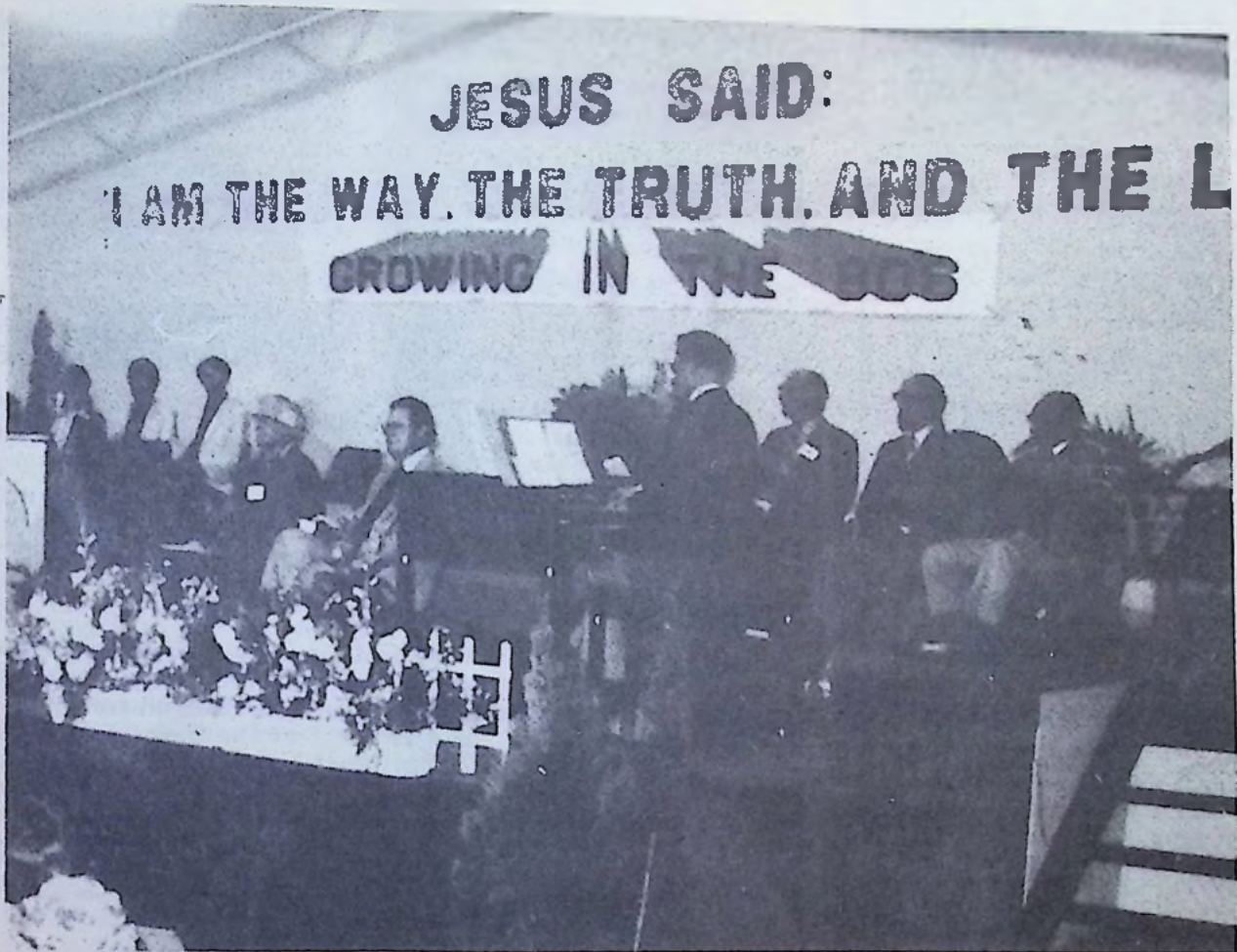


HOME MISSIONS
GROWING IN THE 80's



**NATIONAL EVANGELISM STRATEGY
LAUNCHED AT FEDERAL CONFERENCE**

HOME MISSIONS OFFERING
NOVEMBER 30

THE AUSTRALIAN
CHRISTIAN

Vol. 83
No. 20

November 8
1980

Registered for posting as a newspaper — Category A

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Vol. 83
No. 20

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ISSUE
Nov. 22
Dec. 13

DEADLINE
Nov. 12
Dec. 3

EDITOR: G. R. STIRLING
SUB-EDITOR
MANAGER: C. R. AMBROSE

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ON MY MIND THOSE MOSLEM MILLIONS

Marjory Buckingham.

Marjory Buckingham is a successful author. She is a member of the Bambra Rd., Caulfield church. She is a long time subscriber to "The Australian Christian".

They have certainly been "on my mind" — all 700 million of them — ever since our newspapers and TV screens started bombarding us with those Moslem pictures that continue to stir the world. Pictures of devout followers of Islam in their thousands, performing their religious duties with zeal. Pictures of Moslem priests proclaiming their teaching with confidence and conviction. Pictures of the more militant promoting the world-empire vision of the fastest-growing religion of this century. And an old question with now urgent significance has been on my mind.

CRESCENT OR CROSS?

Does it really matter what religion dominates the world? How many of today's complacent Christians know the basic difference between Moslem religion and the Christian faith? And if they know, how many really care?

Surely our enlightened response should be — "What an indictment of the Christian church, after nineteen centuries of Gospel preaching!" What are we doing to counter the errors of Islam with the claims of the living Christ? And how serious are the "Christian" nations of the world in seeking to put into practice the principles which they espouse?

"BROTHERS"

"We are Moslems — we are brothers!" said President Sadat of Egypt, offering sanctuary to the ex-Shah of Iran. "This is true Islam — not revenge and hate, but compassion and love!"

And my mind reeled for a moment at the thought of what might happen in our world if all the Christian nations were to join hands in the spirit of love, and say, "We are brothers in the family of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord!" Those millions enslaved by the sign of the Crescent would surely be enlightened by the power of the Cross!

"I'M A MOSLEM!"

On my mind, too, has been the young girl in the primary class where I teach religious instruction, who, with her head held high, walked purposefully from the room with the unequivocal statement, "I'm a Moslem!" And I have been wondering how many of our children, nurtured in the Christian faith, we could expect to "stand up and be counted" in a predominantly unsympathetic or hostile situation. May be the time is not far distant when to say "I'm a Christian!" could be fraught with dire consequences. Yet how many of us, believing Christians, would be ready, as the Apostle Peter exhorts us, to give an answer to those who may ask "why we believe as we do."

"THE MORE EARNEST HEED"

Finally, it is "on my mind" to urge that we consider the warning of the writer to the Hebrews, and "give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard" concerning our faith, and teach them to our children, and our children's children, so that should we ever be engulfed in the avalanche of unbelief, these truths will be forever enshrined in the mind, with the assurance that "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose MIND is stayed on Thee."

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE GROWING EIGHTIES TOP DECADE TO A CENTURY

Churches of Christ in W.A. to celebrate centenary of witness in 1990.

STATE STRATEGY FOR THE 80s

(in abbreviated form)

1. LEADERSHIP

- (a) Creative and imaginative leadership is vital and must be encouraged. Ministers, elders and other leaders in churches are encouraged to become a leadership team with the purpose of motivating and training members for evangelism.
- (b) Local congregations should seek to discover people with different gifts as candidates for full time ministry, with the view to these different gifts being complementary in the field.
- (c) Churches considering second ministries should give consideration to the needs of administration and/or youth leadership. Secretarial aid to the existing leadership will create a more efficient ministry.
- (d) The leadership potential among young people must be fostered and developed. They should be trained in a variety of activities of outreach and service.
- (e) The State Conference should be revamped to produce enthusiasm, motivation and inspiration for local evangelism and outreach activity.

2. CONGREGATIONAL LIFESTYLE.

- (a) It must be recognised that church members possess a variety of gifts. These gifts should be discerned by the leaders and people motivated to use them.
- (b) The making and nurturing of new disciples should be given a high priority in time and energy.
- (c) Churches are encouraged to use small groups as a means of spiritual growth, discipling and outreach. Bible study and reading programmes to develop an understanding of Scripture should be promoted.
- (d) Worship is a priority in the life of the church. It must be meaningful, relevant and related to the God of Scripture. Variety, flexibility and good preparation are important.
- (e) Evangelism should seek and disciple whole families.
- (f) Auxiliaries should be developed as effective means of meeting needs and as outreach groups. The gospel message of repentance and reconciliation needs to be presented at every opportunity.

3. FINDING NEEDS.

Congregations are encouraged to study their communities to discover needs of people and ways to fill those needs.

4. CHURCH PLANTING.

Church planting is to be continued with vigour in appropriate places.

5. USE OF MEDIA.

The establishment of a research committee for the gathering, display and dissemination of resources and materials is recommended. The wider use of the media is encouraged.

6. LOGO.

The idea of a national logo for identification and publicity is encouraged.

INTERESTING STATISTICS

	Active Membership	Av. Communicants
1898	c.300	?
1928	c.2000	1391
1958	2766	2014
1969	3540	2608
1979	3814	3266

"ENJOY FUNDING HOME MISSIONS AND SPREAD THE JOYFUL NEWS"



ROCKINGHAM: Following a meeting convened by the Fremantle minister and the H.M. Secretary March 27, 1979 in the home of Mr and Mrs John Pendlebury, breaking of bread services were commenced in the Safety Bay kindergarten, May 6. Membership and interest increased. The church was formally constituted with a solemn covenanting service December 2, 1979. Church is now using St George's Anglican Church on a rental basis. Church and Home Missions have called C. L. Hall to three-quarters tentmaker ministry from new year 1981. More people in Rockingham will be hearing the joyful news. Rockingham is one of the five major regional centres of the Perth metropolis.



Colin and Marion Hall and Richard

PRESSING PRESENT NEEDS

1. Higher "one-day" subsidy for Manjimup above present \$30 p.w.
2. Higher subsidy for Mandurah for new manse now being built.
3. Need of manse at Balga.
4. Part-time ministry in Stirling area.
5. Full-time ministries at Rockingham and Eastern Hills.
6. Travel grant for selected inner areas minister.
7. A field worker(s)/evangelist(s) full-time or part-time to include missions, training church member teams in evangelism, planting and developing new causes, helping small causes, etc.
8. Meet rising costs of Home Missions administrative, resource, advisory and planning services.
9. Continue subsidies to Balga, Bull Creek and Mandurah.



Department of Home Missions & Evangelism
Churches of Christ in N.S.W.

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN N.S.W. CAN

"DOUBLE IN A DECADE"



Owen Wainwright
Director

AS A BROTHERHOOD OF CHRISTIANS WE HAVE:-

- ★ The indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
- ★ God's "Handbook for Living."
- ★ His stated desire for everyone's salvation.
- ★ His promise to be with us.
- ★ A committed work-force of almost 5000.
- ★ The necessary expertise available in the Brotherhood.

THERE IS ALWAYS A VALID REASON IF ANY CHURCH DOES NOT FLOURISH!

- If your church is not growing, do you know why?
- Are all the members aware of that reason?
- Does the church know what should be done to enable the church to grow?
- Do your plans include the involvement of all the Christians in the tasks of their choice?
- Are the members aware of the wide variety of work available to the Christian?
- Is love evident among the members?
- Do they need motivation?
- Would members like to know how to witness by "doing" as well as "telling"?
- Would church leaders like some guidance in their roles?

PERMIT THE DEPARTMENT OF HOME MISSIONS & EVANGELISM
TO HELP YOUR MEMBERS ACHIEVE THE FULL AND ABUNDANT
LIFE FOR WHICH THEY WERE CALLED AND, AS A BONUS, YOU
WILL ASSUREDLY,

"DOUBLE IN A DECADE".

THE CHURCH AT COCKIES CROSSING

BARRY McMURTRIE COMMENDED

To the Editor,

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

— Trevor Giles (Blackwood, S.A.)

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

McMURTRIE PUBLISHES BOOK

All that Barry McMurtrie said at the seminar and at the celebration "Church Growth — The Next Five Years" can be read in his book "TIME OUT" Vital Publications, \$4.

MINISTRY THROUGH TEAMWORK

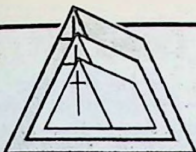


Adelaide ministers in western suburbs Jeff Fewster, Graham Agnew, Don Sonsee and Roger Risson with "Changing Moods" leadership.

WORSHIP AS A TOOL FOR EVANGELISM



Our worship services can be made effective tools for evangelism. As contacts are brought into a meaningful service and an awareness of the reality of Christ, so the way is opened for their commitment and discipling. Warmth, vitality and informality in our worship can greatly aid the process of discipling.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA HOME MISSIONS

A VISION FOR GROWTH IN THE 80'S

Churches of Christ have the potential to become a great Australian church. We can share in the vision of what under God we may become. Our recent experiences with growing churches, well-knit strength and confident ministry makes our future exciting.

GROWING INTO THE 80'S

The emphasis for the concerted thrust in outreach in South Australia this decade will focus on Teamwork in ministry, Effective Use of People Resources, Worship as a Tool for Evangelism and Public Relations.



RESOURCES: HOME OUTREACH STUDIES

People who ask about the gospel message may be given the opportunity to participate in an 8 week study. Using the syn-croscope discussion is encouraged and a commitment is often made.

THE EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES



Churches need to mobilise their resources for the Kingdom of God. The leadership team need to be aware of the skills and gifts of people. Then people need to be appointed to work appropriate to their gifts.

PROJECTING THE IMAGE OF THE CHURCH



A well kept property and enthusiastic people mean outreach is being achieved. Property which conveys an impression of action and publicity which brings a response through its quality, aid the church's public relations with the community.

A BLIND MAN AT THE GRAND CANYON

Jim Preston is a novelist. He is a member of the Black Rock Church of Christ (Vic.), and was in one of the World Convention of Churches of Christ touring parties. He sent us the following letter and poem.

Dear Gordon,
I vowed when I went on our American tour that I was going to have a complete holiday and no writing. During our visit to the Grand Canyon, however, I had the company of Cyril Minns and we stood on the

edge of the Canyon and he asked me to describe what I saw. I rather pride myself on my descriptive abilities in the written word, but I must confess that I was stumped (excellent English!). I wrote the enclosed little piece that night and read it to the people on our bus the following morning. Several suggested that I send it to you, and, so, here it is. If you can use it well and good; if not just use it as scrap paper. I am beyond being upset by rejections.

"Tell me," the blind man said to me,
"What do you see in the mighty Grand Canyon?
I sense a feeling of awesome wonder,
But tell me, truly, what do you see?"
So I gazed at the gashed and wounded earth,
And sought inspiration from the scarified rocks,
"I see a vast and awe-inspiring scene
Of nature," I said - and then was forced to pause.

"Why do you stop?" the blind man asked.
"You are a writer, I understand,
And descriptive English is your forte',
So tell me, simply, what do you see?"

But how, I wondered, do I tell this man
Of the breathtaking wonder unfolded
In this picture of rugged grandeur
Etched at my feet on the face of Creation?
I stared, and the ageless rocks stared back,
Barren and jagged and yet with a beauty
Defying description, in spite of my calling
And the polished gems of the English tongue.

There are colourful hues and delicate shades,
And shapes like temples all sculptured by time,
And the mist-shrouded depths of the mighty Canyon
Hold the mystery of a Mona Lisa smile.

These thoughts I convey to the blind man now -
And know at once that I've failed,
For how can I tell in simple words
Of wonders that lie beyond our conception?

Then suddenly, echoing through the misty depths,
I heard the gentle voice of God
Say, "Beauty lies deeper than the eye can see
And reflects on the heart of mortal man."

So I said to the man who could not see,
"Now I see through my heart as you must do,
And I see in the Grand Canyon's depths
The presence of God and the dawn of Creation."

And the blind man smiled, for he knew that I meant:
And we stood in silence and closed our eyes,
And knew in our hearts, both he and I,
The smallness of man in the presence of God.

MISSIONARY DOCTOR RECEIVES AWARD

Dr Kenneth Elliott, an Australian missionary doctor in the West African country of Upper Volta, has been named as the recipient of the first Robert W. Pierce Award for Christian Service. The award, to be made annually by World Vision International, carries a \$5000 grant.

Dr Elliott, 46, has served in West Africa for the last 13 years and is the founder of a hospital at Djibo, Upper Volta.

Born on his parents' sheep farm at Maya, he got most of his early education through correspondence courses. He obtained a degree in medicine at the Univer-

sity of Western Australia in 1964 and studied tropical medicine at the Liverpool University, England. Before going to Africa in 1967, Dr Elliott practised medicine at several Australian hospitals and assisted a doctor who flew to remote areas of the outback to provide treatment for gold miners and at Aboriginal mission stations.

In addition to his medical work, Dr Elliott and his family have established a small group of Christians in this predominantly Islamic country.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON

ABORIGINAL MATTERS

The following are questions asked and answers given in relation to the Aborigines Missions Report at Federal Conference.

Q.— Why are not Aborigines given the opportunity to be nominated to the Board?

A.— Aborigines are given the opportunity and three Aboriginal people were approached to be nominated for Board Membership for this Conference but declined because of other heavy commitments.

Q.— Why does the Board continue to have so many personnel involved in child care?

A.— 1. Because of need.

2. Current pressing Government standards lay down the ratio of children to House Parents.

Q.— Have staff wages been reviewed recently and are they comparable with national wage structures?

A.— Yes, under constant review and Yes, holiday pay equal to Pastor's salary plus travelling.

Q.— What is the relationship that the Board has with the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship?

A.— (a) Co-operation, with some direct support as in the case of salary and vehicle for Dean of Bimbadeen Bible College.

(b) Salary and Vehicle for pastor A.E.F. Church Albury.

(c) Salary and Vehicle for pastor A.E.F. Church Pt. Lincoln.

(d) Continuing dialogue between A.E.F. and ourselves.

(e) Federal Board Secretary was first Secretary of A.E.F. in W.A.

Q.— Could the Board quickly channel up to date information about developments in relation to land rights to churches? Could this include information of the political nature of conflicts?

A.— (a) Board has prepared a paper entitled "Guidelines for our Churches in Relation to Aboriginal Issues". These will be distributed to our churches.

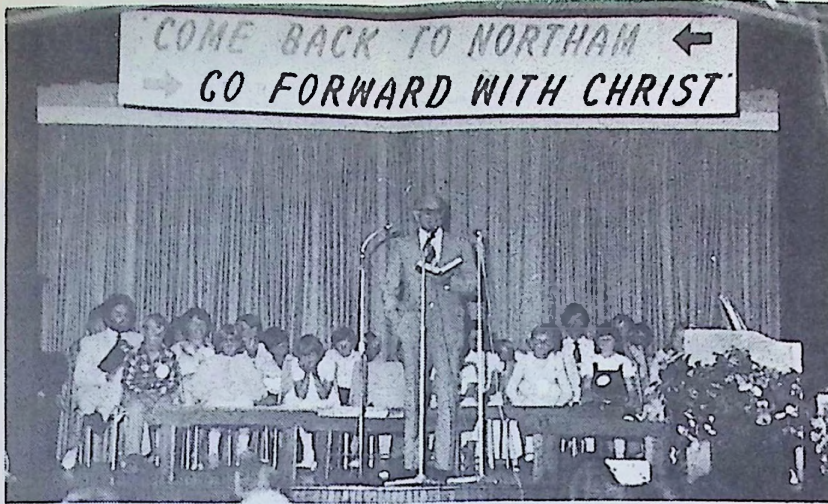
(b) Other material is also available in publications from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs which includes:- D.A.A. Newsletter, Identity, On Being, and State Aboriginal Publications.

(c) The Board thinks that it should not be involved in political interpretations because of political division within the Brotherhood and amongst Aboriginal people.

(d) The magnitude of keeping abreast with matters like this and then disseminating the information is beyond Board resources.

MARYBOROUGH (K. Haythorpe). Church involved in "Christian Happening" . . . Minister President of Bible Society . . . Peter and Paul Sumner took part in B.S. anniversary . . . "Ground Level" led morning service . . . Youth camp in charge of Lynton Smith . . . Film "Born Again" screened at drive-in.

NORTHAM'S 75th ANNIVERSARY



Frank Ewers speaking at worship service. Older Sunday School children in background.

After many weeks of planning and praying the 75th anniversary of the Northam church was held Oct. 10-12.

Morris Randell and Bill Gaunson were interviewed on the local radio station and were well received.

The film, "He Leadeth Me" was screened on the Friday night. A time of relaxation and fun was experienced by those attending the barbecue and picnic at Lance Palmer's farm on Saturday. The remaining meetings were held in the Memorial Hall to cope with the numbers. Saturday evening Bill Gaunson (former minister) brought a challenging message at the rally. The mixed choir sang the choral presentation "By My Spirit" under the leadership of Frank Regterschot, with other items from a ladies trio and a solo by Joy Ingham.

Claude Roediger presided over the worship and communion service when a Bible presented to Mr and Mrs. Fletcher the first couple to be married in

the new chapel in 1927 was used for the readings. The S.S. anniversary and Cradle Roll were incorporated in this service. Former minister Frank Ewers challenged each one present with his message. The C.W.F. prepared a fellowship lunch under the organisation of June Roediger. The anniversary cake was cut by Morris and Kathy Randell (present minister and wife). At the final service Bill Gaunson brought the message and seven young people made their decision. The choir was requested to sing again after the service.

An overall number of 1,100 attended with visitors from many parts of the state and interstate and greetings from many unable to attend. Mal Roediger and Bob Little compiled a display of photographs from the earlier days to the present day.

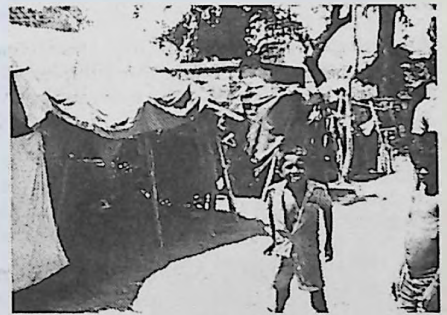
"To God be the Glory" was the expression of all as many "Came Back to Northam" and the prayer is that all will "Go Forward With Christ".

FLOOD DEVASTATION IN INDIA



Houses destroyed at Daudnagar in Uttar Pradesh.

Floods have devastated thousands of homes in Uttar Pradesh in India. Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (C.O.C.O.A.) took action. \$1500 was immediately sent to the Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission on Relief (E.F.I.C.O.R.) This group is concentrating their efforts on two villages in the Lucknow District and plans are underway to supply building materials to 100 families who have lost everything. The contribution from the Australian Brotherhood will make it possible to supply building materials to 15 families. Your giving to C.O.C.O.A. makes it possible to help.



Temporary shelters on the roadside

QUESTIONS OF "THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN"

These are some questions asked and answered at the recent Federal Conference

Q.— Could we have special issues giving in-depth treatment of specific social questions?

A.— This is being considered, e.g. next three issues will be considering divorce and remarriage.

Q.— Church reports heavily blue-pencilled cause concern?

A.— People who feel blue-pencilling extremes should write personally to the editor who will take up the matter.

Q.— Can the Board review format with view to higher quality and new image?

A.— This matter is constantly under review but suggestions from informed people will be welcomed.

Q.— Can the Board review content considering more articles of educational and inspirational nature?

A.— This is under review, keeping in mind that the "A.C." is primarily a Christian newspaper.

Q.— Could there be 3 or 4 issues per year for special seasons comprising inspirational and outreach articles for distribution to contacts on new converts, perhaps using better paper and more colour?

A.— An experimental issue will be published in mid 1981 and more details will come to the churches later.

Q.— Could the Editor/Board meet Editors of State papers with view to amalgamation?

A.— The A.C. is interested in this proposal but would not make strong positive moves in this direction unless there was enthusiasm from the States concerned.

Q.— In order to update by way of colour cover etc., what would be necessary subscription rate?

A.— Full colour cover (picture only) in glossy paper with rest black and white would cost \$4.50 per annum per subscriber extra, i.e. 50% increase on new rate.

Q.— What is present printing situation?

A.— Printed under contract by Standard Newspapers Cheltenham Vic. to July 81. Currently paying below cost. Because of increases to come, investigations at 4 or 5 other printers indicate best alternative would be a cost of 30% more per issue.

ARGENTINIAN TORTURES

According to Amnesty International an Argentine army squad has gone into Peru and kidnapped a number of Argentinians. Amnesty believes that the victims were tortured and killed. It is understood that the operation was carried out with the help of a number of Peruvian army officials.

MUSICAL AT BERWICK

Over 150 people packed the Berwick Regional Church of Christ on Saturday, October 25 to hear the Christian musical "In Everyway Rejoice", featuring the church's own gospel singing group Sugar and Salt, plus musicians and male spoken voices. The production visibly moved many within the audience.

Norval Bunch, one of the ministry team of Berwick Regional Church of Christ stated:

"We are thrilled by the way God has allowed us to use this particular musical as a means of presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ. The simple message is told through music, choreography and song, and presents a real life challenge to us all to re-examine our purpose in life."

The musical would go on tour at the end of November, being performed at Albury on Friday, November 28, Canberra Saturday, November 29 and Wollongong on Sunday, November 30.

AFTER CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

These programs are sponsored by the S.A. Department of Christian Education to facilitate sharing and mixing of young people from various local congregations throughout Adelaide and its suburbs. The last A.C.F. event was held on Sunday evening October 19 at the Edwardstown church. The program was presented by the Edwardstown church and included bright lively singing from individuals, the Edwardstown singing group and also from all those who attended. Rob Combridge, minister, gave a challenging address on the theme 'He is Lord'.

BIRTH ON MISSION FIELD

Our congratulations and best wishes to Russell and Jeanette Mutzelburg, formerly missionaries in Vanuatu, on the birth of their daughter Sari Kate on October 6, and Michael and Helen Burgar of Papua New Guinea on the birth of a daughter, Lori, on October 24.

THOMSON (Martin Rees). Annual meeting best attended for many years. Casserole luncheon followed. R. Grazules — Secretary, K. McGregor — Treasurer, D. Simper — Elder elected . . . Morning service attendances doubled since Martin Rees commenced as student minister . . . Play group mothers now attending church and at their request are participating in Bible studies on Thursday evenings.

NORTH DANDENONG (Alan Baker). Successful fund-raising activities included cake stall and garage sale . . . Day of prayer held . . . Letter box drop inviting community to church commenced. **SWANSTON STREET** (A. L. Webb, B. Morton, P. Deuble). 115th Anniversary celebrated with overflow attendances . . . During Oct. 10 new members welcomed through faith and baptism . . . Living Circle Choir presented musical "New Wine" on two successive nights. Over 500 present with 5 decisions made . . . Church shocked by tragic death in a road accident of Dr Ian Cheung. Memorial service held . . . Half day of prayer held for members of missionary family . . . Pam Mason, member of ministry team, married Jeff Deuble.

OPEN FORUM

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

"THE CHRISTIAN ALTERNATIVE"

To the Editor,

On Friday, Oct. 17, I read in the "Age" lift-out voting Supplement of the three Senate Candidates standing as "The Christian Alternative." I turned to several issues of the "A.C." to see if there was some reference to these people. There was not a word. However, "New Life" ran on October 16 an article with comments by Dean Shilton, in which he mentioned the "Christian Alternative Team". So I put them first on my Senate ballot paper.

I feel very sad that our church journal did not inform its readers about these people who are willing to offer themselves in the name of Christ. We badly need Christians in parliament and should get behind such people, giving them publicity which they probably cannot afford otherwise. I feel that we should receive from our church paper informed comment about any Christian candidates standing for Parliament.

— June Cantwell (Dandenong, Vic.)

We only learned of "The Christian Alternative" Senate team when we received their "How to Vote" document on Polling Day.

"THE CHRISTIAN" AND POLITICS

To the Editor,

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

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

— Allan B. Clark (Vic.)

(This letter is reprinted as in its original form a sentence was omitted in the printing which altered the meaning of the letter.)

ADVICE TO TERTIUS

To the Editor,

Could you pass on to Tertius some advice on "how to avoid too much guilty feeling" (October 4). Tell Tertius to get involved, learn some facts and do something! Perhaps he could join a Community Aid Abroad group, or a political party or an Aboriginal Support group and be more informed on local issues.

I would warn Tertius that the first step may be hard and lonely but tell him there are plenty of people already working in these areas who are eagerly awaiting his help!

— Alison Whyatt (Blackwood, S.A.)

REX ELLIS

We have been informed that Rex Ellis died suddenly last Saturday, November 1. We ask your prayers for Verlie Ellis and her family during this time. An obituary will appear in "The Australian Christian" at a later date.

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

SAY "PLEASE!", PLEASE

To the Editor,

When our children were smaller the wife and I always seemed to be nagging them to say "Please!" It paid off. Now that they are older we can always depend on them to say "Please!" when they are out and when we have visitors.

It occurred to me that it wouldn't hurt to say "Please!" to God sometimes.

The wife encourages me to go with her to a neighbourhood prayer group. They are polite, well brought up, middle class Christians with unusually good manners . . . until they talk to God. You should hear the way they order him around, with never a please and hardly ever a thank you.

"Send your blessings upon us," demands one. An elderly man prays the same please-less prayer but in quaint terms. He says, "vouchsafe thy blessings upon us." Another demands with some fervour, "Lord, give us souls!" I fully expect the Lord to ask him what we have done with the ones he has already given us. And there are the usual requests to heal the sick and feed the hungry and fill the church with nice new people and to bless the missionaries. I don't think that I have heard any of them say, "Please!"

I am sure that God is not worried about it. But I believe that it would do us a lot of good to say, "Please Lord!"

Yours, if you please,
TERTIUS

NEW CHAPEL OPENED AND DEDICATED

MT. ISA, QLD.

The new Church of Christ complex was officially opened and dedicated on September 27.

The chapel, on the corner of Ann and Stanley Streets, was formerly used as a super-market. It was bought last year during the visit of V.G. Boettcher the then Conference President in Queensland, who negotiated the purchase from Mr and Mrs Alan Loudon, together with the adjoining house, fully furnished, which will ultimately be used as the manse.

The work of the church is being maintained mainly by lay preachers while visits are made by ministers from centres throughout the State which gives impetus to the work.

Alterations and renovations have converted the building into a chapel capable of seating 200. It is carpeted throughout, there is a fully-equipped kitchen which also serves as a kindergarten and "cry room." The major conversion work — interior and exterior painting, fixtures, feature wall and overall tasks — was done by voluntary labour. Between \$8,000 to \$10,000 was spent.

Ron Ruhle, Elder, introduced Vic. Boettcher of Ipswich, to officially declare the chapel open. The "key was turned" to open the doors by Robt. Eaton, Secretary and one of the senior members. The service of Dedication was led and conducted by Pastor Boettcher. The Member for Mount Isa, Angelo Bertoni, MLA., congratulated the church on the project. Ald. Mrs. Edna Medley, Deputy Mayor, on behalf of the citizens of Mt. Isa wished to the church god's richest blessing.

Greetings from the Conference President, Norman Watson and many others, (some of them former citizens of Mt. Isa) and apologies, were read by Robt. Stewart. Greetings from other churches were given by, Jeff. Jones, Uniting Church; Alan Barton, Baptist; J. Eaton, Presbyterian; Sgt. Major Deeley, Salvation Army, Pastor K. Walter, Assembly of God and C. Kreuger of the Christian Assembly.

LIBRARY RULE BARS BIBLE

Children who try to borrow the Bible from their county library in Whiteville, North Carolina, now have to have their parents' written permission.

Some parents had complained that library books with sexually explicit sections should not be available for children to see or read. So, in June, the library trustees drew up a new policy designed to keep children away from such books, fiction and non-fiction alike, unless they have the express consent of their parents.

The Bible was deemed one of the many "adult" books covered by the restriction.

— Sojourners

EDITORIAL

WHERE TO HOME MISSIONS?

We have had Home Missions for over 100 years and the story of the growth and development of our Brotherhood is very much the story of Home Missions.

Originally Home Mission Committees were set up by state conferences to enable the churches to assist new causes and to help weaker churches on their way to self support. They also conducted evangelistic missions and for years each State Committee had its own mission tent and equipment and a team to maintain it.

NEW INITIATIVES

Apart from subsidising churches and sponsoring evangelistic missions, the Home Mission Committees did not take many other initiatives, the policy mainly being to serve churches only when invited. It appears that more recently Home Mission departments have seen themselves as giving leadership to the whole of the mission of the church on the home front, particularly as it relates to evangelism and church planting and general spiritual health. Hence many imaginative initiatives have been taken.

OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT

Some departments have worked with Property Committees to buy land in what could become, developing areas, to avoid later situations when land for church purposes may be both scarce and expensive. Home Mission Departments have taken the initiative in encouraging larger churches or groups of churches to consider establishing new churches in fringe areas. They have encouraged other churches to provide money and manpower to give new life to tired and run-down churches.

AREA CO-OPERATION

Home Mission Departments have taken the initiative in approaching inner area churches (not all of them Home Mission supported) to encourage them to pool their resources and personnel in order to find new hope and identity as they work together in these areas of rapid change and ethnic complexity. They have also approached churches in what might be called

"middle areas". These churches were once the large and generous supporters of Home Missions, but are now themselves diminished by removals and by the fact that in a pre-car age they were established too close together. Home Mission Departments are helping them to discover strategies of rationalisation to enable the most effective use of manpower and resources not to postpone dying, but to find new life and effective outreach to the hundreds of thousands still living round about them.

OTHER INITIATIVES

Home Mission Departments are often made up of our most able ministerial and lay leaders, both men and women. Under their guidance there have appeared services to the churches such as planned giving, church life conferences, church programming assistance and evangelistic campaigns. And some of them have great shelves full of resource materials for churches willing to try new ideas in mission.

WINNING AUSTRALIA TO CHRIST

And now our Home Mission Directors and their Departments have us all involved in the beginnings of an evangelism program with no less an aim than that of winning Australia for Christ. We will expect to be challenged by them.

We will expect from them clear answers to some of the following questions.

What is evangelism in the 80's?

What does it look and feel like?

How do we stop talking about it and do it?

How can we get every one enthusiastic about it?

What new techniques are emerging in the 80's that will be as effective as marquee evangelism was in the 20's and 30's?

How can we get value for money and time invested in evangelism, the value being new people coming alive with new life in Christ?

And how can we make come true the dreams of the imaginative men and women of our Home Mission Departments who are planning our national program of evangelism?

BARRY JENKINS ATTENDS CONSULTATION ON DEVELOPMENT

Barry Jenkins attended a "Consultation on the Theology of Development" at Bangalore in India in July. It brought together theologians, workers in development agencies and a few local pastors to examine the approaches to development.

Rev. V. Samuel and Rev. Chris Sugden challenged the group to think through not only the theological presuppositions, but also the social and political structures which confront any program. They suggested as a starting definition that "Development is a process by which people gain greater control over themselves, their environment and their future in order to realise the full potential that God has made possible."

The Bible Studies were conducted each day by Dr Ron Sider, the President of "Evangelicals for Social Action, U.S.A."

He is also author of "Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger".

Another interesting contributor was Dr Desmond D'Abreo from an organisation named DEEDS, which claims to work from the slums to get resource materials rather than from text books. Dr D'Abreo believes India has the resources within the country itself to solve all the economical problems India faces. The real problem is not how to get overseas aid, but how to get the crores (millions) of Rupees which are sanctioned by India's Government past the legion of government departments and officials to the poor people for whom the money was originally granted. His challenge was to tap local resources first before applying for overseas aid.

Condensed from an article written by Barry Jenkins in "Union Church News".

LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN INDONESIA

Five people were recently trained in Indonesia for evangelistic outreach and the development of the Bible Reading program.

For three months they studied at Jakarta, Bogor, Cikembar (Motivators Training Centre) and Yogyakarta (Lay Training Centre). The trainees have now returned to their homes where they will be

equipping other church members for their missionary task in society. The course was sponsored jointly by the Indonesian Scripture Union and Institut Oikumene Indonesia. The Rev. D. R. Maitimoe expressed appreciation to the Australian Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board for providing the finance for this missionary venture.



Trainees conducting Seminar on evangelism using Bible material.

CHRISTIAN WORK CAMPS

Christian Work Camps are volunteers who work and live together as a community expressing Christian responsibility — by working to meet and understand human needs.

The aim in all projects is the answering of need for a person or group through the use of voluntary labour.

People from all walks of life — skilled and unskilled — are involved. Lasting friendships are made, talents discovered, and campers have the opportunity to share, work together and to grow in their Christian faith.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

This year's activities will take place around Australia over the Christmas period.

At Echuca (Dec. 26-Jan. 4) the aim is to build a bungalow for a woman who is an officer with the Echuca Aboriginal Co-operative. The bungalow will provide extra family accommodation and also enable her to continue helping youths in need of care.

The Albury (Dec. 26-Jan. 4) project involves building a covered way and path, as well as interior and exterior painting, at the Mother of God Brothers' Community for handicapped men.

The girls' detention centre of Winlaton at Nunawading (Jan. 5-11) requires a corridor being converted into a small radio room. The girls will then eventually become involved in running a radio program.

Spencer (on the Hawkesbury River 70 kms north of Sydney) is the site of a

campsite owned by Teen Challenge. This work camp (Dec. 26-Jan. 14) will build an accommodation unit for use in Teen Challenge's drug rehabilitation work.

The other Christian Work Camp will be held at Warburton Ranges in W.A. A new store is to be built for the Aboriginal community. This camp has already been filled.

Anyone over the age of 18 interested in attending should contact the Victorian convenor Lynne Coker, 11 Haig St., Burwood, Vic. 3125. Phone (03) 288 2683. Applications close on November 28 so action would need to be made now.

GIFT

The Victorian-Tasmanian Conference Executive wishes to acknowledge the receipt with thanks of an anonymous gift of \$200 through the mails. This was designated as \$100 for the work of the Overseas Missions Board and \$100 for the work of the Aborigines Missions Department.

MALI DROUGHT

A serious drought is still affecting the West African nation Mali. World Vision has just approved a grant of \$20,000 to feed 4000 families in rural areas.

The agency reports that families are scavenging the countryside for game, roots and leaves. World Vision field workers are concerned because many of the roots are poisonous. World Vision will channel its aid through the Protestant Evangelical Church Association.

VANUATU

Under the leadership of Pastor Fred Timikata, the Minister of Home Affairs, every effort is being made to bring about reconciliation amongst the people of Vanuatu. The church has a vital ministry of reconciliation. During the coup on Santo the Church of Christ kept its doors open for worship each Sunday.

Nearly all the equipment which was taken from the Sunlight Centre and the business office has now been recovered.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA NEWS

* CONFERENCE FORMED

Further maturity in the church in Papua New Guinea is revealed in the formation of a Churches of Christ conference. Manis, a mission trained carpenter, was elected Chairman for the next 12 months.

* MADANG CENTRE MOVES AHEAD

Plans for the first stage of the centre in Madang have been completed by Michael Burgar. Money is being given by our Brotherhood for this exciting move and it is hoped that a work team from Toowoomba will erect the chapel, in February.

* BIBLE SCHOOL STUDENTS SHARE THEIR FAITH.

Students of the Gokto Bible School took time out to put their learning into practice. Some went to the new congregation at the village of Green on the Biwat River and others to Korokopa the village from which Raphael (one of the teachers) comes. It's very encouraging to see the students involved in evangelism.

We regret that Paul Williams who is located at Bunapas is suffering from hepatitis.

INDIAN NEWS

* DOCTORS APPOINTED

The Daund Hospital has appointed a young married couple by the name of Bhaskar, both of whom are medical doctors. It is anticipated that medical work at the village level will be extended.

VANUATU NEWS

* VISITORS TO FEDERAL CONFERENCE

Three representatives of Churches of Christ in Vanuatu were present at the Federal Conference at Stanwell Tops, N.S.W. It was great to have Sister May Reuben, the matron of the Ndui Ndui hospital, Morrie Tabi who is involved in Bible Translation work, and Pastor William Vuti a teacher at Londua.

* LIGHT AT BANMATMAT BIBLE COLLEGE

Our thanks to David West and his son Larry of N.S.W. for organising and completing the electrical wiring for the Banmatmat Bible College on the island of Pentecost. The diesel generator has had a long wait at Santo owing to the political problems, but should soon be installed.

— George Mathieson.

BOOKS TO READ

TIME OUT

— by Barry McMurtrie (Vital Publications) \$4.00

"Planning for growth" and "meeting needs" have become well-known phrases in many of our Australian churches as they have applied the principles of Church Growth in their local situations. A new vitality has emerged as people have discovered new opportunities and new abilities to be the church in the community. "Time Out" is a re-enforcement of the Church Growth ideal with many practical ideas for its implementation.

The book has come out of the wide experience of the author in the business world and successful ministries at Ballarat, Berwick and Wollongong. With great insight, and a measure of humour, Barry McMurtrie makes a plea for a return to the vitality and freshness of our early Movement and to catch a new vision of ourselves as a body in the Australian context. Issues such as effective church leadership, good administration, meaningful worship, a vital image and worthwhile outreach are discussed with openness and a real concern that our churches come alive.

Although all ideas need analysis, re-interpretation in the local situation and a good deal of hard work, the basic concepts that are put forward in the book contain much valuable material, ideas and practical help for any local church wishing to grow.

"Time Out" is recommended reading and discussion matter for every church board. At \$4.00 per copy the value of the book to local church far outweighs its cost. Available from State Home Missions Departments or the Department of Mission, Education and Development, 52 Latrobe Street, Melbourne, 3000. (\$4.00 plus postage).

YOUR KINGDOM COME: SECTION REPORTS

(Australian Council of Churches) \$2.50

This is the first of the reports to be published from the World Council of Churches Commission for World Mission and Evangelism Conference held in Melbourne during May this year.

This booklet contains the complete texts of the four section reports. The sections were 1. Good News to the Poor, 2. The Kingdom of God and Human Struggles, 3. The Church Witnesses to the Kingdom, and 4. Christ — Crucified and Risen — Challenges Human Power.

Questions that would help to focus the implications of the conference to a local level are included after each report as well as photos of the conference. A collection of prayers and litanies is also included.

Copies are available at State Council of Churches offices or from the A.C.C. at \$2.50 (plus 50c postage).

SHAKING THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

by Michael Griffiths (Inter-Varsity Press)

A hard hitting book that calls the church to wake up and work at its task of world-wide mission. This book follows the author's previous book on the view of the church "Cinderella with Amnesia".

This volume is a challenge to the churches today to grow. There is an examination of the factors involved in the mission of the church and its growth potential. One inhibiting factor has been the problem of 'universalism' and one chapter is devoted to this topic.

The last chapter of the dream of a multi-racial church with different patterns of ministry than that which we are used to is very interesting. Recommended.

I BELIEVE IN THE CREATOR

by James Houston (Hodder and Stoughton)

Part of the 'I Believe' series this volume is one of the least satisfactory in an excellent series. A look at the belief of God as the creator and the implication that this belief has for the Christian. A large number of literary illustrations makes the book more suited for someone with a love in that area.

MERCHANTS IN DEATH

by Ray Maltby (Gordon and Gotch) \$3.95

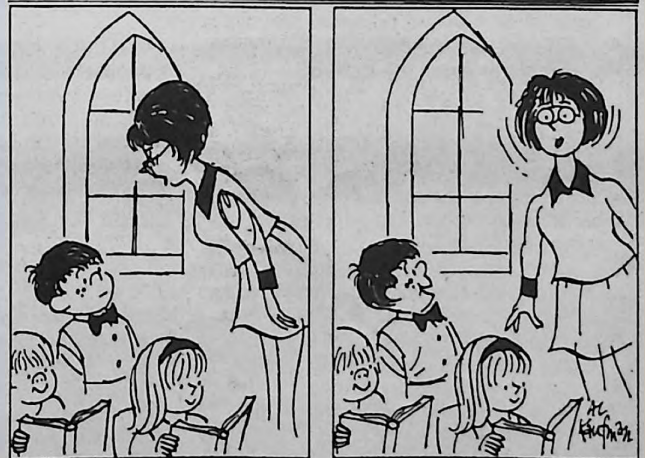
Ray Maltby who was in the funeral director business himself writes, as he puts it, "some sound advice on how to handle the people who profit from death." He does not expose any rackets in the funeral, burial, or cremation industries, or in the legal profession or in local government bureaucracy. But he does show the ordinary family how careful they need to be in order not to be paying a lot more than they should when death with all of its traumas is upon them.

Professionals concerned with death are concerned both for the welfare of the bereaved and for their own profits. But in a world of cut-throat business competition it is often necessary to be more mindful of the latter than of the former. Ray Maltby goes into this in great detail. He tells how death comes to a family and what to do and how it should be handled legally and emotionally. He points out the need for changes in legislation to be made in order to protect families. He warns how hidden and unnecessary costs can be added to funeral bills. He has some strong words to say about some clergy fees. This reviewer wonders why clergy profit from death and accept fees when the time they spend with the bereaved is already being paid for by their churches; and the ministry they are performing is part of their normal pastoral care. He also wonders who gave funeral directors the right to assume that the clergy want a fee, and the right to collect it on their behalf. This book is essential reading for ministers and recommended for families. Maltby also deals with memorials, wills, so called stages of grief, records and the "do it yourself funeral" (which he does not recommend). The writer also has written a book "For Those We Leave Behind" which unblushingly he recommends should be in every home. If it is as factual and helpful as this one we agree with him. He writes of it, "it is the only book presently available in Australia which is a full and true guide to the procedures, alternatives and events surrounding and associated with funerals."

— G.R.S.

The two latest Pamphlet Club productions are now available. These are available from the Federal Literature Department, 5 Atkins St., Glen Iris, Vic. at an annual subscription of \$3. The first pamphlet "The Gospel and Communication" was written by Lois Hawkins whose husband Elza wrote the other pamphlet "Ministers of Reconciliation and Truth". Lois and Elza Hawkins recently spent five months lecturing at the College of the Bible.

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



"DO YOU KNOW WHERE LITTLE BOYS GO WHO DON'T PUT THEIR SUNDAY SCHOOL MONEY IN THE PLATE?"

"YEAH, TO THE MOVIES."

HAPPENINGS

Brisbane's Christian radio station 4FRB will be on air again on December 19, 20 and 21 at 104.9 MHz on the FM band. Family Radio is aiming to obtain a permanent licence for FM broadcasting in Brisbane.

The Australian General Secretary of the Bible Society, Rev. James Payne, was re-elected Chairman of the World Executive Committee, United Bible Societies. He was first elected in 1976 and is the first Australian to hold the post.

On September 13 the Billy Graham Centre was dedicated at Wheaton College, Illinois, U.S.A. The five storey centre is reported to have the world's most comprehensive collection of evangelism materials, history and exhibits.

A directive from the Central Office of the Customs Dept., dated

May 1980, reclassifies Sunday Schools and will result in a sharp increase in importing charges for visual materials not in book form. A 35% duty now applies to these items. The directive states "Sunday Schools are no longer to be considered as a school or educational institution".

President emeritus of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, Dr. Kenneth Pike, with his wife Evelyn will be lecturing on field linguistics for a month at Peking University.

The latest Latin American conflict between church and state is in Bolivia. The new military government has accused the country's top churchman, Archbishop Jorge Manrique of having links with international Marxism. A ban has been placed on priests reading the bishop's pastoral letter in Bolivian churches. The

church says that the new government is involved in gross violations of human rights. It says it has proof of murders, torture and persecution against the poor since its coup in July.

New York's Governor Hugh Carey last month vetoed a so-called cult bill that had been passed by the state legislature. In effect, the bill would have allowed parents to forcibly "rescue" grown children who had undergone "a sudden and radical change in behavior, lifestyle, habits, and attitudes" and subject them to "deprogramming" for up to 90 days.

A group of 800 Vietnamese of the Nung ethnic group living near the Chinese border have accepted Christ through listening to F.E.B.C. broadcasts. Requests to the Evangelical Church executive in Hanoi for assistance resulted in one Bible and one hymnbook because of shortages of pastors and materials.

An Anglican bishop who recently spent a night in jail after participating in a march for equal rights for blacks and publicly denounced the South African government for its unjust policies. Bishop Desmond Tutu has called for strong economic measures to be taken against his government by the world community. He is the first black to head the South African Council of Churches.

A half a million dollar appeal for the victims of the Algerian earthquake was launched by the W.C.C. The A.C.C. contributed \$5,000 to the appeal. Within days of the earthquake two planes carrying medical equipment, tents, blankets, clothing and food had been dispatched from Europe.

Seminary students in Hungary are being punished for participating in religious group activities and carrying out pastoral work among university students.

diary

NATIONAL
November
30 Annual Offering — Home Missions

December
25 Christmas Day
QUEENSLAND
November
21 Kenmore College Graduation

22 Camp Leader Get-together
December

14-19 Midgets Camp
25 Senior Camp commences

NEW SOUTH WALES
November
14-16 Planning and Prayer Conference

21 College Graduation
VICTORIA
November

14 C.O.B. Graduation
15 Homes for the Aged Garden Party

18 C.M.F Dinner and Rally

25 C.F.A Annual Meeting

December
6 Youth Ministry Square Dance
7 Explorer Final Rally
26 Summer Camping commences

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
December

26-Jan. 1 Light Hearted People Christmas Camp
January
18-26 Redcliffs Camp

INNER SPRINGS

ELIMINATE THE TROUBLE SPOTS!

Recently one of our daily papers ran a series of articles entitled "The World's trouble spots as we enter the 1980's". It was a thumbnail picture of all those countries where potential danger lies.

I am not stating anything new when I say that each of those trouble spots, without exception, have originated in the heart of man. In Mark's gospel (7:21-23) Jesus pinpoints this very strongly. "From within, out of the heart of man, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, blasphemy, foolishness, pride. All these things come from within and defile a man".

And every day our daily papers and television screens confirm it. We are all capable of causing potential trouble spots!

I have been married over 30 years but it wasn't until recently when I overheard a complaint from the bathroom "I do wish people would screw the cap on the toothpaste properly!" that I realized my husband's long-standing irritation. Of course, I don't do it deliberately, and not every time, but if it goes on right it is more by luck than judgement. But now that I know I am careful to replace the cap properly and we both rejoice in a trouble spot eliminated.

I am not suggesting that it is easy. Self never abdicates without a struggle. But we have a mighty God whose power and strength is at our disposal. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me".

Long ago a great King lifted up his heart in prayer. "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

Let us do the same and allow Him to eliminate the trouble spots, and make something beautiful of our lives in a world that so badly needs it.

May the mind of Christ my Saviour
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and power controlling
All I do and say.

May the word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour.
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His power.

Mark 7: 21-23

Florence Rosier

ORTHODOX NUN STILL IN PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

Keston College has learned that Orthodox nun Valeriya Makeyeva is still interned in Kazan Special Psychiatric Hospital. Sister Valeriya was tried in April 1979 on charges of engaging in illegal production of handicrafts, (she embroidered belts with Psalm 91) and sentenced to an indefinite term in a ward for the criminally insane.

RATING THE SERMON

How to rate a sermon: G: Generally acceptable to everyone; G.P.: For more mature congregations, prepared for change; R: Restricted to those not upset by truth; X: Limited to those who can handle explosive ideas. This is the kind of sermon that landed Jeremiah in a well, got Amos run out of town, set things up for the stoning of Stephen.

— Religious News Service.

JESUS AND DIVORCE (2)

Page 13

In our first article we referred to marriages of church people which had virtually ceased to be God-made marriages, but which in former days were kept together because of economic, religious, social and family pressures. It was easier to stay in a bad marriage than to leave it. We suggested that these pressures on such marriages had weakened greatly today, hence the tendency for divorce to be found amongst church people, including ministers.

"HARDNESS OF HEART" STILL WITH US

We are having to come to terms with the fact that human-ness or what Jesus called "hardness of heart" is still with us, even in the church. Some marriages of Christians who are not really God-joined are so bad and so emotionally destructive that it could be better to end them. This does not mean that divorce is a good thing, but rather that divorce is sometimes the lesser of two evils. This is the sort of thing that Moses provided for, and that the Jews in Jesus' day misused for their adulterous purposes.

DIVORCE FOR SELFISH ENDS

There is no doubt that Jesus took a very dim view of the practice of breaking up a marriage because the male had become tired of one woman and wanted another. He was uncompromising in calling such persons adulterers. He also accused them of forcing their mates into adultery. This easy discarding of partners for selfish reasons was destroying Jewish family life.

Our Australian Family Law makes it easier for divorce for selfish, trivial and adulterous purposes, even if the intention of the modern Moses' who wrote it was to enable the ending of hopeless marriages as painlessly as possible. Almost certainly, as in Jewry, easier divorce adds one more threat to the concept of marriage as the basic unit of society. And as Jack Chivell reminded us in "On My Mind", even the church and its ministry are not free from the problem and all that goes with it.

SOME SEARCHING QUESTIONS FOR THE CHURCH

All of this leaves the church with some searching questions. Is divorce ever justified?

Can we accept that sometimes divorce is the lesser of two evils?

Should our ministers remarry divorcees?

How does the church minister pastoral care to those involved in divorce?

How does a church handle the break up of a minister's marriage when it may very well have contributed to it by extraordinary demands made upon him and upon his family?

MORE QUESTIONS

Most churches can cope with caring for those who are suffering after divorce, and in some cases with the "guilty parties" who are not suffering nearly enough. But what is the church's pastoral ministry to those who are in the agony of contemplating divorce because they cannot handle the greater agony of staying in a soul-destroying marriage? And how does the church minister to those who are in the middle of the

hell of divorce proceedings, especially when both parties are members of the same congregation? Do we withdraw from them while they are "unclean" and then when it is all over try to heal some of the hurts and to re-church them? And if the church is caring and loving to people involved in divorce is it thus condoning a social evil?

IT DEPENDS ON HOW WE USE THE NEW TESTAMENT

The answer to these questions depends on how we use the scriptures concerned, and indeed the whole of the New Testament.

Is the New Testament to be used as a law book in the way that the Jews used the Old Testament? If it is, are we then justified in attacking offending persons with texts, often out of context? And are such attacks the redemptive way of handling sin and the sinner? And are the situations that gave rise to the texts we use similar to the contemporary situations we are dealing with?

A BOOK OF RULES

If the New Testament is to be used as a book of rules, there are so many of them that we can easily concentrate on those that enable us to judge others while conveniently ignoring those that judge us. And it is possible to use the New Testament in such a way that we designate certain behaviour (which we do not indulge in) as being very sinful and unforgiveable, and certain other behaviour (which we do indulge in) as being easily forgiveable minor slips. We knew of an elder whose family all left the church (1 Timothy 3:4,5) objecting to the nomination of a divorcee to the board because he was an adulterer (Luke 16:18).

And even if the New Testament is to be understood as a law book, not one of us has any hope of keeping the laws, any more than the Jews had of keeping theirs. We have all sinned and come short of the glory of God.

GRACE AND FORGIVENESS

Surely the New Testament is about the grace and forgiveness of God who renews and recreates those who desire him to do so into loving, caring, understanding, responsible, Christ-like people. These are the sort of people who can have God-made marriages. All the trying in the world cannot make such marriages.

If we are people who are being renewed and recreated by God because we cannot save ourselves, we will not use the New Testament as a set of rules to bind others when we cannot keep them ourselves. Rather we will use it as a record of guidelines and principles for life for those whom God is making into loving, caring, responsible, Christ like people.

Such people will act redemptively rather than judgementally towards those whose marriages have come apart. Such people will keep before the church and the world the possibility of an ideal God-made marriage that does not come apart, as the real answer to the problem of divorce.

(In the next issue we will present the third and last of the discussions concerning divorce. We will look at two questions. Should our ministers remarry divorcees? And should divorcees ever hold office in the church?)

HOW WOULD JESUS VOTE?

People on this side of the world are heading for the polls. And the disturbing or inspiring aspect of the elections, depending on where you sit, is the role being played by religion.

Headlines, a day or so ago, said "How Jesus would vote in Italy"! The article was about an interview given by a former Prime Minister of Italy on how to be a Christian in the reality of modern Italian society. He concluded that Christ might just vote for Italy's eternally governing party, the Christian Democrats, if only because it was "the party of lesser evil".

A day later the headlines read: "Bishops Add Spice to Bonn Campaign". It referred to a pastoral letter written by Roman Catholic Bishops, which is to be read from 12,000 pulpits just before the West German elections. The letter warned of the expanding role of the state in daily life, increasing bureaucracy, the country's national debt and criticised the present government for simplifying divorce and abortion laws without giving support to marriage and the family.

BORN AGAIN POLITICS

In the USA the press is carrying major reports with attention-grabbing headlines, "Born Again Leaders seek Moral Blessing", "Preachers in Politics a Decisive Force in the '80's", and "A Tide of Born Again Politics".

Religion is news. Each of the three main contenders for the American Presidency has publicly proclaimed himself as a born again Christian and consider such a label an asset.

I was in the States when some thousands marched on the White House and Congress with the aim of bringing "Jesus to Washington". One commentator sees this development as "a political holy war without precedent in full swing; at stake are the loyalties of a huge legion of voters who could determine the November presidential election, "Millions of born again Christians"!

It is the 'electronic priests', such as the Rev. Jerry Falwell of Moral Majority, Inc., Pat Robertson of Christian Broadcasting Network and James Robinson of the Religious Round Table who are the leaders of this movement.

"BORN AGAIN POLITICS" PAYS OFF

Falwell, with his 'Old Time Gospel Hour', a private jet, together with a fund-raising operation which brings in a million dollars a week, has created, what is in fact, a separate religious denomination with a children's school, a Bible College and a University. He lives in a mansion "complete with portico, swimming pool and verdant lawns — all protected by a high wall and bible quoting guards". "Material wealth," he says, "is God's way of blessing people who put him first".

He is probably equalled in skilled marketing techniques only by the Reverend Oral Roberts, with whom Falwell says it is a neck and neck battle to see who leads the way. Roberts, a veteran of the electronic media, has an operation which includes the building of a \$200 million 'city of faith' which will have a 60

Alan Matheson (Geneva)

storey hospital "with 777 beds because he believes in lucky seven".

POLITICAL EVANGELISM

The new 'political right' led by these evangelical activists sees the traditional values of American life under threat. They are strongly opposed to abortion and equal rights for women. They advocate prayers in public schools, a strong anti-communist foreign policy, heavy defence spending and a balanced budget.

In the USA, Religious Round Table, after a meeting with Ronald Reagan, said that the candidate had promised to consider evangelicals for top appointments in exchange for their help in getting elected.

NOT ALL ARE HAPPY

Not all are happy with the trends.

One born again black activist, the Reverend Tom Skinner, says: "there are more than 300 verses in the Bible on the commitment of churches to the poor, to justice and righteousness but they are silent on that".

One of the most concerned critics of the new involvement of the evangelicals and the potential dangers of exploiting the electronic media are some evangelicals themselves. Writing in a recent issue of Christianity Today, under the title of 'Peddling the Power and the Promises', D.G. Kehl asks whether in obedience to carrying out the Great Commission we are justified in the use of Madison Avenue methods of promotion and marketing. We are to proclaim, not pacify he says, we are to herald, not huckster. He argues that "every time a church tried to act through propaganda devices accepted by an epoch, the truth and authenticity of Christianity were abased".

In Australia we so readily ape American church life; we import their books, we play out their historical decisions, we wear their masters and doctorates, and we imitate their evangelism. We would do well to have second thoughts about yet another religious fad imported from overseas.

NEW SURVEY ON CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IN ENGLAND

18% of the total adult population to England are church members, and 11% of the total adult population go to church on Sunday, according to a survey of church membership and attendance in 1979.

The survey is based on figures supplied by the churches themselves and thus almost certainly understates the extent of some feeling of belonging to a church, particularly with regard to the Roman Catholic Church and above all with regard to the Church of England, which has a considerable area of passive membership.

Broadly speaking the mainstream churches show a decline in membership and attendance while the tiny Pentecostal, Independent and African/West Indies churches show an increase.

SISTER PETTA — A MACHINE IS NO HINDRANCE



Sister Petta with Sister Anne — A friend from P.N.G.

Sister Petta had to leave her people in the Torres Strait Islands two years ago when her kidneys failed. She now lives at the Community of the Holy Name in Cheltenham, Victoria where she spends 18 hours a week on a dialysis machine which purifies her blood.

Sister does not see her time on the machine as wasted. With two large needles in her arms she spends the time translating Matthew's Gospel for the 4,000 Kala Lagaw Ya people scattered along the coast and in the islands between Broome and Townsville. She works in partnership with Rod and Judy Kennedy, members of Wycliffe Bible Translators who live on Saibai Island.

After recording translation on to cassette, she sends it back to her people so they can check and edit it.

Sister Petta is anxious for her people to communicate better with one another, and, naturally, with God. But there are problems. For example, in her culture it is disrespectful to tell a senior what you really feel or think. This causes problems in the peoples' understanding of Jesus who had no fear of the leaders of Israel.

HEROIC STRUGGLE

Despite 35 years of persecution by authorities in the Soviet Union, the Ukrainian Catholic Church still remains a strong Christian community.

The exiled leader, Joseph Cardinal Slipyi says that the authorities have tried everything to destroy the church. Clergy has been murdered, jailed, and exiled and even forced to unify with the Russian Orthodox Church.

Today there are priests, nuns and bishops operating in what is called the Catacomb church. The ecumenical movement in the USSR has grown in recent years from Christians of all denominations who are suffering in the same way.

"AND SOME EVANGELISTS"

While the New Testament places the job of evangelism squarely upon all Christians, there were those who had a special gift of evangelism. Perhaps the most notable was Philip who was equally gifted as a mass evangelist (in Samaria) and a personal evangelist (with the Ethiopian.)

In Churches of Christ in Australia in the first half of the century we were good at mass evangelism and there were many gifted evangelists among us and the names included Ewers, Chandler, Harward, Hagger, Scambler and Hinrichsen.

DEPENDING ON HINRICHSEN

Eventually Hinrichsen stood alone and the churches queued up for his services, suspending evangelism until he was able to come. Hence while his missions were all successful and new churches were planted, overall membership declined during his period. We forgot that while God raises up gifted evangelists he also expects the rest of us to evangelise, eye ball to eye ball, in the fellowship of small groups and in the supporting life of the congregation.

Since the Hinrichsen era we have had Jack Bond and Doug Willis manifesting evangelistic gifts, but by and large we have not been as dynamic as we could have been either in mass evangelism, or in involving ourselves in personal, or small group or in fellowship evangelism.

A NEW ERA OF EVANGELISM

It now seems that we are on the edge of a new era of evangelism. The Home Mission Departments are planning to involve us all. And it seems that God may be rais-

ing up a new generation of young men with gifts in mass evangelism.

Last year we reported a successful tent mission in the small country town of Kadina in S.A. with Phil Stevens. We have been looking to see if other churches might have used his robust gifts.

DENTON OF SOUTH PERTH

We now hear of Kevin Denton of South Perth and his team of John Bond as song leader with his wife Sue at the organ. Kevin has had some very successful week long "Come Alive" programs at Belmore and Caringbah in N.S.W., Harvey in W.A., and at Whyalla in S.A. He is due for another at Telopea (N.S.W.) in November.

POSITIVE THINKING

Kevin has an interesting combination of the Schuller approach and what might be called "traditional gospel preaching". He says that he combines positive thinking with the power of God. A sampling of his themes is "Positive Thinking is For You", "What You Think is What You Are", "You Can Be the Sort of Person that You Want to Be", "Winning Over Worry".

Kevin Denton tried this style of preaching in four special month long Sunday night programs at South Perth during 1980. The advertising was attractive and designed to capture the attention and imagination of people who are a little warm to the idea of faith, but not involved in church anywhere.

The church reports overflow congregations necessitating closed circuit TV, and many decisions.

"LAST JUDGEMENT"

The curtains on the small stage opened half way to reveal a young man sitting on a chair beside a desk. He was intently studying some reading matter before him. On his other side was a door.

KNOCKING

There was a knock on the door. The man ignored it. It persisted. The man called out, "Go away, I am busy. I can't see you today."

There was silence again; then more knocking. At each knock the man protested his busy-ness, his pre-occupations, his commitments to friends and family. There was no time to answer the knocking.

The knocking persisted. Sometimes it was answered and sometimes impatiently ignored. In the end the man got to his feet and went to the door and shouted out a compromise. "Why don't you go away and come back later . . . say next Wednesday!?" And the knocking stopped.

DEAD

The man went on with his reading. Suddenly he slumped in his chair and was still. There he was found by two frightened cleaning ladies. They rushed off to phone the police.

KNOCKING

Suddenly the man got up from his chair and anxiously ran to the door and began knocking and knocking and knocking. But there was no answer!

CARITAS

In simple but dramatic ways like this, Caritas, a group of young Christian players, is presenting the gospel in churches and halls around Melbourne. "Last Judgement" said more to us about this grim and inevitable subject than we had heard in many technical or technicolour sermons upon it.

ACC GRANT TO VANUATU

In response to a request from the Vanuatu Christian Council, the Australian Council of Churches has made a grant of \$2000 to a joint church "Mission of Good Will" to the troubled island of Santo.

Anglican Bishop Harry Tevi, Roman Catholic Bishop Francis Lambert, Pastor Ruben Makikon of the Presbyterian Church and Pastor Hosea Bule of the Churches of Christ will visit Santo in an attempt to reunite Vanuatu after the divisions caused by the breakaway movement.

Vanuatu Christian Council (VCC) secretary, the Rev. Charles Rara wrote:

"The VCC member churches see the present situation as a challenge before them, especially when it causes division amongst the churches and individual Christians.

COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE QUESTIONED!

Delegates in Federal Conference deliberative groups asked questions of the College of the Bible. Here are some of the questions and answers.

Q. — Does the College have a need for which finance is not available?

A. — Yes (1) An additional faculty member to enable field education (student ministries) to be supervised.

(2) A full-time receptionist-typist.

(3) Financial assistance for students (especially married students with families).

(4) Adequate study leave provision for faculty.

Q. — Can the Boards of the Colleges meet to discuss future directions and theological trends throughout Australia?

A. — The College of the Bible Board cannot answer for the Boards of the New South Wales Theological College and Kenmore Christian College (which are responsible not to Federal Conference, but to the New South Wales and Queensland Conferences respectively). There are informal discussions between faculty of the Colleges about such matters. The attitude of the other two College Boards will be ascertained to see whether a discussion at Board level is favoured.

Q. — What are the areas John Roffey is to be lecturing in when he comes (May '81)?

A. — John will teach in the areas of

Biblical Studies and Theology, which have been the areas of specialisation in his theological education.

Q. — Could it be suggested to the faculty that training include "Brotherhood" emphasis to help the churches also to become more Brotherhood minded? This does not preclude recognition of other Christians.

A. — This is strongly stressed now within the whole College life. We regret it when occasionally a student by Graduation has not responded to our lead.

Q. — Commendation for Lyndsay Smith and others like him who use their retirement to help in the Lord's work. Could others be encouraged to follow suit?

A. — The College also needs a "handyman" willing to help with maintenance of the property.

COBURG (Keith Milne). Chris Ambrose appointed to part-time ministry in 1981 to assist Julie Reid in Regional ministry team. A senior C.O.B. student will join the team working primarily at Brunswick . . . Talent Drive towards project 5000 successful. Spring Fair planned for November . . . Concert presented by Graeme Ford and his concert party . . . Dr Alex Kenworthy guest speaker at Sunday afternoon service . . . Senior Citizens and "Drop-In" Centre continue to meet local community needs . . . C.W.F. entertained patients from Mont Park.

MISSIONS..

The coming of John Timms in February as State Evangelist has brought a new emphasis in crusade evangelism and already a number of churches have held successful crusades. John can not fulfil all requests for 1981.

The Gospel preaching is bringing people to Jesus as well as a renewal to Christians. "we will never be the same again" is their testimony. There is new visibility through the promotion, increase in the prayer life, increase in giving as churches come alive.

The blessing at Bundaberg, Marburg, Springwood and Mackay commend John to the Brotherhood.



John Timms
State Evangelist

ESTABLISHING NEW CHURCHES..

The 70's were exciting years in new church evangelism, but as we move into the 80's, even greater things are possible. Home Missions is available to give assistance in planning a new church. We are excited to see churches "mothering" a baby church and presently there are two new churches coming into existence, Samford from Arana Hills and Beenleigh from Springwood. Both Arana Hills and Springwood are churches planted with assistance from Home Missions.

Is your church planning to be a mother church?

BIBLE READING PROGRAM

We are promoting a Bible Reading program for our Queensland churches to begin February 1, 1981. In two years, one will read right through the Bible reading no more than two chapters a day. Have you read right through the Bible?

Enrol and at the end, receive your certificate.

SCHOOLS OF PRAYER

As the disciples needed to be taught to pray so the 20th century Christians need to be taught. "If my people who are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray . . . I will hear from heaven . . . and heal their land." We encourage each church to conduct a school of prayer in the next two years.

ELDERS TRAINING SCHOOL

Plans are now being laid for the conducting of an elders training school in Brisbane for March 20 and 21, 1981. The spiritual oversight and leadership of our churches must be developed. This seminar will be open to all elders, ministers and interested people. Home Missions want to help equip the church.

ASSISTING ALL CHURCHES..

Home Missions is available to assist all of our churches both near and far, large or small.

A special sub-committee is being established to help develop both short term and long term achievable goals for the northern churches of this vast State.

Leadership training and development programs are presently being planned for 1981.

Many churches across the country have been blessed through a total stewardship program and this is another area Home Missions can be of assistance to the churches.

EVANGELISING
THROUGH
QUEENSLAND
HOME
MISSIONS
IN..

SPONSORS

For many years, smaller churches have received a Home Missions subsidy for ministry, but a change must come in the future.

to meet the needs of a growing Brotherhood a church sponsor program must be developed where the larger churches come to the assistance of and support the ministry in the new, northern and smaller churches.

NEED OF DIRECTOR

The Queensland Brotherhood now has 65 churches and last year, there was a further increase of 3.7% in active membership. The State is large, the work is continuing to grow and the Home Missions is looking at the need of a Director as well as a State Evangelist.

CENTENARY CRUSADE '82/'83

The suggestion of a Brisbane city-wide Gospel crusade to help praise the Lord and celebrate 100 years of Gospel preaching in Brisbane by Churches of Christ should be high on our list of priorities.

Home Missions need the prayers and support of the whole Brotherhood for the crusades. It can be done.

ENCOURAGING EVANGELISTIC FIRVOUR

Following the March National Conference on Evangelism, we have been busy laying the foundation for an evangelism strategy for the 80's with particular emphasis on the development of a spiritual climate for effective evangelism.

We see evangelism as the most important task of the church and are seeking ways to encourage evangelism and to equip every church.

We plan to promote evangelism at individual, local church and Brotherhood levels, co-ordinating evangelism and being a Brotherhood resource centre in evangelising Queensland.



MISSION EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT



Alan and Chris Niven and Andrew (left) with Werribee members.

FAMILY FOCUS FOR NEW CHURCHES

A family focus in worship and programing is a strong characteristic of new churches at Werribee, Gisborne, Dandenong North and Howrah. The introduction of full-time ministers this year at Werribee (Alan Niven) and Gisborne (Dare Stevens) has seen a most encouraging expansion. New families continue to link. Both churches show big lifts in attendances. Gisborne membership has doubled from 21 to 42. A strategically located site is being purchased at Werribee with the help of the Properties Corporation.

GOOD PROGRESS

Good progress is also being made at other centres including Albury, East Keilor, Tootgarook and Traralgon. Several churches expect to achieve self-support.



EVANGELISM FOCUS IN YOUTH MINISTRY

The Youth Ministry program under Field Director, Jeff Deuble is expanding. Camping in both states is a feature. The Banksia Summer Camp has a waiting list. Adventure activities include ski touring, treks and the Murray Marathon. Other programs like tertiary student teas, rallies, church visits and leadership training are well received. In 1981 we launch a major focus on youth ministry. This is part of our evangelism emphasis in youth work at a time when we have the largest ever youth population.

\$8000 GAP — NEED FOR FUNDS

Despite careful planning and expenditure cutbacks the Department seems likely to incur an estimated \$8000 deficit by June 30, 1981.

This problem comes at a time of vigorous development, encouraging growth signs and new proposals for evangelism. Rising costs, heavy demands from churches and the relatively slow growth in income (3.4%) against the inflation rate have created the difficulty. Individuals, groups and churches are urgently requested to try to assist.

LEADERSHIP

Through its wide range of field services the Department is seeking to give strong leadership at a time when we have a national emphasis on growth. Field Director, George Warren, who is responsible for inner areas, family ministry and educational services and Ian Tippett, who directs services in evangelism, church growth and stewardship, are both in constant demand among the churches. This year they have been responsible for setting some important new directions in church programing and the production of new resources.



Dare and Lyn Stevens and family.

OBITUARY

Typed statements of not more than 250 words, recognising the work and witness of God's faithful servants are welcomed. They should be submitted promptly.

LEE, Miss Allison Louisa Lee

(12.10.80) Allison Louisa Lee, born 1896 to John and Sophie Lee of "Lynwood" Templestowe, worshipped at the Doncaster Church of Christ. Making her decision for Christ in her late teens, she was always a quiet, loyal Christian, who walked from Templestowe and back, three times each Sunday. Her membership with the church spanned a period of 56 years, most of which time she lived with her sister, Nell. Lee. Through her life, Miss Lee had a special interest in the W.C.T.U. and the Bible Society, and expressed her devotion through needlework and crocheting. Eight years ago, she went to live at the Christian Guest Home, Oakleigh, where she died peacefully aged 84 years. Although retiring and shy, she was a person who loved her church dearly. Over the years at Oakleigh Home, a circle of people visited her regularly and their visits always meant a great deal to her. The service was conducted by Keith Farmer in the chapel at Doncaster. Later she was laid to rest in the Templestowe Cemetery. We thank God for every remembrance of her.

— K.D.H.

LOWE Henry James. (7.7.80) Henry Lowe was born at Pittsworth in 1909 and died on the evening of his 71st birthday. This birthday date had special significance for him when at the age of 26 he confessed his faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour on his birthday, and was baptized at Margaret St. Toowoomba the following week by Pastor George Verco. Prior to his commitment, Henry had lived a nominal Christian life and had not heard of the need to make a personal decision until he started to court his wife-to-be Cathy. In fact his first proposal of marriage was declined by Cathy who was brought up in one of our Edinburgh churches, because she had no desire to be unequally yoked. This led him to seriously consider the claims of Christ. They were married in December, 1936 and worshipped at the Harlaxton church throughout their married years. Henry soon became an active Christian and read, presided, and became Bible School superintendent for several years. Over the years he developed as a lay preacher and readily helped a number of churches in and around Toowoomba. He became a deacon and then an elder of the Harlaxton church. He resigned from the board a few years ago to give younger men an opportunity to serve. A packed congregation of several hundred people from various Queensland churches was a fitting tribute to his witness during the years. He served in the Army in the medical service for three years during the war and later worked at the Toowoomba hospital for many years as a wardman. At his Memorial service a tribute was paid by his friend Fred Winter. Their home was always open for hospitality and many Christians have been encouraged by the warmth of their loving concern. Until six weeks before his death Henry enjoyed excellent health but he suffered a major heart attack which hospitalized him for four weeks. To his wife Cathy, and her sons John, Allan, David, Ian and their wives and

children we praise God for their faithfulness knowing that their witness on and since their loved one's death has been an inspiration and challenge.

— R.K.S. and G.R.C.

YARWOOD, William Frederick

(15.9.80). Bill Yarwood was born at Elwood in 1925. The son of Perc and Dorothy he was a member of a close and warm family. At school he excelled both academically and at sport. At Brunswick Technical he became head prefect and captained the football team. In 1925 he married Evelyn Walkerden and later they were both baptised the same night at the Moreland church by Vic Quayle. An engineer, Bill, rose to the position of General Manager of Kadir Plastics and associated companies. He held this position at the time of his death. In business he was highly respected, compassionate and loved by those who worked for him. He retained his interest in sport and was for some time secretary of St Albans Football Club for whom his son Mark played. Bill and Evelyn along with their sons Mark and Graeme were very much a part of the Moreland church where Bill was leader of the boy's club. At the closure of Moreland they transferred to Coburg. Bill served the Regional Churches well as treasurer until ill health forced his resignation. Above all Bill was a family man who gave himself freely to his family. The Doncaster church was full for the service of tribute conducted by the writer. In spite of his sudden death and the sadness it brought there was a note of victory and thanksgiving in the service. Two features marked Bill's final and distressing illness. One was his courage, faith and tenacity and the other was the support given to Evelyn, Mark, Rosalie and Graeme by their family, friends and the church.

— Keith Milne

WATTLE PARK (D. Prestidge, J. Clapp). Mini-mission well attended. Nine Y.P. made decisions. Over 100 attended first night. Chicken Dinner and rally also held . . . Temple Day 1980 saw debt free church. Speaker was Ian Tippett . . . Good Companions presented concert . . . Children's Holiday Program run during holidays. Y.P. enthusiastic helpers . . . E.L. Williams speaker at church anniversary. Mrs. L. James was soloist and youth choir performed. C.Y.F. conducted evening service . . . Features at Five successful in first year. Speakers included Sue Wilson, Dora Gray, Jeff Deuble and visitors from various missionary groups . . . Rod Fay additional leader for Junior Explorers.

BOX HILL (S. Downie). Different ethnic groups took part in worship service . . . Peter and Pearl Sumner guest speakers at

gospel service . . . S.S. anniversary held. Bible characters depicted by older children and teachers at evening session. Guest speaker David White S.U. . . . Keith Young and Ruth Tozer speakers at Y.P.C.E. . . . C.W.A.F. speaker Mrs Hooper, C.W.E.F. speaker Michelle Kane . . . Girls took part in gospel service on . . . Girls' Sunday. Speaker Robyn Henley . . . Explorer boys took part in services on Boys' Sunday. Film "He Leadeth Me" screened . . . Soloists recently Helen Price, Judith Steele . . . One decision recently.

1981 WALL SCANNERS

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Betty & Frank Beitzel wish to inform readers that they are selling Balook Guest House to Ken & Judy Danes and Peter and Ruth Richmond. To facilitate the changeover it will be necessary to close the Guest House from C.O.B. Nov. 4th to early December.

We wish to thank all our many patrons over the past 8 years and trust that many more Christians will support this enterprise in the future.

Christmas / New Year bookings can still be made by letter or phone to:- Frank & Betty Beitzel, Balook, Vic. 3971.

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THINK ON THESE THINGS

By Janny: (Sparrow SPR1028).

This is Janny's fourth Sparrow release, and the follow up to her "He Made Me Worthy" album. On this album she continues the well proven formula she has used on each of the albums. It is the words that always demand closer attention on Janny albums, for they are the real message of the package. Again they are surrounded by the excellent Sparrow production of Billy Ray Hearn. This helps the listener to come to grips with what is most important . . . the words. Again these are mature, full of scripture references and allusions. The songs are vehicles for Janny as she teaches, preaches and praises. Like Scott Wesley Brown and Keith Green, this album is also ministry, it isn't just a fun L.P. to own . . . because it is quite provocative about our commitment (e.g. Missionary) stimulating regarding our desire to praise God and challenging about our whole relationship with God. Buy this album and you will be ministered to.

—Paul Cameron

SO YOU WANNA GO BACK TO EGYPT . . .

Keith Green: (Pretty Good Records PGR1)

Having recorded his first two albums for Sparrow Keith Green has sprung something different on us. This album must be ordered direct from the US, there is no fixed charge and it comes complete with a book of words, backgrounds to the songs, articles and testimonies. The album sounds just as good as ever. There is a real depth and maturity in the songs that are on the album. Really they are mini-sermons as Keith the prophet stands amongst the Body and calls it to repent in various areas. The album has a similiar sound to his other albums, however like other Christian singers it is the words that count. We must be careful as Christian music listeners not to transfer the secular music forever desire for the new/novel/latest etc. etc. to our understanding of contemporary Christian music. It is really the words that must count in the final analysis. And the words really hit home here. Songs based on Romans 7, about the devil (Lies), commitment (I Pledge My Head to Heaven), are all excellent. The quieter O Lord You're Beautiful and Grace By Which I Stand are also stand out tracks. The orchestrations are handled by the Grandpa(?) of Christian music, Ralph Carmichael and Bob Dylan pops up with harmonica on one track.

I would also highly recommend this album. To receive the album send address and a donation to Record Division, Last Days Ministries, P.O. Box 9, Lindale, Texas 75771, U.S.A. Ask also to be put on mailing list for "The Last Days Newsletter", it has some good articles in it.

LET ME SEE CLEARLY

by Rose-Marie Longe (Rheme RH026/)

Here is a collection of quite familiar songs by Amy Grant, Andrae Crouch, Paul Stookey etc. They are sung well by this Sydney based singer. She has a pleasant voice, and she safely sails through this relatively safe territory of the material she has chosen. For those wanting a traditional and pretty album, here it is, done well.



The forgotten refugees!

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

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

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

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

\$25 helps one refugee family

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

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CHILDREN IN CHURCH

Worshipping with children need not be a nightmare for parents, a distraction for the congregation and an imposition for children. It can be a blessing for all — or so says a publication which came across my desk recently.

It can be enjoyable, if the whole congregation is willing to work to make it so. One major argument for including children in worship is that statistics actively show that children who seldom or never experience Sunday by Sunday worship with their congregation are unlikely to grow up to be church attending adults. So much for just sending the kids off to Sunday School!

Another reason is that congregations which always or mostly worship without children gain a false impression of the gospel, worship, and the church. The gospel becomes something that can only be comprehended by an adult mind. Worship is something that can only happen when you are sitting still and quiet with other adults. The fellowship of the church is a fellowship of peers.

When a congregation as a group seeks to help their children enter into the mood of worship, then the results can be surprising.

The children become aware that here is a gathering which is different from all others. In this gathering they are amongst friends, all of whom, by looks, posture and involvement are telling them something important. The message is that this is a special time and place which requires of

all present a special sort of quiet and calm behaviour.

Children hear far more than we think. Before attending worship what sort of comments do they hear? Is it something like "Hey, today is Sunday. Great! That means "church" or is it something like "Oh well, I suppose I'd better get up and go to church."

Do our children sometimes get a message that we really don't want to communicate?

— Harvey Miller

Stage Season Successful

In September of this year the Victorian Christian Theatre Group staged their second theatrical season before a total audience of 1000 people. Reaction was very positive. For two nights only they have decided to repeat the three one-act plays that made up Season Two.

This will be held on November 21, 22 at 8 p.m. at the Banyule High School Theatre, Buckingham Drive, Heidelberg. The cost will be \$3 adult; \$1.75 student/pensioner/unemployed; \$9 family (any size); 10% discount for groups of 20 plus.

Bookings can be made from Yvonne Junor on (03) 458 1336.

SWAN HILL (J.A. Caporn). Men's breakfast with Dr David Friebel as speaker and series of women's coffee mornings held during October as prelude to "Discover Life in the 80's" program

FAMILY'S FINAL CONCERT

On Friday December 12 in the Dallas Brooks Hall at 8 p.m. Youth For Christ will be presenting the final concert with 'Family'.

Family commenced their professional career in 1973. Their first L.P. was released in mid '73 and a single from this album entitled "Hallelujah Day" made No. 6 on the Australian Top 40. In '75 Family made the charts again with a single entitled "This House Runs on Sunshine". This disc made No. 1 on Sydney Music Station 2KY.

Family also moved into the T.V. area and recorded a one hour special which was shown on prime time T.V. throughout Australia. The trio featured on all major national variety shows as well.

Earlier this year Family toured Australasia and New Guinea and also made a return visit to the United States.

This specially talented trio have unique harmony, professional stage presence and warm audience communication. They are definitely Australia's most popular Gospel attraction.

Tickets for the Family concert are available from Keswick, and Word Bookstores and also from Youth For Christ, 433 Camberwell Road, Camberwell. (Phone (03) 29 3696)

with Allan Webb (Swanston St) . . . New hall being used regularly by both church and community groups . . . Tuesday and Friday night youth groups combined for camp at Wood Wood.

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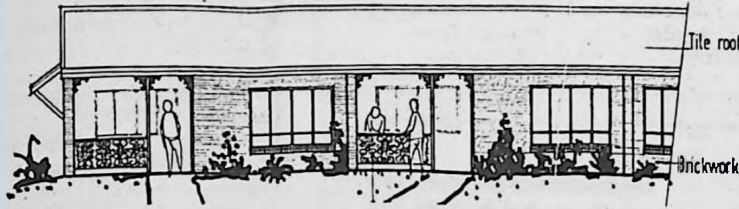
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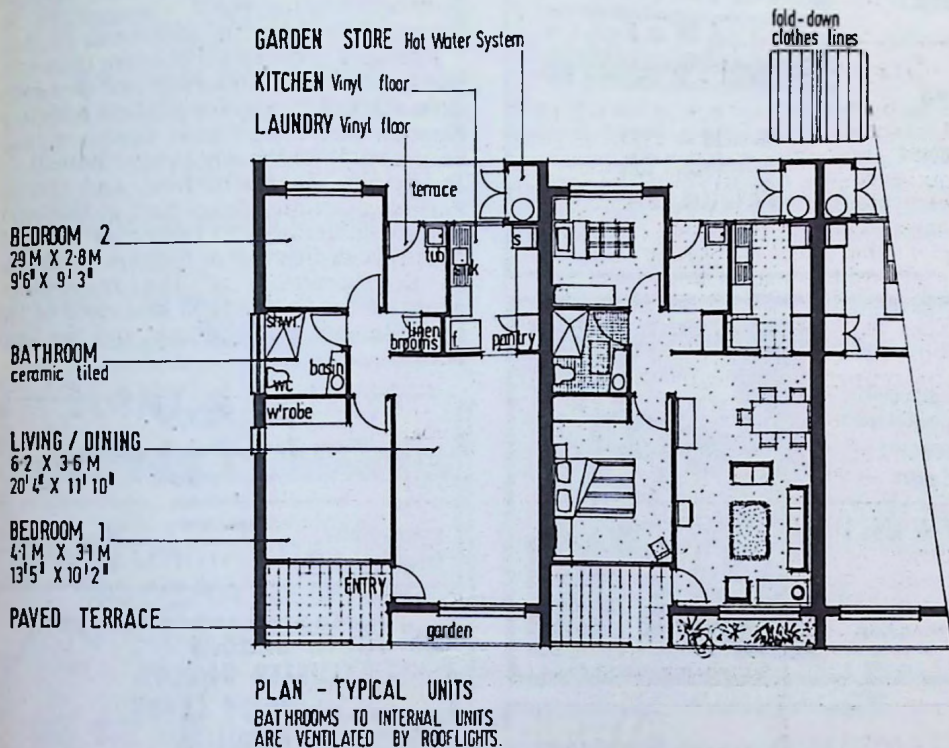


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CASINO CONSCIOUSNESS

The A.C.T. Conference urged delegates to Federal Conference to be watchful lest casino interests lobby their way into the provision of unwanted extra gambling facilities in Australia. They sponsored the following motion which was passed by the Conference.

That this Federal Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia expresses concern at the continuing approaches to the Federal, State and Territorial Governments to expand gambling opportunities in the community. In particular, it urges Governments to resist pressure to introduce or to provide additional casinos. Conference considers that more than adequate gambling opportunities presently exist and any expansion of these activities through casinos will have further significant social consequences e.g. impact on family life, debt structure, and the incidence of crime, drugs and prostitution in the community. Conference resolves that this expression of concern be drawn to the attention of the responsible Ministers in the Federal and each of the Governments of the States and the Territories.

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and let us share your aspirations and hopes.

CROYDON (L.S. Dewberry). 107th anniversary thanksgiving service held with Malcolm Humphries. Offering of \$2,694 . . . Church family luncheon followed by a tour of Retirement Village, now well under way . . . Foundations laid for new hall . . . Opportunity Shop distributed \$9,000 to Brotherhood and local charities.

UTILITY BUILDING FOR DARWIN

DARWIN CHURCH A REALITY

At Federal Conference, Melbourne, 1979, it was resolved:

- To send greetings to the Darwin church and affirm prayer and material support;
- To appoint a full-time minister as early as possible;
- To provide a manse for the Darwin minister.

Within three months a minister had been appointed and the DeWildts were in a manse in Darwin in time for the first anniversary of the church. The manse was purchased out of funds raised by the Darwin church, a gift from Federal Home Evangelism and a loan from the Victorian Properties Corporation.

DARWIN DEVELOPING

Commencing with a membership of 20 the statistics now read:

Membership: 45 in full membership, Christians in fellowship 26, average attendance at morning service 54, communicants 46, evening attendance 25.

Offerings have risen to an average of \$280 per week and the church has decreased its subsidy by \$80 per week during the past six months.

There have been 12 baptisms in the year, with more to come.

DARWIN NEEDS LAND AND BUILDINGS

Services commenced in a school building. During this time it was thought land would be available in the Casuarina area. Unfortunately this did not eventuate. Meetings were moved to a mission hall in the Nungalinga Training Centre. However, there will be a need to move again next year and it is hoped that facilities will be available to us in a new school soon to be opened in the area.

Application was made for land in the Malak region. This has been approved by the Director of Lands and only awaits the signature of the N.T. Executive Council.

Once this land is available it will be necessary to erect a building to comply with conditions of the land grant and to give our witness a "home base."

DARWIN NEEDS SUPPORT

It is obvious that if the Darwin church is to have the required buildings it will need the help of the Australian Brotherhood. Darwin has no State Home Mission Department to support and nurture it but Federal Home Evangelism, administered by the Federal Executive.

APPEAL FOR DARWIN LAUNCHED

Federal Conference resolved: —
(a) We commend the minister and church

at Darwin for its witness, outreach and growth;

(b) We re-affirm its willingness to continue prayerful and financial support, and
(c) We urge all States and churches to support an appeal for a capital fund to assist the church at Darwin to proceed with the erection of a multi-purpose building as soon as possible.

The local Building Committee has drawn a plan for an initial building. The estimated cost is \$107,000. This Committee includes an architect, a structural engineer and an inspector with the N.T. Department of Housing.

The land will be made available with the requirement that it be developed to an expenditure of at least \$200,000 in four years, but time extensions may be granted on application.

Malak is about 17 kms. from Darwin's centre. 1200 houses have been built within one mile of the church site. Two adjoining suburbs are under development, Leanyer and Karama, to provide 1200 more homes. Within two years there will be 10,000 people living around the church.

The only funds in hand at the moment are: \$2,500 — a gift from Carnarvon church, \$2000 from an appeal to the Canberra churches, and \$2000 raised by Darwin itself.

The first stage building would be a hall, kitchen, toilet block and office. This will provide a multi-purpose functional unit and would allow for further buildings to be added.

DARWIN LOOKS TO US FOR HELP

Let us see to it that we do not disappoint them.

— Kevin Crawford & Les Dewberry

MOTH BALLS FOR DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN UNION

Questions and answers from the D.C.U. at Federal Conference.

Q. — Would the Department respond to the comments of Gordon Moyes at this Conference; particularly the suggestion that the Department should go into 'moth-balls'?

A. — The department is not intending to go into 'moth-balls'. There is too much to be done in informing our churches concerning our plea regarding the restoration of N.T. Christianity, including Christian Union. There is still need for that message to be heard in Church Councils and we don't intend to silence it. We need to continue to engage in dialogue with other churches concerning our distinctive message and to listen to their point of view. Jesus calls us to think about and work for the 'oneness' of Christians. We will continue to obey Him.

Q. — Is the D.C.U. aware that Woolworths have a special on 'MOTH-BALLS'?

A. — Who needs 'MOTH-BALLS'?

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QUEEN'S AWARD TO MARJORIE OINN

Marjorie Oinn of the Aldgate Valley Church (S.A.) was one of three who were recently presented with the highest international award given by the Girls' Brigade, The Queen's Award.

The award climaxed two years of hard work for Marjorie, a member of the 7th Adelaide Company. Some of the activities which earned her the award included six months voluntary service at the Mount Barker Hospital, a 40 page project on a local industry (the local newspaper), arranging lunch and morning tea for the G.B. State Conference, organising a trading table at Unley where she raised \$343. As well Marjorie along with the other candidates sat for a 2½ hour examination on the Monarchy and World Affairs which she passed with distinction. A final interview conducted by State Officers looked at her involvement in the local church, company and community.

Mrs. Seaman, wife of the S.A. Governor, presented the Award during the S.A. State Church Parade of the Girls' Brigade at Maughan Church Adelaide on September 28.

The Aldgate Valley church also publicly acknowledged her achievement at an evening service following the presentation. The minister, J. Dow, commended Marjorie's hard work and congratulated her on her fine achievement.



Miss Marjorie Oinn receives the Queen's Award Badge from Mrs. Seaman watched by the Girls' Brigade National Commissioner, Mrs. Evans (S.A.) and the National Secretary Mrs Martin (N.S.W.)

Presently a Warrant Officer in the 7th Adelaide Company at Aldgate Valley, Marjorie continues to give leadership to the girls in her church leading the Cadet Unit and giving assistance where required in the other Units.

A POST-ELECTION MUSING

Judy Mead (Nambour)

Election time has come and gone and I can't help thinking of a man, who years ago, campaigned under very different circumstances from those of our time and in our country. He was born in the small town of Ain Karim. There was no television or even radio then and billboards were forbidden. There was in fact no advertising at all. It was the man himself who counted, because the truth was spoken and a promise made was a promise kept. This man drew his listeners by his personality and wisdom and his meetings were as large as those of today. There were no microphones, but then there was no need, for voices, healthier than ours, carried well at huge open air meetings.

HE WAS POOR

He was poor, this man. There were no gimmicks. Sometimes what he had to say was most unpalatable. In fact, in these days, with his outspokenness, he would no doubt be a ripe candidate for beer can throwing.

His voice was a genuine concern for the lives of his fellow countrymen; to lead them to the source of a new and exciting life. Truth was his success, for people have faith in truth, even if it dents the ego somewhat. Flattery and servile wooing shout aloud of insincerity. Honesty has the greater impact.

A LONELY VOICE

His voice was a lonely one, and at times most unpopular.

His death was an untimely one. But his voice, crying in the wilderness, reached out to thousands — and all this when communication was by aching feet in dusty sandals and parched throats from personally delivered messages. No tape recorders then! Here, truly, greatness was won in sincere humility and humble sincerity. He campaigned not for himself, but for another who would give his very life for his electorate, all mankind. This is why the speaker is still known today 2000 years later.

READ ALL ABOUT HIM

Read about this man and marvel at his single-mindedness. There are several references which together give you his story: Luke 3: 1-21 and 7: 18-28; John 1: 19-41; Mark 6: 14-29.

BOOM OR DOOM?

The following question was asked of the Overseas Mission Board at Federal Conference, and the answer given.

Can you give further consideration to change of name of Overseas Mission Board to reflect changing understanding of mission.

Yes, this has been considered e.g. B.O.O.M. (Board of Overseas Ministries) or D.O.O.M. (Division of Overseas Ministries). Any other suggestions welcomed!

CHURCHES OF CHRIST AND UNEMPLOYMENT

The recent Federal Conference at Stanwell Tops made the following resolutions on the matter of unemployment and related matters.

1. This Conference affirms its grave concern about the increasing plight of the large numbers of unemployed.

2. This Conference believes there is a direct link between the social dislocation (which expresses itself in unemployment, illness and the increasing level of crime) and the rapid introduction of advanced technology which has led to the displacement of large numbers of people in the work force.

3. This Conference urges the Federal Government and State Governments to take account of not only the needs of industry but also the needs of people to be gainfully employed. We would urge that far greater attention be given to the development of both support structures and social skill training programs to assist those materially and emotionally affected by unemployment.

We would also urge that a tripartate relationship be established between Government, employers and workers to work for the reduction of unemployment.

4. This Conference urges our State Executives of Churches of Christ to investigate measures which will give assistance to the large number of disadvantaged people who relate to our churches by the provision of support and social skill groups to help combat the serious psychological and sociological impact upon disadvantaged people, and to take appropriate

action at State and local church level.

5. That this Conference appoint a Working Committee whose responsibility will be to:—

1. Research the problem of unemployment in Australia, its extent and effects, with particular reference to its effects upon Churches of Christ members;

2. Conduct a continuing program designed to inform and stimulate active concern amongst our members for the plight of the unemployed;

3. Develop practical strategies whereby our combined resources may be used to assist the unemployed, e.g. Work Cooperatives, Support Programs.

CHURCH PROFANED IN ROMANIA

Romanian sources report a gross occurrence of church profanation in Iasi during the Christmas season 1979. Fr Gheorghe Bistriceanu, priest of an Orthodox Church on Pacurari Street, Iasi, has frequently attracted the attention of the authorities because of his appeal among young people. Security officials have told him youth work, organising choirs and so forth is something Baptists do.

Two days before Christmas, Fr Bistriceanu came to his church sanctuary to discover that vandals had pulled down icons and had left human excreta on the altar itself. One icon was left with an axe still in it. The evidence that a ladder had been needed to pull down the icons and that nothing was missing from the church, has led the congregation to suspect that the act of profanation was a sign of displeasure of the authorities.

GROWING IN THE 80'S

D.H. Smith

State Directors of Home Mission Departments met for a two-day staff conference during Federal Conference. Highlights were the positive reports on growth and the number of agreements reached on national planning and co-operation.

STATE REPORTS

All states reported membership growth. The gains in Canberra and Darwin were noted as a further evidence of our Australia-wide resurgence. Church planting in each state is on the upsurge. The new concern for Brotherhood identity and sense of mission is linked with the issues of growth and development.

AGENDA SET

The successful National Evangelism Strategy Conference at Monbulk in March set the agenda. The Evangelism Conference Report, "Growing in the 80's" was available at Federal Conference for the first time. It is selling well and a reprint is likely. Many welcomed material from our own leaders and members. Staff members gave much time to the many recommendations on national strategies.

NATIONAL PLANNING

Recommendations of the Strategy Conference are being progressively taken up and should result in a strong flow of new ideas and initiatives. Details of a national Bible reading program in association with the

Federal Literature Department will be available to churches by early December.

A high quality magazine for community distribution is planned for early 1981. The magazine will contain general articles of topical interest, plus comments on the Christian lifestyle and Churches of Christ. It will be sold to churches for local distribution.

A media committee is to be established to explore the possibility of Brotherhood promotion with a special focus on radio and television. Planning is under way for a national logo. New initiatives in publications and study materials are being considered. The current emphasis on Church Growth and Evangelism was re-affirmed.

PRAYER FOR GROWTH AND RENEWAL

An announcement will be made shortly about an Australia-wide day of prayer. Various states are setting growth goals and working at various strategy issues from the Monbulk Conference. The staff conference concluded in a spirit of thanksgiving and optimism. This same spirit characterised the Federal Conference which so soon after the National Evangelism Conference re-emphasised our current national feeling of Brotherhood unity and optimism about the 1980's.

TURN TO A FRIEND

The number two radio station in Sydney, 2CH, is not only known as the Good Music station, but its current slogan reflects the way thousands of people relate to it. Sometime Today Turn To A Friend. For the N.S.W. Council of Churches it expresses the activity it undertakes in getting the Christian message into the marketplace.

Weekday segments, Have A Good Day with John Edmondstone, Leighton Ford's spots, Just A Minute with Graham Hardy, The Bible Readings, Afternoon Meditation with Philip Oliver and the Quiet Moments with Lance Shilton and Gordon Moyes all draw strong response. Graham Hardy's books Just A Minute and Another Minute have been popular, and Have A Good Day, based on the early morning talks given by John Edmondstone has been reprinted.

Sunday mornings 2CH was No. 1 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Its Sunday position was No. 2 despite football fever and Sundays were stronger than Saturdays.

At night, Nightsong at 8.30 p.m. is popular because of its appeal to those who love Christian music, whether traditional or contemporary. From nine till midnight Roger Bush, possibly Sydney's most experienced talk-back host, helps thousands of people.

The counselling service "People To People" meets human need every day. People call 267 5033 and know they can talk in confidence to a friend.

The N.S.W. Council of Churches aims to continue the extra dimension that the slogan SOMETIME TODAY TURN TO A FRIEND implies.

RELEASED AT FEDERAL CONFERENCE.



Since their release at Federal Conference, both of these new books published by the Federal Literature Committee are selling well. They are available from your State Home Missions Department.

GROWING IN THE 80's — \$3.00

Ideas, suggestions, action lists, informative articles related to evangelism in the local church are included in this report on the National Evangelism Strategy Conference. Read what some of the leaders in the field of evangelism in our Australian churches are saying about social awareness, youth and singles ministry, preaching, missions, personal witnessing, lay training, family ministry and much more. Discover the plans and dreams for our Australian brotherhood in the 1980's.

As a member of Churches of Christ and a person concerned for the effective proclamation of the Gospel you need to read this report and encourage your church board to study it.

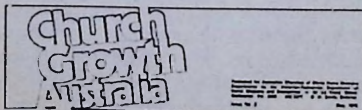
"TIME OUT" — Barry McMurtrie — \$4.00

Barry McMurtrie is keen to see Churches of Christ grow. He is keen to see an effective witness to the community and a quality of lifestyle shared with people. In this book he shares his thoughts about church growth and what we as a people can do to re-ignite our vitality and evangelistic zeal. "Time-Out" makes bright, informative, interesting reading about church leadership, advertising, worship and care for people in need. The book is not simply theory. It contains many practical ideas that have worked and that, with thought and adaptation, can work again in your local church. Don't miss buying and reading this book. Encourage your minister and church board to study the issues raised for future action.

TIME OUT



BARRY MCMURTRIE



CHURCH GROWTH AUSTRALIA

The November issue of "Church Growth Australia" is now in the churches. This newsletter contains church growth principles and practical ideas important to our Australian church scene. Additional copies available from the Dept. of Mission, Education and Development, Melbourne.

NICARAGUA FIGHTS BACK

The Central American country of Nicaragua has been in constant turmoil ever since it declared independence in 1838. The dissension between the two major political parties has caused much political unrest culminating in a civil war last year which virtually wrecked the country's ailing economy.

Nicaragua's two and a half million people have lived with the threat of war and earthquake for their entire history. In 1972, an earthquake devastated the capital city of Managua leaving hundreds of thousands of people either killed or homeless.

Despite the upheavals of recent times, the Bible Society is active and supporters

are enthusiastic in their promotion of the Bible cause. The Nicaraguan Women in Action Group has been engaged in an intensive program of Scripture distribution. The Group has recently conducted a planning and project workshop, enrolment courses for new volunteers, training courses for women and a children's rally.

The Bible Society is also contributing to the reconstruction of Nicaragua by providing special Scripture Selections to help those people who are still in distress from the civil war. Local churches throughout the country have been invited to share in the distribution of over one million Spanish Selections published by the Bible Society.

VIC

ASCOT VALE (Ian Corlett). Football match played against Sth. Melbourne followed by barbecue tea . . . 60 attended square dance to raise funds for Overseas Missions . . . Annual meeting held. Reports showed increase in worship attendances. Continued ministry to alcoholic men in halfway houses. Fortnightly Sunday evening worship services commenced. Children's crisis centre in full-time operation under Joy Butler and Chris Pedley. Manse sold and some of funds used to repay loans for renovation of chapel.

THE PATCH (Tom Frazer). Church represented at Eastern District combined communion service at Boronia . . . Evening service combined with Ringwood for baptismal service. Two baptised . . . Special hymn service held when hymns by Charles Wesley were sung . . . Evening service assisted by Y.P. . . . Glenda Prior interviewed on teaching of migrant children.

ORMOND (G.O. Stibbe). Representative of Jewish Evangelistic Witness screened film . . . Family film night held. Films included Bruce Towns trip to N.G. Donations towards self care unit . . . Y.P. conducted gospel service . . . St John Ambulance Brigade Ormond attended service . . . Mrs Seath and Mrs Verco, C.O.B., guests at E.W.F. . . . "Reflections" Y.P. from Cheltenham presented message in song . . . Seven attended C.M.F.-C.W.F. camp at Halls Gap . . . Church saddened at death of Mrs Frances Crisp and George Nash . . . Services conducted at Emmaus during October . . . "Tippy" Tippet and Dixie Houzege celebrated 80th birthdays.

MT CLEAR (Mark Dunn). \$1,040 donated to Overseas Missions including proceeds of S.S. concert . . . Several attended Federal Conference . . . Readers training course held to assist in reading presentation . . . Open House held by Lorraine Sheedy . . . Iris Trezise new C.W.F. President . . . C.O.B. students led morning service and combined evening service at Dawson St. . . . Combined evenings with Dawson St. to hear singing groups "New Perspective", "Changing Moods" and local group "Maranatha Sounds".

WARRAGUL (B. Crowden). Ivy Derbyshire in West Gippsland Hospital. Lynmarie Develyn also hospitalised . . . C.W.F.F. held morning coffee in home of Mrs B. Clark . . . C.W.A.F. street stall raised funds for Indian orphan . . . Church services commencing at 10.45 a.m. with hymn and chorus singing.

WATER CRISIS

At least 78% of the world's rural population is without safe drinking water, according to the World Health Organization. It claims also that 85% have no sanitation facilities, which hinders efforts to provide bacteria-free water.



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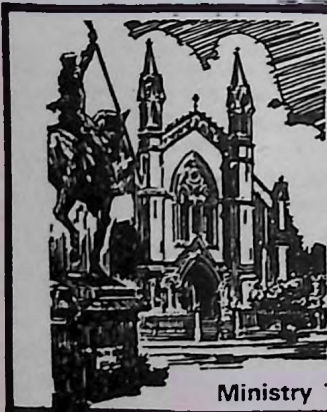
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GLEANINGS FROM GENESIS

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

WO

BUSSELTON (John Tocknell). Films screened recently were "Good News in the South Pacific" from the Bible Society and "Power by Prayer" from S.I.M. . . . South West Conference held at Busselton . . . Barbara and Colin Meadows, African Evangelical Fellowship, recent visitors . . . 30 attended S.W. Keswick at

Roelands Village over October long weekend . . . Church saddened by deaths of Marjorie Johnson and former member Mrs Cooper.

NSW

WYOMING — BERKELEY VALE (E. K. Morrison, I. Morton, M. Leask). Baptismal service held at Copacabana Beach for nine people. Interest expressed by pas-

ers by . . . Parent dedication service held with six involved . . . Four rededicated their lives . . . 100 attended family camp at Bethshan Holiness Mission, Wyee. One decision . . . Joy Allen recovering from foot surgery. Mal Leask recuperating from heart attack . . . Mrs Marilyn McDougall, State Conf. Pres., spoke at C.W.F. anniversary.

THORNLEIGH (D.W. Mansell). Two young men baptised . . . Church anniversary held on Oct. 19. Anniversary lunch held . . . Ladies Fellowship held Dutch auction and barbecue at home of Mr. and Mrs. Bartholomew.

TAS

LAUNCESTON (M.D. Hamilton, R.J. Allison). 45 attended Women's camp at Bicheno . . . 200th anniversary of S.S. celebrated by picnic barbecue for parents and children and others at Notley Fern Gorge and an open day at S.S. On same day 11 a.m. service featured past and present scholars. A display of photos of early days of church on view. Following lunch in school hall, Annual meeting held concluding with worship service and inspirational address . . . Community Day service held. Mrs. M.D. Hamilton speaker . . . Dr. and Mrs. Clezy, returned from T.E.A.R. service in Thailand, spoke at C.W.E.F. open night.

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NUNAWADING (E.C. Keating, P.B. Burnham, C.H.J. Wright). Church fete raised record \$3700 . . . "Rip-Off" held 2nd birthday. Total weight loss 120 kg . . . Ted Keating conducted mission in Mildura also guest speaker at National Singles Conf., Sydney . . . Explorers held bike-a-thon in local shopping centre car park . . . Springfield Rd. held 48th S.S. anniversary with P. Burnham and his dogs . . . Mortgage burning ceremony followed by dedication service celebrated opening of renovated chapel . . . C.W.A.F. presented program and provided afternoon tea for C. of C. Nursing Home . . . Jim Wright preached at anniversaries at Ivanhoe and Doncaster . . . P. Burnham conducted mission at Henley Beach, S.A. . . . C.Y.F. led services at Tootgarook . . . C.W.E.F. held family square dance . . . Living Light featured at Gateway . . . Church barbecue held at Antonio Park.

GLEN WAVERLEY (R.B. Elbourne). Diaconate held full day planning conference . . . Youth 1 & 2 shared junior church for 4 weeks. 3 Y.P. made commitment at end of series . . . Counselling Centre held public meeting . . . Six Discovery Groups meeting weekly . . . Special speakers have been Dr. W. Tabbernee and Graham Ladner . . . Glen Waverley Uniting Church presented "The Gathering" at evening service . . . For Girls' and Boys' Sundays leaders and members of Good Companions and Explorers led services . . . Waverley Care Group reps attended Counselling Centre's screening of film on communication . . . Y.P. took part as clowns in 200 years of S.S. celebration.

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BIRTHS

COOK (PETSCHL) Ian and Christine welcome Matthew James 27th Oct. Mildura praising God for the gift of new life.

HAYTHORPE (WAKEFIELD) Kerry and Helen praise God for his gift of Luke Malcolm on 21st October at St John of God, Ballarat.

ENGAGEMENTS

OLIVER-URQUHART Joy, daughter of Aileen and Ray (dec.) of 19 Raymond St., Ashwood, and John, son of Ethel and Bob of 9 Service St., Coburg, are very happy to announce their engagement.

SILVER WEDDING

ANDREWS. Barbara and Howard announce with pleasure the 25th Anniversary of their wedding on 12th November 1955 and give thanks to God for their wonderful sons Mark, Paul and John.

RUBY WEDDING

FULLSTON — MARR Valda and Vic announce with pleasure the 40th anniversary of their wedding celebrated at the Prospect Church of Christ on Nov. 2nd 1940 by Dr. R.W.L. Crosby. Address: 272 Deakin Ave., Mildura 3500.

PROCTOR (SHARPLES); Mr. and Mrs. B. Procter were married at the Lennox St. Presbyterian Church 5th October, 1940 by Rev. Mr. Butler.

DEATHS

DUFTY (GERDES) on Oct. 19th 1980. Passed away peacefully at Churches of Christ Nursing Home Murrumbidgee. Dearly loved Aunt of Lil and Ed Ellis and Reta and George Burgess (Geelong) and their families aged 86 years. Late of Newmarket and Ringwood churches. Loving memories.

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

HOGGEN C.M. Suddenly on Oct. 13th 1980. Clarrie, dearly loved husband of Phyllis of Unit 7, 11 Osborne St., Joondanna, W.A., and loved father of Betty (Mrs. K. Povey), Maxine (Mrs. G. Prosser), Eric and the late John. Fond father-in-law of Keith, George and Lesley. Devoted grandfather of eight grandchildren and great-grandfather of one. "To be with Christ — which is far better."

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SPEAKER — Rev. J. CROMARTY
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CHURCH HISTORY 11A: Mediaeval and Reformation History. Tuesdays 7.30-10 p.m.

These subjects are part of the B. Theol. degree programme but a limited number of places may also be available for non-degree students.

For further details contact:

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Phone 25 6541

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27th ANNIVERSARY SERVICES

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 16th

11.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m.

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

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

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

PERSONAL

DISCIPLESHIP

● Paul Cullimore, Croydon, Vic. ● Julie Cochrane, Briar Hill, Vic. ● Roy and May Darch, Sylvia Westwood, Nollamara, W.A. ● Judith Hack, Karla Way, John Salzman, Gordon Mackie, Peter McCosker, Stephen McCosker, Scott Salzman, Kenmore, Qld. ● Joe, Jill & John Rooke, Kerrie & Jackie Baker, Wendy Bradbury, Tony Fairburn, Lenney Langston, Rodney Klumper, Wyoming-Berkeley Vale, N.S.W. ● Robyn Keame, Marilyn Copeland, Nunawading, Vic. ● Matthew Greenaway, Andrew Stewart, Thornleigh, N.S.W. ● Hans Johnson, Monique Weyberg, Andrew Prestidge, Wattle Park, Vic. ● Melody Thompson, Mike Waterhouse, Box Hill, Vic. ● Maureen Gobetti, Busselton, W.A.

MARRIAGE

● Lynn Hawker to John Foster, Anita Watson to David Bourke, Nollamara, W.A. ● Jo Belcher to Ric Chester, Nunawading, Vic. ● Denise Jenkins to Terry Rowles, Maryborough, Vic.

DEATHS

● Bill Wardrope, Richmond, Vic.
 ● Dorothy Robbins, Charles Arnold, Box Hill, Vic.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

NORLANE: Secretary — All correspondence C/- P.O. Box 22, Corio Village, Vic. 3214

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CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA)

ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, 25th NOVEMBER, 1980

at 7.15 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
BASTINGS STREET,
NORTHCOTE

WOD

KALGOORLIE (L. Gibb). Y.P. held coffee shop in western style. Guest artists were Peter and Jenny Klenner from Perth ... Y.P. spent Oct. long weekend at camp with Armadale Congregational church ... Family camp held same weekend at Naremburn ... Church pastoral care effort formed ... Stewardship campaign held over three weeks ... Christian Women's Convention held. Theme "Living Free" with Mrs Verna Mitchell guest speaker ... Conf. Pres. Frank Raymond and Womens Pres. Mrs Elsie Taylor shared in services on October 12. Church board met with Frank Raymond which was followed by a fellowship tea.

NOLLAMARA (A. J. Anderson, J. Hicks) Crusade held with J. Bond ... Pre-gospel prayer meeting now held from 6-7 p.m. ... Elaine Henderson and Doug and Bev Croot farewelled as they leave to continue work. Elaine in Japan and Croots in N.G. ... B.S. anniversary held.

Cradle Roll and Kinder presented items. Primary Dept. presented "Sir Oliver's Song". A. Anderson gave dramatic talk ... Ian and Lesley Polmear's visas for Indonesia have been extended for 12 months ... Bethel students face final exam ... Elsie and Martin Wyss celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary.

QLD

KENMORE (Bruce Roberts) Baptisms of seven Y.P. ... Visiting speakers have included Peter and Pearl Sumner, Christian Foundation for the Blind ... Films "Climb a Tall Mountain" and "My Son, My Son" screened during gospel services ... Church anniversary services had Dr David Hammer and Eric Hart. Music featured from Graham and Hilary Watson and Jerry Exton ... Second place gained in annual Sports Carnival run by Dept. of Youth and Christian Ed. ... S.S. involved in the Santo, Sonlight mission competition ... Y.P. had youth exchange

visit with Hervey Bay ... David Galbraith spent six weeks touring overseas as cellist with Queensland Youth Orchestra ... Laurel Charles to head up Vacation Bible School in next holidays.

NSW

TAREE (M. H. A. Pieper, Graham Warne). Annual meeting elected P. Playford and A. A. Billingham as Elders. A. W. Billingham elected Elder Emeritas after 50 years of service ... Several returned after World Convention and tours ... Wednesday Encounter meetings (lunch hour) commenced to provide quiet time for business people ... Graham Warne recovering from glandular fever ... Church saddened by the death of Ada Jean Norling affectionately known as Auntie Buzz.

BENTLEIGH (Chris MacKenzie). Keith Horne speaker at morning service. After luncheon he conducted a meeting to discuss future planning, particularly the church's role in the community ... Alex Milski, Voice of the Gospel, showed a film ... Ian Andersen showed film of his trip to Antarctica ... Church business meeting elected Jack Baensch secretary.

RICHMOND (G. & B. Rogerson). 91st church anniversary held ... Guest speakers from Melbourne City Mission, Radio to Russia, Aborigines Mission and Bible Society at evening services ... Girls' Brigade held stall to raise money for Brigade's 40th anniversary ... Mr and Mrs Procter celebrated Ruby Wedding anniversary ... Church saddened at death of Bill Wardrope.

BRIAR HILL (R. Lloyd). Extensions and landscaping in progress ... Rod Lloyd's ministry concludes at end of 1981 ... Baptismal service held ... Focus day for B.S. followed by church picnic ... Numerous international visitors.

CLUBS FOR SINGLE PEOPLE

Churches of Christ have clubs for Singles (people who are unmarried, separated, widowed or divorced) in the following centres:—

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

DONCASTER: One-Up! (03) 848 1546 or 848 8636

ALBURY: Albury Singles Club (060) 25 1910.

NUNAWADDING: Unhitched (03) 877 6077 or 873 4531

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

WOLLONGONG: Wollongong Singles Society (042) 28 4342.

PORT PIRIE: The Singles Club (086) 32 2435

BRISBANE: Gleneagles Singles (07) 379 9122

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

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



COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE GRADUATION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14th, 7.45 P.M.

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

GUEST PREACHER: KEITH FARMER.

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

VIC

HARTWELL (E. B. Clapp). Members held evening to meet minister and wife and expressed appreciation to Mr and Mrs K. Barton for their work in interim ministry . . . Church meeting held to discuss proposed Draft Agreement for Inner Eastern Regional Church . . . Prayer group meets fortnightly in homes of members . . . C.W.A.F. gave donation of \$1000 to Manse Fund . . . C.W.E.F. evening with Mrs S. Wilson on herbs now and in the Bible . . . B.S. shared in family service . . . Adventure Club and Play Group growing . . . Netball team premiers . . . P.S.A. held with Friendship Group and musical program from duetists and bell ringers.

NORTH BALWYN (W. J. S. Gaunson). C.O.B. student David Brooker guest speaker for two weeks while minister conducted mini mission at Wattle Park and then was anniversary speaker at Norseman, W.A. . . . Evangelistic dinner and evening held with Greg Deuble, Shepparton, supported by musical group "Skylight" . . . Afterschool Adventure Time adjunct of B.S. has 25-35 children attending . . . Rev. Fuad Accad, Lebanon, lecturer in Islamic studies recent speaker. His visit to Aust. sponsored by M.E.C.O. and Bible Society . . . Church farewelled Brian and Pat Powell. They move to Ringwood to work with Council of Middle Eastern Christian Outreach . . . Five baptisms over past month . . . Hilary Carne, Wycliffe Bible Translators in P.N.G. and supported by church members, home for medical reasons.

HORSHAM (W. Gibney). Four Y.P. baptised . . . Fellowship tea and p.m. service with Harvey Clark and team from Warrnambool . . . C.W.F. attended conference at Kaniva . . . G. Moran, Principal, Olivet Christian School addressed those interested in possibility of Christian school in Horsham . . . O.A.C. sponsored weekend with training sessions, youth rally and film. Bryan Greenwood spoke at family service 9.30 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. and musical rally at 7 p.m. . . . Miss Elaine de Russett, W.E.C. (Zaire), visited Combined Missionary Fellowship . . . C.W.A.F. held birthday when L. Kolmorgen showed slides of U.S.A. . . . Piano donated for use in chapel.

FOOTSCRAY (M. Keatch). Church welcomed Mr and Mrs M. D. Keatch and daughter Elizabeth. Mr Keatch was inducted by A. B. Withers who conducted an interim ministry since February. At fellowship time following evening service presentations made to Mr and Mrs Withers . . . W.R.O.C. churches arranged for a bus to bring guests from C.G.H. Oakleigh for an outing over West Gate Bridge and tour of Williamstown with afternoon tea at Footscray.

KYNETON (Rob Corrie). Nine baptisms this year. Two girls made their confession of faith this week . . . C.W.F., Discovery Group, youth club and B.S. continuing well . . . B.S. sponsored 'Bring a gift, Buy a gift' social. \$173 raised for pastors library in N.G.

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Ambrosia by Chris Ambrose

FAMILIES

In the recent Federal election campaign there were several parties and many individuals and pressure groups who were asking the voters to consider their ideas to help save the family. All sorts of things were mentioned to help keep families together and to save what some see as a threatened institution in today's society.

For some years now in church circles there has also been this concern. Many churches are cutting back on activities that threaten to divide families or are encouraging positive activities that mean whole families are involved together. Reading many magazines it is surprising the number that have series or special issues on keeping the family together. What is not surprising is that in our normal activities e.g. work, school, hobbies, sport and interests a family naturally divides up for large slabs of time.

In our society we see the family as primarily a husband and wife with mostly two children (the average is 2.2 children). In some of our churches we are waking up to the fact that in Australia many families are not normal. These may be single parent families, large families, childless families and just single adults. We are starting to operate some (though few) programs that incorporate these types of families.

When one studies the Bible what type of families are talked about in the various parts? Starting with the Old Testament it is of interest that there is no Hebrew word that corresponds to our English word "family". The closest word is *bēt* (house) which talks of a group of people in many cases those under the one roof but is wide enough

to refer to the whole nation of Israel.

This wider group meant that there was the solidarity of blood ties but these were much wider than we think of today in our nuclear families. This solidarity also implied obligations both under the law and by custom. There was the sense of obligation to provide certain services to all in the "family" and also the right of each member of the group to protection.

In the New Testament the Greek word is *patria* and is used only three times. The term *oikos* (household) is used more frequently. Again the concept is that of the world of the time. The household comprises not only the parents and children but also slaves and other dependants such as servants, employees and even "clients" (freedmen or friends) who voluntarily joined a household for the sake of the mutual benefits.

Again obligations and benefits were implied on all who were involved in these families. The New Testament goes on to call the church the household of God (Ephesians 2:19, Galatians 6:10).

I have started to run out of space and so can only ask questions that need to be thought through in our churches. What is the true understanding of the family? We moved from Tasmania and from families that on both sides of our marriage were having gatherings etc. which we missed a great deal. Is the tribe/blood tie something that we should seriously look at in our families today?

How serious are we in our churches as to them being the household of God with the implications of protection and of providing services for others in the family we have now joined?

THE LAST WORD

The best way of knowing God is to frequent the company of his friends.

St. Teresa

EASTER DAILY

Let every day, O Lord, be an Easter for my soul

Roll away the stones of dark despair
From the tomb let me emerge made whole

And in the garden of day's dawning find
You there.

— Judy Mead

★ ★ ★

Did you hear about the father who fainted when his son asked for the garage keys and came out with the lawn mower?

★ ★ ★

A busy doctor says he found much time can be saved by a notice prominently displayed in the waiting room: "Please have your symptoms ready."

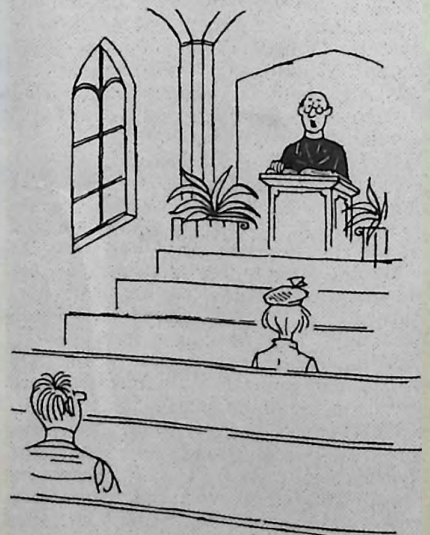
★ ★ ★

A telephone operator answering a call with the usual "Number, please?" heard a voice faintly reply "Duston."

"What number, Duston?" asked the operator.

"No, number, just Duston," replied the voice impatiently. And then since the operator still obviously failed to understand, the voice added: "I'm just dustin' the telephone."

★ ★ ★



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