

THE  
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 CHRISTIAN**

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 THE MANSE**

★ ★ ★

**THE KOALA  
 AND THE BEAR**

★ ★ ★

**AID  
 APPRECIATION**

● Overseas Mission

Kay Williams, Missionary teacher serving with the Conference of Churches of Christ in the New Hebrides was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Hebrides New Year Honours. The Federal overseas Mission Board, on behalf of the Brotherhood congratulates Kay on receiving this well deserved recognition.

Miss Williams first went to the New Hebrides in 1964 and taught at the Ndui Ndui school for seven years. She has since taught at the Londua School for eight years. It is for her outstanding work in the sphere of education that Kay was awarded the B.E.M. In addition to her school work, Kay is actively involved in youth camps, Girl's Brigade, Vacation Bible Schools, etc. She is Chairman of the Missionary Care Committee and is assistant Conference secretary.

As a Brotherhood we are indebted to Kay Williams for her dedicated ministry in the New Hebrides and are appreciative of the recognition she has received.

**KAY WILLIAMS B.E.M.**



**CHURCH STATION  
 TOPS SYDNEY  
 RADIO RATINGS**

The final McNair-Anderson ratings for Sydney radio for 1979 brought good news for 2CH. It came out as the most listened-to Sydney station for the first time in its history.

Seven years ago 2CH was at the bottom of Sydney ratings. Today it enjoys a clear lead over its nearest competitor.

On Sundays, 2CH maintains its number one position, demonstrating that Good Music and Good News mix and mix well!

2CH's licence is held by the Council of Churches in NSW, a unique partnership in Australian broadcasting, with AWA, which operates the station.

Much of the success of 2CH has been its policy of Good Music, well-known tunes both evergreen and contemporary, and never raucous.

Also it has limited the amount of advertising it carries. Anything which does not meet the 2CH standards has either to be rewritten, re-recorded or it is rejected.

The People to People Counselling Service conducted by The Rev. Doug Isan is filling a great need and co-operates closely with existing helping Agencies.

Roger Bush broadcasts regularly on Sunday nights between nine and midnight.

2CH News does not broadcast the results of gambling, lotteries, Lotto, the Pools or horse racing. Yet its news, compiled by a staff of distinguished journalists, is the most respected in Sydney. It is supplemented with comments from Adrian McCabe on finance, Rob Chalmers in Canberra and John Pearce in Sydney.

A number of 2CH Christian segments are published and available to listeners, so the spoken word is backed up by the written.

The Leighton Ford broadcasts are available in booklet form, along with "Prayers for the Hospitalised".

Graham Hardy has published "Just a Minute" and "Another Minute Please". The latest book is "Have a Good Day", the earliest spot heard each morning on 2CH.

**KAMPUCHEA**

No tears left!  
 Dry eyes ache with the hurt  
 Of sights obscene and hideous  
 As humans spit their venom  
 On their fellows!  
 Humans — like you and me  
 Being ripped apart by greed and  
 Spite and all the rotteness that —  
 Long ago — staked that Other Man on  
 The gaunt tree.  
 That Other Man — the Man For Others  
 Who agonises in the parched paddy  
 Fields of Asia — which lie bare —  
 Unplanted — unattended. While  
 Farmers and their families decay in  
 Some distant hovel camp — unwanted.  
 How can you cry when too many  
 Needles of pain and hurt have  
 Immunised against caring — anymore?  
 For mark my word — that Other Man  
 Is there! — and still the words —  
 'You do to them — you do to me!  
 And all askew his body writhes  
 In crucifixion!

— L. Cooke,  
 (Blackwood, S.A.)

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# ON MY MIND

## MORALE IN THE MANSE

— R. V. Smith

Bob Smith is Associate Director of the N.S.W. Social Service Department. His training, his work and his capacity for observation give authenticity to this writing on this subject.

The recent published book "Plight of the Australian Clergy" (Blaikie) has activated many dormant anxieties. The book presents some alarming statistics. Churches of Christ have on average the youngest ministers and the highest percentage leaving the ministry. Churches of Christ ministers as a whole rated lowest in terms of contentment and confidence and highest in their degree of frustration and negative feelings towards the ministry.

These statistics raise questions that must be considered now and not relegated to the "too hard basket".

### LACK OF EMOTIONAL SECURITY

My own observations convince me that many of our ministers are having problems of identity and esteem, probably more so because they represent a relatively small and unknown church.

The problem though goes further than this. It has to be admitted that generally, the ministry is held in lesser esteem amongst out people than amongst members of other churches. In our endeavour to eliminate clergy/laity class distinctions we have sometimes been guilty of antipathy to the concept of a professional ministry.

It may be argued that professional status should be of little significance to those called of God. However, a minister's very humanity requires such acceptance if his personal identity and self-esteem are to be adequate. Furthermore such texts as 1 Tim. 5:17 indicate that the New Testament Church afforded such recognition.

### LACK OF JOB SECURITY

Another identifiable problem is lack of security. Most people can expect to remain employed unless they do something drastic enough to cause their dismissal; or their employer's fortunes necessitate retrenchment.

This is not the case in the ministry. Our "call system" provides no guarantee of employment beyond the specified place and duration of the call. As most ministers have no home of their own to return to, they are doubly at risk when the ministerial employment situation is tight.

### LACK OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

I see this factor as potentially more demoralising than the salary factor. But it is interesting to note some comments from a paper presented to a Conference of Economists at La Trobe University in August 1979 which drew attention to the "relatively low accumulated assets of most Church of Christ ministers (in N.S.W.), their low rate of annual savings, the fact that most ministers envisage that they will be unable to provide for a home on their retirement, the significant shortfall of the conference recommended full-time salary rate plus housing allowance below the level of average weekly earnings, and the higher rates of salary paid to ministers by churches of most other denominations."

### LACK OF FAMILY SECURITY

It is obvious that many ministers are under considerable pressure from their families. The cumulative effects of "living in a goldfish bowl", a migratory existence and occupying other people's houses are feelings that vary from mild annoyance to outright bitterness. Most ministers' wives I know have at least one story like, "The officers used to joke about how they bought the manse curtains from St Vincent de Paul." Manse living

Cont. on p8.

Parkdale is a residential seaside suburb on Port Phillip Bay, approximately 22 km. south of Melbourne. Churches of Christ have ministered to the Parkdale and surrounding communities for the past 58 years but of recent times membership has declined.

It is with faith that the church joins with Bruce and Sharn Waldron and their two young children in their new ministry. Bruce is an exit student from C.O.B. Glen Iris and Sharn is a student at the College.

Parkdale's reporter to the "A.C." posed some vital questions for Bruce and Sharn:-

**Q:-** How can we, the church members best support you in your ministry, and how do you see that you can best support us?

**A:-** (a) By praying for us; by recognising that each one of a congregation has been given his/her own gifts for the building up of the church and by seeking out and utilizing those gifts; by loving us as you would have us love you in Jesus Christ.

(b) First, by seeking to know and understand you; second, by caring and being there; third, by supplementing your individual gifts with whatever abilities, gifts and skills Sharn and I possess.

## A NEW MINISTRY AT PARKDALE, VIC.



**Q:-** In this your first full time ministry, have you set for yourselves and us any immediate goals?

**A:-** Yes, for ourselves, to very quickly become acquainted with all the members and, for the church, to reach out to those

people who are in contact with the church, offering them the love of God, the love of our fellowship and the message of a living Christ.

**Q:-** How can we best get out into the community to reach people with the gospel of Jesus?

**A:-** Look for the needs of the community, examine your resources and then act a little beyond those resources in fulfilling the needs of the community.

**Q:-** Church growth has been a matter of Brotherhood attention, but it has had little effect on Parkdale. What do you see as the importance of a programme of Church growth?

**A:-** Church Growth is not just getting bigger numbers. It is also growing in readiness for God's task. The disciples, in their three years with Jesus were growing. But then, Church growth principles also help us to find direction and mission. This is their real importance. Numbers are a sort of bonus, not the object.

We have already experienced Bruce and Sharn's commitment to the Lord Jesus and enthusiasm for their task and we look forward to a time of renewal and deeper fellowship with each other in Jesus Christ.

## NEEDED — WOMAN MANAGER IN PAKISTAN

The Principal of the Kinnaird College for Women at Lahore, Pakistan, have written stating a need for a woman manager of a school dormitory for college women students. This position will be for a term of two or three years.

We have no details of the terms of employment but these could be obtained

by writing to:-  
Ms Mire Phailbus  
Principal,

Kinnaird College for Women,  
93 Jail Road,  
Lahore, PAKISTAN

## MORALE IN THE MANSE (From Page 2)

causes real inner conflicts and the effects of this are passed on to their husbands' ministries.

### WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

The direction I believe our churches have to take is to enhance full-time ministry in Churches of Christ as both a call of God and a career proposition. I see no contradiction between the spiritual and material concepts. We must develop an awareness that the ministry is worthy of the very best we have; and that someone, called of God, may see in it a life's work. There needs to be a sense of professionalism, in the best meaning of the word.

### BETTER THEOLOGICAL AND CAREER TRAINING

This type of concept comes both from the minister's own sense of call, and from the attitude of the Brotherhood as a whole. At the College intake level it will mean very high selection standards. It will involve the best theological training our resources can provide. I often wonder if we would not be better served by combining all our resources into one college for the training of ministers, rather than spreading them three ways.

Beyond this there should be some form of career development program, as is now common in most organisations with a professional staff.

### FAMILY WELL-BEING

We must give attention to problems of personal and family security. All the evidence points to the need for less mobility and greater stability. It is common knowledge that long term ministries provide church stability and growth. It goes without saying that a more settled existence would greatly enhance emotional and family security. A minister who is encouraged to think in terms of a long stay, and even to purchase his own home, will almost certainly have a greater commitment to that church and community than one who expects to move in 3 to 5 years. Furthermore, he would probably have a more contented wife and family, which in turn would affect the quality of his ministry.

In short, the gravity of the situation warrants another look at the question of ministry in Churches of Christ, and an honest evaluation as to whether our system is conducive to good morale and performance.

## AUSTRALIA DAY TENNIS IN W.A.

There was a record number of players at the W.A. Churches of Christ annual tennis day on January 28. 114 pairs entered in the different groups. The 20 courts at McCullam Park were fully occupied from 10 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. and spectator support was very good.

Players came from city and country churches with the highest entries coming from Nollamara and Warwick. Kevin Caulton, Director of the D.C.E., presented the trophies in his first task in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the D.C.E. work in W.A.

Winners for 1980 were Mens A grade:- C. Beavis and B. Spicer (Northam); Mens B grade:- R. Gregory and J. Bond (Thornlie); Ladies:- O. Shannon and J. Rogers (Dalkeith Rd); Mixed A grade:- D. Raymond and G. Raymond (South Perth); Mixed B grade:- R. Warnes and J. Butler (Nollamara); Junior Boys:- B. Spicer and P. Beavis (Northam); Junior Girls:- A. Christie and K. Johnson/Ferguson.

Special thanks to John McIntyre and Ron Richards for their Assistance.

— Graham Carslake

(This year, at the suggestion of the Editor, Wordtalk takes a new shape. Our prayer is that each edition will break some freshness from the Word of God.)

### WHERE TO FIND HOW MUCH YOU'RE WORTH

I have just read that in Hong Kong today there are ten thousand men and women and children in large immigration camps, areas where they are limited, confined and constricted.

Our family has always been keen on feeding birds and, like many of you, we put out food for birds on the back lawn. I came out the back door one day and saw our three boys had put crumbs around the back yard and set a big cage up on a stick. At the bottom of the stick they had a long bit of cotton which went around the corner where they were all hiding. All of a sudden, the stick went "snap", the trap came down and the sparrows were caught.

Now, are there some of you who feel a little bit worried because our sons are catching birds? Do you feel that?

### CONSIDER THE SPARROWS

Why is it that you feel more worried about the birds than you do about the ten thousand people in China? Are not human beings worth more than sparrows? Yet, in our mind we care more for sparrows than we do for humans.

Why do we get our values up the wrong way?

Now, lest you worry, the boys let the sparrows go but, unfortunately, the people are still in those immigration camps.

Why is it that we get more upset about sparrows than we do about other people? That is precisely what Jesus had in mind in that passage of Scripture when He said, "Consider the sparrows". The background of this passage is this: Jesus said, "Do not be hypocrites, do not live according to your fears, know that God loves you and cares for you. Now look at the sparrows. Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies?"

The interesting thing is, when you look at what Jesus said, that two sparrows are sold for one penny, five sparrows are sold for two pennies. How come? I'll tell you how come. The Jewish people were good businessmen and they gave a discount on a bulk order. There was one sparrow thrown in for nothing! Buy twopence worth and get five sparrows, not four.

Jesus said, "Are not you worth more than the fifth, worthless, discount sparrow that is thrown in for nothing?" That's the background to the passage, and if God cares for the fifth sparrow, the worthless one, if God cares for the sparrow for which there is no price, which is just a discount on a bulk order, does He not more care for you because you are of infinite worth to Him?

### WHY DO PEOPLE FEEL WORTHLESS?

Why is it that so many people put themselves down and do not think they have got any real sense of true worth?

When I looked at my Income Tax Return and worked out what I could claim for deductions, I can claim a whole lot for my car because I use that in my business, but when I look at what my wife's worth, I discovered that she is worth only \$500 according to the Income Tax Department.

The Income Tax Department, by writing down human value, is contributing to the idea that people are worth so little.

War is another terrible thing that depreciates human life. You only have to look at the television and you see people being slaughtered and machine-gunned in helpless little villages around the war spots of the world, and you will see how we depreciate human value.

The road toll depreciates human life. The atrocities in other countries, whether they be by black people like Idi Amin toward white people, or white people like us towards aborigines, depreciate people.

Jesus lifted up human beings and gave to us an idea that we, made in the image of God, were of supreme value and supreme worth. How much, I ask you, are you worth?

### HOW DO WE LOSE THAT SENSE OF SELF WORTH?

It starts off always with self abuse. The person who drinks too much, who eats too much, who smokes too much, who works too much, by abusing his own body, is saying it's not worth much.

Self abuse is always followed by self betrayal. That is, where you betray yourself from high ideals you once had, where you say, "Ah, well, it doesn't matter. Who am I? No one is going to see. Anyhow, what does it matter?"

After self abuse and self betrayal comes self condemnation. The person who condemns himself — "I'm just a hopeless failure" — is putting down his self worth.

After self condemnation comes self depreciation. This person says, "I never was much good. My dad always said I'd never make it. My teacher said I was stupid". The person who puts himself down like that is losing his own self worth.

The fifth and final step comes when a person has no sense of self worth left, and then it becomes self extinction. That is always the last step.

Life Line telephone calls come in eight hundred every week. Hundreds upon hundreds of people say "I'm useless, no good, I'm not worth anything, I'm better off dead. I've taken these tablets, or I'm going to slash my wrists, or I'm going to do this or that." Self extinction is the last step when we don't appreciate or love ourselves.

### WHAT THE PSYCHIATRISTS SAY

God can give you a new sense of dignity. Psychiatrists everywhere know that.

Eric Fromm, the great American psychiatrist, says, "If an individual is to learn to live productively he must first of all learn to love himself."

The psychiatrist, Macdougall, says, "The first thing to be done to help a man to moral regeneration is to restore his self-respect."

Jesus Christ came to help us understand our own true worth. How does that happen?

### ACCEPT

Accept who you are. God made you like you are. God wants you to be as you are — that tall, that wide, that smiling, or however you happen to be. Accept yourself as God's gift to you. What you become now is your gift to God.

### BELIEVE

Believe that God loves you and cares for you. God does not love you because you're a very valuable, worthy person, but because God loves you, you are valuable and you are worthy.

He gave His only Son to die for you. That's how much He values you. You are worth the life of Jesus Christ. Call no person worthless for whom Christ died.

### COMMIT

Commit yourself to a great cause, because when you commit yourself to a cause bigger than yourself you grow to be the bigness of that cause.

There is no greater cause in the world than the church, and when you join the church you are part of God's great cause and that helps you to grow and to be what God wants you to be.

There died just recently in America a beautiful negro woman who was born in a slum. One day her daddy took this negro girl and sat her on his knee. He said, "Honey, God cares for the sparrows, and He cares for you, and He loves you." Right from

(Continued on Page 9)

# SHARING MINISTRY ACROSS OUR DENOMINATIONAL BARRIERS

## Bevin Fist (Minister, St John's Uniting Church, Mt Waverley) ALREADY A COMMUNITY CHURCH

Back in February, 1978, the leadership of St John's Uniting Church, Mount Waverley (Vic.) decided to seek the services of a student from the College of the Bible to assist in some dimensions of ministry. The warm response of the Principal Dr Keith Bowes to the suggestion, and the experience of that year encouraged us to extend the one-day appointment to two days per week in 1979.

### MARK AND JAN DUNN

Mark and Jan Dunn came to us in February, 1979 with an opportunity to share in the preaching and pastoral ministry, and to do some experimental things which were not possible without them. A lay support group was established for the purposes of sharing in their work, helping them with resources, and generally offering an added dimension to the relationship with the Parish ministry.

### ST JOHN'S CHURCH

St John's is a congregation of 350 members in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, mainly comprising people in their middle and later years. The church has had a strong youth tradition, and is financially healthy. It suffers the usual middle class problems of lack of leadership in some areas, and while management is sound, "involvement" is a bit of a fear to most folk.

### PRESTIGIOUS LITERACY AWARD FOR SIL

The Papua New Guinea branch of the Summer Institute of Linguistics has been awarded the International Reading Association Literacy Award for 1979 by UNESCO.

The organizations that had been chosen were outstanding examples of devotion to the cause of literacy work.

The citation with the award to SIL recognised the PNG branch's "intensive activities during recent years in codifying, conserving and utilizing vernacular languages: its anthropological research . . . to gain a better understanding of the different populations and their cultures; the training of indigenes, and the production and distribution of vernacular teaching materials; and developing greater awareness among primary school teachers, incorporating vernacular languages in primary schools and encouraging adult education."

The institute is the sister organization of Wycliffe Bible Translators, and its linguistic, Bible translation, and literacy field workers are active in 38 countries on 700 of the world's 3000 to 3500 unwritten languages.

There are 130 Australians working with SIL in Papua New Guinea.

The other awards, the 1979 Nadezhda K. Krupskaya Prizes for literacy, went to the Supreme Council of the National Campaign for Compulsory Literacy of Iraq and the Popular Union of Peruvian Women.

I guess that the groundwork for an ecumenical encounter in ministry was set in the early days of this church, when it became a "community" congregation — named "Methodist", but comprising people of all denominational backgrounds.

Therefore the usual hassles that one might have expected never really happened. St John's enjoyed the experience of having a number of first-year students from the College spend a whole Sunday with them. I believe that we have been able to make a worthwhile contribution to the life of the College, as some of our Uniting Church insights on student support have suggested some new possibilities for the future.

### THE STUDENT CONTRIBUTION TO ST JOHN'S

Mark and Jan Dunn have brought us a dimension of ministry which has just not been available previously. I think this has been proved recently by the quite spontaneous youth attendance at the College Graduation, and the young people's desire to offer a tangible gift in recognition of their service. As well, there was a very strong view amongst the younger people that the appointment of a student should continue, as they identified readily with "their" minister, even though that was never a formal part of the job specification.

The need at times to struggle beyond our accepted denominational patterns, to share on both sides in ways of worship and in ideas, has been of tremendous significance, especially at this stage of the life of the Uniting Church, when we are trying to find ways of expressing our faith and life which will be valid for the present and the future.

I believe that this shared ministry, and the consequent relationships both for College and congregation, students and Parish Minister, has importance for the future. I am deeply committed to the belief that we are a "Uniting" Church, and that, as our symbol shows, one of our tasks is to continue to move towards that unity which Christ desires. I believe that this is a commitment of Churches of Christ, too.

One thing we have learned, already, in the Uniting Church, is that it has been a freeing, exciting experience to begin to understand what it means to find new ways, to move beyond set patterns, liturgies and ways of doing things. At least, that is our view at St John's, and we are excited by it.

### FAITH SMITH

We will welcome our new student Faith Smith when she comes this year. And if she has her natural fears about stepping across the boundaries into foreign soil and strange ways, we would want to assure her that we only anticipate it with the confidence of welcoming a sister in Christ.

## NEWS OF BRITISH CHURCHES OF CHRIST

Churches of Christ in Great Britain have been negotiating a basis of union with the United Reformed Church. When a vote was taken amongst the churches on the proposed basis of union, 50 churches were in favour of it and 27 against.

It was decided to dissolve the Association of Churches of Christ to enable the 50 to proceed with union and the 27 to form whatever association or associations they desired. The dissolution was undertaken with sadness, but with grace and good will by all parties.

### A NEW ASSOCIATION

On September 29, 1979 a conference of "continuing" Churches of Christ was called in the Great Francis Street Church. 30 churches were represented. Six others indicated a desire to be part of any new association that might be formed. It was agreed that the churches represented form the "Fellowship of Churches of Christ in Great Britain and Northern Ireland." A committee was appointed to work with the churches in creating a draft constitution for the new Fellowship.

### A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The conference expressed the purpose of the new Fellowship of Churches of Christ as follows —

1. We desire to be a movement seeking only to be Christian and not to adopt any sectarian designation, while fully

recognising that we are not the only Christians.

2. We desire to seek the unity of all Christians on the basis of the New Testament.

3. We desire to play a full part in the life of the Christian world in proclamation of the gospel, in mission and in co-operative relationships with all other Christians.

### THE UNITING CHURCHES

Dr David Thompson, President of the dissolving Association of Churches of Christ was an honoured fraternal guest at the conference and was given the opportunity to speak. Negotiations with the United Reformed Church are being continued by those churches which are still part of the Association of Churches of Christ in the Process of Dissolution.

### • Western Australia

#### BINNINGUP CAMP

Camp was held from Boxing Day to New Years Day with 48 young people and eight leaders involved.

The highlight was the worship happening led by campers in their group. David Murray (minister at Dianelle) rounding off the event.

Four young people made commitments to Christ during the camp. One day campers walked to the seaside for the baptism of one of the women campers.

— R. L. Baxter.

# TODAY'S

# WOMEN

## REPORT FROM QUEENSLAND

Despite an extremely hot day and a power strike, our breakup at Kingswood Park, in December was a happy occasion. Approximately 65 attended. The program included Carol singing, short talks on the work of missionaries in New Guinea by Marion Feldham and Win Beale, and solos and message from Camp Hill ladies. Their message was that Christ inspires trust and He can and does give his children peace. In all situations we can have peace which is His gift to us this Christmas.

E. E. Sheriff. Qld.



## LOVE OF THE RETARDED CHILDREN

A potato peeler and a bottle opener, still price-stamped in bold black figures — a rather unusual birthday present! Yet it was one of the best I've ever received, given with love by a retarded boy who had somehow discovered it was my birthday.

How interesting and challenging it is to learn from others. I discovered in my dealings with retarded children that they can teach many valuable lessons and provide plenty of food for thought.

With children such as the birthday gift boy and others much more severely retarded, the message that came across repeatedly was LOVE. Yes, even in the midst of disappointments and frustrations, love figured most prominently.

All we want to be loved and are eager for others to be interested in us. In this way most of these children are no different from the rest of us. Where they do outshine and in fact, completely outclass us, is in the giving of love. When they love there are no half-measures, so they often overdo the affection somewhat! But are we ever guilty of "underdoing" it? Do superior intellects sometimes get in the way of our being as the Lord would have us — motivated and controlled by love and actually living to love? With the capacity to love that these little ones exhibit, one can't help but ponder if, maybe, some of us are regarded by the Lord as retarded, particularly in the realm of loving.

"Simple-minded" is a derogatory term in the eyes of the world. Not so to our Lord — "I assure you that unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven".

In my contact with these children the privilege, the gain and the blessing were truly mine.

Dell McCulloch. Qld.

## A.C.T. REPORT

In a wonderful year under the leadership of Elsie Morton, our three Fellowships showed in friendship the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. We started with a Women's Praise Service.

Our Missions 'Cocoa Concert', an evening of talent and fun, raised \$300. A Men's Fellowship Dinner prepared by our women proved a success. Conference day was an inspiring experience. We honoured our Senior Ladies.

Greenhills Camp brought N.S.W. and A.C.T. ladies together in 'mountain top' experience.

1980 will, I know, bring us even closer together as we reach out to each other and to other women in His love and service.

P. Kerr. A.C.T.

## TASMANIA

Hobart ladies are involved in a weekly program recently created to assist migrants. It is called "Friends of all Nations". It is aimed at breaking down the feeling of isolation, feeling of being "different" and need of friendship. It is hoped to also change attitudes and outlook of the ministering church women.

P. Harrison. Tas.



## HOW COULD I HOLD OFFICE?

How many times have you heard women say, "How could I hold office?" when approached to take a position in local or state women's work? I have been guilty of such a statement, saying, "How could I hold office, I am not good enough, I would be too nervous, my family would suffer," and so on.

When approached, there are a few things to be remembered.

- (i) Women on Executive spend time in prayerful consideration before an approach is made, so we owe them the courtesy of also giving the idea prayerful consideration.
- (ii) A feeling of unworthiness does not exclude us from holding office.
- (iii) We ought honestly to count our capabilities.

Romans 12:3 tells us "Be honest in your estimate of yourself, measuring your value by how much faith God has given you". (Living Bible). We are not told to measure our unworthiness, but we are told to estimate our value by how much God has given us. When we take on a task He wants us to do, He will give us the power to carry it through for Him.

So next time we are approached to take office . . . Remember!

N. Ellement. W.A.

## REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM

Do you ever stop and wonder what has happened to the hundreds of Vietnamese refugees who survived the trip by flimsy fishing boat landing in Australia to start a new life? They are here in our midst, alive and well, and anxious to integrate as soon and completely as possible into our way of life. They are warm, friendly, trusting, loving intelligent people and are already adding elements of positive good into our way of life.

I met a business man the other day who said that his factory would be closed if it wasn't for the reliability of the Vietnamese working for him. These people are living amongst us in hostels and homes, their children going to school with our children, their adults working and living with us. What are we doing to help them live a full and satisfying life in Australia?

Churches are bringing them to services and meetings, helping with clothing, utensils, furniture and showing friendship and love. Our church has a Junior church staffed by School Teachers, for refugees' children, while the adults meet in the regular service. It is geared at teaching Christ and improving the children's English. Families are rostered to take Vietnamese children into their homes for a night and a day (at the request of their parents) so that they can obtain an impression of how we live.

One lady goes to C.A.E. classes to learn how to help these people with shopping, public transport, voting, and all the functions of our society with which they are unfamiliar.

It is a joy to see that the church is one of the first in accepting the responsibility of settling these people into our Community.

The Challenge is great, these people are responsive, they trust us. We can show them that Christ cares.

H. Mudie. Vic.



## ARE YOU STUCK FOR WORDS?

"If we wait till the time is ripe, we may wait till it is rotten".

"Cry the Beloved Country" by Alan Paton.

Have we waited too long in Kampuchea, Africa, Iran, in the Drug racket, Unemployment? Have these conditions become 'rotten' . . . beyond our help? Now is God's best time. Anytime is God's time.

# MUSTARD SEEDS

BY ALAN AUSTIN



The Russian invasion of Afghanistan is a gross violation of international law motivated by Russia's greed and inhumanity.

This was the response recently by a spokesman for Australia's Moslem community. Other religious spokesmen have issued similar condemnations.

Some Christians have interpreted Russia's moves as further evidence that the Russians indeed are the hordes of Gog pursuing their diabolical plot to dominate the world with a terrible atheistic dictatorship.

If only it were that simple!

Unfortunately the realities of our complex world time and time again prove such assessments to be naively simplistic. And as such they hinder forming a truly Christian response by precluding discovery of the truth.

The problem, of course, is seeking an informed response to these conflict situations is that Press ownership being as it is, hearing both sides of disputes fairly is virtually impossible.

Richard Barnet is a founder of the Institute for policy studies in Washington, USA. His books include: *Global Reach and The Giants: Russia and the United States*. A committed Christian, Barnet recently wrote for *Sojourners* magazine an article: "Lies Clearer than Truth" concerning the complexities and ambiguities of the Russian threat.

Copies of the article are available. Some extracts:

"The Soviet Union does indeed pose a threat to the United States. Any power that aims 2,500 nuclear missiles at our people is making and in-

tends to make a threat. It is the same threat which the United States in more diverse and more sophisticated ways has been making against the Soviet Union for a longer time . . ."

"The current version of the big lie used to justify massive nuclear missile production is that the Soviets are out to gain superiority over the U.S. The hawks warn that if present trends continue, the Soviets will have 'won' the arms race and will be able to dictate surrender."

"Talking about 'current trends continuing' is like observing in the midst of a spring rain that if it keeps up the Empire State Building will float away. The Soviets are not out to gain superiority. They are building to catch up. Every missile in the world not located inside the Soviet Union is aimed at the Soviet Union — those of China, Britain, France, as well as the United States. The only country in the world surrounded by hostile communist powers is Russia . . ."

"The Kremlin's worries about the United States are not based on vague historical analogies, but on painful experience. The United States participated in a military intervention in the Soviet Union after the Revolution 'to strangle Bolshevism in its cradle' as Winston Churchill put it. The U.S. conducted a 20-year quarantine of the Soviet Union which in part still continues."

"Looking from the Kremlin's window, a Soviet leader sees the fast development of a United States - West German - Japanese - Chinese alliance, a collection of historical enemies. He sees a resurgence of anti-Soviet

rhetoric and anti-Soviet politics in the United States. The Soviet leader listens to Senator Henry Jackson, who does not speak for himself alone, and he hears the message: We have nothing to negotiate with the Soviet Union."

Well, anyway, my assessment at this stage regarding Afghanistan is Russia deserves the strongest condemnation possible. Its justification for its actions — to the extent that we've been allowed to hear them — seems totally inadequate and unconvincing.

But at the same time, the other superpowers — principally America — deserve equally strong condemnation for operating foreign policies that put their own economic and strategic interests first and foremost, for their irrational fear and hatred of the Russians, for their interference and in the destabilisation of other nations, and for their part in the ever-escalating insanity of the arms race."

These assessments are held very tenuously, however, with the knowledge that in such matters there are powerful forces determining just how much, or, rather, how little we are allowed to know."

Finally, MS presents its own token gesture towards redressing the information imbalance: a quote from *Newsweek* by Mr Leonid Zamyatin, the chief Soviet foreign affairs spokesman:

"Ask yourselves: how would the government of the United States and the propaganda makers in America react if the Soviet Union came out with a five-year or ten-year program of military preparations designed to make the Soviet Union the 'mightiest military power in the world?' Or how would the United States react if the Soviet Union assumed the right to build-up and maintain a continuous chain of military bases around the United States, as is being done by the USA in relation to the Soviet Union? Why then should the United States discount the sensitivity of others? Or does President Carter believe that the Soviet Union, having lost 20 million dead in the last world war, has grown less sensitive to the danger from the outside?"

## JASON'S HOUSE

HOW THEY JUSTIFY INVADING ANOTHER COUNTRY AND IMPOSING AN UNWANTED GOVERNMENT I'LL NEVER KNOW! THE RUSSIANS SHOULD GET RIGHT OUT OF THERE AND LEAVE THEM ALONE..!

SO HOW COME YOU'RE AGAINST ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS HERE..?

### THAT'S DIFFERENT!



# OPEN FORUM

SUMMER SCHOOL OF MISSIONS

To the Editor

We are grateful for the opportunity of attending the eight day Summer School of Missions held at Longwood S.A. during January.

The programme was well put together with progressive thought for the presentation of the good news to whoever, wherever.

The sharing with mission personnel (past, present, and future) and members of Overseas and Aborigines Boards was a stimulating and encouraging time. The generation gap was bridged with teenagers to over sixties participating.

The "go" and "teach" is being undertaken by those on the fields, and we are privileged to share in prayer and support.

If any want a challenge and uplift of vision they should take the opportunity of attending such a Summer School of Missions.

— Lance and Enid Fisher (Melbourne, Vic.)

● Vic.-Tas.

## SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS SUCCESSFUL

Two camps for young people were conducted during the summer vacation by the Vic.-Tas. Dept. of Mission, Education & Development. The first, for those 16 years and over, was held over Christmas-New Year at Banksia campsite on Lake Victoria. The second was at Hall's Gap in the Grampians, for those 13-16 years. Over 50 campers attended each camp. However the blessing and benefit gained by the campers as a result of their experience was the true measure of success, and in both cases this was overwhelmingly apparent.

The Banksia camp was directed by Jeff Deuble, field director with the Department, with Ian Tippett leading the studies on the theme of "Christian Maturity" from the Book of Hebrews. Water recreational activities including swimming, skiing, canoeing, and sailing were appreciated in the warm and pleasant weather. An overnight hike and varied night social programme also added enjoyment.

Milton and Anne Oliver directed the Teens' Camp at Hall's Gap, while the studies were led by Jeff Deuble. The campers were treated to a wide variety of workshops and electives as well as recreational activities such as canoeing, horse and bicycle riding, abseiling, swimming, hiking, and bus touring.

## INTERCESSORS OF AUSTRALIA

The newsletter of "Intercessors of Australia" has come to our desk. Apparently they are very practical pray-ers. Their calls for prayer include the N.S.W. Police Commissioner (a Baptist) and his six assistants by name, the 21 member A.C.T.U. Executive by name, the conversion of Dick and Marie who publish a way-out sex magazine, and Barbara McKay who carries on her late husband's campaign against drug-trafficking. Their address is P.O. Box 95, Gordon, N.S.W. 2072.

8 (32)

## CHURCHES EXCITED ABOUT NEW ALL-AGE PROGRAM

Users of the new all-age program, *Growing Together*, were unanimous in saying that they would use the program again.

This was reported as part of an Australia and New Zealand wide survey, which included Churches of Christ, recently undertaken by the Joint Board of Christian Education to obtain information about the usefulness of the *Growing Together* Program.

Comment about the *Growing Together* Program was sought through telephone interviews with over 50 ministers in both city and country areas, through a mail survey involving over 500 persons including participants of all ages, leaders and ministers and through a number of group interviews.

Typical of the comments was that of the minister who wrote, "This is the most exciting aspect of church life in an aging congregation. It has brought people together in purposeful fellowship and is providing opportunities for nurture not previously available."

Besides this kind of comment, users said that the *Growing Together* Program was simple to use, enabled lay people to be involved in leadership and was 'just what we have been waiting for — keep it up!' Most said that the program would find a continued place in their congregational life as a special event on two or three occasions each year. A few said that they would like to use it more often.

Some participants had difficulty with the informality of the program or with the movement and noise involved. This was particularly the case in those congregations where the program was used to replace the usual worship service and not as the recommended separate learning program for use before the usual worship service.

(*Growing Together* Program kits are available from Church Bookshops or the Joint Board of Christian Education, 177 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000 or P.O. Box 6133, Te Aro, Wellington 1, New Zealand. Kits now available include *We Belong Together* (the introductory unit), *Holy-Week Easter*, *Pentecost* and *Holy Communion*).

## ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS

The Aboriginal Treaty Committee chaired by Dr. H. C. Coombs has been set up to work for a treaty between the Australian Government and Australian Aborigines, which once and for all will determine the question of land rights justly. The Aboriginal people are the only indigenes in the world who do not have a treaty with those who occupy land once held by them.

The Treaty Committee needs support, and donations may be sent to P.O. Box 1242, Canberra City, A.C.T., 2601. Each giver of \$5 or more will receive an illustrated book on the subject, entitled "It's Coming Yet."

## LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

### HOLY HUDDLES

To the Editor,

"Holy Huddles" is another in phrase at our church. It is used to describe serious minded people who are on about the latest exclusive answer to the problems of the church and the world and get into a group to distinguish themselves from other Holy Huddlers with different sets of world saving, church shaking ideas.

I've been doing some research into Holy Huddles. It seems that they all have one thing in common. That is, they have a consuming purpose about which they pray and make loud noises, and for which they carry banners and slogans, and concerning which they have endless meetings, but apart from that they never do much about it. In fact they seem to use the Huddle as a means of avoiding the centre purpose of the group while giving the appearance of fulfilling it.

I once belonged to an evangelical fellowship that never really got around to evangelism because it was so busy defending the only saving message. I once heard about a mission to Jews that never went near Jews because it spent all of its time talking to Christians about a sure way of convincing Jews by prophecy if ever they met a Jew. Our minister tells of a theological circle that spent all its time talking about God but never got around to talking with God.

I suppose that's the way with groups — even local congregations. We can be snug in our congregational Holy Huddle praying and talking about evangelism and compassion and justice, and grateful that our minister is representing us so well in fulfilling these essential functions of the church.

And now that small groups are the in thing, I wonder if they could possibly become a multiplicity of Holy Huddles clogging up the life of the church that they are supposed to be renewing.

Hoping that my Huddle is holier than thine!

TERTIUS

# THE KOALA AND THE BIG RED BEAR

Politics or no politics, it is too much to expect the "A.C." to keep silent about Russia's rape of Afghanistan. It would be like Isaiah to be silent about Syria and Jeremiah about Babylon.

## REPREHENSIBLE

There is no doubt that Russia's attack on her neighbour is reprehensible. The problem, of course, is that at least on the surface, it is not unlike what the U.S. and Australia did in Vietnam. That is moving armed forces into a country at the request of an unpopular minority government. But we are not expert in the field of international diplomacy and there must be some fine points of difference between the two that elude us. There has to be a difference because Australia would never be as culpable as Russia.

We wonder if Russia will find in Afghanistan another Vietnam, and if in due course the Russian bear will come crawling out of the mountains with its tail between its legs!

## MAKING THE PROTEST FELT

We express our support for the Australian government's strong protest against the invasion. We recognise the problem that ours and other governments have in making the protests felt at the Kremlin. We can understand the government's reluctance to interfere with our wheat and wool exports to Russia. Our primary producers have had it rough for so long that it should be wrong to deprive them of this year's bonanza of crop and clip. Also the ordinary Russian people who are innocent of their leaders' crime need to eat and to keep warm, although soldiers manning tanks and guns also eat bread and wear wool, especially in the high altitude of Afghanistan.

## WE HEARTILY AGREE

We heartily agree with the suspension of exports of such items as rifle that may be directly connected with the manufacture of weaponry. But we have problems with some of the other forms of protest.

## WORD TALK (From Page 4)

that moment she grew up to be a proud person, proud of the fact that God loved her and that Jesus Christ was her friend. She started to sing. She became an actress. She became a film star. She became a great singer. But all through her life Ethel Waters had one theme song that she sang over and over again:

Oh, I sing because I'm happy,  
I sing because I'm free.  
For His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.

Until we learn to love ourselves as people of dignity and worth for whom Christ died, we cannot love our neighbour, and we cannot love God. We are to love God and our neighbour as we love ourselves.

## ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES BUILD CHARACTER

### Murray Marathon

What's to be gained, apart from blisters, aching muscles and sunburn, from paddling a 400 km. stretch of the Murray over several days in oppressive heat? A lot, according to the 29 paddlers who comprised the Vic.-Tas. Churches of Christ Explorers team in the Red Cross Murray Marathon.

There is enjoyment and the personal development gained in working towards and striving for a set goal, and the satisfaction in attaining it. There is also a great deal to be learnt in living under difficult and adverse physical conditions. The Explorer team certainly experienced those, with eight of the 16 boats entered having to be withdrawn at some stage due to injury to crew, or a stomach ailment which afflicted the team. Still, they deserve full credit for their perseverance and in successfully gaining several placings in various classes. Top marks to the

land crew of 36 too, who helped and supported the team so ably.

The team raised \$4,675 for the Red Cross, this figure representing the highest donated by an organisation, and second highest overall.

### 1980 Trek

The 1980 Trek through the Bogong High Plains was probably the most physically demanding of any undertaken. But for the 32 young people who participated it was well worth the effort. They were blessed with spectacular scenery and a living adventure in the Australian out-of-doors, as well as a learning experience in teamwork, reliance, friendship, and practical "lived-out" Christianity.

The Treks have also provided a valuable means of contact and evangelism. Our congratulations to Jim Backholer, Graeme Woodhart, and the Adventure Committee for their great effort in organising the Trek.

— J. Deuble

The problem is that we have been conditioned from early childhood by the Bible, the church, and the Christian attitudes of love and goodwill and peace making, that it is not easy for us to adapt to the political concepts of retaliation and threats and sabre-rattling. It would appear to us that protest (and how strong it was in the U.N. Assembly) is right, but that closing lines of communication is unwise. We were going to say un-Christian, but Australia is not a Christian country.

## SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA

Our sanctions against Russia include a suspension of scientific and cultural relationships and a diminishing of tourism between the two countries. An example of this was the cutting short of our co-operation in cancer research, by sending away prematurely a Russian scientific ship. And then of course there is the attempted boycott of the Olympic Games. All of this weakens lines of communication of people with people, the surest way to peace.

The Christian tradition that has somehow got right into our bones makes me want to say, "Protest and embargo on the things of war must be clear and firm. But let us keep the lines of communication open, through sport, culture, science, tourism, conversation and the various ways in which there can be a real meeting between the people of the two nations". In other words, "Blessed be the peace-makers!"

## THE KOALA ROARS

And finally, it is good for the Koala to roar at the Big Red Bear, provided that the Koala is with the Eagle, the Lion and the Dragon. But what happens to the Koala in the future if the Big Red Bear remembers and the Lion, the Dragon and the Eagle are pre-occupied with other things?

If the history of Israel for 800 years before Christ teaches us anything, it is what happens to a small nation that puts its trust in big powers, rather than the Lord.



Ken Barrett, Darwin's first C.O.B. student

## NON-ALCOHOLIC OR NON-INTOXICATING?

What's the difference between non-alcoholic and non-intoxicating drinks?

A simple answer — "They are virtually the same". Most people would expect a drink that is labelled 'Non-Alcoholic' to mean free of alcohol but virtually every drink has a minute amount of alcohol particularly if the drink contains sugar. Two notable exceptions are pasteurized milk and water.

The minute amounts of alcohol are not likely to cause any harm as the liver can handle small amounts of alcohol.

To be called an alcoholic beverage, the beverage must have 2% proof alcohol or 1.5% alcohol by volume. Some wineries call beverages below these figures 'non-alcoholic', while others choose 'non-intoxicating'. We believe the wording 'non-intoxicating' is more correct as virtually all have minute quantities of alcohol.

— Alcohol Concern & Education

## APPRECIATION FOR AID to KAMPUCHEAN LAND REFUGEES

Australian Churches of Christ through C.O.C.O.A. (Churches of Christ Overseas Aid) the relief arm of Overseas Missions, are forwarding financial assistance to the Church of Christ in Thailand for relief programmes aid among Kampuchean land refugees.

The following expression of appreciation has been received from Victor McAnallen a Disciple of Christ missionary, who is the ecumenical officer for the Church of Christ in Thailand —

"Dear Brother McLean:

On behalf of the Church of Christ of Thailand and the land refugees from Kampuchea, as well as the displaced Thai at the border, we wish to express appreciation for your recent letter of January 2 with the enclosed bank cheque for \$4780.23. Will you please thank the Australian Churches of Christ for their contribution for this cause.

As of the end of the year 1979, over 3½ million Baht have been spent for such items as plastic bowls for food, vegetable oil, blankets, tinned food etc., through the Church of Christ in Thailand for the Kampuchean refugees. This comes to over \$175,000. Over \$5000 have been spent to relieve the Thai who have been forceably displaced from the border areas, most of whom have lost everything. The Church of Christ in Thailand is now moving to help in the supplying of building materials for these people."

'Skip' Dangers from the Disciples of Christ as the consultant for Relief services to Displaced Persons, has forwarded the following report —

### 'Update on Kampuchean Displaced Persons in Thailand

Recent days have shown a disturbing increase in fighting in the border areas. A

significant portion of the fighting is due to apparent internal power struggles among the various border concentrations. As the fighting continues and as the border situation becomes more unstable, again the likelihood of large numbers of Kampuchians crossing into Thailand becomes more of a possibility.

Approximately one week ago a major border incident was reported in the Bangkok Post. Internal power struggles had led to an incident which left more than a dozen people dead and many more wounded. In addition to the casualties, the ICRC hospital was burned down. During this incident more than 5000 Kampuchians are reported to have fled into Thailand.

Today's newspaper (January 7-1980) reports an even more serious incident which has uprooted an estimated 200,000 Kampuchians from their temporary camps on the border, just inside Kampuchea. Of this 200,000 it is reported that approximately 50,000 have entered Thailand and those people are 'strung out along the border inside Thailand'. The press reports that there are 6000 new entries into the Khao I Dang Camp from this serious incident.

Due to the problems on the border now from this fighting, some relief officials are predicting that Khao I Dang's population will increase to more than 100,000 within the next 7 days.

As the situation deteriorates, there will be the emergencies as usual. Thus the unique role that the Church of Christ in Thailand has assumed will likely be called upon again for supply of emergency material, commodities, etc.

## KEITH BOWES FOR STUDY LEAVE



Through the generosity of the churches at Blackwood (S.A.) and Doncaster (Vic.), and of members of the College of the Bible Board of Management, faculty and student body, Principal Keith Bowes has been able to travel overseas on six months' study leave. He left for the United States, Great Britain and Europe on January 8.

### STUDY PROGRAM

Dr Bowes plans to undertake research and writing in the field of New Testament studies, especially in Romans. He will also read extensively in Moral Theology. He will meet overseas leaders in the field of theological education. He will spend some time researching into the history of our American churches.

### INSTITUTIONS AND PLACES

His work in the United States will be undertaken at North West Christian College, Lexington Theological Seminary, Bethany College and the Union Theological Seminary. In Scotland he will study in the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow. He expects to visit Geneva and Israel.

### THE COLLEGE PROGRAM

Keith Bowes' classes and other responsibilities will be partly shared by the rest of the faculty. Professors Elza and Lois Hawkins who have recently retired from Phillips University in the U.S.A. will be living at the College and assisting with some teaching. Graeme Chapman of Ballarat will be teaching in the field of Churches of Christ history and witness.

Gordon Stirling will be Acting Principal until the return of the Principal towards the end of June.

the principles of prayer and healing, and particularly in doctor-clergy co-operation and the church's role in healing.

Dr Edwin Berg, Chairman of M.C.F., was a pharmacist before entering medical school. After 11 years in general practice, he is now practising wholistic medicine — a form of total patient care in which the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the patient are treated as parts of an integrated whole.

For information on the seminars and workshops telephone (03) 288 6020 or (03) 337 5653.

## "INVESTMENT FOR LIVING" AND "STRESS RELEASE" WORKSHOPS

There is only one true source of life in all its fullness, and that is the one who said he came to give our lives that much sought after dimension of wholeness and abundance.

But our potential for abundance in living can only be realised through a personal transaction with Jesus Christ himself.

### BERG AND RENSNAW SEMINARS

Christ-given wholeness is the basis for a series of seminars and workshops to be conducted by Melbourne doctor, Edwin Berg, and British clergyman, Norman Renshaw, in four states over the next few months.

"Investment for Living Seminars" and "Stress Release Workshops" will create opportunities for participants to discover or re-discover some of the keys to health, wholeness, healing, inner harmony and the abundant life Christ promises his followers.

In addition under the title "Health, Healing and Wholeness — a Christian Commitment" there will be seminars and retreats for professional therapists and students of the healing arts — clergymen, doctors and para-medics. These are all sponsored by the Medico-Clergy Foundation of Victoria (M.C.F.).

### MEDICO CLERGY FOUNDATION

The aim of M.C.F. (which is non-denominational) is to promote closer co-operation between the medical profession and the clergy in developing a wholistic approach to healing — a ministry to the needs of the whole person in all facets of his being.

This year's program encompasses four states — Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia from mid-January to early May.

Rev. Norman Renshaw, from Bristol, has been a Baptist minister for over 35 years. He has a long-standing interest in

# BOOKS TO READ

## THE BOOK WITH A BLESSING: STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

by Harold G. Norris, (Vital Publications), \$4.00

Whilst the contents of the Book of Revelation have delighted Christians ever since it was written, attempts to understand what the author was trying to tell the church through the book have aroused much controversy. Division and sectarianism often resulted from inadequate attempts to grapple with the book's imagery. As Harold G. Norris points out, however, the book can be a source of blessing rather than frustration if we are prepared to take seriously that it belongs to the tradition of apocalyptic literature.

In his study guide to the last book of the Bible, Harold Norris helps the reader to appreciate the special characteristic of apocalyptic writing, and to avoid misunderstanding the meaning of the many symbols by interpreting them literally or futuristically. According to Harold Norris, the symbols describe principles which are true of every Christian age rather than exclusively describing historical or future events, although he acknowledges that there may be historic and futuristic allusions.

Each of the chapters provides study notes on a small section of the Book of Revelation followed by a meditation on that section. There is some inevitable repetition between the contents of the notes and that of the meditation, but each complements the other — enabling the reader to combine the technical information require for an adequate understanding of the symbolism with an appropriate devotional approach to the text.

Individuals and groups wishing to grapple with the message and meaning of the last book of the Bible will derive a great deal of insight and inspiration from Harold Norris' "Book with a Blessing".

— W.T.

## THE SECRET OF STAYING IN LOVE

by John Powell, (Argus)

John Powell has the rare ability to be able to take the words of the various researchers and writers of the psychological and human relationship fields and combine them into a very readable and instructive understanding of human relationships in a Christian context. His earlier book "Why am I Afraid to Tell You Who I Am?" is a masterpiece for helping people to understand the forces and pressures to which they respond and react.

"The Secret of Staying in Love" continues and expands this earlier insight. There are many insights here for married couples, but it is certainly not just for them, but for all people concerned about relationships between people.

The book is a combination of theory with practice and the last 39 pages are devoted to practical exercises in dialogue. This is a book worth reading for all those interested in the development of relationships through communication and who of us are not interested in that.

This is a book that deserves to be read widely.

Don E. Stewart

## THE GOLDEN COW

by John White (IVP-US) \$4.45

The sub-title Materialism in the Twentieth-century church outlines the main concern of the author of this book. John White sees the prophets of the Old Testament accusing God's people of having sold themselves to the prospect of security, social acceptance and economic growth. The start of the book looks at Christ's actions in driving out the moneylenders from the temple. He asks if Christ would respond in the same way today to the church's growing pre-occupation with material things. This book is disturbing in some of the attitudes that it highlights in today's church. I also found the book depressing and yet uplifting. Recommended to all especially those of us who could easily worship at the golden cow of materialism.

## AS THE TWIG IS BENT

by Terry Lane (Dove) \$7.95

A series of childhood reflections of 16 well-known Australians prominent in their various fields of endeavour presented by Terry Lane, Church of Christ minister and ex-A.B.C. personality. Bob Hawke, Kath Walker, Robert Helpmann, Anne Deveson, Phillip Adams and others recall briefly some features of their childhood circumstances and the adults who particularly influenced them. They also tell of the effects such childhood experiences and influences have had on their attitudes today in their various roles in career and parenthood.

Terry Lane gives a brief resume of each person's life at the beginning of each section which helps make the book as interesting as it is. Readers will pause to ponder their reaction to similar situations. Recommended reading.

— Ruth Ling

## CONFLICTING CONCEPTS OF HOLINESS

by W. T. Purkiser (Beacon Hill Press) \$1.50

At a time when so much is being written about the place of the Holy Spirit today I was introduced to this gem of a book by Dr Jim Ridgeway of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. The part the Holy Spirit plays in regeneral, sanctification, etc., of the Christian has always been central to Wesleyan theology and I believe that it has much to offer to both the charismatic and the non-charismatic.

Whilst not the simplest of books to follow at first, the honesty of the author in admitting his bias and his accurate use of the scriptures makes it worthwhile.

Should any member have difficulty in obtaining a copy I obtained mine from the "El Kanah Christian Guest Houses", Marysville, Victoria and it is also available from Kingsley College, Glenroy, Victoria.

— John Urquhart,

## BLESSINGS

by Mary Craig (Hodder & Stoughton) \$2.75

Describes the anguish of a mother when first one then a second of her children is discovered to be mentally and physically retarded with two completely unrelated diseases.

Mrs Craig found an outlet for some of her grief in working with the Sue Ryder foundation which established homes and other forms of aid for disabled Nazi concentration camp survivors and was a source of great inspiration for her.

She struggles to understand the disastrous tragedy which afflicted two of her four children. The final chapter is an attempt to analyse the meaning of suffering for Christians.

— Mary Ambrose.

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



# HAPPENINGS

Soviet Pentecostals founded an underground central church council recently during an illegal meeting in a forest outside Moscow. Their action may indicate growing militancy among the approximately half million Soviet Pentecostals, many of whom — perhaps 200,000 — refuse to join the officially tolerated All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists. The purposes of the new council, according to one delegate to the meeting, are to unite the Pentecostals in resisting what they call man-made laws that go against their beliefs and to mobilize support for the 30,000 or so Pentecostals who want to emigrate.

Francis Schaeffer has recovered from a six month battle with lymphoma, cancer of the lymph glands, according to sources close to his family. Schaeffer describes his recovery as a turnaround with definite signs of recovery "resulting from a touch of God's hand and chemo-therapy".

The Roman Catholic theologian Hans Kung has been tested for his views by the Vatican and it has been announced that he will no longer be

recognised as a Catholic theologian nor will he be permitted to teach Catholic seminary students. The heart of the complaint lies over Kung's views on infallibility expressed in his book "Infallible?".

An Independent Nazarene congregation in Nottingham Township, Pennsylvania, was fined \$978 for singing and praying too loudly and disturbing the peace of the neighbourhood.

The SCM Press celebrated its 50th anniversary in November last year.

The Chinese government has approved publication of the Bible in the Chinese language for the first time since the 1949 revolution. Yin Ziezheng, pastor of Peking's only Protestant church, last month announced that a government publishing house would print the revised version in the simplified Chinese characters adopted by the government in the 1950s to increase literacy. Yin said he hopes at least 100,000 copies will be printed.

The World Council of Churches budget deficit has reached \$2.2 million (U.S.).

## DIARY

**NATIONAL**  
 March  
 7-10 National Evangelism Conference  
 16 Annual Offering — Aboriginal Missions  
**VICTORIA**  
 February  
 17 Annual Offering — Properties Corporation  
 23 C.O.B. Garden Party  
 March  
 1 Central and Northern Districts Annual Rally  
 15 Good Companions Field Day  
 25 C.W.F. March Effort  
 26 Tertiary Students Tea

**TASMANIA**  
 March  
 15-16 Annual Convention  
**NEW SOUTH WALES**  
 February  
 22-24 Young Adults Weekend  
 March  
 1 City/Country Youth Dinner  
 21-23 Men's Camp  
**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**  
 February  
 17 Christian Union Offering  
 20 D.C.E. 75th Anniversary River Cruise  
 March  
 21-23 Youth "Exodus" to Country

## BASKETBALLERS FROM MITCHAM TO CAMP CAL

The Mitcham Church of Christ Basketball Club (Vic) is made up of 40 boys and girls. The majority of them have had little contact with the church.

On December 22 a group of 11 of them left Mitcham in a Ford transit van for a 16 day tour of Queensland. At Caloundra (Qld) we joined in a camp at Camp Cal under the direction of A. C. Male.

Most of the boys had not been raised in church families so initially they offered resistance to Camp Cal's program. However they soon discovered that the studies were not as boring, the devotions not as painful and the duties not as difficult as they first suspected. Soon they were in the thick of things enjoying the activities and making new friends.

While at Caloundra the boys played two social games with a junior team from Nambour. On January 1 we travelled westward to Chinchilla to stay on the wheat farm of Colin and Marcia Davis. Three days of bike riding, swimming and 'watching' farm work was both exciting and educational. We returned to Melbourne on January 6.

The underlying purpose of all this is to introduce our young people to Jesus Christ in a personal, meaningful and practical way.

## YOUTH CONSULTATION

A youth consultation will be held on the weekend before this year's World Conference on Mission and Evangelism, to be held in Melbourne in May.

The Conference, organised by the World Council of Churches with the theme "Your Kingdom Come", starts on May 12 and ends May 25.

Youth delegates from overseas will meet with Australian young people May 9-11, to prepare for the conference and to discuss issues affecting young people. Their weekend talks start after settling in with host families in Melbourne suburbs.

At night there will be a multi-cultural educational concert, with performances by overseas delegates and Australian ethnic church groups. The night session will be open to the public.

Organisers are seeking three kinds of help from Melbourne people. 1. Families are needed to be hosts to overseas youth delegates and stewards for the May 9-11 weekend and to take a "caring interest" in their guest for the duration of the main conference. 2. Translators are needed (for French, German, Spanish and Russian speakers) for the weekend programme. 3. Young Australians are needed as stewards for the main conference. (This is 24-hour job, and the work can be tedious.)

People interested in helping in any of these ways are invited to contact the pre-conference youth consultation committee, c/- the Rev. Colville Crowe, the Joint Board of Christian Education, 6th Floor, 177 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000.

# 25 Years Ago

The Editorial by C. G. Taylor of the issue of the "A.C." of February 15, 1955 was on "Men's Work — a Force or a Farce?"

The average churchman, pleasant, easy-going chap that he is, will take his Christianity as comfortably as he is allowed. We have let him get away with it too long, apart from lashing out fretfully when our own burdens grow too heavy. Every churchman must be asked to do some specific job; made to feel that the church is relying on him to do it. Ask the man who doesn't attend church as often as you would wish, to help in some visitation of others; his reaction might surprise you.

Ethelbert Davis, N.S.W. reflected on "They That Worship Him."

In this hurrying, scurrying world, in this breathless, restless age, we have little time to be still and know God.

All through the Scriptures we learn that quietness is a requisite of worship.

Quietness in God's presence is essential; for to worship in spirit and in truth we need to hear God's voice. There is more danger that we shall not hear his voice than that he will not hear ours.

# LET'S LIVE IN LOVE WITH OUR "CHARISMATICS"

# Page 13

I am not a "charismatic" in the sense that the "charismatic movement" uses the term. I am not happy with the implication that "charismatics" have some sort of monopoly of spiritual gifts.

I do not speak in tongues but I believe that many Christians since New Testament times have had such an experience.

There is no doubt that following the "charismatic experience", many Christians have been renewed in their Christian lives, demonstrated by a new joy, a greater commitment to Christ, a new love for people, and greater evangelistic zeal. On the other hand, others claiming to have the "charismatic experience" have become self-righteous, judgemental, arrogant and divisive in spirit.

I believe that a by-product of the "charismatic movement" is the "new look worship" in main line churches, with changes from a dreary, formalistic, solemn dullness towards more freedom, joy, praise, ecstasy and participation.

## A TENDENCY TO POLARISATION

I am disturbed by a tendency to polarisation among us on the "charismatic" issue. On the one hand anti-charismatics want to confine or exorcise or even to excommunicate "charismatics". On the other hand "charismatics", for self protection, have tended to group into fellowships for personal soul culture rather than expressing their renewal in loyal support of their local churches, self sacrificial service to society's hurt and underprivileged people, and a loving understanding of those whose theological and traditional position makes it impossible to understand them.

Some have accused the "charismatics" of being divisive, and sometimes they have been. But it takes two parties for a division to take place. Both the spiritual "one upmanship" of some "charismatics" and the intransigence of some of those who oppose them, create division.

## THE BIBLE AND THE GIFTS

I am equally disturbed by some attempts to use the Bible both to support and to attack the "charismatic movement". Its supporters make extensive use of 1 Corinthians 12 and 14, as though Paul was writing in strong support of the Corinthian "charismatic

movement", when in fact he was writing because some of them were divisive and some of their expressions of "gifts" were a scandal. Paul was unhappy with the way in which some tongues — speaking "charismatics" were glorying in their "gift" and presenting themselves as superchristians and indulging in "spiritual orgies" that offended the church and negated its witness.

Those who use the Bible to attack "charismatics" usually point to the fact that in Acts those who spoke in tongues did so after the Apostles laid hands on them. Therefore, they say, tongues were a temporary manifestation only for the apostolic age, given because of the special need for evidence of God's power. They say that with the disappearance of the Apostles tongues also disappeared, because they alone had the power to initiate the gift.

There is evidence that tongues were associated with the laying on of the Apostles' hands on one occasion (Acts 19 ... and possibly Acts 8) but there is no evidence that the tongues-speakers at Corinth received the gift in this way. In any case the behaviour of some of the recipients of the "gift" does not do credit to Apostolic insight!

To say that tongues ceased with the apostles because they only happened with the laying on of the Apostles' hands is to imply that eldership also ceased with the Apostles. In the New Testament elders were appointed either by the Apostles or by those who were given authority to do so by the Apostles.

## THE BIBLICAL COUNSEL TO LOVE

At this stage I want to suggest two things. Firstly, that we should all refrain from using the Bible out of context to find proof texts for either support of or attack against "charismatics".

Secondly, I want to suggest that hostility cease between "charismatics" and those who have opposed them and that we live together in the Body of Christ in love and unity. This was the line that Paul took with the church at Corinth. It was the "charismatic" controversy in Corinth that stimulated Paul to write his beautiful hymn to love in 1 Corinthians 13.

On Page 13 of the next issue we will discuss "The Bible and the Charismatic Phenomenon".

## 70th ANNIVERSARY OF SWAN HILL

Over Queen's Birthday Weekend, June 16-18, 1980, the church at Swan Hill, Victoria, will officially open its new hall and celebrate its 70th Anniversary.

The organising committee invites past members and friends of the congregation to share in this happy occasion.

Intending visitors can forward names and particulars of type of accommodation required to: E. C. Rogers, 76 Stradbroke Ave., Swan Hill, 3585 or phone (050) 32 2360, if possible by February 29.

## NEW BCC GENERAL SECRETARY

Philip Morgan has been nominated as General Secretary of the British Council of Churches (BCC) from September 1, 1980.

Mr Morgan, 49, has been the General Secretary of the Churches of Christ in Great Britain and Ireland since 1967 and is a member of the BCC Assembly. He is currently the chairman of the Division of Ecumenical Affairs dealing with issues of mission and unity.

He has been deeply involved in church unity discussions for many years and is fully conversant with the possibilities and

problems of ecumenism at local, regional and national levels in the life of the churches.

— E.P.S.

## BATAK KARO N.T.

Of the half a million Karo Bataks in Sumatra, Indonesia, some 150,000 are Christians. For them it was an important event when the first Batak Karo common language New Testament was published some weeks ago. The version of the New Testament published in 1928 in the dialect was revised in 1961 by the Indonesian Bible Society which has now brought out the common language version.

# OBITUARY

**PAGE, Laura Hilda (nee Schultz)** (21.12.79). Known to her many friends as Hilda, she was born at Loxton, S.A., in July 1901. At the age of 15 years she came to live in Murray Bridge and on March 16, 1919 she accepted Christ as her Saviour and was baptized. She was received into membership by the late Theodore Edwards. She married Alexander Campbell Page in 1922. The marriage was blessed with five children — Norman (deceased), Catherine (Mrs. Henning), Elaine (Mrs. Zadow), Albert (Steve) and Dean. Her husband, Alexander, was secretary of the Murray Bridge church for several years and Hilda was well known for her hospitality; and caring for other people. Hilda and Alex conducted a fruit and vegetable business and were well known for their friendly service and Christian witness in the town. They constantly helped people in need. Alex died in July 1971, and Hilda continued helping people in need. She died in hospital on December 21 and her funeral was next day at Murray Bridge. The Church service conducted by Barrie Wills, was attended by her children, grandchildren, church members and many townspeople. She was a lovely person and will be missed by all who knew her. Two brothers, Irwin and Melvin, and one sister, Olga (Mrs. Nitschke) are still living.

— (G. A. Bywaters)

**SEELEY Henry Robert**

(11.1.80) Bob Seeley was born in London in 1902, came to Australia in 1922, married Ethel Bambridge in 1929 and eventually set up home in Balwyn, where he lived for 42 years. They attended Balwyn Church of Christ and were baptised about 35 years ago. Bob was a practical Christian, regular in worship and service, and helped in many ways in rosters of voluntary duties. He was not one to seek office or leadership, although he did serve one term as a deacon. He was a steady Christian of constant faith and an encourager of others. He last attended worship at a service on Christmas Day, and several days later entered hospital for surgery and died at the age of 77 years. He and his wife were blessed with four children — Peggy (McNally) who died in 1980, Robert, Veronica (Stear) and Peter, and 11 grandchildren. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary less than a month before Bob's death. To his wife, Ethel, and all the family, the church at Balwyn extends its Christian love and sympathy, knowing that they will recall in the future precious memories of a fine Christian husband, father and grandfather.

— Harold Steele

**SMITH, Amelia.** (12.12.79). Amelia Lewis was born in Prahran (Vic.) in June, 1892, and became Mrs. Lindsay Richard Smith in 1916. There were three children, June, Lyndsay and Norman. Mrs. Smith gave her children a Christian home and upbringing and supported them in their careers. Her husband was a teacher who was appointed to Naringal, Stawell, Ringwood, Wonthaggi, Ballarat, Caulfield and Burwood. He was a gifted preacher and Bible expositor and he was much used in Churches of Christ wherever the family was located. Apart from constant absence, a further strain was the loss of her husband's sight some years prior to his death in 1971. All this Mrs.

Smith accepted willingly, her one desire being to support her husband in his service to Christ. Mrs. Smith's gifts included a fine alto voice and an ability as an organist. She served with Woman's Christian Temperance Union in its work. She was president of the Burwood Union and a state vice-president. Failing health necessitated her admission to the Churches of Christ Nursing Home at Murrumbena about 2½ years ago. There she maintained her Christian service and witness. Services of thanksgiving for her rich life and effective work were conducted by the writer at the Chelsea church and Templestowe cemetery.

— W. W. Saunders.

## tas vic

**PORT MACQUARIE (Ray Smith).** Two baptised ... Sunday Conference concluded the I.Y.C. Christian Obstetrician, Dr John Tollis; Social Worker, Dorothy Hudson and Pre-school Director, Mrs Kay Wood discussed children's and family issues ... Ross Norling on furlough in Port Macquarie spoke.

**BEVERLY HILLS (Daryl Thorpe).** Church booked Stanwell Tops for Nov. 1980 following successful camp with 92 participating ... Kampuchean Appeal raised \$375 ... At 7 a.m. Christmas morning service 144 gave \$501 to C.O.C.O.A. ... Shirley Mansell guest speaker at C.W.F. Christmas luncheon. Program arranged by Tom Newbery ... C.W.E.F. brought toys for Tamworth Aboriginal church ... Edna Lincoln home from Carnarvon.

**PENDLE HILL** Christmas tree goodies for Social Service distribution ... S.S. held Christmas party ... Morning services moved to 10 a.m. during daylight saving ... Gospel services have emphasis on music. Ratten Sisters featured ... Carolyn Stocks attended C.Y.T.A. music seminar at Cooma.

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

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

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

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

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

Visitors to these centres are welcome and may obtain information re meeting times by phoning the numbers listed above. 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, 2840.

**COPPING** Visit by Jeff Deuble from Dept. M.E.D. ... Trevor Kallmier, W.E.C. missionary in Java, challenged church ... Four meetings held with Ron Kallmier, Director Dept. of C.E. in N.S.W. ... Three week visit by three W.E.C. students ... S.S. Anniversary saw presentation of "The Music Machine" ... "New Life for All" seminar held with Gordon Sonsie of Vic. ... In Jan. eight flew to N.L.F.A. Family Camp in Victoria.

**WATTLE PARK** Church mini-fete raised over \$300 ... Church offers sympathy to Mrs Joy Lee on the death of her mother Mrs. Pannam ... Church parade of Eastern Suburban Cricket Association held ... Explorer's wind-up a family night. Award winners were Philip Bunston, Andrew Jones and Andrew Deith ... Church participating with Burwood District churches in study series "Your Kingdom Come" ... Three student ministers had successful scholastic year ... Church growth committee have compiled a booklet for guidance of each member in their prayer life.

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# OLD

**BAROLIN ST., BUNDABERG** (B. M. Nowitzke). Christmas Day service well attended. Offering divided between C.O.C.O.A. and local family group home . . . D. E. Stewart, Social Service Director, guest speaker . . . Mrs. E. Voss, oldest member, celebrated 97th birthday . . . S.S. has new Superintendent . . . Committee formed to plan mission with John Timms in April.

**ALBION** At evening service prior to Christmas Search Squad presented an Australian Christmas and presents placed under Christmas tree. Presents sent to Eidsvoll Mission . . . During 1980 an associate ministry will be conducted by L. Armstrong and Dr Phil Jauncey . . . Helen Trudgian acting as church historian and is preparing history of church.

**ACACIA RIDGE** (V.G. Boettcher). Annual meeting elected J. Price and A.J. Rogers as Elders. New goals for 1980 adopted . . . Church sharing in State-wide Explo 80 commencing in April. Explo film screened. V.G. Boettcher is on Explo State-wide Reference Committee . . . United meetings held with Kingswood Park Church with quarterly family teas and rallies planned . . . Youth Seminars planned for each week of February with Frank Beale, Christian Education Director, with Kingswood Park and Sunnybank . . . Two 'old Boys' and their wives returned recently and preached. Vic Parker is at Cairns and Herb Parker is a missionary at Roelands, W.A. . . . Chapel interior enhanced by gift of two glass and chrome flower stands. Additional fluorescent overhead lights and six ceiling fans installed.

# NT

**DARWIN** (P. DeWildt). Ken and Chris Barrett have been accepted for C.O.B. At their farewell service their friend Mrs Gail Anderson was baptised . . . Worship services now held at Nungalinya College Chapel, Dripstone Rd., Casuarina . . . 80 attended Christmas breakup with S.S. and clubs taking part . . . Christmas Day service saw record attendance of 63 . . . Kid's Holiday Club held during January. Colin Murdoch from C.O.B. helped with his puppets.

## NORTH WILLIAMSTOWN CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

February 24

11.00 a.m. — Stan Bannon  
7.00 p.m. — Charles Wilson,  
preceded by a basket tea at  
5.30 p.m.

*Former members and friends  
invited.*

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Applications, setting out your qualifications, experience and an outline of why you feel you are the person we are looking for, should be addressed to:-

Graheme Miller,  
Chairman of Elders,  
66 Addison Road,  
WARRADALE S.A. 5048  
and be received by: 3rd March, 1980

If required, further information can be obtained by phoning the above at (08) 296 2333, but details of remuneration, term, manse and other conditions will be negotiated with the successful applicant.

## THE PATCH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

March 2 — 10.30 a.m.  
Speaker — GEOFF FOOT, Conf. Pres.  
Friends and former members invited.  
Fellowship Luncheon

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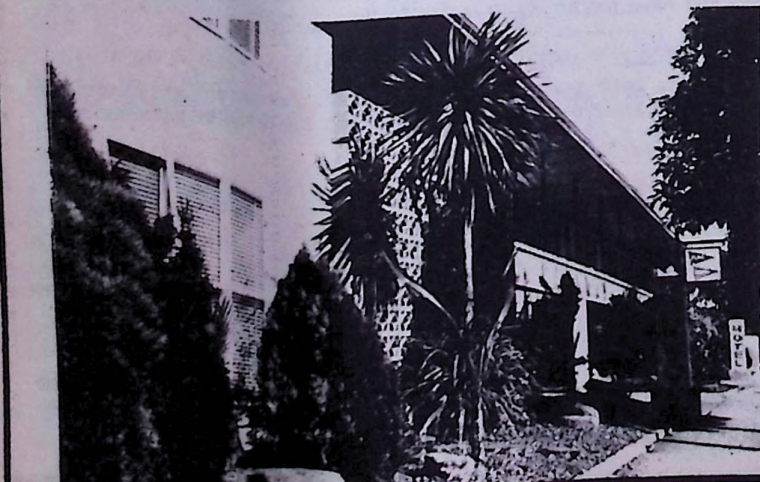
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7.00 p.m. Gleanings from Genesis

March 2nd

7.00 p.m. Preacher from Underground Church in China

# VIC

**WARRAGUL.** Wind up social evening with Boys Club, Youth Family, Young Marrieds, Ladies Groups, Joy Family participation. Father Christmas handed out sweets and gifts to children. Evening finished with carols . . . Robert Ferguson, South Melbourne recent speaker . . . Mrs Val McDonald at present an inmate in Linacre Hospital where she has undergone surgery.

**HAMPTON** (T. Hanna). Baptismal service held when two girls from the Toora church were baptised by D. Walladge. G. Fewster was the preacher . . . Hampton Baptist shared in evening service . . . Basket luncheon when Joy and Bruce Williams were farewelled and A.W.F. made presentations to church, student ministers and auxiliaries. A.W.F. raised over \$1000 for 1979.

**BLACKBURN** (E. C. Keating. P. B. Burnham). Last report as Blackburn as amalgamation with Mitcham will be known as Nunawading C. of C. . . . Candlelight service held in new car park at rear of Pastoral Care Centre . . . For Christmas Eve service, chapel packed . . . Watch Night Service conducted . . . Unhitched held Christmas party for single families . . . Operation Jonathan in action over holiday period for lonely people and shut-ins . . . Wedding service held during evening service . . . Andrew Daff selected in Australian boys' cricket team . . . Fans installed in chapel . . . Phil Chapman and Gwenda Steele departed with team for India . . . \$3,000 received for Christmas Bowl.

**MELTON** (J. Midgley). C.W.F. active in weekly visitation to shut-ins and to the local hospital . . . Church social evening, and a luncheon arranged by the C.W.F. "break-up" functions . . . Christmas offering donated to Kampuchean Relief through TEAR Fund . . . Lynda Calkin and Doreen Duncan have both spent some time in hospital . . . Minister preached at Kyneton . . . Gifts given by children of B.S. sent to the Aborigines Mission at Roelands, W.A.

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### BIRTHS

**LYALL (PRENZEL)** Kerry and Andrew wish to announce the arrival of Ellen Louise on December 9th.  
**ROCHFORD (WINTERTON)** Merrilyn and John welcome a son Darren Thomas born Jan. 25. Both well.  
**SCOTT (PEDERSEN)** Karen and Graeme are proud to announce the safe arrival Kylie Maree born Feb. 6 at 12.18 and weighing 7 lb. 12 oz. Both well.

### APPROACHING MARRIAGE

**WALLIS-COOKE.** Shirley and Jack Wallis of Newport and Alf and Pat Cooke of Footscray, have pleasure in announcing the marriage of Kerry and Graeme on Saturday, March 1, 1980 at 4.45 p.m. at the Footscray Church of Christ.

### MARRIAGES

**MURRAY-WITHAM.** The marriage of Narelle, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Fred Murray, Taree, N.S.W. and Mark, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Glen Witham, Hamilton, Vic. was celebrated at the Church of Christ, Taree on January 12th, 1980. Chaplain Denby Holmes of Victoria Barracks, Sydney, officiated.

**WALLACE-BUSH:** Kathryn Wallace of Glen Waverley will marry Graeme Bush of Greensborough at the Syndal Baptist Church on March 1st at 4.30 p.m.

### GOLDEN WEDDING

**FRASER** Norman and Rose Fraser will celebrate their golden wedding on March 8. They were married in the Hamilton Church of Christ, N.S.W., by the late W. L. Ewers. Present address is 122 Lockyer St., Adamstown, N.S.W.

### DEATHS

**COLLINS** Ernest Dewar. Suddenly on 23rd January 1980 at Robertson, Brisbane in his 76th year. Dearly loved husband of Hilda, loving father of Jan and Gordon Prior, Gaye and David Brough, Mark and Lesley Collins, Grandfather of Natalie, Kim, Bradley, Andrew, Sarah, Kirsty and Patrick. Son of the Rev. Frederick and Elizabeth Collins Decd. Sadly missed, but in God's care.

### IN MEMORIAM

**MILES** Ernest John. Loving memories of our dear husband, father and grandpa. Called to be with the Lord 20.2.1975. "The law of the Lord is perfect" Ps. 19:7. Beryl, Rochelle and Rob, Carol and John, Jonathan, Justin and Nicholas.

**PITTMAN,** Douglas. Called home Feb. 25th 1950. Always in the hearts of his daughters, Dulcie Henshilwood (Hampton) and Kitty McDiarmid (U.S.A.). "We thank God upon every remembrance of him."

**TURNER** Treasured memories of dear Walter, loved husband of Olive, and father of Ross, John and June. Passed away, February 21, 1979. "We thank God for every remembrance of him."

## ESSENDON

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

## 65th ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, March 2

10 a.m. — George Warren

(Field Director of the Department of Mission, Education & Development)

7 p.m. — Adrian Clark

All welcome especially past members and friends.

### THANKS

Mr & Mrs E. L. Williams wish to thank all who sent greetings and all who attended their Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebration at Knoxfield Church of Christ on Saturday, 26/1/80. The many kind expressions were much appreciated.

### SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION

We have accommodation for elderly people who must be ambulant and continent. Shared or single rooms. The building is an ex hospital, situated in pleasant surroundings, short walk to shops, bowling green at the rear of premises. Enquiries, write to "Greenhills" Society for the Aged, Clarence St., Loch, 3945 or phone (056) 59 4323 or 59 4293.

### ACCOMMODATION

WANTED Christian in 20's to share modern house in Lower Templestowe. Own room. Phone (03) 850 3869.

### HYMN BOOKS

REQUIRED. Old type Church of Christ Hymn Books, in good condition. Hervey Bay Church of Christ, 31 Neils Street, Pialba, 4655.

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HOLIDAY IN PERTH? Nice home, every convenience. Near ocean and city. 6 weeks from March 26. \$50 week. Ring (09) 341 2262.

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HYMN BOOKS Superceded Church of Christ Hymnals (words only) for Acacia Ridge, Qld., any number to 100. Reply, stating price to: Pastor Boettcher, 168 Glebe Rd., 4303, Ipswich — Phone (07) 282 1432

### NON-INTOXICATING WINES

AUSTRALIAN AND IMPORTED Delivery available. Weddings catered for. Wine tastings organised. Non-Al Cellars, Shop 3, Palmers Arcade, 938 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill. Phone (03) 88 8152.

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40th Anniversary

March 8 - 10

All past members invited to attend  
R.S.V.P. Feb. 20

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114 Must Street,  
Portland 3305

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## INVESTMENT FOR LIVING SEMINARS and STRESS RELEASE WORKSHOPS

Sponsored by the Medico-Clergy Foundation

Leaders: The Rev. NORMAN RENSHAW  
and Dr. EDWIN BERG.

March 23-25, 1980: Cheltenham Church of Christ.  
March 30 — April 1: St. John's Uniting Church, Essendon.  
April 13-15: St. Hilary's Church of England, Kew.  
April 18-20: Fenwick Memorial Baptist Church, Geelong.

For details, contact:

The Rev. R. Littleton,  
138 Buckley Street, Essendon. 3040. (337 5653).

**C.W.C.I.**  
**WOMEN'S CONVENTION WEEKEND**

**BELGRAVE HEIGHTS**  
**MARCH 21-23**

**INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER:**

**DR. HELEN ROSEVEARE, U.K.**

- 20 years missionary service in Congo
- Survivor of the Simba rebellion
- Authoress
- Ambassador at Large

**ASSOCIATE SPEAKER:**

**MISS JOAN LANG, N.S.W.**

of Capenway Fellowship staff.

**THEME: THE WHEEL OF LIFE**

**COME BY THE DAY OR LIVE-IN FOR THE WEEKEND**

Weekend accommodation — **\$26.00**

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**CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CONVENTIONS INTERNATIONAL.**

**PERSONAL**

**DISCIPLESHP**

- Sally Jones, Danny Bunston, Wattle Park, Vic.
- J. Thompson, A. Thompson, A. Hivon, B. Bowden, Albion, Qld.
- Dennis Hayward, Michelle Busbridge, Carol Phelps, Wesley Young, Phillip Duke, Gail Stubberfield, Brian Panes, Maralyn Maddock, Magill, S.A.
- Jacqueline Brown, Boronia, Vic.
- Mrs J. Thoday, Croydon, Vic.
- Andrew Robb, West Preston, Vic.
- Mr and Mrs Pim and Dianne van Gogh, Mrs Gail Anderson, Darwin, N.T.

**MARRIAGES**

- Alison Brown to Barry Quayle, Beverly Hills, N.S.W.
- Christine Ockwell to Lindsay Finger, Boronia, Vic.
- Sue Buckmaster to Stephen Dewberry, Gardiner, Vic.
- Judith Dalton to Colin Beaumont, West Preston, Vic.
- Sue Cann to Chris Streader, Judy Young to Tony Kenny, Ormond, Vic.

**DEATHS**

- Doris Ansell, Magill, S.A.
- Val Croft, Boronia, Vic.
- Mrs Elsie Grace, Miss Machen, Oakleigh, Vic.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

**TASMANIAN CONFERENCE:** Secretary — C. J. Heier, 10 Charlton St., Norwood, Tas. 7250. Phone (003) 44 3386.

**ASCOT VALE:** Minister — Ian Corlett, 74 Tennyson St., Kensington, Vic. 3031. Phone (03) 376 0306.

**NORTH WILLIAMSTOWN:** Secretary — Mrs E. Dorgan, 43 Stevedore St., North Williamstown, Vic. 3016. Phone (03) 397 5916.

**NARACOORTE:** Minister — Ron Holmes, 14 Fifth Ave., Naracoorte, S.A. 5272.

**MOUNT CLEAR:** Minister — Mark and Jan Dunn, 737 Geelong Rd., Mount Clear, Ballarat, Vic. 3350. Phone (053) 30 1216.

**WARRAGUL:** Minister — B. Crowden, 9 Kilvington Court, Berwick, Vic. 3806. Phone B.H. (messages) (03) 791 2955; Home (03) 707 2047.

**FAIRFIELD:** Minister — J. Hawkins, 5 Station St., Fairfield, N.S.W. 2165. Phone (02) 728 1992.

Secretary — Mrs E. Wladysiuk, 80 Throsby St., Fairfield Heights, N.S.W. 2165. Phone (02) 724 5156.

**ORMOND:** Minister — G. O. Stubbs, 1 Arnott St. Carnegie, Vic. 3163. Phone (03) 578 2727.

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**BICHENO CENTRE, TASMANIA**

Mr. & Mrs. H. Stevens have announced that for personal reasons they wish to relinquish the management of the Bicheno Centre from 31st August, 1980.

Applications are invited from a couple to manage the centre. Duties include care of buildings and grounds, maintaining the accommodation areas, furnishings and equipment, making bookings, receiving occupants, collecting fees, etc. There are no catering duties.

Further details may be obtained from C. J. Heier, 10 Charlton St., Norwood, Tasmania 7250. Phone (003) 44 3386.

**CHRISTIAN THERAPISTS SEMINAR (DOCTORS, CLERGY, PARAMEDICS)**

Sponsored by the Medico-Clergy Foundation.

Theme: "Health, Healing, Wholeness — a Christian Commitment".  
 Leaders: The Rev. Norman Renshaw and Dr. Edwin Berg.  
 Date: Saturday, March 29, 1980: 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.  
 Place: Canterbury Baptist Church, cnr. Canterbury and Balwyn Roads.

For details, contact:

**Mrs. J. Studham,**

3/2 Scott Street, Mitcham. 3132. (874 8326).

**Church of Christ**

**SOUTH YARRA HOMECOMING SERVICES**

**Sunday Feb. 24, 1980**

**11 a.m.:** Worship & Communion  
 Speaker:- C. G. Taylor  
 President:- Ern Sherman  
 Soloist:- Mrs M. Keneley

**3 p.m.:** P.S.A. Service  
 Speaker:- M. Conry (L.I.F.E.)  
 Musical items by South Yarra Gospel Singers

**7 p.m.:** Gospel Service  
 Speaker:- Peter Nelson  
 Soloist:- Miss Roslyn West  
 Lunch and tea available

Mr R. R. Davis (Secretary)  
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 3197. Tel. 772 4354



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## **2. SEE BEAUTIFUL NEW ZEALAND IN THE AUTUMN**

Departing on April 6th, this popular 18 day tour of both islands of New Zealand visits Christchurch, Tekapo, Mount Cook, Oamaru, Dunedin, Invercargill, Milford Sound, Te Anau, Lake Manapouri, Queenstown, Wanaka, Haast Pass, Fox Glacier, Greymouth, Picton, Wellington, Napier, Taupo, Rotorua, Waitomo, Auckland. Provision is made for an optional 4 day excursion to the Bay of Islands. **PRICES** from Melbourne \$926; Sydney \$901; Brisbane \$921. Immediate reservations should be made to travel at these prices.

## **3. VISIT CHINA WITH A.C.T.S. HOLIDAYS — 3 departures during 1980**

1. Departing on April 26th — 22 days — Hong Kong (4 nights), China (17 nights) visiting Kwangchow, Hangchow, Shanghai and Peking. Leader: Mrs Peggy MacMillan. Group limited to 20 members. **PRICE:** From Sydney \$2557.
2. Departing July 5th — 22 days — Hong Kong (4 nights), China (17 nights) visiting Kwangchow, Sian, Peking, Changsha, Kweilin. Group limited to 24 members. Leader: Mr Tom Paterson — former Director of Road Transport in the Commonwealth Dept. of Transport. **PRICE:** from Sydney \$2485.
3. Departing 23rd October — 22 days — Hong Kong (3 nights), China (16 nights) visiting Kwangchow, Hangchow, Shanghai, Chengchow and Peking) and Manila (2 nights). Group limited to 24 members. **PRICE** from Sydney \$2417.

## **4. TOURS TO CAIRNS WITH TRANS OTWAY**

Leaving from Melbourne on June 21st, this 26 day coach tour travels via Princes Highway to Sydney, Port Macquarie, Surfers Paradise, Brisbane, Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Townsville and Innisfail to Cairns. We visit Atherton Tableland, and on the return journey Mackay, Gladstone, Maryborough, Tamworth and Wagga Wagga returning to Melbourne via Albury. We visit Hayman, Daydream, Green, Magnetic and South Molle Islands, and take a cruise through Whitsunday Passage. This is a good value tour and is well priced from Melbourne \$1275, Sydney \$1018, Brisbane \$721.

## **5. ALICE SPRINGS & THE RED CENTRE**

Departing on September 17th our 12 day tour takes us by air to Alice Springs, and by coach to Standley Chasm, the Ross River country, Kings Canyon, Ayers Rock and the Olgas, Victory Downs, Coober Pedy, Port Augusta and the Flinders Ranges, Broken Hill, Mildura, Narandera back to Melbourne. **Price** from Melbourne \$869, Adelaide \$734, Sydney \$888, Brisbane \$983. As an alternative members may take a last ride on the GHAN leaving earlier and at a supplement.

## **6. TOUR TO WEST AUSTRALIA**

Departing October 20th this 18 day tour takes us by coach to Adelaide via Mildura, to Port Augusta, Whyalla, Ceduna, Norseman, Kalgoorlie, Coolgardie, Esperance, Albany, Busselton, Perth, Darling Ranges, El Caballo, by rail to Port Pirie then by coach to Melbourne. **Fares:** from Melbourne 1st Rail \$1111, 2nd Rail \$1070; Adelaide \$984 (\$943); Sydney \$1143 (1077); Brisbane \$1253 (1187).

## **7. GRAND TOUR OF BRITAIN**

Departing August 1st we spend 30 days in Britain touring Devon/Cornwall, Wales, England and Scotland, with visits to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, the Isle of Skye and the Island of Iona. On the return journey we will enjoy a 4 day stop-over in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. This magnificent tour will include liberal sight-seeing as well as free time, and is very well priced at \$3629 from Melbourne or Sydney.

## **8. CRUISE WITH A.C.T.S./SITMAR**

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# VIC

**SURREY HILLS** (Ken Wray). Wray family to continue for Ken's final year at C.O.B. . . . Special one day's pay offering of \$352 for Kampuchea Relief . . . Four tennis teams reached finals with two winning premierships . . . Visiting speakers have been Dr E. Berg, Ian Corlett, Bruce

Grayden (S.I.L.) and Brian Walsh (W.C.A.).  
**HARTWELL** (K. W. Barton). At Day of Prayer chain of prayers offered for the future of church and its ministry at Hartwell. Leaders conducted sessions of guided prayer and meditation with 96 attending. . . C.W.E.F. had presentation of "Glory," by Oakleigh C.W.F. . . . C.W.A.F. concluded year with picnic at Monbulk. . . Elders and wives prepared special Christmas social . . . Christmas

music and candle lighting service held . . . \$444 given to Remembrance Bowl.  
**MORWELL** (Ian Cartmel). Church advertised services on local radio station . . . Scripture portions and invitations to Christmas service distributed to 4,000 homes . . . Minister presented epilogue series on local TV . . . New gas stove, hot water service and space heater installed in manse . . . Ian Cartmel is chairman of counselling committee for combined churches Crusade in the Latrobe Valley with American preacher Jimmy Johnson.  
**MANIFOLD HEIGHTS** (P. A. Pitts). Covenant Players presented gospel in drama . . . Girls' club held church parade . . . Annual planning day held at Lara . . . \$2,000 sent to Kampuchea via World Vision . . . Trevor Cole, funeral director, spoke at C.M.F. tea . . . Maranatha Sounds visited from Ballarat . . . Baptist service held for seven . . . Christmas activities included family participation service, carol service with choir and artists, open-air carols in church forecourt with Salvation Army band . . . Christmas Day service combined with Baptist church . . . S.S. held Christmas tree and children brought gifts for mission children . . . Mr and Mrs Joe Grazules honoured on their golden wedding . . . Church farewelled Graeme Titter at conclusion of his two year student ministry and made presentation prior to his wedding . . . Peter and Heather Pitts assisting at C.S.S.M. beach mission at Queenscliff . . . Three decisions and one rededication.

**RICHMOND** (Graeme and Bronwyn Rogerson). Farewell services for Wal Gibney and family who concluded six years ministry and chaplaincy at Royal Prince Henry's Hospital. Presentations made. Mr Gibney commences at Horsham . . . Graeme and Bronwyn Rogerson commence joint ministry . . . Mr and Mrs Featherstone now residing at Salvation Army "Inala" Home.

**CHELTENHAM** (A. White, S. Wilson, M. Humphries). Alf White conducted seven special summer services on entering the eighties . . . Stanton Wilson conducting care, share, prayer segment in evening services . . . Moves family welcomed back. Son David baptised by father, Gordon. Gordon was interviewed on the Wesley Central Mission . . . Tom Frazer spending C.O.B. vacation at Peter MacAllum Hospital as part of ministry training.



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# SO

**VICTOR HARBOUR** (R. C. Mitchell). Ladies' coffee group resulted in three baptisms ... C.O.B. student Peter Broadbent with Margaret-Ann and Jonathon home for holidays and participated in several services ... Early morning service attracted number of visitors ... Open B.S. recommenced ... Y.P. conducted service at Goolwa ... C.Y.F. reconstructed. Two older members to take charge of Boys' and Girls' Brigades instead of combined junior group. Young adult group to take charge of H.S. group to provide more outreach to students ... Convention held at Bible College of S.A. and Longwood Christmas camp at two church services. S. Dinnen (W.E.C.) spoke at evening service.

**PROSPECT** (R. H. Sercombe). Ecumenical carol service held ... Combined Christmas day service at Kilburn ... Groups formed for 1980 inter-church study ... COCOA well supported as Christmas effort ... Elders recommended special prayer effort each lunch time.

**PT. LINCOLN** (John Brear). Senior and junior celebration dinner held ... Ladies attended combined churches Christmas party ... Christmas morning service shared with Baptist church ... Jenny Dennis shared insight of a woman's ministry at C.W.F. ... Men attended Pt. Lincoln C.M.F. dinner ... Y.P. held camp at Redcliffe and took part in ser-

vices at Thuruna ... Ron Goodwin entered Kenmore College.

**MODBURY** (K. Fechner). Talent scheme raised \$1,000 ... Auction and fete raised \$2,000 ... Two elders attended St. Ives church growth program ... Rotary Villages guests at Christmas concert ... Ladies visited home for handicapped people and provided food and entertainment ... 50 spent part of New Year's Day at an "At Home" at the manse ... Two attended the Girls Brigade "Fonorarea" ... Four baptisms ... Small group leaders concluded training sessions ... Church grew by 1/3 last year ... Elder Alan Frost suffered broken jaw playing basketball.

**MARION** (E. P. C. Holland). Glenelg choir joined our choir for special carol service. Afterwards a plum pudding festival was held ... Farewell service held for Bob and Shirley Clymer after five years with Ascot Park and one year with combined Marion church ... Church saddened by the death of Mrs Belle Whitaker ... Several baptisms recently.

# WO

**SOUTH PERTH** (K. Denton, L. Cox). New constitution adopted ... Full board of six elders and 10 deacons elected also three Deaconesses. Frank Russell now church secretary ... Church farewelled Nelson family at a tea. At same function City of South Perth presented medallion awards to

Mrs Collins and Mr Wesley for civil service ... New large lectern Bible (R.S.V.) now in use ... Businessmen's Motivational Group formed and plans regular luncheons ... Monthly outreach visits to Lancelin are continuing ... Conf. Pres. Des Croot recent speaker ... Church approved extensions to second manse ... Kevin Denton commences Feb. 3 ... Recovering from surgery are Sisters Newcombe, Barnes, Nainby, Birch and Sharon Atkinson and Bren Scotland and Thomas ... Ian Taylor passes his finals in medicine.

**NOLLAMARA** (A. J. Anderson, J. Hicks). John Hicks new associate minister replacing Nolan Head who has returned to U.S. after 3½ years ... Renovation work has taken place at the Flinders St. manse. Administrative block incorporating ministers' offices nearing completion ... Many missionaries have returned home to Nollamara for leave and furlough. Elaine Henderson, Doug and Bev Croot, Herbert and Lorraine Howell, Robert and Anne Grant, Chris and Delys Good and Ron and Kate Roberts. Also Jeff and Judy Pope from Kenmore and Brian Hewitt M.T.C. Tasmania ... First year of Bethel Bible series course for teachers has been completed. Congregational course commences 1981.

**SUBIACO** (Nigel Merrick). Welcome extended to new minister and family. George Smith conducted induction service ... Church expressed appreciation of the services of Ken Duffy, Brett Ridley and Deaconess Betty Doddemeade over the past year ... Dr. Colin Smyth and his family, living link in the New Hebrides, given State welcome home ... Lesley Wishart president C.W.F.

**WERRIBEE** Thanksgiving Sunday offering totalled \$632 ... C.W.F. and S.S. break-up held ... Surprise social evening and presentation culminated five years of ministry for Les and Mavis Keatch. Les is president of W.R.O.C. In 1980 ... Alan and Christine Niven inducted into full-time ministry on Feb. 10.

**HORSHAM** Eight new members welcomed, four by baptism ... Annual meeting decided to reverse church building to provide extra accommodation ... Special Christmas singing and tableaux presented ... Interim ministry of Harvey and Elizabeth Clark concluded and farewell held.

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# VIC

**MT. EVELYN.** (B. J. O'Grady). Weekend Study Camp for Youth held at Monbulk 40 attending ... Sunday services now at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. ... 18 people baptised recently ... Christmas Eve service and Family Supper held instead of Christmas morning service.

**NORLANE** (Robert Goldfinch). At annual meeting Eric Frew elected Secretary ... John Elliot joining the ministry in the New Year.

**ESSENDON.** (A. Clark). D. Anderson, Director of Middle East Christian Outreach speaker ... Get together held to farewell Peter, Margaret, and Jonathan Broadbent. Peter is to take up ministry at East Kew ... AWF sent donations of \$170 including \$100 to Ascot Vale Church of Christ for Children's Crisis Centre. E.W.F. sent donation to Council for Christian Education in Schools ... Chris Jones shared in Christmas Choral Service with musical items on saxophone.

**STRATHMORE.** (J. Spiker, S. Bannon). 30th Church Anniversary had Terry Lane as speaker ... 250 attended Carols by Candlelight. Mayor of Essendon attended, Miss R. Haskell gave address ... Church combining with Uniting Church for January evening services ... Work party assisting with Mooroopna chapel renovations.

**FOOTSCRAY** (A. B. Withers). Oakover Singers presented Cantata ... Concert held to raise funds for Kampuchean Relief ... Presentation made to Mr and Mrs Ian Tippet at the completion of their ministry ... Paul and Judy Williams home on furlough from P.N.G. and helping in the services ... A. B. Withers will commence a part-time ministry in February ... Thanks offering amounted

to \$935 for church and Brotherhood work ... Church saddened at the sudden passing of Mrs Eve Livett and Mrs Storey, mother of Stella Carter.

**BURWOOD.** (P. Wing Tang) Annual combined service and picnic shared with St. Lukes (U.C.) ... Talk-back session on the healing ministry of the church conducted by Dr. E. Berg following his second address to congregation ... Visiting speakers B. Seipolt, D. Smith, A. Clark ... Luncheon to farewell Trevor and Nola Giles, Colin and Heather Miller, Steve and Kay Ashley and families followed a.m. service ... Kampuchea Refugee Appeal supported ... Christmas a.m. service conducted by B.S. and Good Comp. p.m. Carol service led by P. Wing Tang ... Proceeds from Fete and Time and Talent scheme amounted to \$1251 ... Sympathy extended to Doreen Hudson and family on the death of Peter resulting from car accident.

**YARRAWONGA.** Two teenagers baptized recently by Dare Stevens from Wangaratta, who then gave the address ... Several members went to Dare Stevens' farewell evening at Wangaratta church ... Several attended both Junior and Senior camps at Cheshunt ... Keith Pitt's ministry to commence in Jan.

**KANIVA.** Church is grateful to Mr and Mrs A. A. Withers for six months ministry ... End-of Year activity — Explorers' Hayride and Barbecue at Russell Crouch's farm ... Special Christmas Choir ... Interim ministries with A. R. Haskell, T. V. Weir, M. T. Laurie, prior to Miss Pam Bowers commencement in May.

**BERWICK.** (D. McLeod). Special Kampuchean appeal raised over \$2500 ... World Vision speaker at morning worship ... Musical "Natural High" presented ... Trevor Schenk led Celebration Service with John Marshall and Sugar and Salt singing group ... Potters Clay participate in all services and have "jam"

session for Pairs and Spares Youth Group ... Church farewells Lyn and Trevor Schenk to Wollongong ... Young Marrieds conclude year at Chinese Banquet ... Karen Pawsey and Peter Clayton accepted for C.O.B. and Mike and Joan Boyd accepted for Kenmore in Queensland ... John Marshall sung in Opera House, Sydney, over Christmas ... Two men attend Lay Evangelism weekend ... Rosslyn Park after-services barbecue ... Choir presented special cantata for Christmas ... Ham and Salad dinner part of Christmas activities ... Board selects new department leaders ... Church presented Carols by Twilight at the Civic Centre and Puppet drama on Christmas Day.

**CHELSEA.** Christmas Festivities included a Saturday Christmas concert, a scripture and carols morning service, a carol night on Christmas Eve and a service on Christmas Day ... Church was saddened by the death of Mrs. Amelia Smith; funeral service led by W. W. Saunders and attended by representatives of W.C.T.U. and Federal and State Conferences ... Christmas Bowl appeal raised \$206 ... Explorers fifth in the overall club competition for 1979 ... Board negotiating through Dept. Mission, Education and Development for a full time minister for 1981.

**DANDENONG** (W. J. Edwards). Marion Jones confined to her home ill for past 10 weeks ... Church social held. Presentations made to Fred and Gwen Reveleigh and Charlie and Sylvia Hansen, who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversaries ... C.W.F. visited elderlies and Christmas gifts distributed at Oakleigh Guest Home ... Christmas parcels sent to Sandra and Bruce Anderson, W.B.T. ... Sympathy to Rita and Hilton Blackmore on the death of Mrs Zeuchner ... C.W.F. journeyed to Warrandyte Palette for Christmas breakup.

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# Ambrosia by Chris Ambrose

## SECTS AND CULTS

The purpose of this article is to look at some of the differences between the sects and the Christian faith. Not all the sects will exhibit all these differences. During the rest of this year, this column will look at some of the large variety of cults that are attracting Australians today. Not all of these cults have sprung from within the Christian Church. Some have come from within the Christian Church — such as the Children of God — whilst others have come from some of the major world religions; e.g. the Hare Krishna's are a sect of Hinduism.

One of the main differences between the Christian faith and the teachings of the sects is in the area of the way each treats Jesus Christ. For the Christian, Jesus is God's son who came as a human and who was crucified on the cross and who came back to life three days later. For many of the sects they deny the divinity of Christ. They will allow that Jesus was a good man but that is as far as they will go.

Another major difference is on the relationship to the Bible. For the Christian the Bible is inspired by God and it is their guide for living. Many of the sects will accept the Bible as their authority but it is to be interpreted by the writings of their leader. In effect the writings of the sect's leader replaces the Bible as the authoritative rule for living.

Whilst Christianity says that salvation from sin is only through faith in Jesus Christ and his atoning death on the cross, many of the sects and cults seek salvation through good works or keeping laws and rules. This unfortunately is how the church often sounds to those outside.

One passage of Scripture which it would pay Christians to read and use to compare the claims of a religious

group is 1 Corinthians 15:3,4. If groups cannot accept these words or query it is because of it coming from the Bible then this should raise question marks about the orthodoxy of the group.

Ron Buckland (S.U. Tasmania), in an article on the Unification Church, lists certain needs that a sect must meet. These are:

- the need to establish an authority base;
- the need to refute the suggestion charge that you represent just another denomination;
- the need to cope with probable initial rejection of your teaching;
- the need to cope with difficulties in reconciling your teaching with Christian orthodoxy;
- the need to get a hearing.

Other factors that could be examined include the observation that cults tend to discourage reasoning. Unfortunately this is not the sole prerogative of the cults. Also diversity in the group is discouraged. In the cults there is often a rigid demarcation between "us" and "them".

Why are the cults so attractive? One answer could be the security that they provide. There is no need to answer questions and all decisions are made for you. Also the Residential cults provide a ready-made family with no conflict unlike many so-called families in our society. There is a strict spiritual life offered that provides a set of easy to follow rules for dealing with social problems of life and which help the individual in their emotional and identity search.

In future issues this year, I will examine the teachings and practices of various of the current cults that are operating in Australia in more detail.

# THE LAST WORD

**FREEDOM** is like a bag of sand. If there is a hole anywhere in the bag, all the sand will run out. If any group of our people are denied their rights, sooner or later all groups stand to lose their rights. All the freedom will run out.

ROBERT K. PATTERSON

## The Right Connection

Though problems may vex us,  
We learn, as we pray,  
That faith still connects us  
With strength for the day.

—MARY HAMLETT GOODMAN

A businessman visited his banker and asked: "Are you worried about whether I can meet my note next month?"

"Yes, I am," confessed the banker.

"Good," said the client. "That's what I pay you 12% for."



**FALLEN** woman: The mother of a kid who doesn't put away his toys.



**THE** most perfect form of flattery is to tell people what they think of themselves.



WALT WELLER

"All through his sermon it seemed as if he were looking directly at me."

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