taught in Swinburne, Swan Hill, Colliingwood and Ferntree Gully. While at Swan Hill he assisted in the completion of the chapel and occupied the positions of deacon and secretary and Lieutenant of the Swan Hill High School Cadet Corps. In later years he was church deacon, chairman, Bible School Superintendent, football trainer and club President at the Box Hill church. He retired following heart attacks which progressively weakened him physically but did not reduce his grit and determination to live life to its fullest. Bruce and Norma faced together more than their share of life's setbacks, including the loss of their son Robert; but to their relatives and friends they presented a tremendous example of companionship and courage. We are sad at the loss of Bruce, but we can rejoice that his frustrations are over and say with Norma, Pam, Merrilyn, Gary, Wayne and Kerrie that the race has been well run and their husband and father has been restored to the dignity with which he was endowed. The service was conducted by Ted Keating and Steve Downie at the Blackburn church with Ted Keating conducting the service at Springvale.

WATT Reginald Rees

Reg Watt was born in Essendon 60 years ago one of three children. Reg's sister Gwen is the sole survivor. Reg took his early schooling in Essendon and then at Melbourne Boys High. He was later to complete a Bachelor of Commerce degree at Melbourne University. One year before he finished his Commerce degree he enlisted in the Airforce in 1940. In February 1941 he was posted to Rhodesia where he completed his training as a pilot. He served continuously as a pilot of Spitfires and Kittyhawks in the Middle East Campaign for three years. He was sent home from Italy as medically unfit — the ship was sunk — he spent eight days on a raft, was picked up and taken back to Cairo. After being demobbed in 1945 he went back to Melbourne University to complete his Bachelor of Commerce. For a short time he worked with the S.E.C. He later worked as Assistant Secretary of the R.A.C.V. He then moved to Power Samus which was a Punch Card Operating Organisation and associated with the very early days of computerization. Later as an authority on computer systems he worked with one of the largest accounting firms in Australia, Kent Brierley and Barraclough Fisher. With his friend and colleague Devon Minchin he became a partner in an enterprise known as Metropolitan Security Service. Reg and Devon sold the business to Mayne Nickless in 1970. Reg had suffered a heart attack in 1968. He suffered a second heart attack in 1969 and it was his health that brought about his retirement. In actual fact he acted as a Management Consultant for several firms and companies in almost every state in Australia in his retirement. Reg's qualifications were many, but amongst them he was Chartered Accountant, Company Secretary, a Licensed Company Auditor, a Member of the Australian Institute of Secretaries. It was whilst living in Hartwell that Reg met

and married Norma Body. Reg is also survived by his two children Ian and Kerryn. His loss is also mourned by his daughter-in-law Caroline and son-in-law Michael and his two grandchildren Kylie and Amanda and other members of the family. Just as Reg was an industrious person his industry also extended to serving clubs and groups and needy members of the community. High on his list of those he helped were the wives and families of ex-servicemen. Amongst the many other groups and clubs to which he belonged was the Frankston Lodge. He was a Charter Member of Melbourne Lions. He was President of Frankston Anglers and Boat owners club. He has also had a long interest in the game of golf. My personal knowledge of Reg Watt was as a member of the Frankston church. His membership with the church goes back to his boyhood days in Hartwell. Within the church he held many positions. He was a member of the Board of Management, Treasurer, and he was the man who made the transference of the church from Beach Street to its new home here in Cranbourne Road a financial possibility. He with his lifelong friend Fred Adams took a deep interest in the affairs of the church for many years. Reg was not only industrious and stimulating, he was also a family man. He believed in the family. We humbly pay tribute to him for what he meant to us, we say thank you to God for his life and we think of his family in their time of loss and sadness. — Allan Avery

WINTERTON, Arthur.

(18.8.80). Arthur Winterton spent all his life in the Warragul district. In his 53 years he had earned the love and respect of a great many local residents. As a sportsman, a farmer and then a handyman, and a practical Christian, his standards were always top class. 1953 was an important year in Arthur's life. In March that year he and Dorothy Pederson were married by W. W. Saunders, and in December under the ministry of Vic. Quayle during a mission by Lloyd-Jones he was baptised and came into membership at the Warragul church. Though not one to be prominent in the services of the church, he was always there and a willing helper. He and Dot. gave considerable leadership to the church Badminton Club and he saw this as a real means of bringing others within the reach of the Gospel. Arthur served for a time as a Deacon, and only three weeks before his death he was in his place taking his turn at helping at the Communion Table. The chapel and hall were crowded for the funeral service led by the writer, indicating the widespread respect in which Arthur was held. To his wife Dot, and children Merrilyn (Mrs John Rochford) Cheryl and Maurice the church offers Christian love and sympathy as we pay tribute to a brother whose life rang true to his profession.

— Ben Crowden.

nsw

EPPING (R. Whan, P. Cameron). Y.P. had house party at Stanwell Tops . . . Evening seminar on how to handle crisis situations held . . . News of Mike and Julie Wythes (missionaries in P.N.G.) provided on return of their parents (K. and D. Oliver).

THORNLEIGH (D. W. Mansell). At D.C.E. Junior High Camp some Y.P. leaders and some boys made their decisions . . . Church conducted three stalls at Dunmore Fete, Pendle Hill . . . Flannery family conducted morning family service . . . Brigades shared in evening family service . . . Number attending Fed. Conf. . . Church taking part in Northside Outreach Program.

HAMILTON (W. Flett). 57th anniversary celebrated. Guest speaker Barry Rice, East Ipswich, Qld. Fellowship tea held also church family outing and B.S. picnic at Finnan Park, Grahamstown . . . Minister and family attended Fef. Conf.

NOBLE PARK (K. Clinton, L. Mayes). Ladies completed Bible study on fruits of the Spirit . . . Keith and Wendy Ridge guests at p.m. service . . . Over \$650 given at Temple Day offering . . . Ken Clinton attended Fed. Conf. . . Church launching special outreach program.



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2. SEE BEAUTIFUL NEW ZEALAND IN THE AUTUMN

Departing on March 21st our 18 day tour takes us to Christchurch, Tekapo, Mount Cook, Oamaru, Dunedin, Invercargill, Te Anau, Milford Sound, Queenstown, Alexandra, Fox Glacier, Greymouth, Picton, Wellington, Napier, Rotorua, Waitomo and Auckland. The tour can be extended by prior arrangement to include a 4 day tour to the Bay of Islands. Our tour Leader is the Very Rev. Norman Faichney, and details are available on request.

3. SEE INDONESIA IN DEPTH

This tour is really something. Leaving on March 29th, we stay in Bali, Salawesi (Makale, Ujung Pandang) Java (Surabaya, Jogjakarta, Bandung and Jakarta), and Singapore. The tour price is \$1721 from Melbourne or Sydney, and an optional 7 day extension to Malaysia is available at a supplement of \$345. Our Tour Leader is Mrs Lois Walker (formerly Lois Hulse who worked with the A.I.M. for many years).

4. SOUTH EAST ASIA SPECIAL TOUR

This 14 day tour is designed for the busy person who has limited time at his disposal, as well as for the ordinary tourist. Leaving on 15th April, we visit Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Bangkok (with a visit to the Kwai River Bridge and the Prison-of-War Cemetery), and Singapore. We will attend the moving Anzac Day observance at the Kranji War Memorial and Cemetery, and visit the Changi Chapel. Our Group Leader is Rev. Vic Maddick ED, Senior Chaplain (Rtd), Royal Australian Army. Tour price is \$1188.00 from Melbourne.

5. LANDS OF THE BIBLE TOUR

Our next departure for this most popular tour is 17th March. We spend 11 days in Israel, 9 days in Greece (including a Greek Island Cruise), and 6 days in Rome. Send now for details and prices.

6. 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, Niagara Falls, Montreal, New York, Washington, New Orleans, Phoenix, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Honolulu etc. Details are now available.

7. A.C.T.S. GRAND TOUR OF EUROPE WITH ISRAEL & GREECE

At present being planned is our regular tour during which we visit Israel for 10 days, Greece 4 days, then Britain with accommodation in London and a 15 day tour of England, Wales and Scotland. Our 15 day tour on the Continent completes our holiday, and we are able to enjoy additional free time at own expense. Details should be available early November so register now.

8. A.C.T.S./SITMAR CRUISES IN BEAUTIFUL FAIRSTAR —

from Sydney.

1. March 21st 14 nights/5 ports — Vila, Lautoka, Suva, Savu Savu and Noumea. Fares from \$770.00 to \$1950.00.
2. April 21st 29 nights/9 ports — Brisbane, Rabaul, Guam, Kobe, Yokohama (for Tokyo), Kagoshima, Taipei, Hong Kong and Singapore. Our Group Leader is the Rev. Wesley S. Pidgeon and prices are from \$1675.00 to \$4225.00.
3. July 12th 29 nights/8 ports — Brisbane, Whitsunday, Cairns, Ambon, Manila, Hong Kong, Singapore, Bali, Darwin. Prices from \$1525.00 to \$4075.00.
4. October 21st 19 nights/8 ports — Lautoka, Suva, Savu Savu, Apia, Pago Pago, Vavau, Nukualofa and Noumea. Prices are from \$1045.00 to \$2645.00.
5. January 31st 1982 14 nights/6 ports — Milford Sound, Timaru, Picton, Wellington, Auckland, Bay of Islands, Auckland. Price from \$855.00 to \$2030.00

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WOD

WEMBLEY DOWNS (John Somerville). 12 from Wembley Downs ran a camp for 40 children without mums at Parkerville ... Steven Penrose won scholarship to attend Scotch College ... Visit from State Conf. Pres. Frank Raymond ... Planning Day held ... Philip Vicent accompanied a delegation of Aborigines to Geneva as legal advisor on land rights.

PERTH (Robert Taylor). 10th Anniversary to be celebrated Nov. 1-2 ... Minister has accepted a further five year term from October 1981 ... 10 a.m. Thursday friendship centre caters for people living in the area around Beaufort St. ... 5.45 p.m. Sunday fellowship teas are organised by Maston Bell. Several local men attending and staying for gospel service ... 34 attended progressive dinner ... Recovering from hospitalisation are Thelma Beck, Kathy Franklin and Maria Wallner ... Christabel Bridge now leading Bible group ... Second series of combined gospel services with Maylands and North Perth held at Maylands.

CARNARVON (Barrie Yesberg). Women's outreach meeting attracted 73. Mrs Joy Riches and two assistants demonstrated cake decorating ... Tape ministry commenced to send weekly message to isolated centres ... Men's Fellowship held a life saving evening with film and lecture by Dr. Graham Denner.

SO

FORESTVILLE (B. Coventry). Week of meetings with Geoff Bingham. Two held in mornings others at night — average attendance approx. 45. Thank offering of \$300 ... Mini church held each Sunday morning at 9.30. Special lessons leading up to a decision day service ... Church board planning all-day retreat ... Church Sec. Lloyd Lovell and Nettie Lovell left for Fed. Conf.

BROOKLYN PARK (G. D. Agnew). Marjorie Nelson (formerly Jackson) special guest at recent Sunday evening service ... To celebrate 200 years of S.S. service had S.S. dressed up to depict various eras, and guest speaker Colin Pearce of Channel 7 and an audio-visual tracing highlights of S.S. and of the movement ... "Discoveries at Home" program encourages members to borrow books from Church's Resource Centre ... Maxine Webb conducted slide presentation at C.W.F. on life at the Ernabella Aboriginal settlement ... Plans to mount a "Meet the People" leaflet distribution arranged by Jake Jacobs of Outreach Committee ... Tennis club fielding 12 teams ... Playgroup held fashion parade and raised \$200 for erection of playground in Community Care and Friendship Centre ... Annual church picnic at Tusmore Oval ... Colin Curtis, Brighton guest speaker while Graham Agnew attended National Ministers' Seminar and Fed. Conf.

BENDIGO CHURCH OF CHRIST

114th Church Anniversary

Sunday November 16th, 1980

11 a.m. Communion Service

Speaker — Mr. Malcolm Humphreys

7.00 p.m. Evening Service

Speaker — Mr. Malcolm Humphreys

All former members and friends warmly invited.

Fellowship Luncheon



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JOHN PAVER LECTURING OVERSEAS



John Paver, Head of the Pastoral Care Unit, Peter MacCallum Hospital, will be engaged on a lecture tour in the United States at the end of October/early November, 1980. He will be speaking at the M.D. Anderson Hospital, Houston, Texas, and the Lutheran General Hospital, in Chicago. His theme will be: Pastoral Care in Australia, especially related to people with Cancer.

John Paver will also attend the National Conference of the American Clinical Pastoral Education Movement, in New Orleans.

John is a Church of Christ minister and has been engaged for the past five years in inter-church ministry at the Cancer Institute in Melbourne.

GIANT CHRISTIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Newsong Christian Music Festival will take place again on December 6 following its introduction in Sydney and Melbourne late last year. This year, Newsong will be presented in Sydney and Brisbane on the same day, December 6, while special Newsong Concerts will be presented in Melbourne and Adelaide as well.

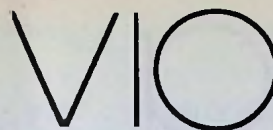
Featured international artists will be Dan Peek — ex the popular group 'America', Randy Stonehill, Tom Howard, Oden Fong plus numerous Australian artists, including Rod Boucher, Cascade, Randall Waller, Rose-Marie, Heritage, The Good News Band, Peter Beveridge Band, Trisha Watts plus many more. The festival will be compered in Sydney by Phil Hunt, Rod Boucher, Dave Kendall and Chris Hut-ton.

As well as offering 10 hours of non-stop Christian music, Newsong will also make available a presentation area where Christian organisations can display their materials. It is anticipated that between 8,000 and 10,000 young people will attend Newsong in Sydney alone, following its initial success last year when 6,000 attended.

VICTORIAN STATE HISTORIAN

Following the death of Wilkie J. Thomson, who was for many years Victorian State Historian, Russell Boak, a member of the Surrey Rd. Nunawading church, has been appointed to fill the position. He will be interested to receive information and objects of historical interest, and will endeavour to supply historical information to churches and individual members as required.

Correspondence should be addressed to 21 Pine Way, Doncaster East 3109. The telephone number is (03) 842 2170.



RINGWOOD (K. & S. Ludgater). Six new families welcomed into fellowship . . . Average attendance 180 . . . C.W.F. held sweet stall. Raised \$120 and visited Mount Royal . . . Combined service held with Boronia . . . Inter-church Council tea held. Peter Falconer M.H.R. speaker . . . Tennis Club opened new courts. Two teams won winter pennants . . . Central Ringwood Community Centre activities held in church buildings.

BERWICK (Daryl McLeod, Norval Bunch). Music ministry using local talent. Sugar and Salt presented musical. Letterboxing and car park distribution of pamphlets covered district . . . Parent-Teenager Seminar attracted 40-50 over four weeks . . . Elections of Elders and Deacons . . . Teenagers visited tulip farm . . . Youth had weekend retreat at Ross Lyn Park . . . Program developed for 13-15 age group . . . Fund raising for older teens trip to W.A. at Christmas . . . Max Walker worked as administrator Jan.-Sept. whilst on long service leave.

DONCASTER (K. D. Horne, K. W. Farmer). Clayton church presented musical . . . Young man baptised . . . Men's Fellowship reforming. Successful Men's Sunday held with testimony, musical items from soloist, quartet and men's choir . . . Single's (known as One-up) Club had inaugural dinner, 60 present, many from community. Bob Aldred guest speaker . . . Girls' Sunday held with girls and leaders of Good Companions . . . 117th church anniversary celebrated with progressive dinner on Saturday night, and Cliff Taylor and Jim Wright, speakers on Sunday . . . Young Family Fellowship-/Study held in homes . . . Keith Horne spoke at Vic. Lutheran Seminar . . . 12 attended CMF/CWF Grampians weekend . . . Five attending Fed. Conf.



COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE GRADUATION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14th, 7.45 P.M.

BLACKMAN HALL OF THE STATE COLLEGE OF VICTORIA,
442 AUBURN ROAD, HAWTHORN.

GUEST PREACHER: KEITH FARMER.

Following the Graduation Ceremony, the Federal Conference President, Mr Barry Gear will lead the Ordination Service arranged by Federal Conference Executive.

HOLY LAND TOUR



Stafford Williams — Elder at Southport and Director, Y.F.C. Gold Coast.

To date, 20 people have registered for the tour to Israel with Southport church elder, **Stafford Williams**. 11 members of the Southport church have registered, and church members from Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide have also registered for the tour.

One of the interesting facets of this tour will be the contacts arranged with Christian leaders in various countries and the opportunities for fellowship along the way.

Stafford has prearranged interviews also with representatives of other major world religions, such as Islam Imams in Egypt, a Buddhist monk in Thailand, a Confucianist in Singapore and Jewish Rabbis in Israel.

The tour includes 12 days seeing all the significant Bible places in Israel, as well as days for relaxing and shopping in other countries.

Full details of the itinerary are contained in an attractive brochure which can be obtained by writing to "Holy Land Tour", P.O. Box 5140, Gold Coast Mail Centre, 4217.

TOOTGAROOK (Mal Giezendanner). C.W.F. held 25th birthday with speaker Peter Sumner. Cake cut by Myrtle Couchard, foundation member . . . C.W.F. street stall raised \$350 . . . Happy Hour after school Mondays has average of 40 children . . . Friendship Drop-in Centre held monthly. This month Robert Miller, water colour artist, gave lessons . . . Recent evening service attended by Y.P. of "Good Life" from Rosebud High School . . . Hugh Miller and Reg Bolduan still on sick list.

NORTHCOTE (G. Crossman, J. Weston). Young married couple baptised . . . Inter-church Council ecumenical prayer service held. Audio-visual on Aborigines shown and Bindi, an Aboriginal, interviewed . . . Combined Y.P. camp held at Banksia with The Patch under leadership of J. Weston . . . Forget-me-nots, group of single and widowed elderlies, spent weekend with a similar group at Swan Hill.

NEW CONCEPT IN BIBLES

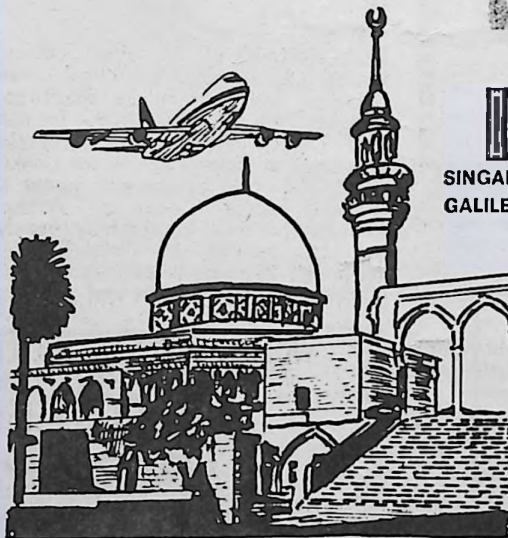


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This new Bible has over 140 pages of special material including a comprehensive Introduction to the Bible section. A clear explanation of difficult words and concepts will help new Bible readers understand and enjoy the text. There is also a Word List, Index and a Daily Reading Plan for one year.

The Good News Bible Special Edition was produced to commemorate the 175th Year of the world wide Bible Society Movement which started in England in 1804.

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HEART OF THE CITY

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OLD

MARGARET ST., TOOWOOMBA (Bruce Armstrong). E.W.F. heard highlights of Jubilee World Convention from three who attended ... Bruce Armstrong and family attended Ministers' Seminar and Fed. Conf. ... Retrospect's "Lightshine" performed at

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Margaret St., Ma Ma Creek and Youth for Christ rally and at State Conf. ... Bethel group sat last exam of year ... 220 shared B.S. anniversary tea. 347 present at evening service where scholars presented musical messages.

TOS

LAUNCESTON (M. D. Hamilton, R. J. Allison). "Little Church" concept to be put into effect ... Family camp held at Bicheno attended by 78 ... Mrs Nelson re-appointed president of C.W.F. ... "Cobb & Co." night raised \$180 for C.W.E.F. funds ... Recognition service held when the service of older members was highlighted.

SO

BLACKWOOD (T. H. Giles). 300 attended a.m. service when Lloyd Cooke preached final sermon as Blackwood minister. New pipe organ in use for first time. Church lunch followed by special program and farewell gift to the Cookes ... C.W.F. held progressive dinner to farewell Shirley Cooke ... Arthur McRoberts to assist in preaching over the next two months ... Girls' Brigade celebrated 25 years in Blackwood with afternoon for past leaders and girls and

church parade with over 200 present ... Church family and friends' camp attracted 170 ... Missionary emphasis at evening service highlighted by display of sewing by Ladies' Guild for hospital at Duindui.

MAYLANDS (Chas Dow). Fellowship dinner held with Mrs Raye Evans, Indo China Refugee Association, speaker and goods donated to help refugees ... Mrs Julie Wenham, Convenor of U.C.A., Social Justice Commission sub-committee on Human Rights speaker at morning service ... Paul Lindus rode 34 km. in Heart Fund Cyclathon raising \$130 ... Dedication service held for Elders, board members, office bearers and functional committee members.

BORONIA (Harvey Miller). Conf. Pres. Ron Elbourne, speaker at Combined Eastern District C. of C. Worship Service ... Church School presented old-fashioned anniversary to celebrate 200th Anniversary of S.S. ... Y.P. raised \$200 for World Vision ... Geoff Edwards elected to Sherbrooke Shire Council ... Explorers participated in evening service on Boys Sunday ... Anne McIntosh graduated as nurse ... Church saddened by death of Bert Amor.

WARRAGUL (B. Crowden.) George Warren, field office, Dept. M.E.D. recent speaker ... Laurie Needham showed films on recent trip to P.N.G. Laurie endeavouring to obtain parts required for motor etc., used on mission stations ... Gospel tea held ... Nigel Pedersen gained apprenticeship.

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Applications, which close on November 9th, to be made in writing to the

Executive Secretary,
Rev. Murray Allen,
Victorian Council of Christian Education,
100 Flinders Street,
MELBOURNE, VIC. 3000

nsw

GEORGETOWN. Barry Reid commencing ministry in February . . . Pulpit ministry has been shared among local men over last six months . . . Two reconsecrations and two initial decisions . . . Church continuing to support Mareeba . . . Friendship centre providing activities and hot meal each Thursday to about 50 pensioners.

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NOV. 2-9

Guest Speaker — Dean Hamilton
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Sunday, Nov. 2. Theme —

"Reflections"

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

Sunday, Nov. 9. Theme —

"Life begins at 40!"

10.30 a.m., 7 p.m.

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3216
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WARRAWONG (Ian Richer). Many attended Fed. Conf. Sunday rally and Monday family day . . . Local churches combined rally with Fred Nile in Pt. Kembla R.S.L. . . . Special services included World Convention with Gers family — Lane Cove, film service, youth service, audio-visual created by Adventure Time and World Communion service . . . Lead up to a mini crusade with Rita and George Galieh for 30th anniversary.

INVERELL (R. A. Powell). Church celebrated 75th anniversary with dinner for 96. Lyall Wylie, past minister, guest speaker for weekend . . . Y.P. from Lismore held exchange visit where Jim Muir and Country Way musical group featured at rally . . . C.W.F. held meeting and luncheon for annual visit of State Pres. Maralyn McDougall . . . Bible Society rep. Colin Rodda recent visitor after Sat. night rally in Baptist church . . . Y.P. held bike hike to Tingha.

CHATSWOOD (D. Hayman) D. Hayman has accepted extension of ministry for three years with an option for

a further three years . . . Elders held all day planning session for 1981 . . . Sympathy extended to Mr Ferguson and family on the death of Mrs Ferguson.

ASHBURTON (K. Ridge, P. Clayton). A.B.M. held after lunch at church. Appreciation expressed to F. S. Robinson, retiring Secretary . . . Companionship Centre commenced in June to provide friendship to lonely people. Attendances increasing. Special Days — German Day, Non-al wine tasting, craft work in ceramics . . . Ron Brooker. Conf. Pres. Elect., speaker at 40th Anniversary Service. Past members and visitors entertained for lunch during which Keith Ridge interviewed R. A. Strongman on the church beginnings and Ron Brooker on the World Convention.

SERVICETON (P. D. Bowers). Overseas Missions offering special effort for Harvest Thanksgiving raised \$116 . . . Sit-upon held at homes of members raised \$164 for Overseas Missions . . . Planning for 50th anniversary celebrations on March 22, 1981, under way.

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PORT FAIRY (H.A.L. Clark) Recent signs of growth . . . Monthly family services held . . . New seating and electronic organ purchased . . . Church to share support of Robyn and David Harmer in N.G. . . . Visit by C.O.B. student . . . Praise Night shared with Warrnambool C. of C. Band . . . Dr R. Brough recent speaker . . . After-church cuppa regular feature after 2 p.m. services.

NUNAWADING . Springfield Rd. (E.C. Keating, P.B. Burnham, C.H.J. Wright) 110 people attended opening of renovated chapel at Springfield Rd., result of many working bees. Mal Wakefield brought greeting from Surrey Rd. and Clive Ward represented Conf. Exec. Morning tea served by C.W.F. group . . . 50 attended S.S. barbecue lunch at Antonio Park.

THE PATCH (Tom Frazer). Recent speakers Tim Hanna and Frank Richards . . . Parent and child dedication service held . . . Certificate of honor presented to church by William Anglis Hospital in recognition of support given . . . Faith Smith showed slides of her stay in India at recent evening service . . . Church and S.S. combined for family service . . . George Warren speaker.

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TOWNSVILLE'S 50th



Photo of those sharing in Townsville's 50th anniversary celebrations on August 10. From left to right:- F. L. Ewers (Principal — Kenmore), Roger Wall (Minister), Norm Watson (Qld. Conference President), Alan Weedon (Past Minister) and Frank Beale (Past Minister — Director of Christian Education, Queensland).

TAS

HOBART (G.E. Powell, J.D. Morrow). Planned Giving Program held with Ian Tippett, Dept. M.E.D., included family dinners at both centres and visual presentation of development of Howrah Centre ... Youth Leadership Training Seminar for Southern Tas churches held at Collins St. with Jeff Deuble of Dept. M.E.D. ... Board implementing ideas gained at Church Leaders Seminar held at Bicheno ... Presentation of large-print Bible to Basil Golder on retirement as Elder ... Young Adults Christian Endeavour group formed at Howrah and Youth Study Group program commenced to complement existing youth groups ... Ladies met for tea and evening program to celebrate W.C.W.F. birthday ... Robert Colman, George McCardell and "Howrah Singers" recent musical guests at Sunday evening Good News Hours ... Tony and Margaret Williams and Rod and Jeanette Foster and families planning to commence studies at C.O.B. next year.

OLD

CHINCHILLA-HOPELANDS (E. Dining). Youth Group went to Eidsvold ... H. Christensen and Ken Warne showed pictures of Vanuatu ... Western Districts Fellowship held at Hopelands had fellowship tea on Saturday night, followed by a Rally. 16 attended Communion

Service on Sunday ... Barry Thygesen, Dalby recent speaker. Basket luncheon followed by sharing time. Qld. Conf. Pres. Norm Watson and his wife present ... C.W.F. State Pres. Mrs. Connie Roberts, and some ladies of the Exec. spoke on work on C.W.F. committees.

KINGAROY (L. Carter). Teaching ministry held with Alan Catchpoole of Capernwray Fellowship ... 17 Y.P. travelled to Bundamba for Youth Exchange ... Minister convened local Family Life Seminar ... Tape ministries valuable ... Recently formed Junior Youth Group ... Craig Eelem at Bible College and Cathy Hine completes Diploma this year ... Minister concludes term of ministry at end of the year.

TOWNSVILLE (R. Wall). 50th Anniversary visitors included Conf. Pres. Norm Watson, Kenmore College Principal, F.L. Ewers, guest speaker and former ministers, A. Weedon and F. Beale ... Baptism of father and daughter ... Missionary c'tee plan special services to launch Faith Promise program with Frank Beale, Director of Christian Education, as speaker.

HAMILTON (Russell Wesley). Minister interviewed on 3HA about Marriage Preparation Course for local community ... Netball team formed ... Play Group held bus trip to farm, fashion parade and coffee morning with Mrs Margaret Broad speaking ... Open Air Campaigners led gospel service which was combined with Baptists and Salvation Army ... C.W.A.F. casserole luncheon speaker was Mrs J. McNeice. Ladies from Warrnambool, Horsham, Portland and Ararat attended ... Minister and 10 members attended forum on "Wake Up. Lucky Country".

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

\$2.00 for 25 words, plus 8c each additional word

BIRTHS

HOLMES-BROWN (BRYANT). Judy and Roger praise God for the safe arrival of Lisa Maree at Lincoln, New Zealand on Oct. 4th. First grandchild for Evelyn and Jack Bryant, Ararat.

HURREN (SIZE). Stella and Ron welcome with love Katie Elizabeth born at Pakenham 8th Oct. Sister for Sarah and Tania.

MITAXA (DRAYTON). Judy and Noel thank God for the safe arrival of Simon Douglas at Portland Hospital on September 30. Brother for Danielle and Christine.

MORFFEW. Geoff and Lynn welcome with love Jonathon Kurt, born 7th October, Hobart. A brother for Mark and Brent.

ENGAGEMENTS

CROWLEY — McALLISTER. Dr and Mrs Keith Crowley of Marion, S.A., and Mr and Mrs Don McAllister of Edwardstown, S.A., are happy to join in announcing the engagement of Alison and Mark.

PRINCE — PYE. Leanne and Kevin together with their parents June and Rex Prince and Joan and John Pye announced their engagement on the 8th October.

APPROACHING MARRIAGE

OAKES — BACKHOLER. Beverley and Jim will be married at Frankston Church of Christ, Victoria on 25th October, 1980, at 4 p.m.

SIMPSON — FOSTER. Judy and Ian will be married at Darwin Church of Christ on Saturday 6th November at 4 p.m.

90th BIRTHDAY

RAYMOND (Roy). Members of the family of Roy Raymond of 80 Swan Road, Attadale, 6156, W.A., are pleased to inform his many friends that he celebrated his 90th birthday on October 1.

DEATH

FLAX — Ron. On September 7, dearly loved husband of Rachael, loved and loving father of Adrian and Debbie. Treasured memories.

IN MEMORIAM

BUCKINGHAM. A tribute to the memory of our beloved parents: mother, Florence, called home Oct. 29, 1978; father, Alec, Oct. 29, 1957. Late of Caulfield, Victoria. "Some day, some time, our eyes shall see. Those faces kept in memory; Some day their hands shall clasp our hand. Just over in the Morning Land."

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Sunday 9th November

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Service 10 a.m.

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TUESDAY, 25th NOVEMBER, 1980

at 7.15 p.m.

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27th ANNIVERSARY SERVICES

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 16th

11.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m.

Mr. Clive Ward, Conference Secretary, will be guest preacher at both services. Special guest singers will add to the inspiration of the evening service.

A basket tea will be shared at 5.00 p.m.

Past members are especially invited to attend to renew friendships. If you would like luncheon hospitality please contact the secretary, John West, on (03) 233 3803.

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DISCIPLESHIP

● Kim Butterfield, Catherine Whan, Epping, N.S.W.
● Anna Leith, Madeline Wray, Surrey Hills, Vic.
● Kellie Dean, Tracey Miles, Wayne Miles, Darren Miles, Karen Bromham, Michelle Brisbane, Giselle Brisbane, Jan Watkinson, Dale Watkinson, Shepparton, Vic. ● Heather Morrison, Mrs Lorna Hack, Blackwood, S.A. ● Ross Povey, Perth, W.A. ● Mr and Mrs C. Bangundol, Northcote, Vic. ● Tracey Wills, Kylie Wills, Kim Mitchell, Jill Mackley, Horsham, Vic. ● Joanne Stroud, Parkdale, Vic. ● Sue Surrige, Des Love, The Patch, Vic. ● Murray Wiedon, Margaret St., Toowoomba, Qld. ● Mrs Libby Cooper, Peter Forrest, Mrs Elaine Tree, Debbie Tree, Nina Tree, Hobart, Tas.

MARRIAGES

● Jan Hutchinson to Ilkka Tiitinan, Box Hill, Vic.
● Dot Tant to Stanley Collins, Lindy Davies to Peter Lawrence, Robyn Ralph to Simon Dawes, Epping, N.S.W. ● Janette Brown to Andrew Gillis, Forestville, S.A. ● Mary Ann Stewart to Gary Clark, Waragul, Vic. ● Carol Robinson to Ian Gray, Thornleigh, N.S.W. ● Elaine Farrar to Rex Frecklington, Shepparton, Vic. ● Jennifer Coin to Mark Henley, Blackwood, S.A. ● Ann Plowright to Leonard Hawker, Horsham, Vic.
● Karen Horne to Eric Pickering, Margaret St., Toowoomba, Qld. ● Wendy Pieper to Stephen Wrigley, Taree, N.S.W.

DEATHS

● Mrs. Maureen Diggins, Mrs Lena Helen Holt, Chinchilla, Qld. ● Mrs Roma Simpson, Miss Dorothy Howard, Kensington Park, S.A. ● S. Jacques, Shepparton, Vic. ● Oliver G. Potter, Launceston, Tas. ● Mrs Ferguson, Chatswood, N.S.W. ● Mrs Ada Jean Norling, Taree, N.S.W. ● Mrs Eliza Harrold, Charles Neville Adermann, Margaret St., Toowoomba, Qld. ● Mrs F. Chriss, Ormond, Vic.

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GEORGETOWN — Secretary: G. Taggart, 50 Lowry St., Cardiff, N.S.W. 2285.

NORTHCOTE — Secretary: Ray Blackeby, Unit 1, "Peppercorn Drive" 33 McLean St., West Brunswick 3055. Phone (03) 386 3292.

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

WOLLONGONG: Wollongong Singles Society (042) 28 4342.

PORT PIRIE: The Singles Club (086) 32 2435

BRISBANE: Gleneagles Singles (07) 379 9122

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

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

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SO

BORDERTOWN (Barry Reid) A.B.M. held . . . S.S. anniversary held with Channel 10 personality Dean Davis guest speaker at afternoon and evening services . . . Family tea and concert held. Donations and trading table sales of \$100 raised to support Pandrinath, an Indian man supported by church.

MODBURY (K. Fechner). Four elders elected for specific ministries in pastoral care, outreach, new families, and developing spiritual gifts . . . Three deaconesses set apart for hospital ministry . . . Bill Wilson accepted for C.O.B. next year . . . Family learning sessions substituted for B.S. for a period during holidays . . . Keith Fechner to exchange ministries with Glenn Johnston from Wyoming, U.S.A. for 12 months in 1981-1982 . . . Church negotiating purchase of five acres of land near centre of local commercial area . . . Trash and Treasure raised \$716 for building appeal.

KENSINGTON PARK. Darrell Thoday has extended term of ministry (part-time) to end of 1981 . . . Church saddened by death of two members, Mrs Roma Simpson and Miss Dorothy Howard . . . S.S. forced to close. C.W.F. and fortnightly Bible studies only regular activities . . . Outreach to lonely in the area attempted through Acts Int. leaflet and follow-up letter inviting to a discussion meeting in the church hall.

HENLEY BEACH (Don Sonsee). Good News Weekend guest speaker Paul Burnham from Nunawading, Vic. Friday evening began with music by Singout. Saturday program included a men's breakfast, ladies morning tea, and family dinner. Sunday saw a family worship and communion service, Barbara Turner soloist. Evening celebration service included music by Freed, and praise tune led by Paul Burnham. There were two decisions and five rededications. Others sharing in the program were Leigh Hatcher of 5 DN, Bob Randall, local member for Henley, Sister Mary, who cares for people and soloist, Wendy Cameron.

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VIC

BORONIA (H. Miller) Y.P. raised \$200 for World Vision . . . Series of spiritual growth meetings held . . . Musical "Noah" presented by Knoxfield church . . . After church family barbecue held at Churchill Park . . . Geoff Edwards elected to Sherbrooke Shire Council . . . C.Y.F. conducted recent evening service . . . Conf. Dept. leaders Fred Combridge and Ian Allsop addressed morning services . . . Church school presented old-fashioned anniversary to celebrate 200th Anniversary of S.S. Movement . . . Evening services now 7 p.m. . . . Church saddened by death of Bert Amor.

PORTLAND (N. Mitaxa) Y.P., ladies and Jeff Deuble took services while minister on holidays. Jeff met with board members over tea on Saturday night . . . Church had visit from College students Saturday night with informal evening, and taking morning service . . . Several members involved in K.Y.B. studies . . . Combined services for fifth Sunday . . . I.O.R. church parade.

HAMPTON (T. Hanna, D. Morffew). Mini-mission weekend included coffee shop with Covenant Players, Vic Campbell of Fusion, family fun night, speaker Keith Farmer. Sunday morning speaker Roger Ratten, C.M.A. church and gospel service with Jeff Deuble and Steve Ashley . . . Two youth camps . . . A.W.F. coffee morning, speaker Mr Giles, Bible Society . . . Speaker from Jewish Evangelical Witness, Jeanette Packer, C.M.A. Church, film night, pulpit exchange with Tom Frazer, The Patch.

OAKLEIGH (C.J. MacKenzie). Evening services now 7 p.m. . . . Reports of World Convention shared by nine members who were present . . . Guest speaker, Ivan Bell, screened film on Christian witness behind iron curtain . . . Tom and Sylvia Weir (former minister) resumed membership now residing at Emmaus

Lodge, Murrumbena . . . Ladies conducted recent morning service to celebrate World C.W.F. Silver Anniversary. Australian representative, Gladys MacKenzie, speaker and Kath Maydon presided . . . Annual Jewels and Junk raised \$1300 for missionary project, North Dandenong.

YORK ST., BALLARAT (D. Gurney, L. Martin); Fred Magbanua (Director of Far East Broadcasting Comm.-Philippines) spoke at combined Ballarat C. of C. dinner . . . John Liu Principal of Banmatmat Bible College spoke at combined rally . . . 87th church anniversary celebrated with Gordon Stirling speaker . . . Len Martin accepted call to minister at The Patch in 1981 . . . Family and Children's Ministry seminar held by Dept. M.E.D. 40 S.S. teachers and leaders attended . . . \$160 raised for set of Bibles for S.S. . . . Concrete driveway completed by working bee.

MARYBOROUGH (K. Haythorpe). Don Grant and family have commenced a part-time faith ministry with the church . . . Annual meeting held . . . B.S. teachers writing own material based on prayer and scripture . . . Elders meeting fortnightly for prayer and discussion . . . Growth of 10% by first confession and 10% by re-dedications . . . Lynton Smith and Shirley Weise leading Joy Club.

DAWSON ST., BALLARAT (G.L. Chapman). Gospelaire singing group came together again after 10 years and sang at both services . . . Changing Moods from Melbourne took evening service . . . Bus load of Y.P. visited snow . . . Church saddened by sudden death of Mrs Grace Warren . . . Family worship talent money to be used for new work in Darwin and mission work in Africa . . . C.W.F. Council held meeting at Dawson St. chapel to encourage country women to attend.

KANIVA (Pam Bowers). Six elective groups held in homes . . . C.W.F. N.W. District Conference held at Kaniva with Helen Banks as speaker. \$48 raised for Golden Bag. Ruth Houston, Country Rep., also spoke . . . Musical service

held at 5 p.m. with tea following . . . Judy and Les Wheaton to manage store at Fitzroy Crossing for U.A.M. for five months . . . Miss Ivy Rowe reported on World Convention . . . Sit-upon at Serviceton raised \$164 for Overseas Missions . . . Four C.O.B. students visited on deputation . . . Symbol for letter heads and church news in use . . . One re-dedication.

NORTHESSSENDON (Robyn Schaefer). Church involved in packing showbags. Over 100,000 packed this year . . . Parent dedication service held . . . A.W.F. held outing to Customtone Kitchens . . . Young wives held morning coffee at Jan Pebbles home . . . Play group growing . . . S.S. active and growing.

BOX HILL (S. Downie) C.W.E.F. held concert . . . Under 13 and Senior Football teams held presentation nights . . . C.W.A.F. working bee made bon bons for Hospital Visitation Committee . . . Y.P.C.E. speaker David Treloar. Also had camp at Adanac Lodge . . . Young Marrieds visited National Gallery . . . Film Shown at evening service . . . Robyn Wigney interviewed concerning recent trip to Indonesia and Vera Clare interviewed re participation in World Conv . . . Visiting speaker John Edwards, Melbourne City Mission. Soloists — Helen Price, Joy Newman. **STAWELL** (Peter Mathews). Visit by Greg and Jeff Deuble preparatory to November Mission . . . 20 Good News Bibles purchased with proceeds from cake stall . . . Vacation B.S. held . . . Fortnightly fellowship teas in homes . . . Church now supporting a full-time ministry . . . Planning under way for 75th anniversary next year . . . Church concert held . . . C.W.F. joined Ararat to hear Gladys MacKenzie speak on World Convention.

SURREY HILLS (Ken Wray). Celebration of 90th anniversary led by former members. Singing by Elizabeth and Mika Deslandes, speaker was C.H. J. Wright . . . Congregation co-operating in Regional Church planning . . . Two Y.P. baptised.

DIRECTORY OF FEDERAL CONFERENCE

39th CONFERENCE, ADELAIDE, 1982

COUNT IT ALL JOY

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Ambrosia by Chris Ambrose

JOSEPH JUSTUS

Joseph Justus (also known as Barabbas) is known only because he was the loser of a ballot. He lost out to Matthias for the place of replacement for Judas Iscariot as one of the Twelve. This is outlined in Acts 1:21 ff. This is the only time we hear of this man in the New Testament. Even traditions hardly mention Joseph Justus and so we can say very little about him.

This column was written on the Sunday evening following the Federal elections. Congratulations should go to Malcolm Fraser and the Liberal and National Parties for their win. As the results were still uncertain one would hope that the results in the Senate would not cause chaos in our government. We pray that whoever wins the control they will use that control wisely and to the benefit of Australia not just to the benefit of sectional interests.

At this time I guess that we should spare a thought to the many gallant losers. They make a democracy possible.

What about our churches? We pride ourselves on the democratic way in which our churches are run. Yet often we are afraid that if we have an election that someone will be upset if they do not gain the confidence of the church members. The other extreme often is that there are not enough willing to stand for positions and so someone is pressganged into the job.

Are our churches really democracies or do we operate under some other form of government. In the Old Testament there was tension present when the monarchy was set up. Many held that Israel should only be ruled by God

(a theocracy) and yet many wanted the type of government of the surrounding countries. In many cases the monarchy was a just and beneficial rule but in many others it was the complete opposite. From the books of Kings and the Chronicles those governments that were judged as good occurred where God was honoured by the king.

In the New Testament there are some examples of church government that appear to be democratic (e.g. the appointment of the seven in Acts 6). At other times there appears to be a more hierarchical form of government with people like Paul appearing to put Timothy in charge of certain churches.

One wonders how often the leadership of our churches look at the real abilities (gifts) of their members and then directly appoints that person to use those abilities. In many cases we don't know our own people well enough to know their gifts. In other cases we may be faced with the delicate task of replacing a person with a task with a person who has gifts in that area. We don't wish to offend and so no move is made. (I don't know of any actual people like this but could envisage this happening in the musical area of the church).

How many in our churches are like Joseph Justus. People who know Jesus Christ personally and are willing to share the news (gospel) that they know even if they are not thought worthy enough to hold important offices in the church. If it were not for these people we would have no church but just individuals worshipping in their own way. Let us pray for both those who lead in the churches and those who follow because we need both for a strong growing church today.

THE LAST WORD

One cannot conceive of emptiness
Until God reclaims his gift.

Tombstone of Samuel Smithson

Help us to walk so close to Thee
That those who know us best can see
Our lives agree with what we say
And Christ is real from day to day.

★ ★ ★

"Waiter, these oysters are small."

"Yes, sir."

"And they don't appear to be very fresh."

"Then it's lucky they're small, isn't it, sir?"

★ ★ ★

Insurance Adjustor: "We won't pay you any money, but we will replace your car."
Car Owner: "Well, that's all right in this case; but if that's the way you do business, I want to cancel the policy on my wife."

★ ★ ★

The movie was a story of the French Revolution, movingly depicting the hardships of the average family.

One emphatic lady, however, refused to be moved.

"It doesn't make sense," she announced to her companion, and at least half the theatre audience. "If they were so poor, how could they afford all that beautiful antique furniture?"

★ ★ ★

Personnel Director: And how many words can you type a minute?

Would-be Typist: Big or little?

★ ★ ★



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